



High: 55°
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Western Athletic Conference 2011 baseball forecast

Daily staff writer makes predictions
for the coming conference season

SPORTS, PAGE 4 & 5

Actress Saoirse Ronan leaps outside of her comfort zone in "Hanna"

Rising star talks about her first action role
and working with the Hollywood A-list

A&E, PAGE 6



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Presidential hopefuls spar in A.S. debate



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Courtney Byrd, Ryan Morgado, Tanmay Sharma and Hector Shlimovitch sit down and debate for their future positions on as part of the Associated Students on Wednesday.

Ron Gleeson
Staff Writer

The two candidates running for the position of Associated Students president debated each other Wednesday in the Student Union.

Kevin Starks and current A.S. President Tomasz Kolodziejak discussed a variety of topics, the most prominent being the lack of students involved with the university.

Starks said one of his immediate goals, should he take office, is to increase student involvement within organizations on campus.

"Associated Students is not just an organization, but it is our organization," he said. "It is paid for by the students and it needs to be about everybody. We need to provide opportunities on

the board for everyone to get involved."

Kolodziejak said he agrees with Starks and has created a plan called "5 Ss," which he plans to introduce to the university should he be re-elected.

Kolodziejak said the "5 Ss" stand for "scholarships, student success, Spartan pride, student outreach and strong representation."

"It is a right approach to a tangible solution for fee hikes," he said. "I hope to expand the scholarships and hopefully reach out to alumni who wish to donate."

Starks claimed that Kolodziejak had stolen the "5 Ss" from university presidential candidate David Steele, but Kolodziejak said Starks was confused.

"The plan Steele had made was called '5 Rs,' he said. "It dealt with topics

such as revenue, nothing like the plan I have created."

Nnamdi Nwaiywe, a junior management information system and communication studies double major, said listening and carefully communicating to the students is vital to accomplishing any goal for the new A.S. president.

"There is a lot of information to give to students," he said. "The students, however, should not become overwhelmed. The information should be delivered simplistic and direct to create a harmonious culture throughout SJSU."

The new A.S. president will face the task of having to be introduced to the new university president, Mohammad Qayoumi — something both candidates said they are prepared for doing in the fall.

Starks believes this change marks a crucial time for the future of SJSU and it is extremely important that all students become vocal and let their voices be heard, especially with a best-case-scenario \$500 million and a possible \$1 billion cut to the CSU system.

"We are going through a huge restructuring of the entire CSU system and President Qayoumi is part of that," he said. "He did a similar task at CSU East Bay and we need to make sure he knows what the student wants when he takes office."

Starks said he believes that past A.S. presidents have not used the time they get with the university president wisely during their monthly meetings.

see **DEBATES** page 3

SJSU bookstore management turns new page

Donovan Farnham
Senior Staff Writer

Barnes & Noble is scheduled to take over management operations of Spartan Bookstore before the end of April.

According to a news release published Wednesday, Barnes & Noble signed a contract with Spartan Bookstore for 10 years, making SJSU the 13th CSU to sign with Barnes & Noble.

Senior English major Hoan Phan said he hopes that when Barnes & Noble takes over the running of the bookstore on April 25 the company will bring with it improved efficiency and convenience.

"Hopefully things will be different in terms of streamlining the whole book ordering process," Phan said. "A lot of times, whether it's supply or just when the books will come in, it's kind of ridiculous."

Phan said he recognizes that some supply issues might be out of the control of Spartan Bookstore, but with Barnes & Noble he hopes those issues will be resolved when he returns for the fall semester.

"Hopefully things will be different in terms of streamlining the whole book ordering process."

Hoan Phan
Senior English major

In addition to managing the bookstore, Barnes & Noble agreed to make a "significant investment in building out a new bookstore" when the construction on the Student Union is completed in 2013.

The bookstore will be moved to a temporary on-campus location during the fall semester of 2012, according to a university news release.

Barnes & Noble will also offer services such as in-store and online book rentals and textbook buybacks.

Neither Spartan Shops nor Barnes & Noble were available for comment regarding the temporary location change or the services being offered.

Karen Ries, co-owner of Roberts Bookstore, said the change in management doesn't make the business nervous.

She said she isn't surprised that Barnes & Noble will take over the management of the on-campus bookstore, and believes it won't have a large impact on the way students buy or sell books.

"We've been here for over 50 years and we've been through many managers and through many changes in the industry and in our bookstore and in Spartan (Bookstore)," Ries said.

see **BOOKSTORE** page 2

SJSU research finalists: Be persistent, follow your interests

Ryan Fernandez
Managing Editor

With their projects before them and an array of edible goodies laid out, SJSU's five finalists for the 25th Annual CSU Student Research Competition showed off the fruits of their labor Wednesday in the Engineering building.

Master of Ceremonies Pamela Stacks said the event, called the 32nd Annual SJSU Student Research Forum, allowed the finalists to present their efforts to friends, family and the campus community using posterboards in conjunction with a verbal presentation.

"The competition is oral," said Stacks, the associate vice president

for graduate studies and research. "But the posters give people a chance to act more intimately."

While the journey isn't over yet for the five finalists, who will go on to the CSU-wide competition May 6-7 at Fresno State, their experiences have left them advice to share with students engaged in research projects of their own.

Finalist Yelena Severina researched the work of author Vladimir Nabokov, focusing on the shared theme of "exile" in Nabokov's novels "Invitation of a Small Guest" and "Pale Fire."

Severina, who has a Master of Arts degree in English, said one of the hurdles she had to overcome having to wading through large volumes of material already written about Nabokov's work.

However, she said students should use those materials to their advantage, reading what has already been written to formulate their own ideas.

"Don't be intimidated by topics which have a lot of scholarly work," she said. "Find your own spin."

Stacy Schwartz, who is working toward a master's degree in art history, looked at contemporary Jewish-American art to explore the relationship between younger Jewish generations and the Holocaust.

"As a young Jewish-American, it was a chance to explore my relationship to the Holocaust, to explore how the legacy is continuing," she said.

While the Holocaust can be a difficult to talk about, Schwartz said it

is a topic that must be discussed.

She said she struggled with finding resources for her research and advised students to "exhaust all avenues" in locating information.

"It helps round out what you're saying," Schwartz said. "It's a better basis for what you're studying."

By researching the effects of nutrition on falls among older adults, Marilyn Baker-Venturini sought to make nutritional assessments a regular part of overall geriatric care.

She stressed the importance of having a backup in case the original plan falls through.

"You have to have perseverance," she said. "Know there will be roadblocks and have a Plan No. 2."

As part of her thesis exhibition, Jessica Eastburn said her work in-

involved different communication formats of cultures, including native art and textiles of eastern Europe.

