



High: 70°
Low: 49°

Sharks prepare to
bite into Red Wings

PAGE 4



'Nevermind' the age,
Nirvana's still got it

PAGE 6



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SPARTAN DAILY

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Wednesday, April 27, 2011

spartandaily.com

Volume 136, Issue 45

New Student Union construction proceeds with work on foundation

Nic Aguon
Staff Writer

As construction of the new Student Union continues, the next step in the process is to test the foundation.

"To lessen the amount of noise, we have to utilize a different pile-driving system," said Bill Shum, director of planning design and construction.

He said the construction team will be using a pile driving system on the site called auger cast piles.

According to EXOFOR Foundations, a company that specializes in drilling services, auger cast piles allow "the construction of piles with minimal environmental disturbance."

"The gravity drive pile system is not as noisy but less efficient," Shum said. "We are trying to prevent vibrations or any noise that may disrupt the campus."

He said using an auger cast pile system has its advantages — it is a drilled and pumped pile, not a driven pile, which eliminates the hammer-impact noise created by driving piles.

Also, the installation of auger cast piles does not create potentially damaging ground vibrations — according to the EXOFOR website, auger cast piles can be installed next to existing structures without causing damage to them or nearby equipment.

"The auger system eliminates for shaft stabilization during construction," Shum said. "It helps maintain the

integrity of the area being drilled."

"Within a week or two, we will be testing the piles and take data of the soil on the construction site," Shum said. "The data will tell the contractors how sustainable the soil is and if it's ready to be constructed upon."

He also said the soil on the construction site needs to be leveled and that the soil in the San Jose area is "full of sediments composed of clay and solid materials."

The construction team wants to make sure there is no obstruction when the drill is brought in, Shum said.

He said the construction team is in the process of relocating the San Jose Water Company's utility lines, which are an obstruction under the construction site.

"We are in the process of relocating these utility lines out of the way," Shum said. "We want to make it accessible if we need to make necessary changes or repairs."

He said the test piles will take at least a month to complete and the foundation system will take two to three months to complete. According to SJSU's More Campus Life website, the test program may affect noise, traffic and dust levels on campus.

Cathy Busalacchi, associate vice president of campus life at SJSU, said the cost of the construction project is roughly \$68 million. Moreover, the total cost to build the new Student Union is \$89 million.



Photo: Brian O'Malley / Spartan Daily

Fatima Acevedo, a sophomore social work major, reads about the life of a human trafficking victim.

Human trafficking: A modern-day slave trade

Ryan Fernandez
Managing Editor

Bleeding wrists bound in barbed wire, blood-stained shorts and a rumpled dress, a lone teddy bear on an empty bed — those were images that awaited visitors within the Slavery Tunnel on Tuesday.

Set up near the Event

Center fountain along the Paseo de San Carlos walkway, the tunnel was one of a weeklong series of events held to mark Human Trafficking Awareness Week.

"The bed is to give a visual of what things look like — to bring out the reality of what sex trafficking is like for the millions of women and kids

abused," said Tim Castagna, one of the organizers of the Slavery Tunnel.

Castagna, a senior public relations major, said the tunnel was created by members of the SJSU Response Coalition, an alliance of campus organizations who have come together to raise awareness of human trafficking.

The United Nations Of-

fice on Drugs and Crime defines human trafficking as "an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them."

Fatima Acevedo, a

see **SLAVERY** page 3

WORLD NEWS

Syria crackdown intensifies, protests continue

McClatchy Tribune

Government forces continued their assault on the key southern city of Dara on Tuesday as authorities tightened their grip on mobility and communication throughout Syria in an attempt to smother the protest movement gripping the country.

"The situation is very hard, moving from street to street means anxiety and ... martyrdom," a witness in Dara told the pan-Arab satellite channel Al Jazeera. "Tens have fallen and we cannot even remove the bodies from the streets."

Heavily armored troops backed by snipers reportedly opened fire on civilians for a second day after storming the city and cutting off electricity and phone networks, making reports that at least 25 people had been killed since Monday impossible to verify.

The video featured above claims to be shot on Tuesday in Dara and appears to show a small group of protesters facing off against an armored vehicle, appealing to the army for help and chanting "The army is with us" before coming under fire. As the rattle of gunfire quiets, the chanting starts again: "We're not afraid, the army is with us."

Reports of cracks within the

armed forces have bolstered hope among protesters that President Bashar Assad's grip is slipping, but Syrian military officers recently told the Los Angeles Times that they feared for their lives if they resisted orders to fire on demonstrators.

A witness who was able to approach the outskirts of the besieged city reported clear signs of violence, including scorched cars and defaced images of the president and his father and predecessor, Hafez Assad.

The crackdown in Dara appears to have had a chilling effect on the rest of the country, with activists reporting hundreds arrested and homes raided in cities and towns across the country as Internet and phone service became increasingly inconsistent. Activists reported three people were killed in the city of Duma near Damascus by security forces Tuesday morning, but this information could not be verified.

An activist in Damascus said the restive suburbs were under heavy surveillance, with army checkpoints set up between neighborhoods and security forces arresting anyone deemed suspicious.

