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Spartans set to square off in spring scrimmage

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Famous physicist addresses Creation

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# SPARTAN DAILY

Serving San José State University since 1934

Thursday, April 28, 2011

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## Walkers bring sexual violence to heel

Shirene Niksadat  
Staff Writer

In a lighthearted approach to a grim subject, hundreds of volunteers came out and registered for the 10th annual "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event in Downtown San Jose late Wednesday afternoon.

Policemen, firemen, businessmen and the mayor of San Jose were among those who showed up to strut their stuff, each in their own pair of high heeled shoes.

Hosted this year by the YWCA of Silicon Valley, the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event is one that encourages and enables men to take a stand against sexual violence.

Since its commencement in 2001, the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event has enlisted and inspired tens of thousands of men to get into a pair of high heels — Wednesday's festivities mirrored this spirit as a gigantic procession of men and women went walking in parade fashion from Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park to the San Jose Repertory Theatre.

Creating awareness about sexual assault and gender violence as well as supporting local rape crisis centers was at the top of the agenda as YWCA members welcomed the crowd in and thanked them for their support.

"We are here today to break the deafening silence around the topic of sexual violence," said Leandra Peloquin of the YWCA's rape crisis department as she began her speech. Peloquin went on to further explain the critical importance of encouraging the community to open up the dialogue on this often taboo topic.

**"This event intentionally engages men in the awareness of sexual violence"**

Chris Moore  
San Jose police chief

"This is my sixth year in a row," said volunteer Chris Flemming of Lockheed Martin, who was wearing bright red, three inch heels. "We started with just 10 guys in 2006. Since then the team has grown and grown and we continue to come back and support every year. We need to raise awareness that this is wrong and we need to

support these victims of violence in our communities."

In honor of April's Sexual Assault Awareness month, the event asks men to literally walk a mile in a woman's high heeled shoes, effectively flipping the script and helping men appreciate women's experiences not only in their shoes but through the education of their hardships.

"This event involves men in the solution," said San Jose's Police Chief Chris Moore as he meditated on the importance of the role reversal. "This event intentionally engages men in the awareness of sexual violence, something that historically has been considered a women's issue."

"Rape hurts all of us," "Walk the Walk" and "Put yourself in her shoes" were only a few examples of the signs being proudly flaunted as the crowd moved through the streets of Downtown San Jose. Honking horns and whoops of approval were heard along the way.

"Shaking your ass makes it so much easier to walk," said one man to another as he walked by in tie, trousers and silver lamè pumps.

Present among the crowd were not only older men and women but people of all ages.

Fifteen-year-old Ruben

see **WALK** page 2



Photo: Donovan Farnham / Spartan Daily

Joe Feurtado puts on a pair of black peep-toe strap-on pumps for the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event on Wednesday in Downtown San Jose.

## Associated Students celebrates 55 Spartans' commitment to campus, community

Alex Wara  
Staff Writer

Audience members cheered as a select group of students walked across the Morris Dailey Auditorium stage Wednesday night to be honored for achievements that go beyond the classroom.

SJSU is home to thousands of students but 55 were chosen and recognized because of their commitment to the community and campus around them.

As part of the Associated Students 55 awards, the students who are dedicated to helping others around them took a night off to be recognized and thanked for what they do.

Award recipient Ashlee Jemmott said she was receiving an award because of her work with foster kids in the community.

"I am really honored," said Jemmott, a senior psychology major. "I think is great for students to come together and to be able to see what we are all working on and to have us recognized by the community."

The students who receive the award can only receive it once and can be nominated by students, faculty, staff or community members, according to the SJSU website.

The program kicked off with a welcome by A.S. Vice President Jessica Dunham and Jason Laker, SJSU vice president of student affairs.

Laker spoke about how important it is for students to be involved in the com-



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

Holly Rude shakes hands with A.S. President Tomasz Kolodziejek as she accepts her A.S. 55 Award on Wednesday at Morris Dailey Auditorium.

munity and said he was excited to be able to celebrate the accomplishments of the award recipients.

A.S. President Tomasz Kolodziejek followed the welcome by giving his State of Associated Students address.

Kolodziejek spoke about the ups and downs of the year for SJSU but highlighted future plans for the campus, including a new scholarship program. He also spoke about events that took place during the year, which included Snow Day, the Trashion Fashion show and the

lobbying of state legislatures.

Raj Mathai, a local NBC news anchor, gave the keynote address. Mathai shared how he got his start in the media and spoke about why it is important for students to become leaders.

"What really got my attention about being here tonight is the community service part of what you have done," Mathai said in his address to the students.

see **AWARDS** page 2

## Artifacts, photos recall Italian-American captivity during World War II

Wesley Dugle  
Staff Writer

Groups of Italian-Americans have been funneling into the fourth floor of the King Library to see an infamous but significant part of their cultural history this April.

The exhibit put on by the Italian American Heritage Foundation, titled "Una Storia Segreta" (Secret Story), chronicles the history of Italian-American internment during World War II in California.

"I was in shock to find out that this went on here in California," said Nancy Bettini, an Italian-American who grew up in New York during the internment. "We never even thought about California. I was in shock today that they took them out of their homes, out of their jobs and they did that in New York too."