Eastburn, who has a Master of Fine Arts degree, said the overall aesthetic of her work was to mimic "digital vocabulary using antiquated technology" — using a compass and ruler to create art that appears to have been drawn using a computer.

She advised students engaged in creative work to "follow their interest, do what's interesting," and that the care they take in doing such work will show in what they do.

Darci Arnold, a master of arts student in interdisciplinary studies, said she hoped her research would

see **FORUM** page 3

SJSU explores changes to smoking policy

Francisco Rendon
Staff Writer

A recommendation to restructure official policy on smoking at SJSU is currently being developed by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate.

Senate administrative analyst Eva Joice said the discussion began out of problems individuals encountered with the current policy and led to a discussion of a ban.

"The issue that came before the senate is that the current policy states that you cannot smoke within 25 feet of any building or window," Joice said. "The main problem we have with the policy right now is that it is not being enforced."

Lynda Heiden, associate professor of psychology and chair of the executive research committee, brought forth the issue of smoking policy before the Senate for a first reading on March 14.

"It's like taking away our right. If it's legal we should be able to do it anywhere."

Ben Truong
Sophomore Business Management Information Systems major

At the meeting different members of the campus community discussed ideas such as a ban on smoking, designated smoking areas or a fine for violating the policy.

Heiden said she did not anticipate the recommendation would be brought for a second reading and vote before Fall 2011 because the committee hoped to understand opinions of various members of the campus community through a survey.

Atul, a graduate student in computer engineering, said he felt smoking should be restricted, but not eliminated from SJSU.

"There should be some zones," he said. "Besides smoking zones, it should be banned."

Varying perspectives were heard on the issue, Heiden said, and that although there was a good chance there would not be a complete ban on smoking, the recommendation brought before the senate depends

on the feedback from students, staff and faculty.

"My guess is what will happen is there will be some change in the smoking policy, because there are some places in the campus where the current policy is not working, and (individuals) are being exposed to second hand smoke on a regular basis," she said. "We don't want this to be an antagonistic process. We want it to be health protective."

A key component in any change in policy would be an educational campaign to inform the campus community of the change, and the resources available to help with smoking addiction, Heiden said.

Romey Sabalius, professor of world languages and literatures and statewide academic senator for SJSU, said that while he felt discussion was healthy, he hoped any new policy would not alienate members of the campus community who smoke.

"With smokers we tend to be very intolerant. (With a ban) we say 'You are ostracized, you have to go off campus,'" Sabalius said. "Certainly it can be amended. Now that we have started to discuss it, we will almost certainly come up with a new policy."

Ben Truong, a sophomore business management information systems major, said that he felt restrictions on smoking were unjust.

"It's like taking away our right," he said. "If it's legal we should be able to do it anywhere."

Sabalius said the question was not whether reform was needed, but that any policy reform should result from extensive collaboration and consultation.

"We're not arguing the fact whether it's healthy, we're not arguing the fact whether smoking should be restricted and non-smokers should be protected," he said. "We're just asking 'How far should these restrictions go? I feel that the majority should have consideration for the lifestyle of the minority. If we want to contribute to a harmonious campus atmosphere, we shouldn't force people away from our community, off of our campus.'"

Associated Students President Tomasz Kolodziejek said the priority of A.S. at this point was to see how students responded to ideas of a ban or smoking zones, as the previous survey was performed three years ago.

"We're trying to gather information on (student support), so we can have a cohesive response to the issue. There's a lot of supporters and there are some that are not supporting this, just as with any controversial (issue)."

BOOKSTORE From Page 1

She said it's too soon to tell whether the Spartan Bookstore will change and whether the services that are being offered by Barnes & Noble will be similar to what is already being offered by the current management of Spartan Bookstore and Roberts Bookstore.

"I know they're going to make it like some big, huge change, but I don't think it's any different," Ries said. "I think what they're going to offer is the same thing your campus store is going to offer. They'll make a lot of promises,

but there's only so much you can do."

Sunnie Stone, a freshman music major and customer of Roberts Bookstore, said she thinks it might be interesting for the campus because of the possibility of different titles coming in and that the availability of textbooks might be

faster with Barnes & Noble.

Stone said having Barnes & Noble managing the campus bookstore might bring her into the location more because she is a customer of the chain.

"I'm such a book nerd and I'm kind of attached to Barnes & Noble," she said.



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CAMPUS VOICES

By: Alex Wara

What do you think of Barnes & Noble taking over management operations at Spartan Bookstore?

Vu Pham
Senior Business



I think it is a cool thing. Barnes & Noble is a big company so hopefully it will benefit the students by having cheaper book prices.

Theresa Huynh
Senior Social Work



I guess if Barnes & Noble takes it over there is going to be less students coming through because the books will be at a regular price and not a discounted price. It will be tougher on students.

Shannon Nguyen
Junior Nutrition



It might take away the spirit of having Spartan Bookstore here. I like how it is represented by San Jose State and having our logos put in the store.

Wil Turner
Senior Management Information Systems



I don't really know if it is a good idea or a bad idea but if it lowers the price of the books then that is fine.

Brian Lam
Freshman Computer Science



It will probably allow more book choices. It might be easier to get books that are not from here that we have to usually buy online.

Abraham Huerta
Senior Kinesiology



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Photo: Brian O'Malley / Spartan Daily

Darci Arnold highlighted the research for her "A Case Study of Corporate Sustainability for a Globalized World" at the 32nd Annual Student Research Forum on Wednesday.

FORUM
From Page 1

help people begin to associate the word "corporation" with the word "sustainability."

Arnold, a former vice president of global marketing for hard drive-manufacturer Seagate Technology, spent time looking into the competitive advantages for companies engaged in sustainable practices.

She said she enjoyed her research — so much so that she found it difficult to know when to stop.

"Where are the points in the journey where you need to pause and produce?" Arnold asked, and advised students to "scope it well and stop the research."

Julie Chun, a graduate student of art history and visual culture, was present to support the finalists.

Chun said she was a finalist in the 2009 SJSU Student Research Competition, eventually taking first prize in arts and humanities in the

systemwide contest at CSU Los Angeles.

"For graduate students, when you get to a certain point, the thesis writing stage can be very isolating," she said, adding that it allows them to become experts in their field of study.

Chun said the forum is an opportunity for the finalists to share their work with the public, which she called "the greatest joy."

"The beauty of the competition is that it really brings in and shows off the various departments at SJSU," she said.

Robert Sibley, chair of the Graduate Studies and Research Committee, said the finalists' efforts are evidence of the high-quality work SJSU students are capable of doing, despite what he sees as a tendency to downplay the talents of the university's faculty and its students.

