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Remembering the fallen



Pitcher Amanda Pridmore and assistant coach Chase Turner get emotional as the softball team and the parents of Deanna Mauer, who was killed in a car crash April 27, make their way to the field.

Photo: Vernon McKnight/ Spartan Daily

see **SPORTS** page 6

Speaker predicts sunny skies for solar power

Eric Austin
Staff Writer

The solar industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, experiencing more than 60 percent growth each year, according to Jim Cushing, senior director of product management in solar products for technology manufacturer Applied Materials Inc.

Cushing was the speaker at a symposium on the solar industry and the current state of solar technology on Thursday, the semester's last installment of the College of Engineering's Silicon Valley Leader Symposium series.

Applied Materials is currently the leading supplier of equipment to the solar industry, and industry which is projected to grow at an increasing rate over the next 50 years or more, Cushing said.

According to the Department of Energy there will be a 55 percent increase in the world's total energy

consumption over the next 20 years.

He said this new energy demand, coupled with concern about the environment and global climate change, opens a window for renewable energy sources such as solar to make an impact.

This opportunity is not only beneficial to Applied Materials, Cushing said, but to current students looking to enter the solar industry.

"This is a great time because the growth of the industry is significantly outstripping the available human resources that actually know anything about solar," he said. "The students have the opportunity to get educated about solar and come out and create a career around solar and renewable energy, something that didn't exist a few years ago."

Cushing spent the majority of his time discussing the economic side of the solar industry with the 50 to 60 students in attendance, talking about what it will take to make the solar industry more attractive to customers and inves-

tors and how current cost of the materials and technologies involved in the production of solar panels affects the competitiveness of solar technology.

Cushing emphasized the importance of one specific variable: the cost per watt. This is the amount of money that goes into producing each individual watt of energy, something which Cushing said Applied Materials and the rest of the solar industry is striving to reduce.

Because of the solar industry's current high cost-per-watt, he said it is still not able to compete directly with traditional sources of energy.

Solar currently provides 0.5 percent of the world's power, and Cushing said that half-percent is partly because of government incentives and programs.

However, with the advent of more efficient technologies, cheaper methods of manufacturing and an increase in government incentives, he said this

see **SOLAR** page 2

Taliban regroup after Osama's death

McClatchy Tribune

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his allies in Washington are hoping that Osama bin Laden's demise will prod the Taliban into joining peace negotiations.

But the aftermath of the raid in Pakistan that killed the al-Qaida leader could just as easily embolden the Afghan insurgent group in its long struggle against the West.

The dramatic U.S. strike against bin Laden may provide the Taliban with greater incentives to talk rather than fight, not least the fear that its own senior leadership could suffer the same fate as the chief of its longtime ally.

Afghan Taliban chieftain Mullah Mohammed Omar is also thought to be sheltering in Pakistan, probably somewhere in Baluchistan province, which until now had been presumed too deep inside the country for a U.S. raid to pose a genuine threat.

Now that assumption appears shaky.

"This is a good time for Taliban leaders to consider their options, and it seems they may be doing so," said Haji Agha Lalai, a provincial council member in Kandahar who has been active in the push for "reconciliation," as the nascent peace process is known.

But even though Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton declared that the insurgents "cannot wait us out" in Afghanistan, Taliban fighters may have more reason than ever to believe they can do just that.

The Taliban leadership, always closely attuned to U.S. domestic political sentiments, is well aware of the pressure on President Barack Obama to soon decide the scope of an American troop drawdown that is to begin in July, and of the chorus of calls to wind

down the war in the wake of bin Laden's killing.

In the days immediately following bin Laden's bloody end, the Taliban leadership was silent — a rare occurrence for a movement that normally unleashes a flood of loquacious commentary on any development concerning the conflict.

Only on Friday, after al-Qaida confirmed his death, did the Taliban issue a somewhat perfunctory statement praising bin Laden as a martyr and vowing to continue the fight against Western "invaders."

The relatively tepid rhetoric in response to the killing has given rise to speculation that the group may be positioning itself to sever ties with al-Qaida, with which it has long had differences anyway.

"You can make the choice to abandon al-Qaida and participate in a peaceful political process."

Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State

The Taliban sheltered al-Qaida before and after the Sept. 11 attacks, but their agendas have diverged in recent years and the alliance had been held together in part by Omar's personal friendship with bin Laden.

A break with al-Qaida, long demanded by the West and Karzai's government, would be central to any political settlement, and the Obama administration has lately backed off on a demand that

see **TALIBAN** page 3

Gourmet trucks serve savory 'Eats' in San Pedro Square

Matthew Gerring
Staff Writer

San Jose residents got the chance to sample a wide variety of diverse international cuisine on Saturday, all of it served from inside a dozen or so food trucks for the second SJ Eats festival held in downtown San Jose.

Attendees had Vietnamese, Phillipino, Korean, Indian, Thai, Mexican and American food to choose from, among others, along with ice cream and cupcakes for desert and live bands to keep patrons entertained.