Adina Conroy, Bettini's granddaughter, said she believes lessons can be learned from how different ethnicities handle adver-

sity in this country.

"I think it's important for people to understand the history but again not use that as any kind of a crutch," she said. "Every nationality that has come into this country has had some sort of stigma they've had to overcome."

Tony Zerbo, a co-chair of the Italian American Heritage Foundation, helped moderate for incoming visitors on Wednesday.

"What (the exhibit) is trying to present is a history that's kind of been forgotten," he said. "It's trying to present an educational exhibit, because with education and knowledge those are two best deterrents of preventing what happened in 1941."

According to Zerbo, about 600,000 Italian-Americans were classified as enemy aliens and put on strict curfews and house arrest while 3,000 were interned to camps both on the east and west coasts.

"What (the students)

see **EXHIBIT** page 2

**WALK**  
From Page 1

Juarez and 18-year-old Alex Orozco decided to come and support the cause after hearing about the event through the MyStrength club at Andrew Hill High School.

"We're here to stand up and support women who have been abused," said Juarez in a pair of pink polka-dot kitten heels.

Among the youngest in the crowd was 8-year-old Joshua Wong who proudly walked beside his father in child-sized, black Mary Jane platforms.

"My dad did this last year," Wong said. "I wanted to come out and support with him too."

Shown in numbers by the huge crowd of about 400 people in attendance, rape and sexual violence does not just affect women. It affects the men that care about them, their families, friends,



Photo: Donovan Farnham / Spartan Daily

**Men select women's shoes to walk in for the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event in Downtown San Jose on Wednesday.**

coworkers and communities.

As described by YWCA members, councilmen and San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, the event at its core was a social statement aimed at provoking

society to start talking about gender relations and sexual violence — topics not easily brought to light in everyday conversation.

According to the event's

website, one in every three women and one in every five men, regardless of socioeconomic status, will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime.



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

**A.S. 55 Awardee Sandra Yesenia Huerta Baca smiles with 2010 Homecoming Queen Azra Crnogorčević after receiving her award on Wednesday at Morris Dailey Auditorium.**

**AWARDS**  
From Page 1

Mathai encouraged students to not let the passion for community service stop after college, no matter what industry they go into.

He also said students should never stop being leaders within their communities.

The award recipients were announced by Quacy Supervisor and Azra Crnogorčević, the 2010 Homecoming King and Queen.

Students involved in clubs, sororities and fraternities, as well as various other community outlets, were honored one by one.

Senior kinesiol-

ogy major Victor Delgado was one of the students honored for his involvement in his club and his fraternity.

"I like to do a lot of things for the school and the community," Delgado said. "It is nice to have things like this to show appreciation for us."

He added that he is always looking for

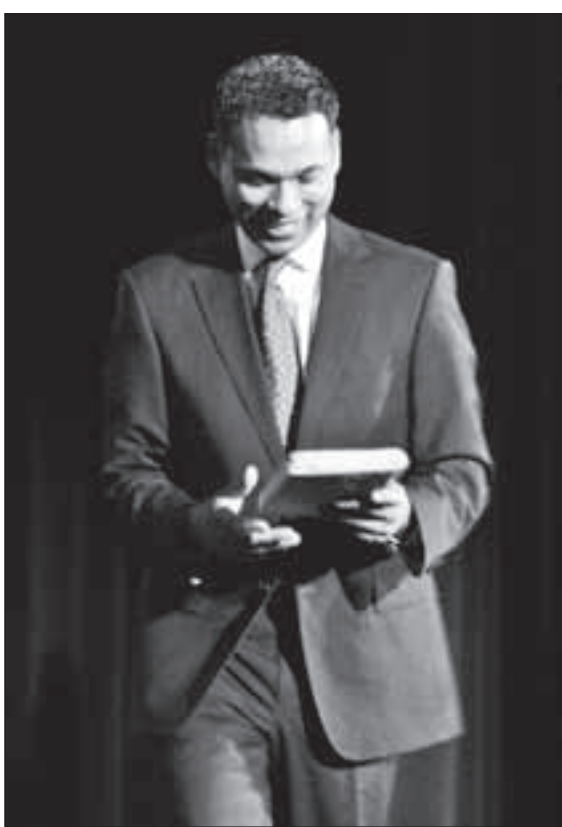


Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

**Raj Mathai, an NBC news anchor and keynote speaker, receives a gift after speaking to the audience on Wednesday.**

ways to get students involved on campus.

Part of the ceremony strayed away from students for a moment with the honor-

ing of Rose Lee with a resolution presented by Kolodziejak and Schehrbano Khan, A.S. director of faculty affairs.

**EXHIBIT**  
From Page 1

will learn from this history is that under these conditions they should have no fear to object to the facts that their civil rights were denied and constitutional rights were denied," he said. "If this starts to occur again they have the knowledge and the intuition to say 'Look, we know the history, we know what happened and we know how to prevent it.'"

Zerbo said the foundation is a grassroots Italian-American organization with a mission to preserve Italian culture and history and promote it through culinary and visual arts, Italian festivals and exhibits such as this.