"We sell ourselves short," he said. "We should play up what our students do well and take pride in what we do here."

■ U.S. NEWS

Contingency plan in works for possible government shutdown

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — Confronting the prospect of failure in last-ditch budget talks, federal officials have prepared plans to furlough about 800,000 employees, freeze the processing of some income tax refunds and suspend pay for the military as part of the impending government shutdown.

Administration officials detailed the shutdown plans Wednesday, emphasizing their hopes that Congress and the White House would reach a compromise before a midnight deadline Friday.

Still, the backup plans were necessary "from a good government, good housekeeping perspective," said a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity when detailing internal planning.

The contingency plans described a government that would be hobbled, though not halted completely. Social Security checks would still arrive, but new claims could be delayed. Medicare and veterans' benefits would still be paid.

The Internal Revenue Service, in its peak season, would be unable to process paper tax filings, but that would not mean taxpayers could avoid the April 18 deadline. Some environmental cleanup would cease. National parks and the Smithsonian museums would be closed. Washington's annual cherry blossom parade stands to be canceled.

The preparations come as lawmakers debate how much to cut from federal spending in the remaining six months of the 2011 fiscal year, a fight that is political as well as financial. Democrats have offered an agreement based on \$33 billion in cuts, the largest spending reduction in generations. But Republicans want more and also want to ensure the cuts hit at top Obama administration priorities.

If talks fail, a shutdown — the first in 15 years — would resound across the country. Airlines, roads, hospitals, schools, food and tourism all have contact with a federal employee who may not be working next week.

The standard used to determine who remains working is whether an employee or agency is "necessary for safety of life or protection of property."

That means air traffic controllers would stay on the job

and federal prisons would operate as usual. Food inspections and border surveillance would continue, as would inspections of nuclear power plants and radiation monitoring, prompted by the Japan nuclear crisis, according to a second administration official.

The federal school lunch program would continue.

Federal law enforcement agencies would be up and running, and many in the military would still be working. Those employees, however, wouldn't be paid for their work until a bill is passed.

"They will be paid once we have money again to pay them," the first senior administration official said.

If a shutdown lasts only a few days, most in the military would receive their full paycheck April 15, officials said. But if a shutdown lasts beyond the mid-April pay period, they would get about half of their check on April 15 and have to wait until the next pay period for the rest.

The burden on military families, at a time when troops are deployed on three fronts, was a pointed reminder of how a 2011 shutdown could be markedly different from its infamous predecessors in 1995 and 1996.

Those two shutdowns — a result of a standoff between Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Democratic President Clinton — came during a time of relative peace and general prosperity.

Today's battle comes as the economy is still climbing out of the doldrums and as financially strapped states have less ability to fill in for shortfalls in federal funding.

The senior administration official pointed to the potential effects on the shaky recovery. New small-business loans would be held up, along with new mortgage guarantees from the Federal Housing Administration.

FHA backs a third of all home mortgages in the U.S. With a fragile market, a freeze during the springtime home-buying season "will have a sig-

nificant impact," the official said.

The question of how disruptive a federal shutdown would be depends largely on how long it lasts. White House officials said Medicare could handle payouts for a matter of months. Federal courts can operate on money from other sources — court fees, largely — for 10 working days. After that, each district would have to decide how to keep the cases moving.

The unknown has lawmakers starting to ring alarm bells, particularly those from districts containing large numbers of federal employees.

"I'm afraid that the lights will go out. I'm afraid that government agencies will be shuttered. I'm concerned that people who work on behalf of the federal government as contractors — small- and medium-sized contractors, disabled veteran contractors — will not get paid," said Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), who added that she represented more than 130,000 federal employees.

As a separate branch of government, Congress has its own shutdown plan, which defines an essential employee as someone who helps lawmakers "perform their constitutional duties." That definition includes the elevator operators in the Senate, but not employees at the House staff gym.

"They're just toying with the lives of federal employees," said Daniel Sobien, a weather forecaster in Tampa, Fla., and president of the National Weather Service Employees Organization, who described himself as angry that some Republicans are calling for a shutdown.

Like Sobien, 85% of the nearly 2 million federal workers live outside the Washington area, and often in communities where federal prisons, military bases, hospitals and parks anchor the local economy. About 800,000 people visit national parks on an average April day, and that tourism generates \$32 million a day to local economies, the

National Park Service said.

Shutting down places like Yosemite during a busy season is not as simple as hanging a sign. People already camping or hiking in the park would be given 24 to 48 hours to hike out. People just starting their trip could be left hanging.

"We're getting those calls now — 'What am I supposed to do? I have hotel reservations and airline tickets for next week' — and we can't really advise anybody on what to do on this point," said David Barna, a spokesman for National Park Service.

DEBATES
From Page 1

"We are the only entity that represents students on these committees," he said. "These meetings are all about putting ideas and effects on the table, and I will do that."

Neither candidate feels that they are more qualified than the other for this position, but both said they have reasons why they think they should be elected as the new A.S. president.

"I am running on an idea we can use to expand A.S.," Starks said. "And if that's an idea that I think I share with students then that's the direction I want to go."

Kolodziejak, who has been a part of A.S. for about three years, said he believes the experience he has gained from his current tenure as president will serve him well in another term.

"There was a huge learning curve becoming the A.S. president," he said. "I have spent my time learning the position. Now I can spend all my time using what I have learned to help improve the university."

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■ COMMENTARY

Western Athletic Conference 2011 baseball forecast

Lyell Marks
Staff Writer

With WAC play starting Friday for six of its seven representatives, I gaze into the conference crystal ball, previewing what the 2011 season may unveil.

Fresno State: 20-3 entering conference play

Starting pitchers Greg Gonzalez (6-0 W-L, 1.36 ERA) and Derek Benny (3-0 W-L, 4.74 ERA) have paced the Bulldogs to a 20-3 nonconference start going into WAC play.

Gonzalez, a senior, was named to the 2010 All-WAC first team and leads the conference in wins and ERA in 2011.

Benny has been in the Bulldog rotation since his freshman year, being one of only two Fresno State pitchers in the program's history to face the minimum in a game that season.

Tom Harlan has rounded out the rotation with a 2-1 record and 2.93 ERA as the third starter.

Charlie Robertson hasn't allowed an earned run in 16 1/3 innings pitched out of the bullpen.

He has yielded only five

hits while striking out 12.

Taylor Garrison (0.00 ERA, 11 2/3 IP) and Cody Kendall (0.79 ERA, 22 2/3 IP) add to a deep and talented Fresno State bullpen.

The Bulldogs have already beaten Oregon State and Nebraska twice during their nonconference schedule, while also sweeping Washington State in a series in March.