Event organizer Ryan Sebastian, owner of Treatbot, an ice cream and karaoke truck, said about 4,000 people attended Saturday, down from 10,000 at the first SJ Eats event on April 4.

"We had a little parking lot with 10 trucks, and 10,000 people showed up. It was completely insane — it was almost pandemonium," he said.

Food trucks aren't a new phenomenon, but Sebastian said the customers have changed due to the economy.

see **FOOD** page 2

CORRECTION

- In the May 5 issue of the Spartan Daily, the photograph accompanying the story "Professor pairs with 'Desert Flower' to fight mutilation," was miscredited to Michelle Terris. The photograph was provided by Assistant Professor Cathleen Miller.*

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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. Send emails to spartandailyeditorial@sjsumedia.com 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, May 9
Drop-in hours for part-time/seasonal job counseling
1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Career Center

Tuesday, May 10
Drop-in hours for part-time/seasonal job counseling
1 p.m. - 3 p.m., Career Center

Martha Heasley Cox Annual Lecture: E.L. Doctorow
7 p.m., University Theatre

Wednesday, May 11
E.L. Doctorow in conversation with Andrew Altschul
1 p.m., University Theatre

Friday, May 13
114th Kaucher Mitchell Event for Excellence in Oral Interpretation and Storytelling
7 p.m., University Theatre

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

FOOD

From Page 1

"I think where in the past you would have not blinked at spending \$40 to eat, maybe seven dollars is probably more realistic," Sebastian said. "If you can go to Twitter, go to a spot where people are hanging out, pay 6-7 dollars for a good meal and still have that communal feeling, I think people will take it."

People who said they would never eat from the type of food truck sometimes called a "roach coach" were lining up to try things like chicken tikka masala burritos and Korean barbecue tacos with kimchi.

"Somehow the gourmet food trucks are more appealing to me — I'm probably more apt to try a roach coach now, and actually I have," said attendee Nneka Anyanwu. "It was only when it became more of a trend that I was even into getting food from a truck."

Anyanwu said the trend of gourmet food trucks has picked up recently, and people with existing businesses in food service are getting in on the action.

The Wow Silog truck started selling Filipino food on wheels four months ago after co-owner Ronnie Hernandez was approached by restaurant owner Tim Luyn.

"We started selling this type of food out of my parent's grocery store," Hernandez said. "Six months to eight months later, Tim approached us saying he really liked the idea, and said 'let's throw it on a truck.'"

Some of the food trucks are side projects of existing restaurants or catering businesses, and even use the same employees.



Photo: Matthew Gerring / Spartan Daily

Attendees line up for House of Siam On Wheels, a food truck run by a downtown restaurant to take advantage of the wave of gourmet food trucks.

Elliana Caceras, normally a bartender for Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme catering company, took orders for the company's No Way Jose Mexican food truck.

She said working from a truck is a nice change of pace.

"It's a different experience because you get to be right in front of people, and it's really quick service," she said.

Sebastian said he wants to make SJ Eats a regular event, similar to Palo Alto's weekly Edgewood Eats event.

"This is what we need in Downtown San Jose — entertainment that is not based on getting slammed at the bar," he said.

Sebastian said creating a fun, family-friendly atmosphere has some welcome side-effects as well.

"Everyone calls Downtown San Jose 'Man Jose,'" Sebastian said. "And people remark that this is the first time when there was actually a lot of women that came to downtown."

SOLAR

From Page 1

percentage is projected to increase.

Arash Motamedi, a graduate student in software engineering and computer engineering undergraduate student, said the emphasis on the monetary side of the solar industry made perfect sense.

"A lot of focus was on the cost because they want to make it compete with the conventional systems we have in place," he said. "The cheaper it gets the more feasible it is for people to implement compared to what we have in place right now."

While Cushing mentioned the environmental issues, it was only to acknowledge their existence. Discussion on the environmental impact of solar technology was kept to a minimum.

At least one student in attendance questioned this, and left the symposium wondering what the true cost of producing solar panels is.

"What is the real impact of this new practice on the environment?" Motamedi asked. "Are we just shifting our focus from one thing, say nuclear radiation or pollution from coal power plants, to something else that we do not want anyone to know about?"

"Or is it a clean production and manufacturing process?"

Prabhakar Kasi, a graduate student in software engineering, said he was glad to have made it to this symposium even though it was outside his primary field of study.

"It was good to learn about the improvements and changes they have made to the industry to make it cost effective," he said. "It gives them exposure. For people planning on going into this industry it is very helpful for them to learn all of this."

THIS DAY IN HISTORY ...



