

Art Exhibition

Art show spotlights faculty's work

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Softball Preview

SJSU team has high hopes for season

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Spartan Daily

Serving San José State University since 1934

Thursday, February 11, 2010

www.TheSpartanDaily.com

Volume 134, Issue 10



Student Union's 'extreme makeover'

University plans to start construction of campus services building this summer

Marlon Maloney
Staff Writer

The old cafeteria that includes Burger King will be torn down toward the end of May to make way for a Student Union expansion expected to roughly double the building's size, said the executive director of Student Union, Inc.

Catherine Busalacchi said construction on the project, dubbed the "new Student

Union," is expected to begin between late August and early September.

The total cost of the building, when complete, is expected to be \$91.5 million, Busalacchi stated in an e-mail. The money for the project comes from a student fee increase that was approved in 2007 and revenue generated through various business centers.

Daniel Efting, a justice studies graduate student, said the

look of the current Student Union brings down the campus.

"I think it's an eyesore," he said. "It's probably one of the ugliest buildings on campus. I'm actually ashamed to see it on our campus, so I'm glad to hear they're doing something about it."

Busalacchi said construction of new wings on the east and west sides of the building are expected to take about 28 to 30 months.

"You'll be able to walk through the Student Union from Seventh Street — all the way to Ninth Street," said Busa-

lacchi, who is also the associate vice president for campus life.

Once those are completed, the renovation portion of the project will start by moving everything from the current Student Union to the periphery wings in a process estimated to be finished in 9 to 12 months, she said.

The project's expected to be complete in about five years, said Amy Ryan, a full-time lead at the Student Union food court.

Busalacchi said the idea for the project was sparked by a student survey in 2003-04 that questioned the usefulness of the

current Student Union.

The Student Facilities Advisory Committee, composed of staff from Associated Students, Spartan Shops, the Student Union and facilities, as well as a number of students that "represented students at large" visited several west coast universities to decide what would be best for SJSU, Busalacchi said.

The main goals of the structure are to provide more meeting rooms for the growing number of clubs and organizations and provide more sources for recreation on campus that students will enjoy, she said.

"Part of what we really want

to do is really program past 11 o'clock at night for students," Busalacchi said. "We want a place for students to come. This campus, as you know, I mean, it really shuts down."

According to the Student Union Web site, the old Student Union was approved for construction by the student body in 1963 with the promise of monetary support through a new student fee.

That student fee is now used to pay bonds on buildings across campus and their operating costs, according to the Student Union.

See RENOVATION, Page 2

Obama administration's higher education reform plan could help student finances

Eric Bennett
Staff Writer

The Obama administration is in the midst of passing what may be one of the most significant educational reforms for college students since the GI Bill, said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan last Thursday in a conference call with college newspapers.

"President Obama's 2011 fiscal budget includes historic increases for education at every level," Duncan said. "We are

convinced we need to educate our way to a better economy. Overall, this constitutes the biggest investment in higher education since the GI Bill, the law that offered college assistance to millions of World War II veterans."

The administration's bill, which has already passed through the House of Representatives and is awaiting approval from the Senate, aims to shift focus from subsidizing banks to schools in an effort to make higher education more accessi-

ble and affordable, Duncan said.

Sophomore biochemistry major Louisa Lopez said the president's reforms could help summer issues in the education system, such as furlough days and cutbacks.

"It could certainly help with the budget crisis that schools are experiencing right now," she said.

Duncan said the plan is to entice more students to go to college and get their degrees

See OBAMA, Page 2

Black alliance group hosts career fair for students

Jenn Elias
Staff Writer

Technology company EMC has found SJSU to be a top engineering and marketing school in California, surpassing schools like Berkeley and Stanford, said a corporate recruiter.

"Students are more realistic in their education," said Paul Minickey. "They're hard working and more excited about their future than we find at some of the other schools."

See BASE, Page 2



Weather

Hi: 62°
Lo: 46°

F Hi: 62°
Lo: 45°

S Hi: 65°
Lo: 45°

THE SPARTAN DAILY .COM

Audio slideshow: Two softball players talk about the struggles of coming back from injury
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Kevin Hume / Spartan Daily

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FUTURE



This architectural rendering shows the eastern view of the to-be-constructed Student Union.

Illustration courtesy of Student Union, Inc.

RENOVATION

From Page 1

dent Union Web site.

According to the Web site construction began in 1967 and was completed two years later with a price tag over \$5 million.

No state funding was used to build the 144,000-square-foot facility that has since become central to the student body and university by offering a wide variety of services, according to the Student Union Web site.

The Student Union food court got a makeover during the winter break, Ryan said.

Signs and fliers can be spotted around the building spreading the word: "New look, new food, new options."

Senior finance major David Avalo said the new green and purple paint in the Student Union improves its appearance.

"I think it gives it a little more character to the building," Avalo said. "Before, it was a little dull."

Senior aviation major Matthew Trinidad said he likes the now-permanent Smart Cart.

"I think it's a really cool idea," he said.

The Smart Cart offers students seasonal fruits and vegetables for vegetarians and health-conscious eaters, Ryan said.