"I like to keep the history alive in the ensuing years and possibly bringing up the subject in years to come," he said. "I feel like the history of your culture is a living culture to give to your kids."

Foundation President Ken Borelli said there are still many Italian-Americans who are unaware of this chapter in their culture's history.

"Una Storia Segreta' is one tiny, small part of Italian-American history but it did shape Italian-American identity," he said. "Most Italian-Americans are not even aware that it happened and that in itself is a sad event

because it meant that many younger students don't really know much about their past, their history, their culture and the language of their relatives."

Gilda Desimone-Groccia, an Italian-American who came to the exhibit with her friends, said she was also unaware of the internment until she came to the exhibit on Wednesday.

"It shows that the FBI really can and has the ability to keep from the public things they shouldn't keep from the public," she said. "I think we need to ask questions and be aware, otherwise things will happen again."

Madeline Damiano, who came to the exhibit with Desimone-Groccia, said she also believes the U.S. has kept a lot of things hidden from the public.

"This country has done a lot of good but it has kept a lot of secrets and I think this is one of its biggest ones," she said.

Damiano said she most enjoyed seeing the personal accounts on the walls at the exhibit.

"I love that they have personal letters and life stories," she said. "As you read it you feel your heart break and you feel the anguish and you understand the toll that it took on some of these people."

Foundation President Borelli said the main lesson of the exhibit is to teach the students at SJSU that they need to learn from history

and make sure this doesn't happen again.

"There were a couple of people saying 'Well, why are you showing all this? We knew it existed' and 'Let's forget about it and move on,'" he said. "(But) if you move on without acknowledging some of this stuff people are not going to have that much understanding and empathy for other groups that are going through this now."

"There will be another group that will be scapegoated and picked on," he said. "It's sad that that happens and the only way you can avoid it is with dialogue and discussion."

**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](mailto: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.

**Thursday, April 28**  
7:30 p.m., Morris Dailey Auditorium  
"At the End of Slavery" movie screening  
Contact: Tim Castagna @ 408-507-0810

10 a.m. - 4 p.m., King Library Rooms 255/257  
Financial Literacy Fair & Workshop  
Contact: Michael Fallon @ 408-924-5440 or [michael.fallon@sjsu.edu](mailto:michael.fallon@sjsu.edu)

**Friday, April 29**  
6 p.m., Event Center  
49th Annual Honors Convocation  
Contact: Jessica Larsen @ 408-924-2402

Noon - 1:30 p.m., Statues Garden in front of Clark Hall  
Composting Workshop  
Contact: [growingrootsofwellness@googlegroups.com](mailto:growingrootsofwellness@googlegroups.com)

**Saturday, April 30**  
4:30 p.m., Barrett Ballroom  
Pride of the Pacific Islands 11th Annual Lu'au  
Contact: Vincent Calapit @ 858-415-5580

1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Engineering 189  
2011 Burdick Military History Symposium  
Contact: Jonathan Roth @ 408-924-5505 or [jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu](mailto:jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu)

**Tuesday, May 3**  
Noon - 3 p.m., A.S. Rec Lawn  
A.S. Spartan Squad Baseball Bash  
Contact: Bradyn Blower @ [Bradyn.Blower@sjsu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:analisa.perez@sjsu.edu) or 408.924.6988

**Saturday, May 14**  
6 p.m. - 12 a.m., Fourth Street Summit Center  
A Wish Come True gala by Delta Sigma Pi — Theta Chi chapter  
Contact: Arleen Cantor @ 650-740-5660

# Architects, engineers: World Trade Center collapse was a 'Controlled Demolition'

Matthew Gerring  
Staff Writer

Members of Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth discussed the collapse of WTC Building 7 in an event put on by Tau Delta Phi attended by approximately 40 people yesterday in engineering auditorium.

Presenter Kathy McGrade used clips from the movie "9/11: Blueprint For Truth" to make the case that WTC Building 7 collapsed because of controlled demolition, and examined a report issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology which concluded that the building collapsed because of uncontrolled fires on several floors, leading to the collapse of a support column which caused the building to collapse.

"I have studied the evidence, and I am fully convinced that this report ... not only is it wrong, but it's fraudulent," McGrade said.

McGrade, who holds a B.S. in Metallurgical Engineering and owns a company that inspects fire trucks, said she became involved with Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth after seeing the movie "Loose Change" on the Internet, and was motivated to examine the available evidence.

"As a seasoned engineer, I've learned never to trust my first instincts. I've been burned by them too many times," she said.

The presentation was interrupted by undeclared freshman Mark Williams and junior business major Nithin Mathew.

Williams and Mathew stood up at the beginning of the presentation and stood on the side of the stage with signs reading "Was it Bush's UFO?" and "Was Bigfoot the Pilot?"

"We just wanted to let everyone know that what's going on is there's conspiracy theorists that are trying to convince people that there are conspiracies, and we're just saying, 'hey, take it with a grain of salt,' so we just added a humorous aspect to it," said Mathew.

Williams and Mathew disagree with the organization's conclusion.