Senior outfielder Dusty Robinson (.325/6 HR/19 RBI) hits cleanup for Fresno State, and has had to replace the productivity of Jordan Ribera, who hasn't returned to his 2010 form.

The senior first baseman is hitting .244 in 2011 with one home run and seven RBIs, after a 2010 campaign in which he led the WAC with 27 homers and was named WAC Player of the Year.

Infielder Danny Muno was a member of Fresno State's 2008 national championship team and is having another solid year in 2011.

The senior is hitting .341 with two home runs and 24 RBIs to go along with a team-high 22 walks and eight stolen bases.

Senior shortstop Garrett Weber (.293 2 HR/15 RBI) and sophomore catcher Austin Wynns (.387/ 0 HR/12 RBI) round out a Bulldog order that needs Ribera to return to form if the Bulldogs are going to be the class of the conference in 2011.

2011 Verdict: 19-5 conference record (1st place).

Key Stat: Fresno State has won four of the last five WAC regular season titles and has the best team ERA in the WAC in 2011 at 2.50.

San Jose State: 19-9 entering conference play

SJSU may have the best 1-2 punch in the WAC with starters Blake McFarland and Roberto Padilla. McFarland earned Preseason WAC Pitcher of the Year awards and has lived up to the bidding thus far by going 4-0 with a 4.50 ERA.

The southpaw Padilla has burst onto the Division-I scene with an electric fastball and great curveball that has developed into an excellent out pitch for the JC transfer. In 50 innings pitched he is 5-2 with a 2.70 ERA and a team-high 37 strikeouts.

The Spartans also may have the WAC's best two-way talent in 2011 with sophomore Zack Jones. The pitcher/shortstop leads the team in saves with four and has a 1.96 ERA in 23 innings of relief. His 36 strikeouts are the most by any reliever in the WAC while opponents hit just .143 against the sophomore right-hander.

Jones also leads the team with a .513 slugging percentage, adding a pair of home runs to go along with his .350 batting average.

While the first two spots in the pitching rotation are spoken for, the third spot has been in flux and is still open to a number of candidates. Andy Hennessey has an early lead on Estaban Guzman and Sean Martin, but Hennessey (5.28 ERA) leaves room for competition. Guzman has flourished in a relief role after struggling in two starts, improving his ERA to 3.13 in 23 innings. Martin has given up 19 hits in 13 1/3 IP and is losing ground on the job with an ERA of 6.75.

Freshman Johnny Melero has pitched his way into the discussion, throwing seven innings of two-hit ball in his first start of the season

against Brown.

Danny Stienstra's return to form has resulted in SJSU having one of the most reliable cleanup hitters in the conference.

His .398 batting average is good for fifth best in the WAC, while his 45 hits and 113 at-bats are both good for second in the conference.

Stienstra has struck out just four times on the season, less than any hitter in the conference with a minimum of 60 plate appearances.

Freshman Jake Valdez wasn't in the opening day lineup and didn't start for SJSU until the fourth game against Albany. His .338 batting average has earned him regular playing time at second base and the third best average on the team.

Senior outfielder Craig Hertler has found a home as the Spartans' leadoff hitter, hitting .318 for the season with an on-base percentage of .446 in 81 at-bats.

Fellow senior outfielder Jason Martin has been heating up with conference play approaching, hitting .367 over his last six games to improve his average to .264 on the year.

Martin now has more hits than any player in the history of the SJSU program, surpassing Kevin Frandsen on the all-time list of Spartans.

Third baseman Tyler Christian leads the team in home runs with three, but his .212 batting average has opened the door for freshman Caleb Natov who has hit .319 with 10 RBIs in 47 at-bats.

2011 Verdict: 15-9 conference record (2nd place).

Key Stat: SJSU has the best fielding percentage (.978) of all WAC teams entering conference play.

University of Hawaii: 14-14 entering conference play

The Rainbow Warriors finished fourth in the WAC last season at 12-12 but may be poised to make a climb in the standings with a solid core of returning starters.

Kolten Wong, WAC Preseason Hitter of the Year, has lived up to his billing with a .393 batting average, four home runs and 24 RBIs in 2011.

The senior second baseman has helped lead Hawaii to a 14-14 nonconference mark while playing a tough preseason slate that included Oregon (14-11), Texas (20-7), Cal State Fullerton (19-8) and Wichita State (18-11).

Hawaii split the four-game series with Oregon to open the season, but also took one game from Texas and three of four from Wichita State. Fullerton swept Hawaii in four games, but not a single game in the series was decided by more than three runs.

Zack Swasey (.317) and Sean Montplaisir (.301) have both complemented Wong in the batting order and have more than 10 RBIs for Hawaii in 2011.

Starting pitcher Matt Sisto is second in the WAC in innings pitched (47) and has posted an ERA of 2.68, good for

fourth in the conference.

Sisto's run support hasn't been a strong suit, posting a 1-4 record despite the best ERA among Hawaii starting pitchers.

Connor Little (2-1, 3.90), Jarrett Arakawa (2-2, 3.79) and Jesse Moore (0-2, 4.88) round out the rotation and have already been tested by a number of offensive-minded teams during the nonconference schedule.

Hawaii's bullpen is led by sophomore closer Lenny Linsky who hasn't allowed an earned run in 18 1/3 innings pitched.

Linsky has also collected four saves, 20 strikeouts and

has only allowed nine hits in his 13 appearances in 2011.

Linsky was named to the 2010 All-WAC team as a freshman last year for Hawaii.

Randy Yard has posted a 1.50 ERA out of the bullpen, striking out 16 in 12 innings pitched. Yard will likely be called upon to bridge the gap until Linsky is called upon to close.

2011 Verdict: 13-11 conference record (3rd place).

Key Stat: As a team, Hawaii has stolen 35 bases to lead the WAC going into conference play. The Rainbow Warriors are also second in team ERA at 3.34.

New Mexico State: 22-6 entering conference play

The Aggies finished tied for second place in the WAC last season with a 14-9-1 overall mark and have opened the season with a 22-6 nonconference record in 2011.

The Aggies have the second best record in the conference entering WAC play, but have only beaten one team in that span that had a winning record.

During their 28-game nonconference schedule, the Aggies only played four teams with a winning percentage better than .500.

Oregon State (19-7), Lamar (19-11), VMI (14-12) and Cal State Northridge (14-13) accounted for the toughest portion of the schedule, and the Aggies posted a 1-4 record in that stretch.

Offense hasn't been an issue so far for New Mexico State, as the Aggies have scored 304 runs in 28 games to lead the WAC in just about every offensive category.