To continue the trend, a salad bar was also added to fill out the eatery. The salad bar contains several preselected styles of salad to choose from and diners can create their own from the produce that is delivered daily, according to the food court's Facebook page.

"There's a lot more healthy options," Avalo said.

BASE

From Page 1

Ten companies were set up at the third annual Diversity Career Fair, hosted by the Black Alliance of Scientists and Engineers.

"The goal is to help minority students who don't have the experience or they are a little bit afraid to go to the school career fairs," said BASE President Babatunde Onadele. "It is something smaller and intimate where they can still get the networking experience."

"I came last year and it's helpful," said Prajajda Setty, a senior enterprises and technological software major. "Something like this, where there are fewer companies, you can actually talk to each person."

EMC, a data storage and technology company and returning employer to the fair, has worked with SJSU for years.

"I, personally, have hired 15 to 20 people who have come to the diversity job fair," Minickey said.

"You get information better this way than any other way," said A.J. Hasan, a senior business marketing major. "It fosters progression of moving forward, not just for African-Americans at SJSU, but looking at the recruiters as well."

Lockheed Martin recruiter Lorena Cafan said the company is highly involved with including diversity in its company.

"We hire a lot of people of different ethnic groups," Cafan said. "Every month we celebrate diversity, for Black History Month by having a guest speaker."

Among returning companies is Hewlett-Packard Co., said Kaushik Shvari, hiring manager

for Hewlett-Packard Co. and an SJSU alumnus.

"When we have hired a student at Hewlett-Packard, they have been very successful," said Shvari. "That brings us back here. SJSU is one of the preferred universities for engineering."

HP recruiter Ken Hake said he has worked with BASE before, and said they have a lot of talented students.

"We probably hire 10 to 20 people from SJSU every year, both interns and full-time," Hake said. "Right now, we have a big need for computer engineers."

Kaiser Permanente is returning after years of working with SJSU and BASE, said Diane Imperial, the Kaiser Permanente academic relations coordinator.

"Kaiser has a history of working with diverse individuals," she said. "We are one of the top 50 diverse companies in the United States."

Demarcus Hewitt, a business marketing student found his internship at IBM through the career fair.

"IBM has helped me develop technical skills as well as leadership that will help me in future marketing opportunities," he said. "They have a really diverse staff. It's a very good environment."

IBM is an older company, but there is still a lot of young people coming in, Hewitt said.

"The way the global economy is, it's very important to include diversity," said senior business major David Myers. "It should be done more often. The minority experience definitely brings us together."

"The goal is to help minority students who don't have the experience or they are a little bit afraid to go to the school career fairs."

Babatunde Onadele
BASE President



Justin Albert / Spartan Daily

Kaiser Permanente recruiters Calvin McFarlane and Diane Imperial (left) meet with potential employees at the Diversity Career Fair in the Barrett Ballroom on Wednesday.

PRESENT



Stefan Armijo / Spartan Daily

A view of the current SJSU Student Union from the top floor of Business Tower. The building has been standing since 1969.

OBAMA

From Page 1

with an increased budget for student financial aid.

"The higher-end bill will end student-lending subsidies to banks and shift literally tens of billions of dollars in savings into higher education," he said. "This budget includes a grand total of \$173 billion in loans, grants, tuition tax credits and work-study programs to help students stay in college and be successful there."

Andrew Nguyen, a junior computer science major, said he's not sold on the idea that having the president lift funds from banks could be the best answer for the economy right now.

"Taking money from the banks could be a bad idea," he said. "But in the long run, it's a good idea to help schools. More people will graduate, then go on to work and help the econ-

omy."

The administration's proposal will attempt to raise the Pell Grant by \$160 to a maximum of \$5,710 and would automatically increase the grant at a rate of one percent above inflation each year over the next decade, Duncan said.

Lopez said she's experienced first-hand how significant the Pell Grant is for college students and their aspirations to get their degrees.

"It would be nice if more people could be receiving the grant," she said. "I have a friend whose entire education has been paid for by the Pell Grant."

College graduates pay a maximum of 15 percent of their income in the current income-based repayment plan, Duncan said.

The administration, he said, is working toward lowering that percentage as well as removing all the financial impediments for students pursuing less lucrative, yet equally valued, public service jobs.

"If the bill passes, those who graduate will pay a maximum of 10 percent of their income toward the loan," he said. "This debt will be forgiven after 20 years. If you go into public service — jobs like teachers, police officers or working for a non-profit — all your loans will be forgiven after 10 years."

Lopez said loan forgiveness programs could garner more confidence for students to give college a legitimate shot, including obtaining a degree.

"More people will think to go to college," she said. "The percentage of students applying would probably rise."

Political science Professor Terry Christensen said that moving funds from banks to schools could be challenging to get by Congress.

"Banks would lose loan programs as a source of income," he said. "So they are lobbying heavily against Obama's reform proposal. Obama will have to fight hard for this because banks have a lot of influence

with Congress."

Christensen said the administration still needs the support of those who stand to benefit from the reform, but if the bill passes, it could release some college graduates from some of their economic stresses.

"The bill makes sense and would be a big help to students financing their college educations," he said. "It would significantly lighten the burden of paying back the loans over the long term."