"Movement is not what it should be in the country, and communications are down," the activist said.

The activist expressed confidence, however, that the protest movement has not been quelled, and dismissed

state media reports that Salafist or puritanical Islamist groups were behind the demonstrations.

"People are waiting for Friday because it's the only day they can gather," he said.

Friday Muslim prayers have become a weekly flashpoint for protests since the alleged arrest and torture of a group of teen vandals in Dara sparked the first antigovernment mobilization more than a month ago.

Thursday, Assad approved a number of reforms intended to appease protesters, including a decree that supposedly allows citizens to apply for permits to hold peaceful demonstrations.

But just one day later, on what has become known among activists as "great Friday," security forces opened fire on protesters in 14 towns and cities around the country, killing more than 100 people. The following days saw more unrest, pushing the death toll to about 400 civilians since the uprising began, according to the Syrian human rights organization Sawasiah.

People "are afraid that the same thing which happened to Dara will happen to them," said a university student in the northern port city of Baniyas, where several thousand people turned out Tuesday to demand more political freedom.



Photo: Brian O'Malley / Spartan Daily

Part of the next step in the construction of the new Student Union involves the installation and testing of foundation piles using a pile driver.

CAMPUS IMAGES



Photo: Brian O'Malley / Spartan Daily

Computer science faculty member Chris Tseng talks about the importance of San Jose State's partnership with IBM at the Smarter Planet Comes to You university tour.

SPARTA GUIDE



Sparta Guide is provided to students and faculty, free of charge. The deadline to submit is at noon, three working days prior to desired publication date. Entry forms are available in Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Entries can be emailed to spartandailyeditorial@sjsu.edu titled "sparta guide." Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaranteed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received.

Monday-Thursday, April 26-28
Around SJSU

Human Trafficking Awareness Week, by the SJSU Awareness Coalition
Contact: Tim Castagna @ 408-507-0810

Thursday, April 28

10 a.m. - 4 p.m., King Library Rooms 255/257
Financial Literacy Fair & Workshop

Friday, April 29

6 p.m., Event Center
49th Annual Honors Convocation
Contact: Jessica Larsen @ 408-924-2402

Tuesday, May 3

Noon - 3 p.m., A.S. Rec Lawn
A.S. Spartan Squad Baseball Bash
Contact: Bradyn Blower @
Bradyn.Blower@sjsu.edu

Wednesday, May 4

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., A.S. Child Development Center
A.S. Child Development Center Art Faire & Silent Auction
Contact: Analisa Perez @
analisa.perez@sjsu.edu or 408.924.6988

■ U.S. NEWS

YouTube strikes at competitors with movie-on-demand update

McClatchy Tribune

LOS ANGELES — Google Inc.'s YouTube is ramping up its video-on-demand movie rental service with thousands of titles from several major Hollywood studios in a bid to compete head-on with established services offered by Apple Inc.'s iTunes and Amazon.com Inc.

YouTube has reached agreements with Sony Pictures Entertainment, Warner Bros. and Universal Pictures to offer their movies on the same day the films are available on other on-demand services, according to several people with knowledge of the situation who requested anonymity because the negotiations are confidential.

Other studios, including Paramount Pictures, 20th Century Fox and Walt Disney Studios, have declined to join YouTube because of concerns that Google has not done enough to deter online piracy, said people familiar with the matter, also citing the confidential nature of the discussions.

Paramount's corporate parent, Viacom Inc., is currently embroiled in a copyright infringement suit against YouTube.

Securing more sought-after Hollywood films may help stimulate demand for another high-profile corporate initiative — Google's struggling television service. Google TV delivers online video, including YouTube's content, to the

living room TV screen via the Internet.

"This is the battle for the third screen," said Colin Gillis, an analyst for BGC Financial. "Right now, people watch (YouTube) on their desktop or on their mobile, and it's all short-form content. As part of the re-launch of Google TV, you've got to get people thinking (of YouTube) as more long form."

A YouTube spokesman issued a statement saying, "We've steadily been adding more and more titles since launching movies for rent on YouTube over a year ago and now have thousands of titles available. Outside of that, we don't comment on rumor or speculation."

YouTube, which rose to prominence on the popularity of user-created videos, has been looking to bolster its bottom line with more professionally created content.

The site began making movies from the Sundance

Film Festival available for online rental early last year. It now offers a limited selection of pictures to rent via the service, including Weinstein Co.'s animated film "Hoodwinked" and MGM's "Hannibal Rising." Other films, such as director Ivan Reitman's 1984 comedy "Ghostbusters" and Morgan Spurlock's 2004 fast-food documentary "Super Size Me," can be watched free with commercials.

However, consumer interest in paying to watch the limited selection of movies on YouTube thus far has been very low, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

One analyst said the greatest hurdle in creating a viable rival to Apple's iTunes or Amazon's Instant Video service is persuading YouTube's 143 million monthly users to think of the site as a place to watch something other than short, quirky videos.