"I think it's false. I think it's fraudulent

that they would say that about America," Williams said.

Event organizers called campus police to escort Williams and Mathew from the building.

Architect Richard Gage, a member of Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth, said the presentation examines building seven because audiences tend to be more receptive to it.

"We put it up to bat first because it always gets on base," Gage said.

McGrade and other members of the organization claim the building fell into its own footprint at freefall speed, which they say couldn't have happened in the scenario NIST describes.

Members of the organization say there is evidence to support their claim of controlled demolition, such as pools of molten iron found in the debris and chemicals found in a US Geological Survey study of dust collected from the collapse of the WTC buildings.

Luis Ruelas, a junior materials engineering major and magistrate of Tau Delta Phi, claimed that the building would have collapsed sideways if NIST's report on the cause of the collapse were accurate.

Ruelas brought the organization to campus as part of Tau Delta Phi's biannual Fireside event, where the fraternity brings speakers to campus on an issue that will make students think.

"It was a better turnout than other events that we've had before," Ruelas said.

During the question and answer session, audience members asked questions ranging from specific pieces of evidence in the presentation to questions of who and what was responsible for the collapse of WTC7.

Gage declined to engage with audience questions speculating as to who might be responsible for the controlled demolition in his answers.

"We're architects and engineers. We know architecture and engineering. We know and appreciate technical things. So we lose credibility when we stray outside the boundaries of technical information," Gage said.

**"I have studied the evidence, and I am fully convinced that this report ... not only is it wrong, but it's fraudulent."**

Kathy McGrade  
Presenter

# A.S. reworks election bylaws

Matthew Gerring  
Staff Writer

The Associated Students Board of Directors made changes to its bylaws to guarantee the availability of voter information for A.S. elections in its meeting Wednesday, following a student-led campaign to gather student signatures in support of changing the bylaws.

The changes alter the language of existing bylaws to state that the Voter Information Guide will be made available both online and in print at least one week before the start of voting.

The bylaws previously stated that the guide needed

to be available before the first day of voting, and that the guide could be made available either in print or online.

The bylaws were also changed to mandate that the guide be available on the A.S. website. The bylaws previously stated that the A.S. Election Board must "attempt" to make the guide available on the A.S. website.

"I think having the information accessible both in print and in hard copy, available earlier than what was presented this time around, will increase voter participation," said Yan Yin Choy, a junior environmental studies major and initiator of the student campaign. Choy said she and her fel-

low campaigners collected 315 signatures in support of the campaign's goals, and said she intends to keep working on the issue — her next goal is to have election material made available in other languages.

The A.S. board meeting also addressed A.S. parliamentary procedure and board member job descriptions. Appointments to fill vacant positions on the board and approving next year's A.S. budget were postponed until unspecified future meetings.

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U.S. NEWS



Photo: McClatchy Tribune

President Obama speaks about being born in Hawaii on Wednesday.

# Obama releases birth certificate, calls issue a distraction

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — Saying the country does not have time for "silliness," President Barack Obama on Wednesday urged focusing on issues including high gas prices and the economy after the White House released his long-form birth certificate.

Obama has been dogged by criticism from Donald Trump and others about his place of birth. The certificate released shows that Obama was born in a Hawaii hospital at 7:24 p.m. on August 4, 1961 — making him eligible for the U.S. presidency.

Speaking in the White House briefing room,

Obama said he released the document to stop the distraction that the issue of his birthplace was having on policy matters including the budget.

"We are not going to be able to solve our problems if we get distracted by side-shows and carnival barkers," Obama said, without mentioning names.

"I've got better stuff to do," he said.

Trump, a potential Republican candidate for president, has been questioning Obama's birthplace repeatedly in recent weeks. The business mogul tied former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee for second place in a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll of

Republican primary voters. Obama said the country can't solve its big problems if it's distracted by issues like his birth certificate.

"There are a lot of folks out there who are still looking for work. Everybody is still suffering under high gas prices. We're going to have to make a series of very difficult decisions about how we invest in our future, but also get a hold of our deficit and our debt," he said.

Some Republicans agreed with Obama that the issue is a distraction.

"What President Obama should really be releasing is a jobs plan," said Mitt Romney, another possible GOP contender.

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COMMENTARY

Spartans to showcase progress in Spring Game

Melissa Sabile
Sports Editor

This weekend marks an opportunity to evaluate the progress of its players as the SJSU football team will hold its annual Spring Game at Spartan Stadium this Saturday at 1 p.m.

The team has been practicing since early April and is ready to put its efforts on display.

"There's been a lot of improvement," head coach Mike MacIntyre said. "I've been pleased with their effort and intensity."

MacIntyre said the players have been training hard since the end of last season and it has added to the confidence and ability of the team.

"We're a bigger, stronger team than we were this time last year," he said. "We also have more numbers in the big body area, which is good for us and should make a big difference as the season goes along."

Injured players return

The Spartans ended their season last year at 1-12, though a large number of injuries factored into the losing record.

Returning senior safety Duke Ihenacho, one of the players who was injured during the third game against Southern Utah University, said he is pleased with the way the team has improved.