More than \$500 million is being proposed by the administration to further the development of online learning resources — such as free online classes — to control the costs of college tuition, Duncan said.

"Right now about 40 percent of our young adults complete college," he said. "A generation ago, that was enough to lead the world, but as many as 10 countries have passed us by. The country that out-educates us today will out-compete us tomorrow."

Privacy act protects students' information from unauthorized access

Amaris Dominguez

Staff Writer

Students should not be concerned about the privacy of their academic records because the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 protects them.

The act, also known as FERPA, was updated to not only bar the release of educational records of students without the students' permission, but also the type of information the school can disclose, according to a news release from SJSU.

Examples of disclosable information include the student's name, address, phone number, e-mail address, birth date, major field of study and participation in officially recognized activities and sports, according to the news release.

According to the Office of the Registrar's Web site, students have the right to prevent disclosure of their educational

records if their consent was not given and have the right to inspect their personal educational records under the FERPA law.

Marian Sofish, the FERPA officer for SJSU, said the campus has never been in trouble with the U.S. Department of Education for failure to comply with FERPA regulations.

"The campus policy on student information disclosure is more restrictive than what FERPA provides," Sofish said. "We only provide enrollment and degree completion information without a student's written consent."

According to the Department of Education, student academic records must be kept confidential and the campus must provide a student with an opportunity for a hearing to challenge any claims that its records are misleading, inaccurate or inappropriate.

"It already seems like our privacy is insured by FERPA

because the only ones who have access to our academic record is ourselves, our parents and people with a legal reasoning," said Kathy Van, a junior business management major.

According to the FERPA section of the Department of Education's Web site, student records are protected under the act, but there are circumstances when this information may be disclosed without the student's consent.

According to the FERPA law, in an event that a student is involved in a crime, such as physical violence or a sexual offense, the campus may disclose personal information to the parents of dependent students because the student is in violation of university policies.

The privacy regulation in FERPA is that parents do not have access to their child's records once they are of legal age or start attending college, but if students are in violation of

university policy, the campus is able to release information to their parents, according to Department of Education Web site.

"I think that anything my parents need to or should know, I can personally tell them," said Andrea Do, a junior child development major. "I don't think they need to have access to anything without my consent, because we're all adults now and anything I do is my responsibility."

According to the Registrar's Web site, the university could share information with parents without the student's consent only if the student is still a dependent, if a health or safety emergency occurs or if the student is under 21 years old and has violated any law concerning alcohol or controlled substances.

To read the rest of this article go to theSpartanDaily.com

A price on love

The evolution of Valentine's Day

Regina Aquino
Staff Writer

Love is in the air throughout the year, but only one day out of the year bombards us with cards, chocolates and flowers to remind students of our significant other, or lack thereof.

Feb. 14, also known as Valentine's Day, marks a day to celebrate the spirit of love, according to the Holiday Spot Web site.

Being single on Valentine's Day means people have the option to not celebrate at all, or take the opportunity to tell the people in our lives, friends or family, that we care about them, said Crystal Cabico, a junior occupational therapy major.

"Valentine's Day doesn't affect me too much," she said. "It's nice to see people buying stuff for others to show that they care, but showing appreciation for another person is something you should do every day."

With Flirt texting, relationship status updates and Match.com, the connection between two individuals can evolve, dissolve and evolve again throughout the year.

On the other hand, there is one particular day when students' relationships — either with themselves or a significant other — is brought to the forefront for reasons that are not as clear as the legends that surround other holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Meeting St. Valentine

St. Valentine was known for performing secret marriages for young lovers after Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers during the third century in Rome, according to the History Channel Web site.

"The origin of Valentine's Day is controversial," said Mary Wilson, a history lecturer at SJSU. "There are a few theories on how the holiday came about."

Wilson said that according to the Oxford Dictionary of Saints, two different Valentines lived in the Roman

Empire about the same time and both were martyrs.

"They might actually be the same person," she said. "We don't really have enough evidence. Neither of them have anything to do with lovers, or courting, or mating or anything. So it would seem kind of arbitrary that they would define Valentine's name to the day."

Wilson also said Valentine's Day might have something to do with the mating season of birds.

"Around mid-February, people used to think that's when birds mated," Wilson said. "And so, a lot of birds mate for life."

Wilson said the notion of birds engaging in monogamous relationships was comparable to human interaction which brought forth a designated holiday in February.

Bloody traditions

Another theory on the origin of Valentine's Day involved the Lupercalia festival, a Roman holiday that was on Feb. 15, Wilson said.

She said Lupercalia involved a ceremony, run entirely by men, in which goats and dogs were sacrificed.

"The men would take the bloody knife that they would cut the animals with, and then they would put the blood on their foreheads," she said. "They would cut the animal skin, the hide, cut it into long strips, and then they would wipe the blood off with the hide that has been dipped in milk."

Wilson said after feasting on the sacrificial animals, the men would run through town hitting women with the strips.

"Of course, you wanted to be around to get hit by these strips because that would give you fertility for the coming year," she said. "If you wanted to have a kid and you weren't having any luck, you kind of hung out on Feb. 15, so you could get smacked by one of these strips as they'd walk by."