THE RISK OF CHRISTIANITY

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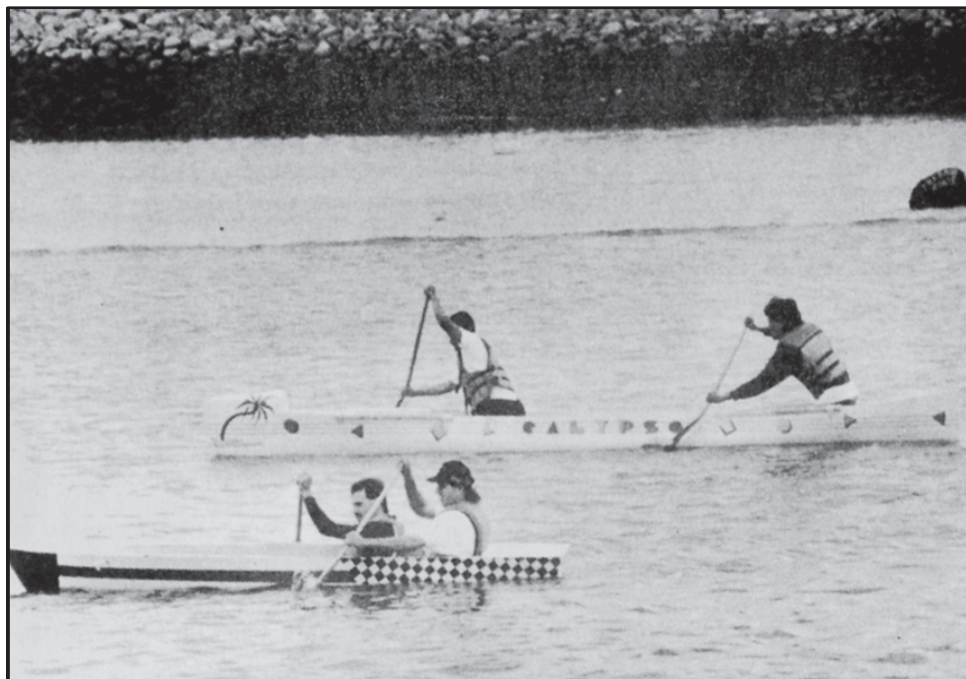
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THIS DAY IN HISTORY ...



On April 27, 1989
Spartan Daily Reported that ...

- (Above) SJSU engineering students Bill Pratt and Yann Zsutty competed in the Mid-Pacific American Society of Civil Engineers concrete canoe race in San Leandro's Marina Park lagoon when their canoe overturned.
- Guest speaker Ruth Harris canceled her lecture on AIDS awareness when symptoms of her HIV prevented her from making an appearance. Harris, whose husband died of AIDS in 1987, still stressed the importance of AIDS prevention.
- History Professor Edgar Anderson gave personal insight into how the Soviet Union administrated and manipulated the Baltic countries. Anderson, a native of Latvia, fled from threats of both communism and fascism.

■ WORLD NEWS

WikiLeaks reveals U.S. held innocents at Guantanamo Bay

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — Naqibullah was about 14 years old when U.S. troops detained him in December 2002 at a suspected militant's compound in eastern Afghanistan.

The weapon he held in his hands hadn't been fired, the troops concluded, and he appeared to have been left behind with a group of cooks and errand boys when a local warlord, tipped to the raid, had fled.

A secret U.S. intelligence assessment written in 2003 concluded that Naqibullah had been kidnapped and forcibly conscripted by a warring tribe affiliated with the Taliban. The boy told interrogators that during his abduction he had been held at gunpoint by 11 men and raped.

Nonetheless, Naqibullah was held at Guantanamo for a full year.

Afghans make up the largest group by nationality held at the Guantanamo Bay detention center, an estimated 221 men and boys in all. Yet they were frequently found to have had nothing to do with international terrorism, according to more than 750 secret intelligence assessments that were written at Guantanamo between 2002 and 2009. The assessments were obtained by WikiLeaks and passed to McClatchy Newspapers.

In at least 44 cases, U.S. military intelligence officials concluded that detainees had no connection to militant activity at all, a McClatchy Newspapers examination of the assessments, which cover both former and current detainees, found. The number might be even higher, but could not be determined from the information in some assessments, which often were just a few paragraphs long for Afghans who were released in 2002 and 2003.

Still, it's clear from the U.S. military's own assessments that beyond a core of

senior Taliban and extremist commanders, the Afghans were in large part a jumble of conscripts, insurgents, criminals and, at times, innocent bystanders. Just 45 were classified as presenting a high threat level, and only 28 were judged to be of high intelligence value. At least 203 have now been released.

U.S. Department of Defense officials have declined to comment on the contents of the WikiLeaks documents, saying they are stolen property and remain classified.

The records contain no single explanation for why so many Afghans with few links to terrorism came to be held at the Guantanamo detention center, a facility that the George W. Bush administration said was intended to house only the most serious of terrorist suspects.

Anecdotes from the documents suggest that many of the Afghan captives were picked up by mistake. Others were passed along to U.S. troops by Afghan warlords and local militias who gave false information about them in return for bounty payments or to set up a local rival.

There was also a desire by U.S. intelligence analysts, particularly in the scramble after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist

attacks, to cast as wide a net as possible. They were looking to piece together everything from which dirt paths were used to cross between Afghanistan to Pakistan, to the relationship between the Taliban and al-Qaida.