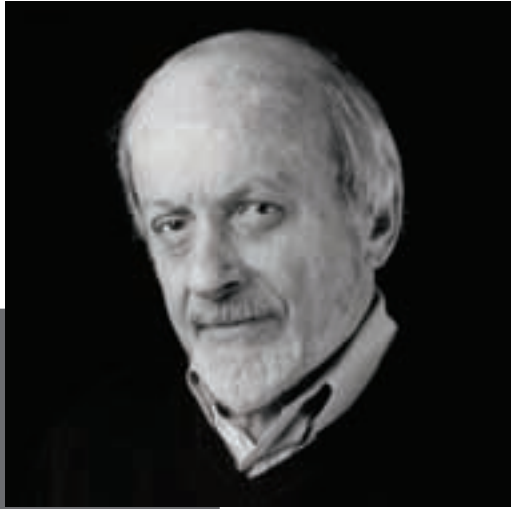
On May 9, 1983
Spartan Daily Reported that ...

- (Above) The Musign Theatre Company, a deaf mime troupe, performed in the Student Union Amphitheatre as part of the Ability Awareness Faire.
- Gov. George Deukmejian's state finance department amended the proposed 1983-84 state budget to include a \$12 million budget reduction for the CSU system.

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Foam warfare kills zero, wounds multiple egos

Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

During the Civil War, William Tecumseh Sherman once said “War is hell.”

Well, if you were in Hoover Hall on Thursday for Campus Village’s first Nerf Gun War, you would probably call it heaven.

Residents of SJSU’s Campus Village community gathered for an afternoon of fun, shooting each other with Nerf guns in the hallways of the residence buildings.

“It was really fun,” said undeclared freshman Brianna Jung. “When you get into the competitive spirit you just go all out.”

“It was pretty fun, like all the teamwork that was involved. I’m proud of my team. They were mighty good soldiers.”

Hector Garcia
Freshman kinesiology major

According to event coordinator Nareg Dakessian, an R.A. of Royce Hall, the students were split into four teams based on their residence building and were split up on the second and third floors of the building.

The objective was to capture the other team’s rubber ball and, of course, not get shot by the other team.

“I liked that it brought people from all the different buildings together,” said Dakessian, a senior aerospace engineering major. “It seemed like people who actually came from one particular community more often than not didn’t know each other,

so it was great to see people introducing themselves to each other.”

Dakessian said events such as this are organized by the Campus Village community, and are meant to enhance the residents’ living experience at SJSU.

“One of the things we try to do as R.A.s is to make sure residents have a fun and educational experience while living on campus,” he said. “This one covered more of the fun part.”

Dakessian said an event such as this also promotes wellness to the students.

“You’re getting physical activity that’s one aspect of it,” he said. “If you are having a long day you kind of want to quote, unquote, vent in some way at someone or something.”

From what he saw, Dakessian said the residents seemed to react well to the event.

“Overall it seemed they enjoyed themselves,” he said. “They were running yelling and everything that comes with it.”

Freshman kinesiology major Hector Garcia said it was a very enjoyable experience for him and his team.

“It was pretty fun, like all the teamwork that was involved,” he said. “I’m proud of my team. They were mighty good soldiers.”

Sophomore history major Vincent Lubrano, who played on Garcia’s team, said the event was exciting.

“It was really nerve wracking,” he said. “You are waiting there, just trying to figure out where they are coming from and when you see them you got to take care of them.”

Lubrano said he was impressed with how the Campus Village R.A.s came up with the event.

“It definitely says they are open to new ideas,” he said. “Its exercise, it’s running around, it’s teamwork — I don’t think many people think of that when they think Nerf war.”

“It’s a team game — it’s all about working with each other for a common goal.”