In 2010, sacrificing an animal can be considered taboo, but the essence of Valentine's Day has evolved into writing and giving cards as a form of appreciation, according to the

History Channel Web site.

Corporate holiday

Cabico said she worked at a Hallmark store for three years and said Valentine's Day was a busy holiday season compared to St. Patrick's Day or Easter.

"It was crazy," she said. "It was like Christmas Eve."

She also said she noticed more male customers coming in during the Valentine's Day season and saw a lot of last-minute shoppers.

"A lot of them didn't know what to get, so they would ask for advice from us," she said. "When I'd ring them up, they'd ask, 'Do you think this is OK?' They wanted to make sure they were giving the right gift. Sometimes they'd do it last minute and grab whatever."

Ben Truong, a freshman business information management major, said he is in a relationship but will not be celebrating Valentine's Day this year.

"I think Valentine's Day is a superficial holiday," he said. "It's just another opportunity for the corporations to make money."

Truong also said he and his girlfriend have made plans to keep it simple because the year has just begun.

"We don't need to celebrate because we can celebrate in our own way on any other day," he said. "The fact that the calendar says it's Valentine's Day doesn't really matter."

Working at Hallmark, Cabico said she noticed how taking the time to go out and buy a gift can mean a lot, even though she personally does not celebrate Valentine's Day.

"When I was at work, the main thing a person bought for Valentine's Day was a card," she said. "Balloons and teddy bears were really popular too."

With all the keepsakes, ornaments and stuffed animals people would purchase, Cabico said the holiday of love is something that can extend beyond a romantic relationship.

"Overall, I think the idea of Valentine's Day is fading away because it doesn't have to be particularly directed towards girlfriends or boyfriends," she said. "It can involve friends and family too."

Senior nursing major Diane Arquero said Valentine's Day does not carry any real meaning and is simply another day for her.

"There are some times when I celebrate with my girls and my friends, but usually I don't pay any attention to it because I'm single," she said.

Arquero said that Valentine's Day can serve as an opportunity to tell friends or family that they are loved, but the holiday itself lacks any real meaning.

"I still think Valentine's Day is overrated," she said. "Telling somebody you love them should be something you do every day, not just because there's a specific holiday."

Alex Rougieri, a freshman business major who is in a relationship, said Valentine's Day is not a major holiday for him and his girlfriend.

"Valentine's Day is just another date to me, like going to out to dinner or something," he said. "My girlfriend told me that she wanted to go out but nothing crazy or extravagant like other people I know."

Rougieri said as a male, he does not feel any pressure to make any big plans for Valentine's Day for his girlfriend.

"We don't really have any plans because I'm working that day," he said. "We're actually just going to celebrate it on another day, so I guess the whole idea of Valentine's Day isn't really big for us."

Coupled up or single, Cabico said Valentine's Day can be a day of appreciation for the people in your life.

"Sometimes people have busy lives, and it's kind of a reminder to show a person you love them and you care for them," she said. "We usually only do that on Christmas."

Truong said amid his beliefs on Valentine's Day propaganda, the holiday can be celebrated among students of all relationship statuses.

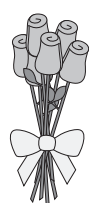
"Single people can enjoy Valentine's Day because then they'll notice the other single people for them to get with," he said. "Just because you don't have a boyfriend or a girlfriend doesn't mean that you can't have fun too."



Photo illustration by Clifford Grodin / Spartan Daily

A Spartan Daily staff writer browses through Valentine's Day cards at the Spartan Bookstore.

Valentine's Day legends



- According to a popular legend in Rome, Cupid was once carrying a vase of sweet nectar to the gods on Mount Olympus and some nectar spilled on the ground. From the spot where the nectar fell emerged the beautiful rose flower. An interesting fact is when the letters in "rose" are rearranged, they spell "Eros," the ancient Greek god of love.

lated blood around the body. Poets agreed and captured this idea in their works over the years, solidifying the theory that the heart is the control center for emotions. Today, the heart remains a powerful symbol of love and Valentine's Day.

The popular expression of 'wearing one's heart on one's sleeve' derives from the tradition prevalent in America and Britain around the 1800s. At that time, young men used to wear slips of paper pinned on their sleeves which had the name of their special someone written on it.

- In the 12th century, it was thought that the heart was connected to emotions and feelings, instead of an organ that circu-

- Love knots began as an early



Arab tradition. Young Muslim women living in orthodox households used to express love to young men through secret messages woven through the knots of a carpet. Lovers read the messages by turning

the knot around and around. The tradition of sending messages through the knots gave birth to the concept of love knots that exist even to this day.

Source: St. Valentine's Day Web site

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I LOVE LAMP!!

To my darling wife, Judy. I thank you for the last 24 years. You have made life complete. It has been wonderful. I love you. Together forever,
John

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY BAH BEE!!! I LOVE YOU! ALTRU

Dear Ellison D. Happy v-day U R soo cute Facebook me Love Stephanie Wang

Kim, Thanks for always being there. - Cloud

TO MY EDDIE G. YOU ARE A GEEK BUT THAT'S WHY I LOVE YOU!