Afghans became crucial for understanding the lay of the land — and for many it cost them years of their lives in confinement.

For at least three Afghan men, the reason listed for being at Guantanamo was a variation of "knowledge of routes between Afghanistan and Pakistan."

The assessments for at least four others listed as the reason for holding them at Guantanamo their knowledge of the Taliban conscription process — meaning they had been forced to join the organization.

"I think many of them were used to get what I call associated intelligence — if they knew somebody who knew somebody who knew somebody," said Emile Nakhleh, the former director of the CIA's Political Islam Strategic Analysis Program who visited Guantanamo to assess detainees in 2002. "They were the living dots of Google Earth in Afghanistan; we were trying to connect the dots."

SLAVERY
From Page 1

sophomore social work major, said she liked that the coalition was working to bring more awareness of human trafficking and slavery to people.

"A way to stop this is to make people aware of this," she said. "It's scary that they do this to other people."

Coalition members Desmond Toy and Eric Houg encouraged passersby to enter the tunnel and examine the information and stories contained within it.

"It's a lingering business that's going on," said Toy, a senior kinesiology major. "We thought we were free from slavery, but slavery still persists today in another form."

Houg, a senior marketing major, said human trafficking can come in many guises, including prostitution, sexual exploitation, sweatshop and child labor, organ trafficking and even people working as household servants and waiters in restaurants.

"They're offered opportunities for jobs," he said. "But it's a lie."

Sitting on the ground at either end of the tunnel were a pair of mannequins, dressed in hoodies and denim — Attached to their arms was a tag that read: "\$90."

"The average cost of a slave is \$90," Castagna said. "Once they're used twice, the cost is already made up for them."

In the practice of human trafficking, Toy said people are treated as objects to be bought and sold, and are considered expendable after their purposes have been fulfilled.

"It dehumanizes them," he said.



Photo: Brian O'Malley / Spartan Daily

This battered mannequin was one of a trio of models representing the victims of human trafficking.

Houg said human trafficking is not confined to a single nation or group of nations.

"It's every country, whether it's where they're recruited, the country of destination or if they're passing through," he said.

The Netherlands, Belgium, Ukraine, Russia, India, Thailand, Japan, the Philippines and the United States — these countries were named in the exhibit as having some part in human trafficking.

Diana Garibay, a junior forensic science and Spanish double major, said she thinks the coalition's work in bringing information about human trafficking to campus is "pretty outstanding."

"I think everyone's had a glimpse of slavery because they've seen the movie 'Taken,'" she said. "But they're exposing all this information on campus."

Events for Human Trafficking Awareness Week 2011

Wednesday
5 p.m. @ Spartan Memorial: Variety Show Fundraiser, \$5 admission

8 p.m. @ Student Union Ohlone Room: Abolition discussion with Youth with a Mission missionary

Thursday
7:30 p.m. @ Morris Dailey Auditorium: "At the End of Slavery" movie showing, featuring speaker Brian Cress from International Justice Mission

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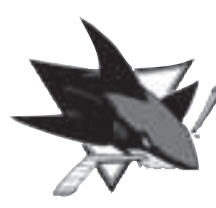



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COMMENTARY

Sharks, Red Wings renew postseason rivalry

Alex Spicer & Marlon Maloney
Sports Editor & Copy Editor

Here we are again: San Jose Sharks vs. Detroit Red Wings. The two teams have plenty of history in the playoffs, with the Sharks winning the most recent meeting last season four games to one. Don't expect it to be so one-sided this time around, as both teams have the experience and pieces to win the series.