"It's looking promising," Ihenacho said. "Last season, of course it didn't go the way we wanted to. We had a lot of freshmen playing and whenever you have a lot of young guys on starting roles, especially on defense, it's going to be hard to get victories."

He said with the freshmen going in for the injured starters, they were able to get a significant amount of experience and game time last season.

"They're older, wiser, stronger, bigger and faster and they know what they're doing now," he said. "Experience has a lot to do with the success of the team. These young guys who were freshmen last year have come a long way and they're veterans now. They know what it takes and they're going to do it."

Wide receiver Chandler Jones, who had 474 receiving yards as a freshman last season, said the game-time experience from last season is an advantage the team will have this year.

"It's definitely going to be a real big positive," Jones said. "Now that they've been out there on the field and have gotten some plays in, they're veterans. They're able to go out there at practice and help coach the younger guys and make big plays."

He said both the offense and defense have been working hard this spring.

"Offense, we've been making some big progress and big leaps, trying to get the quarterbacks ready and some of the younger receivers ready to come out and compete," he said. "It's been looking good."

Getting physical

Throughout the past few weeks in practice, MacIntyre said many of the returning players have shown progress this spring.

"We're farther ahead physically," MacIntyre said. "We're farther ahead with the offense and the defense and we know them better. We have more depth than we had last year. So, now, we just have got to go out there and show better results on the football field."

Senior Matt Faulkner, freshman Dasmen Stewart and redshirt freshman Blake Jurich are in a three-way race for the starting quarterback position.

"I feel like all the quarterbacks have really improved from this time last year," MacIntyre said. "Dasmen's changed his body, he's lost about 12 pounds and is moving better. Matt's had a good spring. Blake is coming on and can really run and showed some glimpses of good things also."

He said wide receivers Chandler Jones and Noel Grigsby have showed promise this spring as well.

"Chandler and Noel have done well," he said of the soon-to-be sophomores. "They've started where they left off last season. Both of them have gotten a little bit bigger and stronger, which will help them run through some arm tackles and get off some jam coverage and that type of thing."

Sophomore tight end Ryan Otten, who was another player injured during the 2010 season, has battled through injuries to compete with his team in the past few weeks.

"Ryan's pushed himself through the spring," MacIntyre said. "He's really been trying to improve his blocking, which he has. He's fought through little nagging things this spring and just kept

playing. I think he's a weapon for us. When he played last year you could tell he was, so we need him to be healthy for all 12 games and go play."

Defensively, players Travis Johnson, Keith Smith and Vince Buhagiar will be returning to the field after productive seasons in 2010.

"Travis is a very steady player for us," MacIntyre said of the sophomore defensive end. "He's very consistent. You'll look up at the end of the game and he'll have a sack, a few tackles and some hurries and he's in the right position all the time. He's a very good leader and he's gotten stronger and that's helped him as far as being able to take on the tight ends."

Smith, who was named Western Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year in 2010, has pushed through weight training and has increased in strength and size and MacIntyre said he expects for him to continue improving.

"Keith Smith has had a really good spring," MacIntyre said. "Last year when he played, he weighed 206 pounds, he now weighs 224 pounds and he's moving faster and stronger. He has more stamina and more punch in his tackle, so that will make a big difference for him."

As for Buhagiar, a freshman linebacker who was second in tackles last season with 89, he started off spring practice strong, but has already suffered an injury.

"Vince was doing really well and then he got a high ankle sprain," MacIntyre said. "He was moving really well and I'm really pleased with his progress. But he'll be out for the Spring Game."

Saturday's scrimmage

As for the Spring Game on Saturday, MacIntyre said the logistics of how the scrimmage will run is still up in the air.

"We still haven't decided exactly what we're going to do yet as far as choosing up sides or going 1s against 1s and 2s against 2s like we did last year," he said. "It really depends on our injury situations when I find out if we have enough numbers to have two teams."

He said he wants to have the competition and the spirit of a real game and let the team get back into the groove of things so they can prepare for a winning season next fall.

"We have more depth, we're a stronger, bigger football team and more experienced," he said. "If we keep building on that, eventually the Ws will start coming."

Ihenacho will be joining Buhagiar on the sidelines as both will not be playing in the Spring Game with their teammates, but Ihenacho said he is still excited to be able to practice again.

"It feels good to actually get out here with the guys and do little things like running around with them," he said. "Obviously, I spent last season off the field with a foot injury but I'm just fortunate to get back on the field and I'm looking forward to next season."



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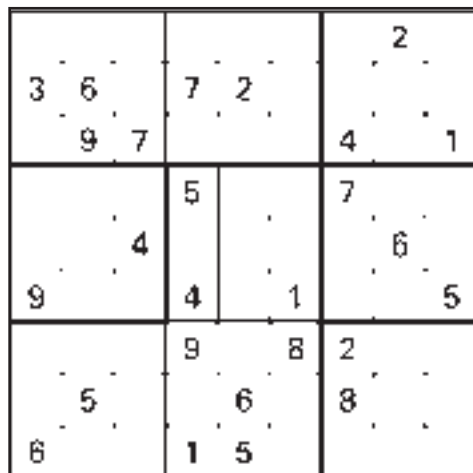
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TODAY'S SUDOKU PUZZLE



PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. The...
5. Common...
10. D...
14. Posi...
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24. S...
25. M...
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38. C...
39. S...
40. K...
41. I...
42. W...
44. T...
47. P...
48. D...
49. T...
50. G...
53. P...
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60. S...
61. E...
62. A...
63. E...
64. G...
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67. E...



PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

1. Neglect
2. Conspire
3. Disgust
4. Above sea level
5. Toward the back
6. Nubuck
7. Brogue
8. Missions
9. Attendance
10. Illusions
11. Wee-wee
12. Face the target
13. Varnish
14. Desperate
15. Oceanic
16. Puff
17. Potted
18. Hence
19. Mini
20. Huge sum of money
21. Report
22. Gal
23. Barn
24. Educating
25. Opposite
26. Pizzeria
27. A word
28. Tower
29. at work
30. Course
31. of action
32. Ring
33. Ring
34. Mongolia
35. Merganser
36. E
37. E
38. E
39. E
40. E
41. E
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# American culture: A losing race to the gutter

One thing I've noticed lately is that the state of American culture is getting more and more absurd as the days pass.

If you look closely at the entertainment in our country, the majority of what you will find is outrageous amounts of trashy, semi-pornographic displays of pop culture, urging the people of our nation to be just asinine.

It's everywhere: music, television, movies and magazines.

We can't escape it. Both Lady Gaga and Ke\$ha's first singles and music videos were songs about partying and getting so drunk they couldn't function — like it's the cool thing to do.

TV shows, such as "16 and Pregnant" and "Teen Mom," are essentially showing that teen pregnancies are played up and you just might become a star if you become a young mother.

Sadistic horror films show gratuitous amounts of violence, blood and gore, yet we still line up and spend a ton of money to watch them on the big screen.

Magazines and tabloids expose the lives of celebrities and we can't wait to see whose relationship is about to come crashing down or what secrets of theirs we can expose to the world.

Then there's reality TV, which is a category by itself and the epitome of trash on television.

Reality TV shows, such as "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" and "Jersey Shore," glorify specific groups of people who are famous for nothing other than simply being famous — and for some reason, we yearn to look and be like them.

It seems that the more sick, stupid, out-of-control train wreck a person or group is, the more we love to watch them.

A few years ago, I was coaching summer camp and we had kids between the ages of 5 and 13 enrolled in gymnastics camp for weeks at a time.

A 7-year-old girl was jumping around singing a song and dancing some pretty risqué dance moves.

When I asked her why she was dancing like that, she said to me that she wanted to be like Paris Hilton when she grew up.

I quickly explained to her that she really shouldn't want to be like Paris Hilton, and told her to pick a new role model like Shawn Johnson or Nastia Liukin,



**Melissa Sabile**  
The Real Deal

because they were Olympic gymnastics champions.

It is disappointing to me that we idolize these people, and these shows take precedent over what really matters in our country.

In 2007, Jordin Sparks won American Idol with more than 74 million votes tallied. Overall, 609 million votes were tallied for the entire season — about 10 times as many votes as President Bush received in the 2004 presidential election (62 million votes), according to CNN.

Granted, a person can only vote in an election if they are registered and 18 years or older and to vote on American Idol you only need a phone or the Internet. But the fact of the matter is more people cared about who would be the next American Idol than who would be the next president of the United States.

What we should be doing is focusing our time and energy on things that can make a difference in our lives.

If you want to listen to music, find something classical or songs without derogatory lyrics.

If you must turn on the TV, turn it to PBS, the Discovery Channel or the History Channel.

If you're going to read a magazine, pick up Reader's Digest or National Geographic.

If you're going to watch a movie, find a documentary about the earth or technology. All this money we are feeding into the sleazy entertainment business is one of the reasons our nation is going to hell in a hand basket.

If we continue to idolize people like Lady Gaga, the Kardashians and the cast of Jersey Shore, it will only yield a society that is as mindless and ridiculous as the celebrities we see in the media.

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

# No sleep, no chance to dream

I used to love mornings. They were the most peaceful part of my day, before the hustle of class, work and friends.

Minutes would tick by at a rate that was at once too fast and too slow. The only struggle in those silent spaces would be between the inertia keeping me rooted in my bed and the urge to get on with the rest of my day.

I could switch on the TV and let the prattle of the morning news personalities wash past my ears as I scramble eggs, crisp bacon or make fried rice for breakfast.

I could pour myself a glass of juice or fix a cup of tea and sit at the kitchen table staring into space as the world lay still around me.

I could do nearly anything I wanted, so long as I took care not to wake anyone.

Then everything changed: My work, my study, my play — they all seemed to take up more hours of my day.

You could say that life happened while I was busy with my plans.

More seconds in a minute, more minutes in an hour, more hours in a day — aren't those all things we wish we had, in addition to love, money, fame and Apple's newest technological marvel?

My once-cherished mornings didn't

just vanish — they became objects of scorn, things to make me pull the blankets over my head and hope they would go away if I ignored them long enough.