Squishy, You're so beautiful inside and out even though you don't eat cheese.

Trey Slauter, Happy vday babe! I love you with all my heart and I couldn't ask for anyone better! Yours always, Brittany Chan

Hello Alyssa! Happy Valentine's Day! Any guy would be lucky to be your bf.

Kayla Rose, Happy Valentine's Day! I love you babe, Garik.

PS Don't be a CBPM!

I would like to extend a HEARTY SINGLE AWARENESS DAY to all those without a valentine. And you want to fix this feel free to hit me up (408) 799-5742

Baby Boo, Three Valentine's Days, Three years together. Three words: I LOVE YOU! Always yours, Johnny Boo

Nice meetin&chat w/u@bball game v Hawaii! I can't wait 2 see u again hottie.

NOMURA NO LESS- I LOVE THE WAY YOU BAKE. LOVE, MP

TO ALL MY SHM-FIRE IT UP & LOVE IT!

To: Cristina Vicari Happy Valentine's Day!

HAPPY V-DAY TOOLS ESPECIALLY KEVIN PS HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO YOU TOO KYLIE

MY PHONGIPOO, YOU'RE THE BEST. YOU LIGHT UP MY DAY. I ♥ U. YOUR SWEETY

TO MY DEAREST! STEPH, you're the apple of my eye. Love you lots! - Shellz

Rogan Lau This is your secret valentine I'LL see you soon OX

CAMPUS VILLIAGE B YOU ROCK! LOVE CVB HALL GOVERNMENT

To my Johnny boo, Happy 3 years! I love you. Forever yours, Selina Baby

I LOVE YOU TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS!

BRIAN CHONG, DON'T US, WE NEED YOU TO KEEP JOE IN LINE

Happy Valentine's Day Kristina! You are the best! I love you! Nick

You are an awesome co-lead Kayleigh! Happy Valentine's Day! Peter Stoia

Spartan Daily ♥s YOU!

TO MY DEAREST! STEPH, you're the apple of my eye. Love you lots! - Shellz

Rogan Lau This is your secret valentine I'LL see you soon OX

CAMPUS VILLIAGE B YOU ROCK! LOVE CVB HALL GOVERNMENT

Happy Valentine's Day Kristina! You are the best! I love you! Nick

You are an awesome co-lead Kayleigh! Happy Valentine's Day! Peter Stoia

Danny B, You are my dream come true. Happy Valentine's Day! LU! Natalia D

Jazmin Mendoza, I just wanted to tell you how much I love you and I don't know what I would do without your advice. ♥ LRJR

When life is cold I wrap myself in your warmth nestled in your love my perfect Refuge I LOVE YOU MAR!!!!!!! - Jose

I am so glad you are my valentine handsome. I love you! Love, your babu

JEREMY KLITH, Never knew the boy next door would become my best friend, let alone the love of my life. Be my Valentine? - Your Love Bug

TO: MARIE GARCIA FROM: SERGIO I LOVE YOU. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT HAVE BEEN 19 YEARS. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY. I KNOW I LOVE YOU MORE THAN WORDS COULD DESCRIBE.

Softball team brimming with confidence at start of season

Kevin Hume
Staff Writer

SJSU softball head coach Peter Turner isn't shy about expressing his confidence in this year's team.

"This ball club is probably one of the best we've put out," he said.

Turner said a lot of veterans have returned for this season.

"I lost no starters last year, so everyone was returning," he said.

Senior center fielder Sarah Taylor said the team's strength lies in the depth of its roster.

"Each position has a lot of girls, so we're really confident," Taylor said. "Everyone plays really hard and has a lot of heart."

Taylor is a squad leader, Turner said.

"I like to lead by example," Taylor said. "I take charge and help the girls that are new."

Turner said some strong new additions have also raised hopes in the season.

"A couple of freshmen have really stepped up big," he said. "That's really going to help our hitting."

One of the freshmen expected to help the team succeed this season is infielder/catcher Cheryl Freitas.

Freitas said she had a successful high school career, winning some awards.

She was named 2008 Greater Stockton Area High School Softball Player of the Year by the Stockton Ports, a Class A Minor League affiliate of the Oakland Athletics that honors local players, according to the Ports' Web site.

"I'm definitely a power hitter," she said. "I just kind of swing out of my shoes and hope I hit it."

Freitas was very quick to downplay her high school accomplishments.

"This is a different game," she said.

Other new freshmen additions to the team include outfielder Markesha Collins, infielder BranDee Garcia, catcher Dorothy Morentin, outfielder Brianna Yray, outfielder Stephanie Ziemann and pitcher Genevieve Reyna.

Last season was wrought with

injuries, Turner said, which damaged the team.

"We lost three starters in the first two weeks," he said. "They were pivotal players."

One starter lost was pitcher Jennifer Ames, a junior playing as a redshirt sophomore because of injury, who blew out her arm in the second week.

"I learned a lot watching and helping all the other pitchers," Ames said. "But it's good to finally be putting on a uniform."

The team finished 19-37 last year, seven more losses than the 2008 season.

The team ended up playing a lot of freshmen last season, Turner said, which has given them experience.