	SHARKS	RED WINGS	ADVANTAGE
FORWARDS	Veteran winger Ryane Clowe's career-year has continued into the playoffs so far, as he leads the Sharks in scoring through the first series, with four goals and three assists. The Sharks have received balanced scoring throughout their lines, and are averaging 3.33 goals per game. Center Kyle Wellwood has been a catalyst for San Jose, providing them with 1 goal and 3 assists, plus a team-high plus 6 rating — food for second-best throughout the league so far in the playoffs. The center has also been effective in face-offs, winning 63.64 percent of them. Joe Thornton (5 points), Patrick Marleau (5 points) and Dany Heatley (4 points) have played well, but expect at least one to explode offensively in the second round.	Not many teams can say they have a future hall of famer, Mike Modano, on their roster as a healthy scratch. Depth has been a trademark of Red Wings playoff success for what is now the 20th consecutive trip to the NHL's postseason tournament and this year is no different. Rather than relying on only its top two lines, the Wings come at their opponents in waves to the tune of 4.5 goals per game thus far. The fourth line, led by center Darren Helm, has consistently been able to set the tone at key moments in games, killing penalties and chipping in goals. Detroit was the only team to sweep its way to the second round, doing it without its top scorer in Henrik Zetterberg.	
DEFENSEMEN	The San Jose defense looked lost at times, often making mental errors and turning the puck over in its own zone. Fortunately the Sharks' offense bailed them out on multiple occasions. Alternate captain Dan Boyle will need to overcome struggles at both ends of the ice — the defenseman only recording three points in the opening series — if they are to defeat a veteran Red Wing team. Defenseman Ian White has been a bright spot, however. The mid-season pickup has five points so far.	Of the 16 teams that entered the playoffs Detroit ranked dead last in the goals against category for regular season play. Perennial Norris Trophy candidate and team captain Nicklas Lindstrom didn't let that last much longer. Anyone who watched them play in their round one matchup against the Phoenix Coyotes witnessed a defense that has since risen to a new level of play. Through four games, they have given up 10 goals total, six of them coming a man down.	
GOALIES	The Sharks' first-choice netminder, Antti Niemi, was inconsistent to say the least. Despite making some big saves in crucial moments, Niemi never allowed less than three goals in any of his six starts. His 3.99 goals against average and .863 save percentage were among the worst through the first round. Still, Sharks head coach Todd McLellan remains optimistic and insists Niemi will remain his starting goalie. On the bright side, backup Antero Niittymaki has proved more than capable enough when called upon.	Jimmy Howard took over as the starter and experienced playoff-level hockey last season before being dispatched along with his teams by the Sharks. This season he struggled for large portions of the season, but clearly outperformed an arguably better goaltender in Ilya Bryzgalov. This year Howard seems to have taken a cue from backup goalie Chris Osgood and grown more relaxed, despite playing in a market that is known for blaming playoff failure on goaltending. He has a .915 save percentage and 2.5 goals against in the playoffs.	
COACHING	Head coach Todd McLellan has kept his team focused throughout its up-and-down regular season, and it carried on through the playoffs. The Sharks came out victorious in all three of its overtime contests with the Kings, including a comeback that saw the Sharks trailing the Kings 4-0 in the second period before the team soared back to win 6-5. McLellan has been steadfast in his trust of his players, even when they struggle. So far, his decisions to stick with his top choices have paid off.	Mike Babcock is widely considered the best coach in the league. He has a wealth of playoff experience (105 games) and is not afraid to tinker with his lines if things aren't working. He just finished leading Team Canada to an Olympic victory after taking the Wings to back-to-back Stanley Cup finals in 2008/09 with Detroit and once before with the Anaheim Ducks. In just eight years of head coaching experience, Babcock has a record of 67-38 in the playoffs.	

Alex's Verdict:
Sharks win in 7



This is a close call. The Red Wings dominated the Phoenix Coyotes in the opening series, but the Coyotes are historically ineffective in the playoffs, so I would take the result with a grain of salt. The Sharks will prove a much tougher test for Detroit.

Marlon's Verdict:
Wings win in 6



A well-rested and now healthy Red Wings team, may have to shake off some rust early, but their depth and experience will have them ready to withstand the challenge of a San Jose team that struggled at times with a very young Kings team.

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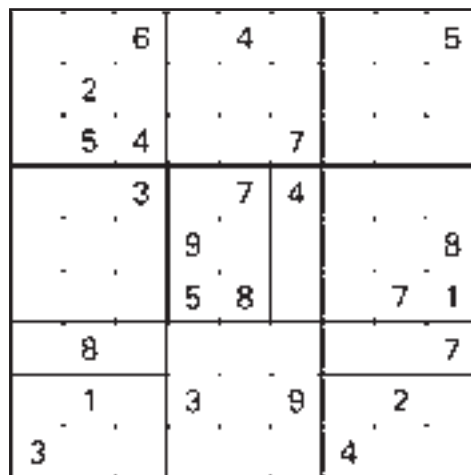
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TODAY'S SUDOKU PUZZLE



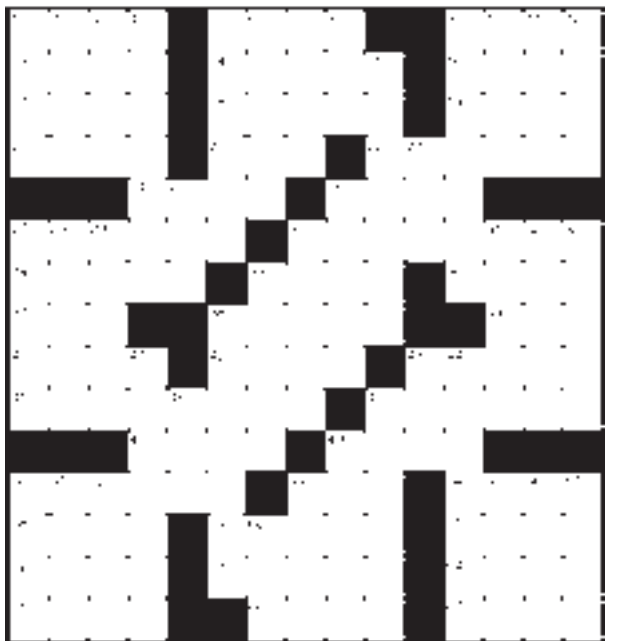
PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Leave out
5 Kazakh language
9 Submarine
13 Michty Pochu, a Russian
14 Ezzed Jada
16 Teri Starbuck
17 Cars-paw
18 Mugu
19 Pop-out
20 Emily's creator
21 Hays
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26 West for the god
27 The gun
30 Driving musician
34 Wheel suspects
35 In - versus
38 Thank you in Kyrgyz
37 Varsity
38 Tamers
39 Match post
40 Pleading hookings
42 Charles
43 Wet toward
46 Spores
47 More just
48 Call Tech grad
49 American pa
50 Her cultural an
53 Alan's creator
54 Sum one
55 Ad and
56 Wed on the run
57 Fox's parent
62 - Raton, Pa
63 Has abba
64 Fish Resc's guy
65 Cartoon shreds
66 Pretel coming
67 Galton's