A sunrise is one of the most awe-inspiring sights in the world, but I don't even remember what one looks like anymore — I rarely wake in time to watch one and when I am awake that

early, I'm not in any position to watch. Dawn's rose-red fingers would stretch over the foothills and suburbs to the east of my home and I would find myself wanting nothing more than to bend those digits backward until the morning goddess agreed to sink back below the horizon.

It's easy to say that I should try to get more sleep, to just go to bed earlier, but it's not going to happen when my whole sleep schedule has shifted forward about three hours and I can no longer sleep before 2 a.m.

When I first realized what was happening, I tried to laugh it off, saying, "Sleep is for the decadent and those



**Ryan Fernandez**  
Rated R

without enough to do." Sleep deprivation humor aside, I'm now afraid that airport security would have to X-ray the bags I carry under my eyes whenever I travel.

As much as I may now begrudge the sun and her gaudy presence in the sky, I still consider myself a morning person — I won't enjoy being awakened at daybreak, but give me

a glass of juice and let me splash some water on my face and I'll smile when I say "good morning" to you.

Still, all the cheer and stimulants in the world won't replace a night of peaceful slumber.

I know I need rest — everyone does — our minds yearn for it, our bodies scream for it.

But I have deadlines to meet. And papers to write before I sleep. And papers to write before I sleep.

"Rated R" is a weekly column appearing on Thursdays. Ryan Fernandez is the Spartan Daily Managing Editor.

# Marriage won't determine my success

When I was 10, I had my future all planned out.

I would go to college, meet the man of my dreams, get married and have babies — all before I was 25.

Well, I am 24 and about to graduate college, haven't met the said man of my dreams and the thought of having kids right now scares the crap out of me.

My mom was 21 when she married my dad 27 years ago today.

She gave birth to me two years later.

She was young when she started our family with my dad, having all of her kids before she turned 28.

I figured my life would go down the same way.

Unfortunately, fate has a different idea.

I consider myself unlucky in love.

I'm the girl who is good enough as a friend but not a lover.

The girl who forgives the guy who didn't want to date her but her friend instead.

The girl who will send a text to the boy who did her wrong, because she still cares about him and wants to make things right.

I seem to fall into these not-so-ideal relationships with guys that take a toll on my outlook on love, but it has helped me shape the things I do and don't want in future relationships, making me "picky," as many have told me.

Sometimes I feel like I have this timer slapped on my forehead with this countdown to loneliness, like if I reach a cer-



**Amaris Dominguez**  
Senior Staff Writer

tain age and am not married, people will deem me as the lady who will grow old alone in a small house with a hundred cats.

Just like my mom, my childhood best friend married her husband when she was 21.

I was her maid of honor — always the bridesmaid never the bride.

Ever since then, she's been bugging me about when I am going to find someone to settle down with and have children, as if I have this planner with specific dates and times when major life changes will happen.

To be honest, it pisses me off. How do you even answer a question like that?

I can't even recount how many times people have told me that my time will come, that everything happens for a reason or to just be patient.

To some, growing up may be determined by marriage and babies, but not to me.

I grew up by going to college, studying what I want to do for the rest of my life and meeting some of my closest friends along the way.

As my friends slowly find themselves in relationships, marriages and parenthood, I have to remember that everyone's life paths are different.

Everyone wants different things.

Just because I will not be married by the time I turn 25 this

June doesn't mean I am hopeless or a failure. I'm not a pessimist when it comes to love. I just refuse to let my success be based on my love life.

**I can't even recount how many times people have told me that my time will come, that everything happens for a reason or to just be patient.**

**Comment on any of these opinions at [spartandailyeditorial@sjsumedia.com](mailto:spartandailyeditorial@sjsumedia.com)**

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Photo Courtesy: The Strike Productions

Showcased in the drama "Atlas Shrugged: Part 1," Taylor Schilling (left) stars as railroad executive Dagny Taggart, joined by Grant Bowler (right) in the role of Henry Rearden.

## MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Atlas Shrugged' fails with atrocious filmmaking



**Salman Haqqi**  
Executive Editor

"Atlas Shrugged: Part I" is a movie that is so exasperating, you almost feel your brain is going to implode.

To be fair there's a reason it's taken this long to adapt Ayn Rand's equally maddening novel and it's because the material is so non-cinematic, and thus fails fantastically.

A banking CEO goes missing on the same day as a major rail transport accident, which cuts off the little oil that is coming into the Western U.S. via Colorado.

Over time, more important men disappear, and the co-owner of the railway becomes involved in the mystery.

The film covers the events of the novel from the beginning to the revelation of Atlantis.

Taylor Schilling's performance as Dagny Taggart is a bit hollow, despite her character being written as somewhat cold and practical in the novel.

Cold is one thing, but this was another matter altogether. In fact, all of the performances come off strangely, which makes me think that it may be more of a directorial mistake than that of the actors themselves.

Set in the economic dystopia of 2016, Taggart is on the verge of a profitable partnership with steelhead Henry Rearden, played by Grant Bowler.

He provides an incredible new metal product for her to reform her lines in Colorado, and the day might be saved.