"They're really going to help us this year," he said.

Sophomore pitcher Amanda Pridmore said she is looking forward to being back on the mound.

"I like to be the one the team relies on," she said. "I love having the pressure on me."

Turner said big things are expected from Pridmore and the rest of the pitching staff.

"(Pridmore) had an excellent fall," he said. "I'm really pleased with the staff we have. They'll keep us in any game."

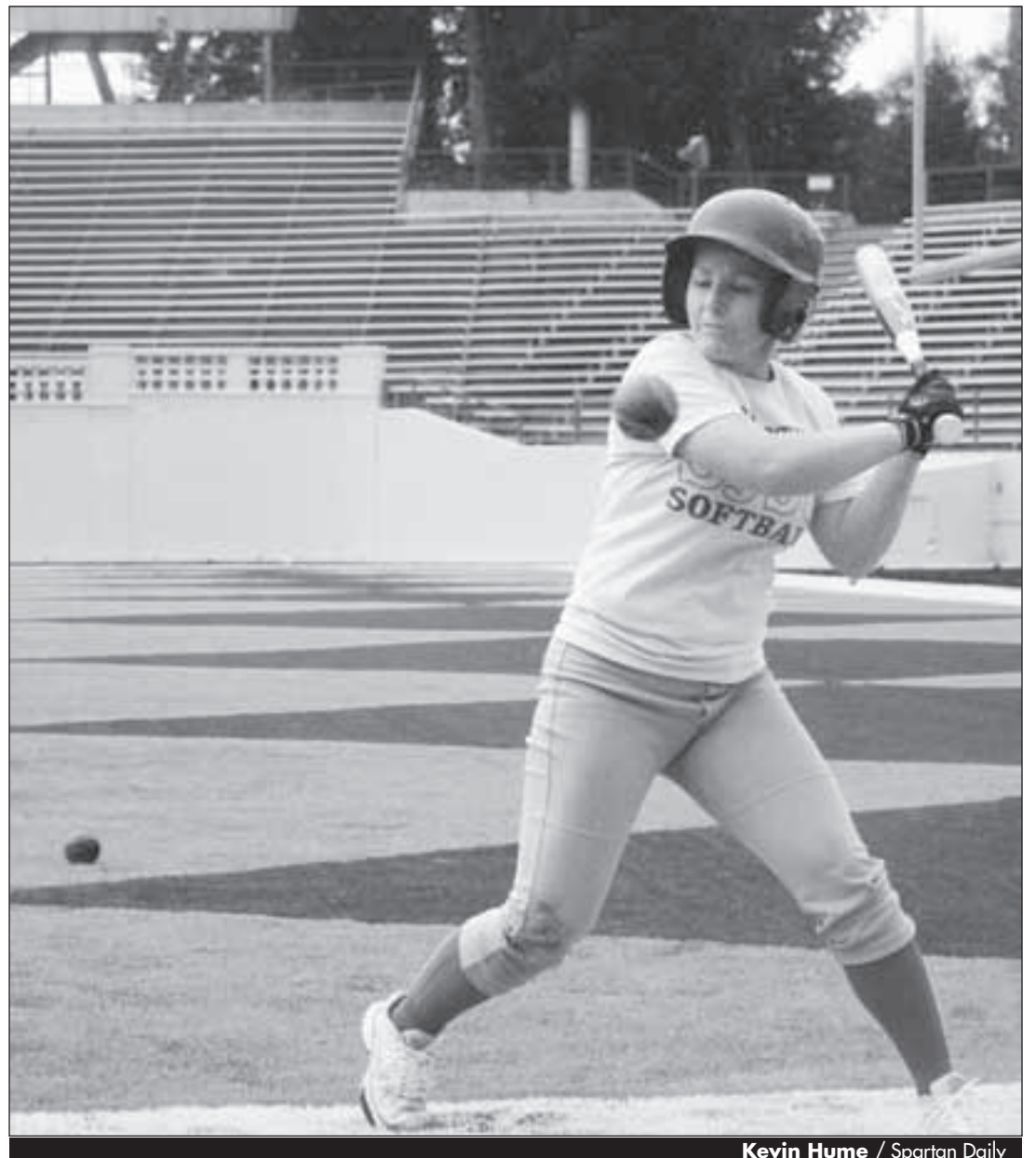
Sarah Taylor is a key hitter for the team, Turner said.

"I'm a slapper," Taylor said. "I like to power slap, to hit the ball really hard."

Taylor said she likes to be aggressive on the base path to get the team on the scoreboard.

"I like to advance, to at least steal second, so that if there's a ball hit up the middle or through the gaps, I can score," she said.

Taylor stole 18 bases in 21 at-



Andrea Bott takes batting practice Tuesday at Spartan Stadium.

Kevin Hume / Spartan Daily



Kevin Hume / Spartan Daily

Jennifer Ames warms up during practice on Tuesday.

tempts last season.

Many practices this season were moved from the softball stadium to another venue because of rain, Turner said, so they've had to rely on other locations for hitting and fielding.

"We were fortunate enough to use the football stadium," he said. "Between that and some indoor hitting facilities that we use, we've been able to get our reps in."