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED
BREA CABBA VATS
RAIN ORBIT CLHI
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RASP CATER SCRA
EIERAL NOVENAS
A T M LOC
SCY T FES ALLEGGY
PLAT ROUG F D I R F
EARL AL A H EM I I
DYKE SOARS D F M I

4 Ice cream
5 Kentucky
6 Fungi
7 Sparkles
8 Pulp fiction
9 Evening
10 He created Milton
11 Arnold
12 Dwayne
13 Dye pants
14 Agent
15 Marina charr
16 Windy places
17 Victim associate
18 Gil deab
19 The user
20 Raton and wren
21 Type of expure
32 Gr. H. or Zola
33 Gu. up wall
34 Skywalker's oa
35 Male hairy
36 Naps
37 in Vegas
38 Pops
39 Fat lipa
40 Dou's box
41 Most gauzy
42 Jack's Injure
43 Mr. Zerkow
44 Reun
45 instrument
46 Bottle part
47 Finch
48 Access
49 Antenna
50 H. H. H.
51 Be a
52 Vegas head-



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Musician hits key chord in heart

I really didn't think I was going to watch the whole thing.

As Kanye West performed the closing set at Coachella on April 17, my opinion of him rose and fell similar to the giant crane-arm on which he entered.

However, since it was decidedly more entertaining than the homework I was avoiding, I kept on watching the live stream of the performance on YouTube as he powered through a nearly two-hour setlist of hit single after hit single.

While I don't agree with many of the themes in his music — falling in love with porn stars or picking fights with sketch comedy shows — or any of his provocative comments on and off stages, I have to give him credit.

He left it all out there. Yeezy ran through his hits and continued to find energy to rap, dance, shout, lead the "power clap" and even scream incoherently for a long period of time.

Watching the live stream of the event also provided a unique perspective because the Twitter feed was displayed directly next to the video player, so viewers could see what people in attendance and watching from their computers thought of the performance.

While Kanye has always had many haters, it seemed clear throughout the show and especially during the finale, the vast majority of the public were supportive and enjoyed his theatrics.

The final number was truly what made me feel I had done more than simply procrastinate away two hours.

After an impressive display of artistic endurance, a visibly exhausted Kanye addressed the audience saying he dedicated his performance that evening to his mother.

He then proceeded to perform the song "Hey Mama," a piece he wrote for his late mother from *The College Dropout* album.

While West is just a human, and imperfect like the rest of us, his performance of that piece struck a nerve within me.



Francisco Rendon
Francisco's Chronicles

While West is just a human, and imperfect like the rest of us, his performance of that piece struck a nerve within me.

In the world of hip hop, and in our society in general, protecting your masculinity is a delicate balance, where if you stray too much toward your feminine side, you are labeled as feminine, weak and possibly even homosexual.

For West to address his love for his mother so openly, on such a large stage, to make himself so vulnerable was refreshing and visibly heartfelt.

Music is a very special thing, because in all our lives, we can find artists who put so much of themselves, who open their heart so completely in a song, that we can feel what they are communicating in a way that transcends words.

I can say that I truly could relate to West's verses about his mother working late and making extra efforts to make sure that her son had the best life he possibly could.

My father left home when I was 15, and though having me in the house often made life very difficult for my mother, she never complained and sacrificed everything she had so that I could live better.

It is difficult to find a better theme than the love of one's mother to overpower the perpetual need to appear macho, outwardly strong and invulnerable.

After all, my mother has seen me throughout my life, at my worst moments, when I was too young to even use the bathroom, and she kept on loving me.

Sitting alone in my room watching West perform on my computer that night, I finally realized how much I love my mother and how grateful I am to have been born to her.

"I appreciate what you allowed for me, I just want you to be proud of me."
Hey mama.

"Francisco's Chronicles" is a weekly column appearing on Wednesdays. Francisco Rendon is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.

College sports lack equal opportunity

Since 1972, NCAA Division I schools have been required by law to provide equal opportunity in athletics to both males and females.

Known as Title IX, the law bans sex discrimination and requires schools to comply by showing proportionality of female athletes to students on campus, demonstrating a history of increase in women's athletics or prove it has met the interest and ability of the underrepresented group.

There are loopholes, however, such as reporting male practice players on women's athletic teams as being women, and the practice of trimming the rosters of men's teams is not uncommon.

An analysis released by the New York Times of public records and federal participation statistics from hundreds of Division I schools from across the country found that schools were pulling all the stops to distort roster counts.