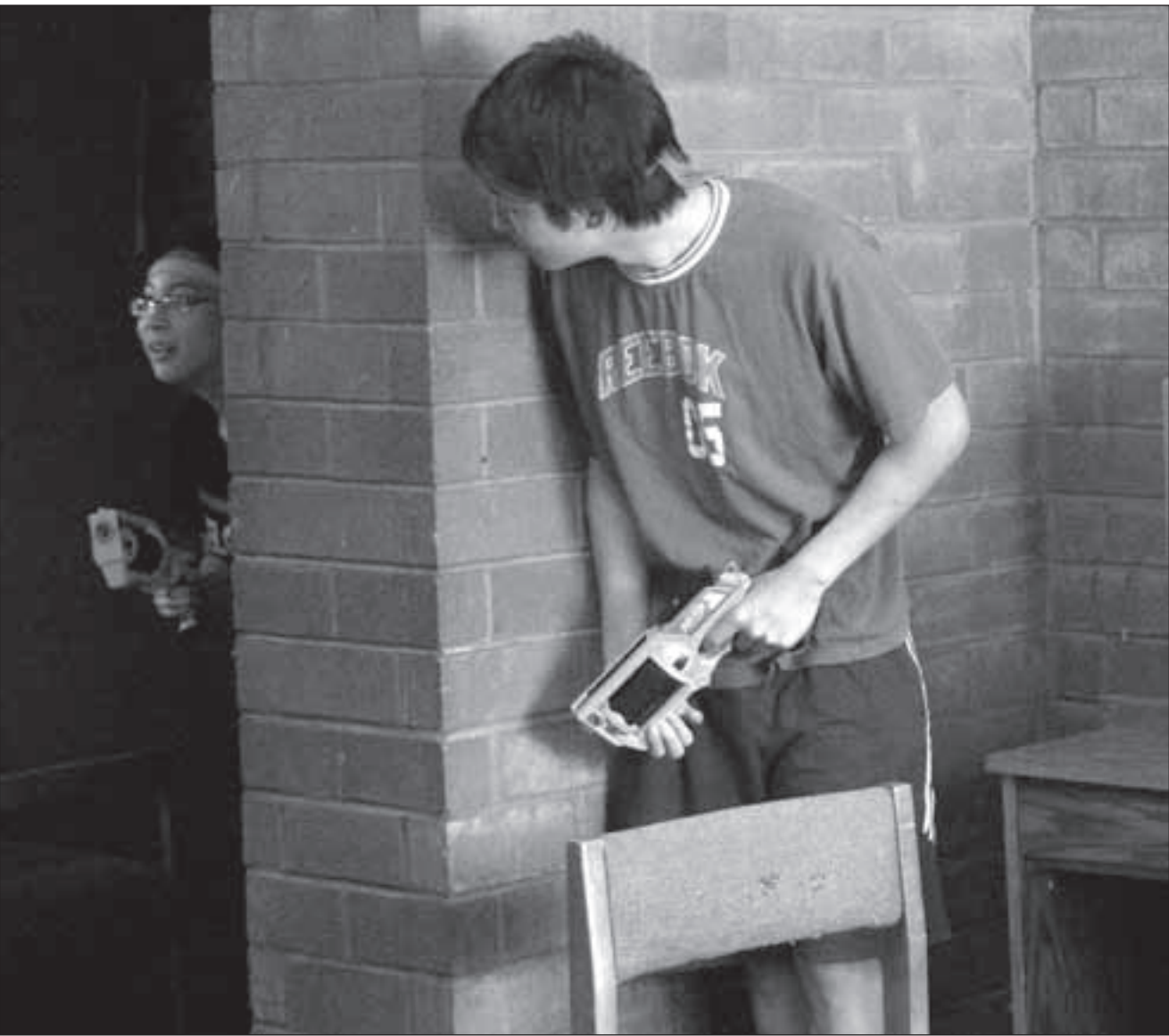


Photo: Wesley Dugle / Spartan Daily
Students peek around the corner to get a shot at each other during Thursday’s Nerf Gun War in Hoover Hall.



Photo: Wesley Dugle / Spartan Daily
Nerf guns and darts are gathered for the Nerf Gun War at Hoover Hall on Thursday.

TALIBAN

From Page 1

this pledge be a precondition to any talks.

In the aftermath of bin Laden’s death, the White House has explicitly signaled its desire to promote negotiations between the Taliban and the Karzai government.

Within hours of the announcement that the al-Qaida leader had been killed, Clinton made an unusually direct public appeal to the Taliban to look to the bargaining table instead of the battlefield.

“You can make the choice to abandon al-Qaida and participate in a peaceful political process,” she said. The Obama administration’s special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Marc Grossman, also made promoting reconciliation the focus of a visit to the region days after bin Laden’s death.

In the meantime, Taliban commanders believe they still have some tactical advantages despite being vastly outnumbered by 150,000 coalition troops.

Much-touted U.S. military gains of recent months, particularly in the south of Afghanistan, are being tested by the insurgents’ guerrilla-style tactics, including a campaign of assassinations of government and security officials, a high-profile jailbreak in Kandahar, a lethally effective use of roadside bombs and the demonstrated ability to mount complex attacks on government and military installations.

Over the weekend, Taliban gunmen and bombers mounted a brazen assault on the Kandahar governor’s compound and half a dozen other sites including the local intelligence headquarters.

The attack was repelled and more than 20 Taliban

fighters were killed, but it heightened a pervasive sense of insecurity in a city that the Western military had pledged to make safer.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies face increasing public impatience with the conflict, and bin Laden’s removal could give fresh impetus to formulating an exit strategy.

France’s foreign minister, Alain Juppe, said a withdrawal was under consideration.

Western timetables for a military pullback tend to energize the Taliban, giving its fighters the sense that merely tying down so many foreign troops is a victory in itself.