The Spartans head off to the Red Desert Classic Tournament in St. George, Utah, where they will play five games in three days.

Date	Home games	Time
Feb. 14	Santa Clara	Noon
Feb. 19	CSU Bakersfield	Noon
Feb. 20	CSU Bakersfield	Noon
Feb. 21	Pacific	Noon
April 2	Louisiana Tech	3 p.m.
April 3	Louisiana Tech	Noon
April 6	Santa Clara	2 p.m.
April 16	Fresno State	3 p.m.
April 17	Fresno State	Noon
May 7	New Mexico State	3 p.m.
May 8	New Mexico State	Noon

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3x		2÷	1-	6
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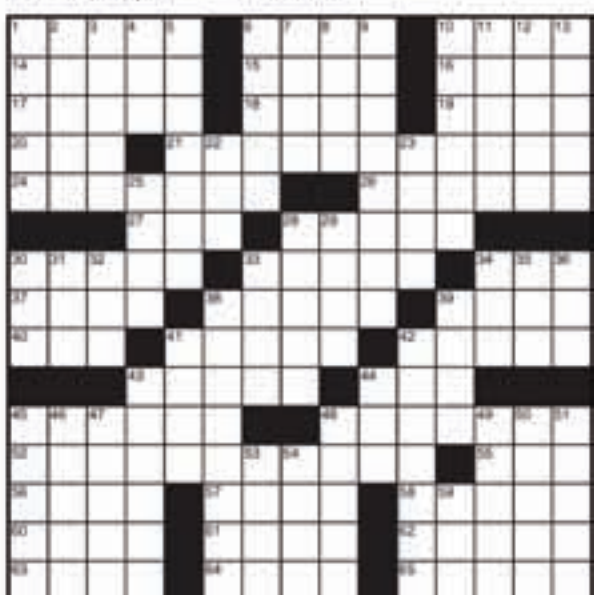
ACROSS

- Synopsis
- Postal matter
- Frolic
- Split to join
- Hawkeye portrayer
- Kang ender
- Jimmy, for one
- Carpe —
- Mandibles
- Aberdeen single
- Mammals and birds
- Gridiron gain
- Hold fast
- "Deep Space Nine" constable
- A Musketeer
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- Racecar sound
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- Fable source
- Oh, sum! (2 wds.)
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- Tiny parasites
- Sorts
- Dame
- Mach 1 breakers
- Straphanger's lack
- Wind blasts

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

6	3	1	5	2	4
3	2	6	4	1	5
5	6	3	2	4	1
1	5	4	6	3	2
4	1	2	3	5	6
2	4	5	1	6	3

- DOWN**
- Deliver a message
 - Heien, in Spain
 - Quilt or blanket
 - Copy
 - Suffuse
 - Tijuana parent
 - Dismounted
 - fix
 - Meat counter
 - buy (2 wds.)
 - Punjab
 - potentates
 - Exponent at length
 - Yard fool
 - Desperado's fear
 - 22 1, to Caesar
 - Motel vacancy
 - Periods
 - Firebug's crime
 - Twenty or Sylvester
 - Ottoman official
 - de-sac
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 - Overrule
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It's not that bad of a day

Valentine's Day. What a day. Annoyed, depressed, excited, angry, bitter, uncontrollably happy, in love — or, the same as the day before — those are going to be some of the feelings most people will have.

The main thing I look forward to about the holiday is the chocolate that will be discounted post-Valentine's Day.

But why hate this day that is supposed to commemorate love?

I understand it is absolutely the most commercially promoted day in most people's opinions, but turn this negative around and embrace the damn day.

I mean hell, I agree, Valentine's Day is very commercialized, and was probably fabricated by Hallmark or some other greeting card company.

But apparently, February is a month of romance — so now we know why it's in February, and the day is named after St. Valentine, which means there is some sort of explanation to celebrate it that anyone can find on Google.

Still, people become cantankerous or blinded with love. Either way, it becomes too much at times, because people are overreacting.

But I figure what is there to do about it?

OK, so what if people decide to



Ashley Finden
Staff Writer

spend an excess amount of money on their significant others? If they have the money, then let them.

But what I think people should do more than anything is appreciate the day for what it is, which is a simple reminder to show those you love that you care.

Nowadays, people are so caught up with themselves or their jobs that they seem like they rarely stop to even take a breath, let alone take time to tell or display to loved ones, "I love you," or even, "I like you."

This day shouldn't be an irritation. That's what rashes and bug bites are for — and certain family members.

I mean, I have had my fair share of good and bad Valentine's Days, but I don't allow those past days to haunt me with pain or heartache, and I don't dread them like I did

with presentations in high school.

When this day begins to peek through and show itself in the beginning of February, I think about the small, sweet little things people have done to show they care for me in the past years.

It is more than showing your boyfriend or girlfriend you care. I am talking about family and friends too, just don't be creepy about it.

One day, call up your parents, or go up to them if you live near or with them, and tell them you love them and thanks for putting up with you during your bratty, "everything is about me," phase.

If you don't want to be alone, then hang out with your single friends that day, and treat it as a day of appreciation for them, which, guys, isn't as lame as it sounds, so don't be such a wimp.