Sophomore second baseman Parker Hipp has been arguably the WAC's best hitter in 2011, leading the WAC in runs (35), RBIs (46) and slugging percentage (.688).

Hipp also sports a batting average of .424, making him one of four Aggies hitting .400 or better on the year.

Tanner Waite, New Mexico State's junior outfielder, is hitting .486 in 72 at-bats to lead the WAC in average and on-base percentage (.606).

Waite is playing his first year of Division-I baseball and wasn't in the starting lineup when the Aggies opened the season.

Senior shortstop Ryan Aguayo is hitting .426 for the season, placing him second in the WAC in that category, behind his teammate.

Aguayo is also second in the WAC in on-base percentage and leads the conference in doubles with 15, giving the Aggies one of the most productive middle infields in the nation.

Junior infielder Zachary Voight (.400), sophomore catcher Zac Fisher (.372), senior outfielder Wesley Starkes (.337) and junior outfielder Brian Karraker (.333) give New Mexico State four other starters hitting better than .300.

While the offense has flourished against one of the softer nonconference schedules in the WAC, New Mexico State's pitching hasn't been as dominant as its bats.

Dan Reid has developed into the ace of the staff in 2011, going 5-0 with the third best ERA in the WAC at 2.59.

While Reid's five wins are good for second best in the WAC, he hasn't pitched against a team with a winning record and has recorded only 22 strikeouts in 41 2/3 innings.

Trey Ross (4-1, 4.85) has been the only other Aggie starter with an ERA under five, as Ryan Beck (5.93) and Tyler Mack (7.91) have both struggled to solidify the third spot in the rotation.

Beck has still managed a 5-2 record despite the inflated ERA, a testament to the Aggies prowess on offense.

Mack also sports a 4-1 record despite having the worst ERA of any starting pitcher in the conference going into WAC play.

2011 Verdict: 12-12 conference record.

Key Stat: Against teams with a winning record, New Mexico State averaged 2.8 runs per game compared to 12.6 runs per game against opponents with a losing record.

Projected WAC Awards

WAC Hitter of the Year

Kolten Wong, Hawaii

WAC Pitcher of the Year

Greg Gonzalez, Fresno State

WAC Coach of the Year

Sam Piraro, SJSU

WAC Freshman of the Year

Dallas Chadwick, Sacramento State

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Louisiana Tech: 15-13 entering conference play

After starting the 2011 season 8-2, Louisiana Tech struggled through a tough nonconference slate in March, losing nine games in a row to the likes of Baylor (17-13), Rice (21-12) and UT Arlington (16-13).

Since its 11-3 loss to Rice on March 20, Louisiana Tech has reeled off seven wins in its last nine games, bringing its record to 15-13 entering WAC play.

Junior third baseman Mark Threlkeld was named to the 2010 All-WAC team and enters conference play with a .321 batting average, four home

runs and 17 RBIs.

His .528 slugging percentage and 56 total bases both lead the team.

The Bulldogs also have two others starters hitting better than .300 with senior utility man Joey Ford (.315) and junior outfielder Kyle Roliard (.310).

Senior outfielder Will Alvis leads Louisiana Tech offensively with five home runs and 23 RBIs, while hitting .247 for the year.

On the hill, left-handed junior Mike Jefferson is 2-1 with a 3.95 ERA and leads Louisiana Tech in innings pitched (41)

and strikeouts (37).

Trevor Petersen and Jeb Stefan, both sophomore starting pitchers, are tied for the team lead in wins with three, but both enter WAC play with ERA's of 5.09 and 6.29 respectively.

Mike LeBreton has pitched 19 innings in relief, posting an ERA of 2.37 to lead the team in that category.

2011 Verdict: 10-14 conference record.

Key Stat: Louisiana Tech's pitching staff has only allowed four home runs in 246 innings pitched as a team.

Sacramento State: 9-20 entering conference play

The Hornets have been rebuilding in their effort to climb out of the cellar of the WAC, but 2011 isn't likely their year of resurgence.

With a team batting average of .218, Sacramento State scores the fewest runs per game of any team in the WAC going into conference play.

The Hornets don't have a single starter hitting better than .300 and are led offensively by sophomore infielder Andrew Ayers who enters WAC play hitting .272.

Senior shortstop Kirby Young leads the team with 12 RBIs but is hitting .180 in 100 at-bats.

Sacramento State is one of three teams in the WAC dearly missing its key offensive force from 2010, as senior infielder Trevor Paine is hitting .220 with zero home runs in 2011.

Paine was the Hornets' best offensive player last season, leading the team in batting average (.381), home runs (10) and RBIs (67).

The Hornets do have the fourth best team

ERA in the conference entering WAC play, as freshman pitcher Dallas Chadwick (2-2, 3.12) and senior Karl Maas (2-2, 3.62) are both among the WAC's top-10 in ERA.

Freshman pitcher Tanner Mendonca has spent 2011 season as the Hornets' third starter, going 1-2 with an ERA of 3.99.

Shea Lukes, also a freshman, has been the best out of the bullpen with an ERA of 1.59 in 17 innings pitched.

With most of Sacramento State's production coming from a promising core of freshmen, the Hornets have a bright future in the WAC but likely will go through another year of growing pains in 2011.

2011 Verdict: 6-18 conference record.

Key Stat: Sacramento State has the lowest team batting average in the WAC at .218. The Hornets finished last in that category in 2010, hitting at a collective clip of .280.

Nevada: 8-16 entering conference play

The Wolf Pack finished in a second-place tie in the WAC in 2010, ending conference play with a 14-9-1 record that mirrored New Mexico State's final standing.

2011 has been a rebuilding year, as Nevada has stumbled to an 8-16 nonconference start and hasn't beaten an opponent with a winning record.

Nevada is missing the production of 2010 WAC Pitcher of the Year Brock Stassi, who was statistically the best two-way player in the conference a year ago.

Stassi hit .364 with nine home runs and 42 RBIs, while earning accolades on the hill for his 7-4 record and 3.43 ERA as a starter.

An injury has prevented Stassi from regaining his 2010 form on the mound, as the senior has only pitched 4 2/3 innings in 2011 and has a 17.36 ERA.

In those 4 2/3 innings, Stassi has been tagged for twelve hits and opponents are hitting an even .500 against him for the year.

Offensively in 2011, Stassi is hitting .269

with one home run and eight RBIs in 78 at-bats, a far cry from his numbers at this time one year ago.

Junior Nick Melino is leading the Wolf Pack in average (.374) and home runs (3) in 2011 after finishing 2010 with a team-best .388 average and being named the All-WAC second team.

Joe Kohan is second on the team with an average of .337 entering WAC play.