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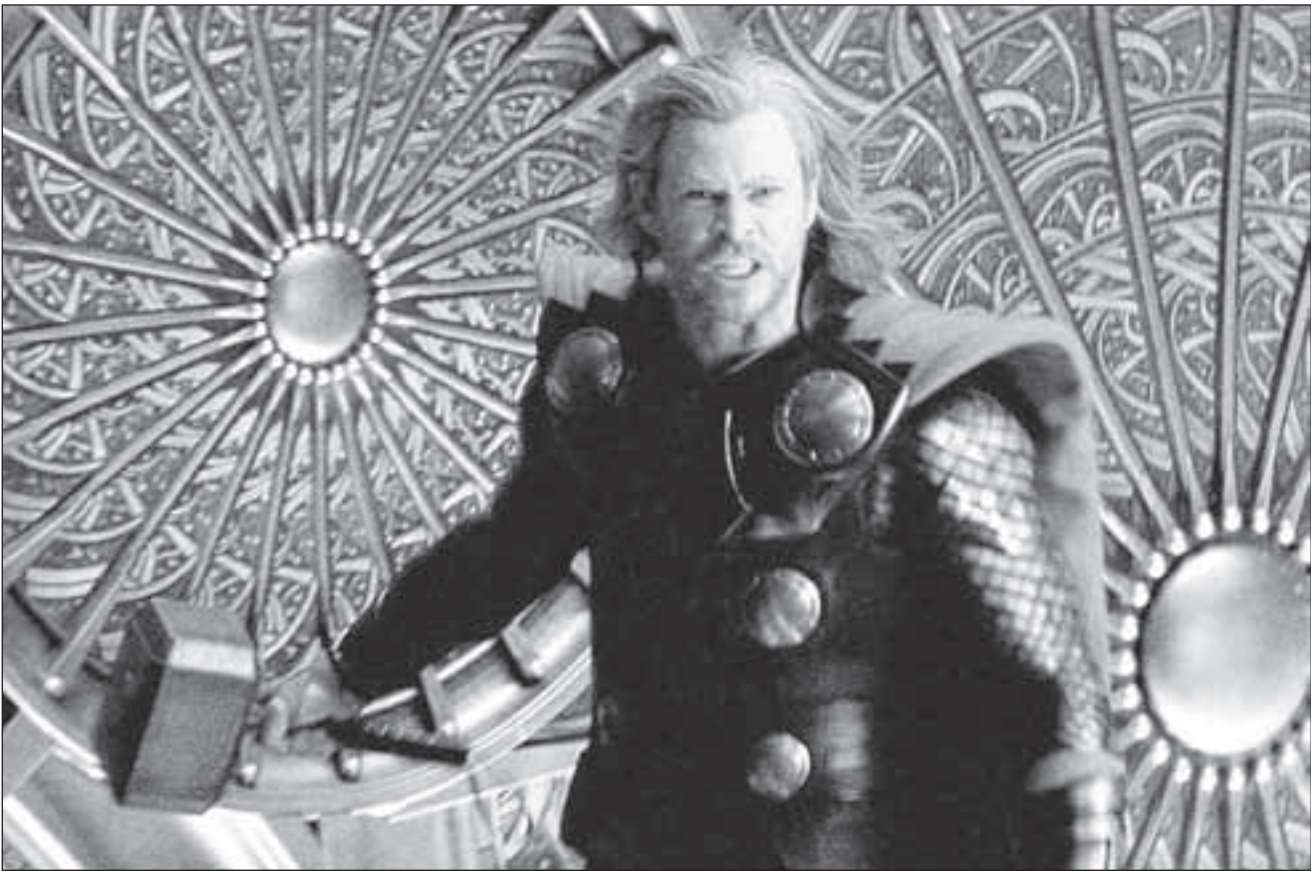
MOVIE REVIEW

Rolling thunder: ‘Thor’ hits theaters with a bang

★★★★☆ Wesley Dugle Staff Writer

Asgard be praised! “Thor” is mighty good! The hammer-wielding God of Thunder has finally arrived in theaters to kick off this summer’s action-packed movie season and it definitely lives up to the hype. Based on the popular Marvel comic book, the film tells the story of Thor, an arrogant, immortal warrior of the mystical realm of Asgard, whose brash actions reignite a war with an old enemy and lead to his exile by his father King Odin. He’s cast out to Earth where he is just a mortal without the powers he once had. He must learn humility to regain his power to protect the humans and stop his mischievous brother Loki from taking control of Asgard. First off, I have to say this is probably the most entertaining movie I’ve seen all year. The movie does well in combining multiple elements and genres to make a truly satisfying movie experience. In the action scenes Thor’s power is greatly visualized. You can feel the energy and thunder as he swings his mighty hammer, Mjollnir, upon his enemies. These scenes combine everything you like about a fantasy film like “Lord of the Rings” with everything you love about a superhero film, and “Thor” does this perfectly. The movie also has a lot of wit and comedy for an action film. The scenes of Thor as a mortal on Earth are incredibly amusing and will have you laughing as the God of

Thunder tries to make sense of human behavior. His mortal would-be compatriots, led by Natalie Portman who plays a scientist named Jane, try to make sense of him and his abnormal tendencies. The best part of the movie, however, is Chris Hemsworth as Thor. When I originally heard that Hemsworth would be taking on the role of Thor, I was a bit skeptical. I was like, “You mean that scrawny Australian who played Kirk’s dad briefly in ‘Star Trek’ a few years ago? No way!” But to my pleasant surprise, Hemsworth, exceeded my expectations by far. He plays a very believable Thor, full of pride, arrogance and a warrior’s heart, showing to the audience how deserving he is of the role. He does a good job of not only bringing out the godlike energy and power of the character, but also humility and understanding of his human side. For all of the film’s strong points however, it wasn’t without flaws. One of the things I learned from watching the crap-tastic film “Battlefield Earth” so long ago is that multiple tilted camera angle shots don’t make a movie look better or more comic-book like. Director Kenneth Branagh seemed to be obsessed with this at times during “Thor.” Early on in the movie a lot of establishing shots started with a tilted camera angle and it was really annoying for me to have to tilt my head at least 10 times during the film. Some of the characters felt a bit underdeveloped as well. Natalie Portman’s talents, for instance, are greatly wasted here. Her character, Jane, was nothing more than the generic love interest



Chris Hemsworth wields his hammer, Mjollnir, as the exiled God of Thunder in ‘Thor,’ released Friday.