Tactics such as counting athletes who no longer want to compete or even played for the team were used to pad rosters instead of putting money into the development of new women's teams.

Considering the rule was created in 1972, one questions how relevant it is today.

While 53 percent of students in Division I schools are women, they only



Alex Spicer
Sporty Spice

make up 46 percent of all athletes.

A substantial chunk of those male athletes come from just the football team, which at SJSU has 92 male athletes alone — well more than the women's water polo, volleyball, tennis and swimming/diving teams combined.

While the overall male to female athlete ratio is fairly even, the male to female sports

team ratio is not. In all, there are four more women's sports teams than there are for men, which happen to be the above-mentioned water polo, volleyball, tennis and swimming/diving.

There are loopholes, however, such as reporting male practice players on women's athletic teams as being women, and the practice of trimming the rosters of men's teams is not uncommon.

Not to knock football, because it's

obviously not their fault, but because of its large roster size, other men's sports teams suffer for it.

When I was deciding which university to attend as a senior in high school, I was looking for a school with a men's tennis team.

I had given up all the other sports I loved to play in order to focus on getting a tennis scholarship, but I found that outside of community colleges, schools with men's tennis teams are sparse.

For the schools that showed an interest in me, I did not share the same sentiment. Eventually, I grew tired of tennis, and decided to give it up and attend SJSU.

I'm sure there are many other stories similar to my own, and for those who are trying to get into certain sports that are not as well represented on the male front, it can be difficult — especially with the increased competition for the few roster spots among the teams.

The Title IX law needs to represent equal opportunity, not participants.

Instead of forcing universities to illegally utilize loopholes, Title IX needs to be abolished. Common sense and demand can regulate the system.

As a male at SJSU, I feel underrepresented in this regard.

Men and women should have an equal number of sports teams, regardless of the sport and roster spots.

"Sporty Spice" is a weekly column appearing on Wednesdays. Alex Spicer is a Spartan Daily Sports Editor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This letter is a response to "RE: LOL, ROFL, LMAO ... The desecration of the English language," which appeared on April 19, 2011.

What you have described is a common linguistic phenomenon — hyperbole, or exaggeration by overstatement.

People say they are "terribly sorry" and get "awfully mad" when "really" and "very" would do the trick. Words meaning "cool," "popular" and "trendy" have marked their presence in decades past, from "groovy" to "rad" to "sick" to "bad", and now "awesome" and "epic."

Your friend, in uttering "epic shit," demonstrates language manipulation skills and knowledge of current vocabulary, and for that the expression is a welcoming one, not one that should be scorned with disgust.

Communicating via text leaves out a lot of basic elements of human interaction, such as tone of voice and facial expressions. To compensate, people find ways to convey laughter in text format. You have "heheh," I have "haha," and other people have "LOL."

It only feels "cheaped" because of exaggeration. What once meant hysterical laughter has now degenerated to a soft chuckle. However, other options such as "ROFL," "LMAO" and the holy grail "ROFLMAO," not to mention countless emoticons, can be used to denote a wide variety of laughter.

At most, you can capitalize your "heheh" to "HEHEH" and I can lengthen my "haha" to "hahaha."

If you find the current trends tiresome, it might be of some comfort that they will not stay for long. As "awesome" and "epic" die out due to overuse, new words will take their place.

I have faith in our generation to coin terms that are more awesome and more epic than existing ones to describe momentous events such as a fulfilling meal or a satisfying dump.

Since Greek literature seems to be of something sacred, my friend proposed "titanic" as a suitable replacement.

Ming-Sum Lai

This letter is a response to "Obama and Facebook," which appeared on Thursday.

Obama makes a stop at Facebook and faces many questions and many doubts.

I think it's great that (Obama) is trying to make a progressive attempt with his presidential campaign, but not being clear on where our money is going to be cut is ridiculous.

Making appearances all over California is great, but I think Obama should use his \$1 billion of campaign money toward cutting our deficit.

I know Obama can't change the country overnight, but maybe he should be spending less time Facebook chatting and more time putting our country's money to good use.

Facebook is an amazing outlet that we are all lucky to have and Obama was smart to make an appearance there, but next time I hope he comes prepared to answer questions to the fullest because we deserve it.

If Obama wants us to vote for him again then maybe he should edit his profile and sent messages, because we are all watching.

Tamra Davis

Comment on any of these opinions at spartandailyeditorial@sjsumedia.com

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■ COMMENTARY

20 years later, 'Nevermind' still resonates with fans



Photo: Courtesy: Quickdfw.com

From left: Dave Grohl, Kurt Cobain and Krist Novoselic made up the legendary band Nirvana.

Matt Young
Staff Writer

It's hard for me to wrap my head around it, but it's been 20 years since Seattle's Nirvana released an album called *Nevermind*.

I think I'm getting old.

By 1991, the band had gone through a number of lineups since releasing their first album, *Bleach*, on indie label Sub Pop.

The band recorded the watershed album while still living on couches and driving to gigs in a shot-out van.

It was its signing to major label DGC that made the difference.

Kurt Cobain, Dave Grohl and Krist Novoselic weren't well-known outside of the underground music scene in the Pacific Northwest at the time, but *Nevermind* changed the music scene in profound ways as a whole generation was swept up in something still hard to define.