Senior pitcher Jeremy Cole (1-2, 3.81) has been the only Nevada starter with an ERA under six, as Mark Joukoff (6.06 ERA) and Tom Jameson (6.55 ERA) have both been hit hard in seven starts a piece.

Matt Gardner has proven to be the best option for Nevada out of the pen, recording four saves without allowing an earned run in 10 2/3 innings.

2011 Verdict: 9-15 conference record.

Key Stat: Nevada has the WAC's worst nonconference team ERA at 6.06.

(Note: Nevada doesn't open WAC play until April 15 against Fresno State.)

WAC Standings Entering Conference Play

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Fresno State: 20-3 | 5. Hawaii: 14-14 |
| 2. New Mexico State 22-6 | 6. Nevada: 8-16 |
| 3. San Jose State: 19-9 | 7. Sacramento State: 9-20 |
| 4. Louisiana Tech: 15-13 | |

Projected WAC Final Standings

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Fresno State: 19-5 | 5. Louisiana Tech: 10-14 |
| 2. San Jose State: 15-9 | 6. Nevada: 9-15 |
| 3. Hawaii: 13-11 | 7. Sacramento State: 6-18 |
| 4. New Mexico State: 12-12 | |

■ SOFTBALL

Spartans steal win from Aggies in walk-off victory

Nic Aguon
Staff Writer

Despite a slow start, the Spartans caught a few breaks that helped them beat the UC Davis Aggies 5-4 in a nonconference game Wednesday afternoon.

With the score tied 4-4 entering the bottom of the seventh inning, sophomore shortstop BranDee Garcia started off the frame with a single up the middle.

With her speed, she advanced to second base on a fielding error by Aggies' second baseman Felicia Baldwin.

"I just put my head down and ran as hard I could," Garcia said.

With two outs and Garcia on second base, freshman third baseman Jessica Garcia drove the ball to deep left center, bringing in BranDee Garcia for the game-winning run.

The Aggies established control over the Spartans early with contact hitting and patience at the plate, scoring two runs in the first inning.

After three innings, the Aggies led 3-0 over the Spartans. SJSU freshman pitcher Alex Mo-

lina pitched 3 2/3 innings, giving up five hits and four runs.

Freshman pitcher Janessa Gutierrez relieved Molina, allowing four hits and no runs in 3 1/3 innings, earning the win.

The Spartans struggled early and were shut out through four innings by Aggies starting pitcher Jessica Thweatt.

"We just couldn't find a way to get a hit," BranDee Garcia said. "We were all getting jammed on the inside pitch."

However, freshman first baseman Kailey Mertz snapped Thweatt's bid at a no hitter with a hit up the middle in the bottom of the fourth inning.

"The first pitcher really worked us inside," junior catcher Breanna Lopez said. "She placed her pitches well."

The Spartans capitalized on overthrows and errors made by the Aggies to trim the deficit to 4-3 after five innings.

The Aggies loaded the bases again in the sixth inning, but the Spartans were able to get three outs without allowing any runs.

"When they had a chance to have a big inning, we stopped it," head coach Pete Turner said.

With second baseman Cheryl Freitas on third and one out in the bottom of the sixth, Mertz laid down a bunt that caused miscommunication among the Aggies' fielders. Freitas scored from third, tying the game.

"We don't do it a lot because we're a free hitting team," Turner said about the squeeze play. "Cheryl did a great job getting a jump from third base."

The Spartans silenced the Aggies bats in the

top of seventh, setting up the game-winning rally in the bottom of the inning.

The Aggies had several opportunities to score and pad their lead but the Spartans thwarted all of their attempts. The Aggies finished the game leaving 10 runners on base.

"We stayed close enough to steal the game," Turner said.

The Spartans next face the Utah State Aggies at home Friday at 3 p.m., part of a doubleheader.



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Sophomore shortstop BranDee Garcia crosses homeplate as the winning run on Wednesday's game against UC Davis. The final score of the nonconference matchup was 5-4.

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■ CELEBRITY Q & A

Actress Saoirse Ronan leaps out of comfort zone in 'Hanna'

Teenage artist takes on first action role

Jaimie Collins
A&E Editor

A new action film will be hitting theaters this weekend.

"Hanna" is the story of a young woman raised by her father to be the perfect assassin and is then sent on a mission across Europe.

Playing the leading role is 16-year-old actress Saoirse Ronan who is best known for her breakout role as Briony Tallis in "Atonement" and the leading character Susie Salmon in "The Lovely Bones."

On March 29, Ronan caught up with journalists from colleges around the country via conference call to discuss the upcoming film, her contribution and her personal experience with this project.

Q: What was it that attracted you to this project?

A: It was different. I always like to do something different because it is more challenging.

Also, just the fact that I got to do an awful lot of physical activity. I had never really done anything like that before in a movie.

I've always been quite an athletic person. I thought it would be fun and would be tough work.

Q: How much of the stunt work within the movie did you do on your own?

A: I pretty much did everything, which I didn't expect.

I thought 'Well, I'll try it and I'll learn the choreography but the stunt girl will probably do most of it.' But ... unless there was something that was really dangerous that maybe in-

surance wouldn't cover, I did everything myself.

Q: Your role in "Hanna" is different from the rest of your career. What did you learn, personally and as an actress, during the filming?

A: Hanna is quite a simple-minded, fresh, young girl and I think because ... she's not judgmental or prejudice or anything like that, I feel like that really influenced me when I came away from the experience.

It certainly made me think about things in a different light.

As an actress, it really felt like a collaboration between (Director) Joe Wright and myself.

We had worked together before on another film a few years ago and we'd always had a great relationship. It left us with more creative freedom and we were able to try different things. He's kind of like a puppeteer — he knew what strings to pull.

Q: The film deals with a lot of questions concerning your character's existence and humanity. How did you deal with answering those big questions?

A: It was a bit tricky at first but it was quite important to basically wipe my own personal memory of anything I had really experienced especially over the past few years, because Hanna never went through those things and has never really lived a life.

I found that really helped to portray the innocence and naivety of her.

Q: What was it like traveling and filming in different locations around the world?

A: It was great. It's always wonderful to travel. I've been really

lucky, actually, on the films I've worked on so far.

In this film, we went to three different countries. We were in Finland and that's where we did most of the exterior stuff like the snowy shots.

We shot all around Germany — Berlin, Hamburg — and then we went to Morocco.

Q: As a talented but young actress, what did you learn from the experience of working with such a great cast, including Cate Blanchett and Eric Bana?

A: We really did have a terrific cast in this movie and everyone did something really interesting with their performance.

With Cate ... you can see that she really cares about what she does and for a young actress, that's really great to see. Eric, I worked with probably more than anyone else and got to know him really well.