Photo Courtesy : Allmoviephotos.com

archetype for Thor and frankly, any actress could have played that role for the movie and it would not have made any difference. Another disappointing performance was Tom Hiddleston as Thor’s brother Loki. If you know anything about the comics, Loki is a very animated character and always puts on a show for the readers. Hiddleston, though, is hardly animated and is quite subdued for most of the movie, not even cracking the gleeful smile which most fans are accustomed to of the God of Mischief. I guess Hiddleston was just a little too ... low-key (cue CSI Miami intro). Hiddleston started to get better towards the end of the movie and I have a feeling his character will develop more in the future sequels that will come in the next year or two. All in all, “Thor” is an exciting and fun movie that kicks off the summer movie season right with a healthy dose of action, some clever, witty humor and a memorable performance by Chris Hemsworth as the God of Thunder.



Photo: Courtesy: Allmoviephotos.com

Natalie Portman and Kat Dennings star as Thor’s human compatriots.

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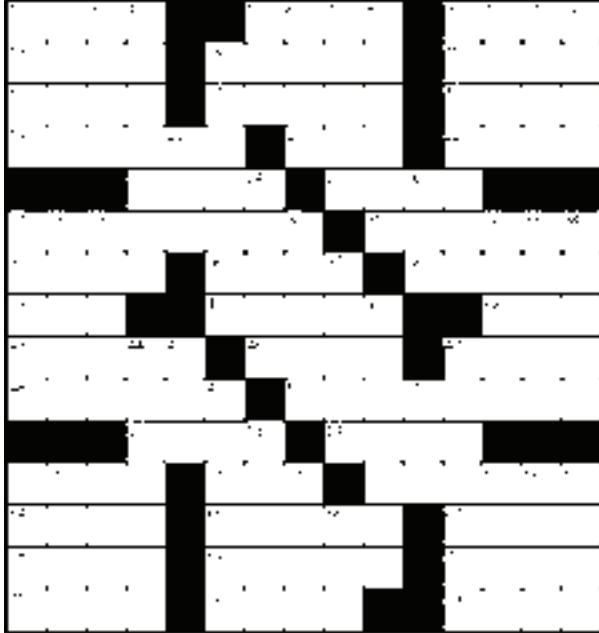
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Bin Laden’s death: The Pakistani perspective

Ever since the news of bin Laden’s death was announced, I’ve repeatedly been faced with questions such as, “You knew where he was didn’t you?” or “How could your people not have known where he was?”

Much of these were, of course, meant in jest and I laughed most of them off with a quick, “You guys never asked?” or something along those lines.

While I’m aware that these questions are rooted in a sincere and genuine interest, I can’t help but find myself strangely resenting it a little bit.

Sure, I’ve made my ambivalence for Pakistan abundantly clear — from my abhorrence for its ruling class, its atrociously skewed priorities to the rampant illiteracy and obsession with religion.

But people seem to assume that simply because I’m Pakistani I’m a spokesman for the country.

It’s like I get daily intelligence briefings about what the Pakistani military, the government or the intelligence agencies did or did not know.

My question is why it took American intelligence agencies — with operating budgets of about \$75 billion a year, which is enough to fund not one, but two, missions to Mars — 10 years to find a six-foot-four-inch Arab supposedly on dialysis.

Let’s not forget that the monster the U.S. just destroyed was the monster it created back in the ’80s when America’s myopic foreign policy was obsessed with containing the commu-



Salman Haqqi
On The Contrary

nist scourge in the form of the Soviets.

Bin Laden was ostensibly on the CIA payroll with hundreds of millions of dollars funneled through Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and used to radicalize the Mujahedeen and beat back the red menace.

But once the job was done, the U.S. hastily made a getaway.

Since then, the U.S. has suffered the consequences and bin Laden has shown that you always reap what you sow.

Over the past week, friends and family back in Pakistan have told me that embassies there are shutting down.

They said hotels are ramping up security and restaurants are reporting canceled reservations.

Public gatherings such as plays, concerts and lectures are being postponed.

The feeling in my city of Karachi seems to be one of dread that permeates in a city in the days after it has suffered a terrorist attack.

The attack has not yet happened, but the dread is

felt across the entire country.

Media in the U.S. and in Pakistan are parsing every detail about what really happened, who knew what and when, what this means for the Obama administration, how is the relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan going to change from this point forward?