Full of piss and vinegar, single after riveting single hit the airwaves — alt-rock staples "Smells Like Teen Spirit," "Come As You Are," "Lithium," "In Bloom," "Something in the Way" and "Polly" climbed the charts.

As Cobain later famously said in the song "Scentsless Apprentice," the teenage angst paid off well.

While the musical formula has been discussed and dissected ad nauseam, the provocative-yet-abstract lyrics, insanely catchy musical hooks, signature soft-hard dynamics and pop sensibilities combined into something greater than the sum of its parts.

The wild live performances, laced with whimsy and unbridled animus certainly helped.

There were, of course, other factors involved in their wild success.

With fellow Seattle bands Alice in Chains, Pearl Jam and Soundgarden all reinforcing interest in the grunge scene, and MTV co-opting the entire movement, the band had easy access via the dominant media outlets at the time.

Nevermind famously ended up knocking Michael Jackson off the top of the Billboard charts and changed the dominant sound of rock music for years to come.

Even considering all those factors, there was another aspect to the success of the band's music.

Nirvana was undeniably abstract in its lyrics, but the songs were played and sang with such an intensity and authenticity that they still resonated with people.

Perhaps because they were abstract, people could project their own interpretations upon them, identifying with the feelings the songs evoked, making for a profoundly personal experience that was at the same time



Photo Courtesy: Allmusic.com

shared with everyone else with a TV, radio, tape deck or CD player.

Everyone knew the songs, even if they didn't know what all the lyrics were.

Maybe part of the mystery was that Cobain wasn't the most intelligible singer.

With his tragic suicide a mere three years later, perhaps the power of those feelings were further imprinted and sealed by the enormity of the loss, preserving them like an emotional Polaroid picture taken at a vulnerable moment.

He left behind a wife, a daughter and a legion of disaffected fans.

The legacy lives on, even if that particular lightning hasn't been captured in a bottle in quite the same way.

As for the surviving members, bassist Novoselic never found the same level of success in his later efforts, which included little-known, short-lived projects like Sweet 75 and Eyes Adrift.

He ended up pursuing politics in Washington.

In contrast, drummer Grohl turned things around for himself with his own band, Foo Fighters.

After forming in 1995 from the ashes of Nirvana, the group, also featuring Nirvana guitarist Pat Smear, had its work cut out for itself, growing beyond the shadow of one of the most influential bands of the last few decades.

For Nirvana fans, the release of the Foo Fighters documentary *Back and Forth* sheds new light on *Nevermind*, delving into

the topic as it references Grohl and Smear watching their last band implode and work on starting a new project, uncertain of the future.

Grohl said that for a long time it was difficult to talk about his last band, even though media scrutiny was ever-present in the aftermath of Cobain's suicide.

They had to constantly field questions about whether any given song was referencing Nirvana.

Eventually, Foo Fighters was able to stand on its own merits, and the band has enjoyed critical and commercial success since, releasing seven albums to date.

In a poignant nod to their shared past, Grohl had Novoselic sit in for a bass track on the song, "I Should Have Known" from the current release, *Wasting Light*.

The documentary also covered the making of that album, produced by *Nevermind's* Butch Vig.

It was the first time Grohl, Smear and Novoselic had recorded together since Nirvana had been intact.

They discussed how the process was loaded with memories of the Nirvana years, and how they processed their feelings.

Looking back, it's easy to recall how powerful things were when everything was still new and fresh.

It was unpredictable and thrilling.

I'd wager that everyone else who bought *Nevermind* all those years ago still recalls how it made them feel, even after all this time.

Drink of the week

By: Lyell Marks



The House of Bagels' iced caramel macchiato makes mornings a little bit sweeter.

Have your taste buds been begging for a flavorful alternative to the daily grind of coffee?

Are you looking for something a little sweeter but just as strong?

Stop searching. The Iced Carmel Macchiato from House of Bagels on 11th and San Carlos Streets may be the beverage you're looking for.

If you have ever treated your sweet tooth to this drink at another location, you are truly cheating both your mouth and your wallet.

The sweet swirls of caramel caress the onslaught of espresso that isn't used to having such a flavorful companion.

Affordably priced at \$3 for a large and offers \$2 for a small, House of Bagels offers this espresso delicacy at the best rate in town.

You're going to have to bring more than just Abe Lincoln with you to get a similar dosage of Starbucks' version of the macchiato.

It's a rare case where your wallet won't hurt from indulgence and your thrift won't compromise flavor — but that's up to you to savor.

With that extra \$2 you can even peruse the barracks of bagels freshly baked every morning, snagging the perfect breakfast snack to complement your caramel affair.

If not, save it for a small and come back again for an encore of the experience that nearly made you forget that the coffee bean was even part of such a delicious morning beverage.

So if you have become increasingly exhausted of the coffee, milk and sugar routine, the macchiato can be a welcome guest that is just a little sweeter than the old cup of Joe.

TAU DELTA PHI'S FIRESIDE

The events from September 11th still affect students today as national debt increases to pay for two wars and education budgets shrink.

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