It was also great as well to have young people on the film like Jessica Barden and Aldo Maland. It was nice to have people who had a fresh energy around, too.

Q: The Chemical Brothers contributed the score to the movie. Are you a fan of the group?

A: I am. They are so innovative and they've really got their own signature sound but they kind of evolve as well. I think it's their first time doing a score and they did such a fantastic job. They really brought the film up to a whole other level.

They kept their own sound, those kinds of hard beats, but they also incorporated a circus sound, which added a bit more innocence and a bit more fun.

Touting action, emotion and suspense, Focus Features newest production "Hanna" opens April 8.

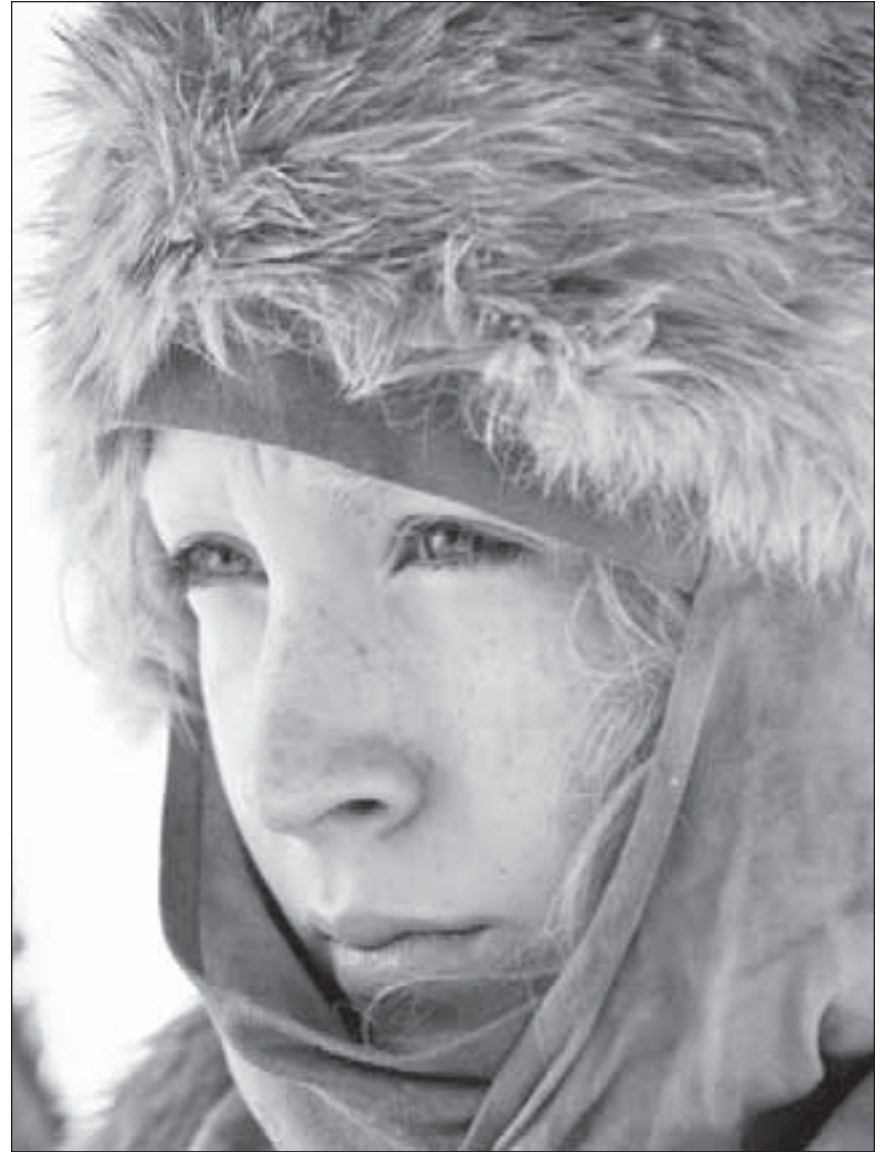


Photo Courtesy: Allmoviephoto.com

'Hanna,' starring Saoirse Ronan, will be released on April 8.



Photo Courtesy: Allmoviephoto.com

Playing Hanna's father Erik is actor Eric Bana.

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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

PTSD in veterans is a serious issue

I am pro military. My mom served in the Army when she was younger and my dad, brother and sister all were in the Air Force.

Though I never saw my future in olive-drab and chose a different life for myself, I still fully support our troops and the brave men and women who serve our country.

I know there are many people who protest the war and sending soldiers to Afghanistan and Iraq, but I am not one of them.

I believe there are a lot of ways in which our soldiers are making a difference for the better and bringing democracy to the Middle East is a positive thing.

People know, or at least have an idea, of what they are getting into when they enlist in the military.

What bothers me, however, is even though soldiers get weapons training and learn military tactics before deploying into a combat zone, no amount of training can prepare anyone mentally for what a soldier witnesses in battle.

In 2008, the RAND Corporation, a non-profit institution that helps provide nonpartisan information to research and analysis, released a report about the mental health of returning veterans.

The report estimated that roughly 300,000, or one-third of soldiers who have returned from Iraq or Afghanistan, are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and/or depression.

The report also stated that 320,000 soldiers may have experienced traumatic brain injuries (TBI) while serving overseas.

Since October 2001, about 1.64 million U.S. troops have been deployed to support operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, many of whom have been exposed to prolonged periods of combat-related stress or traumatic events, according to the report.

I'm thankful that my sister has only gone TDY (temporary duty) to Qatar, because it has been deemed one of the safer military bases in the Middle East.

Her boyfriend has not been so lucky.

Over the past four years, he has been deployed to Iraq



Melissa Sabile
The Real Deal

“... Roughly 300,000, or one-third of soldiers who have returned from Iraq or Afghanistan, are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.”

once and Afghanistan twice, each time having been on convoy duty — alert and ready to fire his gun at any time.

His most recent venture, a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan, has left him anxious, stressed and constantly on edge — on the verge of being unstable.

He currently sleeps on the floor behind the couch in the living room because it is the only place he says he feels safe, and for the first time in his life he stutters when he speaks.

These characteristics, along with a number of other things he is experiencing, are signs of PTSD for a soldier.

If left untreated, PTSD, TBI and depression can have far more severe psychological and physical consequences than just feeling on edge.

After talking with my sister dealing with her boyfriend the last couple of weeks, I'm afraid for her safety and for his mental well-being.

Although he returned relatively normal (but what really is normal?) the two other times he spent in combat, he was still unprepared for the things he did and saw in his seven months away from home.

It's tragic to find that he is not the only one experiencing PTSD and depression. I'm sure he and many others have experienced a thousand things in their time in combat I could never imagine or begin to understand.