Some say that Pakistani intelligence agencies uncovered bin Laden but wanted the U.S. to take responsibility for his killing in order to blunt a possible backlash against Pakistan.

Others argue that it is inconceivable that U.S. helicopters could have penetrated so deeply into Pakistani airspace without being detected by the Pakistan army and air force, and therefore the operation must have been jointly authorized.

There are other, truly frightening theories, such as that even in a town with as dense a military presence as Abbottabad, bin Laden managed to elude security forces, suggesting a remarkable degree of incompetence.

More terrifying still would be if there were official complicity in harboring him, putting Pakistan on a collision course with the U.S.

I can understand the celebrating of bin Laden’s death in downtown Manhattan, but I think we lose a certain moral high ground in the raucous dancing over his watery grave.

The truth is that Pakistanis have suffered equally, if not more, because of this man.

Subsequent to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, terrorists have killed nearly five times the number of people in Pakistan that were killed on 9/11.

The UN has estimated that the annual number of Pakistani fatalities from terrorism has surged from fewer than 200 in 2003 to almost 1,000 in 2006, to more than 3,000 in 2009.

In all, since 2001 more than 30,000 Pakistanis have died in terror and counter-terror violence — slain by bombs, bullets and drones.

America’s 9/11 has become Pakistan’s 24-7.

As I speak to friends, after a decade of slaughter, many there feel that terrorists are already striking Pakistan as

hard as they can, and moreover that al-Qaida is no longer as powerful as other militant groups.

The most common sentiment I hear is that nothing much will change.

That depends, of course, on how the U.S. responds.

President Obama noted in his speech that “counter-terrorism co-operation with Pakistan helped lead us to bin Laden and the compound where he was hiding.”

But he also said that “a small team of Americans carried out the operation” itself.

Between these two assertions is a gap open to a horde of questions.

If bin Laden’s death means that the war in south

and central Asia can now begin to end, that America can begin to withdraw its forces from the region, and that Pakistan and Afghanistan can somehow rediscover peace, and one day there may be celebrations there as well.

In the meantime, the slaughter will continue, and innocent people will keep dying — their deaths mostly invisible to the outside world.

Bin Laden may be dead, but for Pakistanis the sense of doom continues to linger.

“On The Contrary” is a weekly column appearing on Mondays. Salman Haqqi is the Spartan Daily Executive Editor.



Illustration: MCT

Coming to grips with death and moving past it

A couple of months back I was walking to the Spartan Daily newsroom on a Sunday and I pulled out my phone to call for someone to let me into the building.

As I was scrolling down my numbers I came across a name I hadn’t seen in a long time: Alexx.

The two X’s aren’t a typo — it’s the way she liked to spell her name.

She was an old friend of mine, an Italian immigrant from Milan who lived in Dallas, Texas.

She came from her country a long time ago to get treatment for her heart condition.

She died three years ago during surgery.

I stared at this number for a while and realized that I had been keeping her number in my phone for the last several years as a reminder of the friendship we once had.

Then I realized how silly it was that I still had her number in my phone after all this time.

I thought I had moved on from her death a long time ago, but seeing this number finally made me realize that I had not.

With reluctance, I pressed the buttons on my phone and deleted her number.

I realized too that day that I had been keeping a picture of her and my late ex-girlfriend, Yuki, who had passed away less than a year before, in my folder and I decided

to remove those as well.

I didn’t do this out of unwillingness to accept their deaths or bitterness that they were no longer in my life, but as a final goodbye and acceptance of their passing.

At some point when our loved ones leave us we have to go through the difficult process of accepting their deaths once and for all and embracing only their memories.

What astounded me about this was that I had held on to the thought of their deaths for so long.

Both of them meant a lot to me. Alexx taught me a lot about life and persisting through difficult times, because with her heart condition any day could have been her last.

My ex, despite us splitting less than a year before her passing, still meant a lot to me and her death only proved how much I was still in love with her.

But what was scary about this epiphany was that I really had been torturing myself with these silly little reminders for so long.

I had intentionally been reminding myself of their deaths for a long time and despite everything, I realized I had still not moved on from them.

In the months before I would curse myself if I didn’t take the time to honor their memory at least once by either looking at their picture or spending some time to think about them.

It’s silly but more than anything it’s demoralizing and unhealthy to constantly remind myself of death.

That day i realized that I had to let go of their deaths once and for all by removing those pictures and stowing them away.

This is not an insult to their deaths or to our friendship,



Wesley Dugle
Wes Side Story

but to remember their lives and not how they came to an end.

I bring this story up because lately I have found myself venturing back to the memories of their deaths and with the anniversary of my ex’s passing coming up, June 6, it’s hard not to think about it.

What I want people to understand though is life must, and always will, go on.

Most of us have suffered the loss of a loved one in our lives already, its a gut-wrenching experience, one I hope not to endure anytime soon.

But we can’t allow ourselves to get caught up in our own grief to the point that we can’t survive without torturing ourselves with the memory of their deaths.