But with the government actively trying to redistribute the wealth, will success even matter?

The main problems in this movie lie in how it's structured. Relying on dialogue

to drive a story is an art and one the likes of Aaron Sorokin have mastered, but in this case the writing was simply flat and uninteresting.

The dialogue carries like weighted jargon, sounding like it came from someone who's dabbled in reading some Milton Friedman and thinks he knows it all.

The entire movie is about treacherous business environments — a campaign to turn public opinion against Rearden, the government making it illegal for one person to own more than one business and redistribution of state wealth to surrounding poor states.

But instead of fixating on one, the film bravely tackles a half dozen that all melt together in a tangled mess of constant explanation and zero exploration.

The movie makes the interesting stylistic choice of almost never showing anyone but the ensemble cast.

There are some on-the-nose shots of the Taggart limo passing by a dirty street corner and a burnt-out car, but this is a world on the brink of economic collapse notably missing its people.

It's like a zombie film that focuses on a group of survivors that are largely unbothered by the brain-eating hordes.

This is most notable in the scenes of railroad construc-

tion where a group of seemingly unmanned machines are doing all the work.

The camera specifically keeps low to avoid showing people although there are a few shots that prove people are hanging around the site.

As for the actors, they are fairly solid with only a few missteps in the form of comically flaky lines uttered with barely any effort.

Schilling is in high heel lockstep with Dagny, playing her as an adept business mind in the body of a supermodel who is about as no-nonsense as Gordon Gekko without the need for hair gel.

Apart from the many technical problems of this film, the inherent issue is that bringing Rand's voluminous work to the screen is a lofty task for any filmmaker — taking something as abstract as a business deal and making it sexy isn't as easy as it sounds.

Beyond a handful of the actors, absolutely no one here is up to the challenge, and the result is a glorious failure.

The question "Who is John Galt?" is uttered a half-dozen times in varying scenarios and it comes across as a complete non sequitur.

In essence the movie is a few passable acting turns surrounded by flaccid, inept filmmaking and a story as compelling as a high school civics lesson.

## BOOK REVIEW

# Controversial novel questions reason for universe's existence



**Eric Austin**  
Staff Writer

A few weeks ago I found myself browsing the desolate bookshelves in a local Borders during its closing sale when I came across "The Grand Design" by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow, one of the most controversial books released in 2010.

Being the self-proclaimed nerd that I am and having adored Hawking's "A Brief History of Time" (1988), I had to read his newest release.

I am glad I did and it is my firm belief that "The Grand Design" belongs on everyone's bookshelf despite the controversy surrounding it.

Every once in a while, a book will come along that can completely change the way someone sees the world, and the Hawking and Mlodinow's slim and concise volume does just that.

"The Grand Design" takes the reader on a journey through the strange world of quantum mechanics, theoretical physics and cosmology in an attempt to tackle the biggest question that science, philosophy and theology all strive to answer: "Why do we exist?"

While simply uttering the words "quantum mechanics" may bring back nightmares of late-night cram sessions for that physics exam, it should be noted that this is not a textbook nor is it written like one.

Hawking and Mlodinow are two of the best authors when it comes to taking extremely complex scientific concepts and making them understandable to people without a doctorate in physics. Hawking showcased this ability in the now famous best-seller "A Brief History of Time," and he showcases it again in "The Grand Design."

While the book may have fewer than 200 pages, the majority of them are used to explain many of the complicated principles scientists now take for granted, such as wave-particle duality and Einstein's theory of relativity.

It is not until the last chapter of the book that Hawking and Mlodinow reveal what they suggest is a leading candidate to ex-

plain our existence. And what exactly is their answer?

It is a relatively new development in the physics pursuit for a theory of everything known as M-Theory, with the "M" standing for either "master, miracle, or mystery" according to the authors.

To try to even attempt to explain M-Theory in any comprehensible way in this article would be futile. What I can say, however, is according to the authors, the laws of M-Theory dictate that the nature of reality is absolutely mind-boggling, having 11 dimensions of space-time and an unimaginably large number of different universes. I will leave it to the authors to explain what that exactly means.

And here is where the controversy arises for Hawking and Mlodinow — "The Grand Design" contradicts many well-established religious views.

M-Theory attempts to explain our existence and how we came to exist without including a supreme being. In other words, the authors are discussing the genesis of everything without including God in the equation.

When the book was first released in September 2010, this was the focus of much of the press. Time Magazine even ran a headline that read "Hawking: God did not create universe." It should be stated, however, that this was not the goal of Hawking and Mlodinow.

Their book is not meant to disprove the existence of God, but to explore the reason we, and everything else, exists from a purely scientific point of view.

For those who believe in a supreme being as a creator and have reservations about reading "The Grand Design," think of it as an exploration into how the universe was created by said supreme being. Problem solved.

The beautiful thing about "The Grand Design" is that in its attempt to answer the most fundamental questions about existence, it forces the reader to look at the world in a way we simply are not used to and question everything about our own existence and reality.

Sometimes it is important to put things into perspective and delve into something that is bigger than oneself, and what can be bigger than the totality of existence?

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