My hope is that my sister stays safe and her boyfriend seeks the proper treatment and counseling that is available to him, and that one day he will be able to free his mind from the terrible things he remembers from his time in the Middle East.

Yes, knowing all of this, I still support the troops who continue to fight for our country and for the freedom and rights of others because I think everyone deserves a chance at a better life — it is unfortunate that it comes at the cost of the mental health of many of our soldiers.

“The Real Deal” is a weekly column appearing on Thursdays. Melissa Sabile is a Spartan Daily Sports Editor.

Female journalists should have equal rights to coverage

Women journalists should not be allowed to work in conflict zones.

This was some basic feedback received by the New York Times shortly after female photojournalist Lynsey Addario and three more of its journalists were held prisoner in Libya and subsequently released to the U.S.

My initial reaction to that feedback was that those who believe in that absurd idea should just piss off.

It is no one's place to say that a person should be precluded from covering wars or conflict zones based solely on gender.

Addario's reaction was one of offense and rightfully so. She gave a few reasons in a NY Times blog interview defending her right to be there, including the fact that it was her choice to make and gaining access she was granted wouldn't normally be granted to male journalists.

As a photojournalism major, I understand that journalists take extraordinary risks while working in conflict zones. It is something I will never be able to do physically or mentally.

My ultimate respect, however, is reserved for those female journalists who choose to undertake the risk alongside their male counterparts — women I look to for inspiration.

It's not simply for the fact that they are present in the war, but because they are able to discover angles of a particular conflict that are otherwise closed to male journalists and photographers.

Women journalists have effectively been able to pierce to the heart and tell the stories of the victims in conflict zones.

They are more likely to earn the trust of subjects of a story, especially in cultures that might have heavy taboos regarding women and children.

This extends to areas that are generally very sensitive to a male journalist's presence, such as being allowed entrance to an Arabic household or detailing the violence inflicted upon children.

I'd rather read or view a story that dealt more with a human element of a conflict zone than a report of the conflict itself. It puts a face to something that is already so overburdened with data and numbers.



Jack Barnwell
Online Editor

If a journalist who went to extraordinary depths to tell the story is a woman, so be it.

Some people might spout out a popular argument that a female journalist's gender in and of itself places her in danger, citing the assault of CBS foreign correspondent Lara Logan in Egypt this year.

The argument is valid, but it also extends to all who report and cover conflict zones and dangerous situations. Gender might be one factor, but it is just one in a bundle of issues.

Covering conflict zones has its risks. Men and women alike face dangerous situations and may be injured or killed.

Arguments that women journalists covering sensitive stories pale in comparison to their male counterparts bear no weight.

Women journalists have proven their skills time and again, and I envy the careers of many of them.

Christiane Amanpour's presence in the Persian Gulf when Iraq invaded Kuwait bust the door

open on a juicy story when she was the foreign correspondent in the area.

Photographer Margaret Bourke-White documented two wars without hesitation.

French photojournalist Alexandra Boulat provided a unique vision in a career that included working in conflict zones from Kosovo to the Iraq war.

These are careers that should be examined before someone sounds off on why women journalists shouldn't be allowed to cover conflicts.

The choice should belong to a woman reporter if she wants to cover a war, not an opinion based on an antiquated belief.

If Trump ruled the United States

A world in which fire hydrants are made of gold and doughnut holes are served on silver plates is where our new president, Donald Trump, would reside.

Our new leader's hair would rise above us and all opinions against his own.

The lattice-like comb-over that spans his oversized Irish scalp will symbolize the wealth he will spread among only his tightly knit circle of D-list celebrity friends and models injected with more Botox than lumpia at a Filipino potluck.

Our vice president would be the cheeky and daringly sexy Sarah Palin, dressed in a red pleather catsuit at all times.

She would arrive to each state address riding a faithful moose named Jeep Palin.

Carseats would be attached to the animal.

There would be a dungeon under the Sparkle House, whose name would replace that of the White House seeing as it is no longer white, but laden with

unicorn tears, something worth much more than diamonds.

This said dungeon would house only the most dangerous, untrustworthy disgraces to America, of course, like Barack Obama, Whoopi Goldberg and especially Rosie O'Donnell or the “loser and failure,” the new name Trump has bestowed upon her.

His presidential staff would consist of young women between ages 21 and 27 from Central Europe — no exceptions.

This utopia will be awash with resorts and towers of Trump instead of silly parks or bike trails.

The only American pastime would be professional wrestling — sometimes golf.

We'd never know whether our leader was a Republican or a Democrat, not because he couldn't decide, but because he's Trump — he does what he wants and if you question him he will indeed fire you.

Television, airwaves and newspapers would be called Trumpvision, air-Trumps and newsTrumps since he would own all forms of media, even surpassing the power of the almighty Oprah Winfrey.

Every stripper in the country would be invited to join the Miss America



Jordan Liffengren
Saturday Night Live

Pageant because, god-damnit everyone deserves a seventh chance and this man will allow any woman to compete no matter what, out of the sheer goodness of his heart.

I can't think of anyone more thoughtful.

The only departments still in existence would be Neiman Marcus and Men's Warehouse, because everyone would dress for a night in Vegas.

No matter what day it is, the American people will be wearing suits and fur coats, gambling away their money at the nearest Trump casino.

Babies will be allowed to gamble as well because Trump does not discriminate against age.

Aside from all of these significantly important changes, he'd take our troops out of Iraq.

The war would be over.

He'd also put a 14.25 percent tax on personal estates and trusts more than \$10 million, which would raise an estimated \$5.7 trillion toward the retirement of national debt.

Taxes would be cut for the middle class and he'd supplement Social Security funds, Medicare and Medicaid.

Not like that stuff matters, though.

I just hope he names the beast that rests upon his head and teases us with the hope that those duck-shaped lips will forever purse in the Oval Office.

“Saturday Night Live” is a column appearing on every other Thursday. Jordan Liffengren is a Spartan Daily A&E Editor.

“His presidential staff would consist of young women between ages 21 and 27 from Central Europe — no exceptions.”

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Letters to the editor must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major. Letters become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Only letters of 300 words or less will be considered for publication.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication or SJSU. The Spartan Daily is a public forum.

THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS ...



Photo: Michelle Terris / Spartan Daily

"A Day Without Shoes" marchers make their way past the Event Center on Monday.



Photo: Brian O'Malley / Spartan Daily

A woman was taken to the hospital after falling and not being able to get up.



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

A human nearly escapes a bicycling zombie in Tuesday's Zombie Game.



Photo: Eric Austin / Spartan Daily

Brooms and balls aside, Quidditch practice can get quite physical.

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