We are not dishonoring them if we choose to let them go — we are, in fact, honoring them.

Our fallen loved ones wouldn’t want us wasting our time thinking how much we wish they were still with us. They would want us to live on, not just for them, but for ourselves.

So with the anniversary of my ex’s death coming up, I can either choose to honor her by thinking of the many beautiful moments I spent with her or of the day she passed away and how much it hurt me.

I choose to honor her life and the memories I have of her.

Yuki and Alexx, I miss you both, but I will not continue to torture myself with the thought of your deaths.

I choose to remember your lives and what they meant to me instead.

“Wes Side Story” is a weekly column appearing on Mondays. Wesley Dugle is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.

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■ SOFTBALL

Spartans honor Mauer, fall short of championships

Matthew Gerring
Staff Writer

The University of Hawaii Rainbow Wahine destroyed the Spartans Saturday in a doubleheader, part of a three-game series this weekend at SJSU field, ending the season and Western Athletic Conference championship hopes of the Spartans with losses of 8-0, 11-1 and 3-1.

Winning just one of the games would have sent the Spartans to the WAC championships, but the Wahine overpowered the Spartans in every game, getting a few runs in early and opening up a wide lead quickly — enough to end the first two games at five innings with the mercy rule in effect.

“When the game’s out of reach early, it’s difficult,” said head coach Peter Turner. “You don’t quit, but it’s difficult.”

Hawaii opened up a lead early in the first game of Saturday’s doubleheader. They scored a run in the first inning, held the Spartans to only one hit and no runs in their half, then followed up with a home run by Wahine outfielder Alexandra Aguierre in the second inning.

SJSU didn’t get a run until Spartans junior infielder Alex Stange sent infielder Kailey Mertz home from second base with a single in the bottom of the third, and didn’t score again for the rest of the game.

The Wahine opened up a big lead in the fourth and fifth innings, scoring four runs in the fourth with three batted in on a home run by Wahine shortstop Jessica Iwata and five in the fifth, three from a home run by Wahine center fielder Kelly Majam.

“Once the floodgates get open it’s hard for us to come back,” said Spartans sophomore catcher Dorothy Morentin.

The Spartans turned on the defense after the first game, holding the Wahine to just three runs to the Spartans’ one.

The second game was both the end of Spartans senior pitcher Elyssa Fox’s SJSU career and one of her best games of the season.

“This game determined whether we would go to WAC or not, so

everyone kind of put it all out there,” Fox said, who struck out eight batters and held the Wahine to six hits in seven innings pitched.

The Wahine scored twice in the first inning, but a strong showing by SJSU infielders and three strikeouts in a row in the fifth inning kept them from scoring again until another home run by Wahine outfielder Jenna Rodriguez in the sixth.

Spartans freshman outfielder Britney Helm scored in the bottom of the sixth on a double by sophomore outfielder Markesha Collins.

Junior catcher Breana Lopez was up next, hitting one deep into center field, but Aguierre caught the ball at



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

The parents of former SJSU softball player Deanna Mauer walk out onto the field during Friday’s series opener against Hawaii at SJSU Field. The Spartans went on to lose the game 8-0 in five innings.

the fence line in a spectacular play, hitting the fence with her face but catching the ball as it bounced back, throwing it to second, and getting the out.

“Honestly, something like that, you have to applaud that,” Morentin said. “That was the coolest play I’ve ever seen.”

Saturday’s first game started with a memorial service honoring Deanna Mauer, who was killed after being rear-ended during a multi-vehicle crash on Interstate 405 on April 27.

Mauer was 23 years old and a 2010 SJSU graduate.

“That was tough for about seven of us and my staff. I think the university and my SID staff did an awesome job on it,” Turner said. “I just thought it was a great tribute to one of our fallen athletes.”



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Sophomore infielder BranDee Garcia covers second base as a Wahine player slides in ahead of the throw during Friday’s loss.

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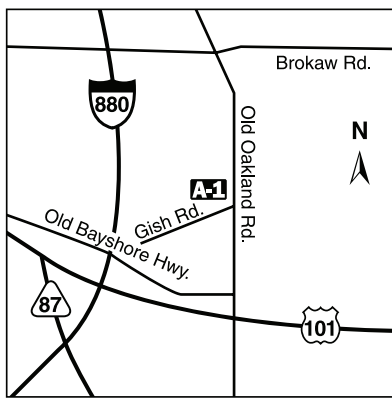
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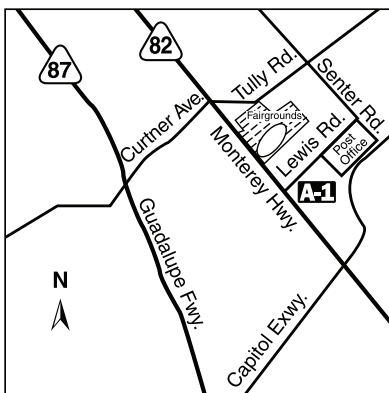
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