You can go to a movie, play sports, go out to eat, go skydiving, etc.

None of that appeals to you single kids?

OK, then read a book, make a painting, study, play hopscotch, go for a jog, yadda yadda yadda.

Just don't take this day for granted, it's another day to experience life and enjoy the day because there are so many days anyways.

Hallmark makes money day

On Feb. 14, flowers, candy and gifts are sent and received throughout the U.S. On this day, people can react in one of three ways.

One, they could get all excited and giggle over this holiday.

Two, they could potentially become upset because they have been reminded they are single and may not be loving it.

Or three, they could be angry Valentine's Day is believed to be an actual holiday and that people who take this "holiday" too seriously need a dose of reality.

I fall into the third category.

Peoples' first thought may be that I'm bitter from a previous Valentine's Day nightmare, or that I have no one to spend this "holiday" with, which is not the case. Being alone on Thanksgiving would make me sad, but Valentine's Day?

You're kidding, right?

Valentine's Day is a poor excuse for a holiday, and it's one of the many days people can show how materialistic this country has become.

Does anyone who celebrates Valentine's Day know the history of the day? That Valentine was a saint recognized by the Catholic Church?

I doubt it.

St. Valentine was a martyr who was killed for his Christian beliefs and not worshipping Roman gods.

But like most holidays that have become more materialistic over the years, people either forget or do not care to know the holidays' histories.

If you're in a relationship, it's not like you have the option to blow off Valentine's Day.

After all, this day is used to "show how much you love someone."

Really?

Since when does a stuffed bear holding a heart mean you are loved?

Love is, or should be, something people can express any day and every day.

The pressure men and women put themselves through to make this day perfect is unnecessary.

Don't get me wrong, I like to receive flowers as much as the next girl, but the element of surprise and authenticity of receiving flowers on Valentine's Day is tainted.

Men and women expect flowers and candy on Valentine's Day, and if they end up empty-handed, some might feel less loved by their significant others, which should not be the case.

I mean, think about it, going out to dinner or receiving flowers would be much more thoughtful and surprising on Jan. 14 or March 14, but on Feb. 14, there is no surprise, just an expectation.

I think what also grinds my gears about this so-called "holiday" is the unnecessary money people spend. If people want to actually treat this like a holiday and shower each other with gifts, then have the gifts be from the heart and make them by hand.

What would a person do with a six-foot-tall bear holding a flower after Valentine's Day?

At times, Valentine's Day seems to have been created by manufacturing companies in collusion with the jewelry, candy and greeting card companies. There is this subconscious obligation both men and women have to buy these things in order to make their other half happy.

A friend told me she is going to a pillow fight in San Francisco on Valentine's Day. From what she said, about 1,000 people are going to be there with pillows in hand.

I could not help but laugh when she told me about a 1,000-person pillow fight. It sounds like an orgy to me.

Now that sounds like a great Valentine's Day.



Jasmine Duarte
Staff Writer

For even more Valentine's Day opinions, visit us at theSpartanDaily.com

Where is the love? Apparently nowhere near my local vicinity

"Where is the love, the love, the love?" Justin Timberlake asks in the chorus of a 2003 hit single. Of course, he's getting plenty of it after bringing sexy back.

The question he and Black Eyed Peas posed, however, still applies to the many of us in the world who do not have a hand to hold this Sunday.

Where is the love? The woman of my dreams has not walked through any doors and into my life, ready to enjoy Feb. 14 with me.

This is not obtuse, considering I am 20. The median age of marriage for men is 24, according to the 2004 U.S. Census. So technically I have five more years before I can start throwing fits about my lack of Valentine's love. However, V-Day is the hardest day to endure until then.

I know I sound like a bitter young man. The reason Feb. 14 is tough, however, is because I'm actually a romantic at heart — wishing I could join

the masses in taking a day off from the world to focus on my loved one.

On every other day of the year, the L word can be from a brother, sister, cousin or friend.

This kind of love really does make the world go 'round. To me, that love does not fully qualify on Valentine's Day.

This is unfortunate, especially because it is the day most couples come out of their dens and walk about the world displaying affection for each other. There are flowers covering the streets, chocolates raining from the sky and cuddly bears attacking from around every corner.

Well, they're for people in relationships.

Hearing my sister tell me over the phone that



Daniel Herberholz
Staff Writer

she loves me on last year's V-Day was really nice, I will say. But somehow that did not defend me against the barrage of romantic love I was forced to see throughout the day.

Springtime has not come yet, with its blooming flowers and crushes. The last two years, my relationships took root in the time soon after V-Day.

St. Valentine played a cruel trick, having his feast a month before his guests could enjoy

the cliché of finding love in the springtime. Maybe he wanted to make fun of the guests, showing off some woman he had wooed while they sat drenched in tears for being alone.

I wish I could have been at the feast, so I could

stand up and scream at St. Valentine. I would tell him two centuries later, his feast would be the source of annoyance to millions who had no one to spend their money on in his name.

I would tell him he would eventually be the million-dollar benefactor of Hallmark.

Sadly, after dinner, he would still retreat to his bedroom and make sweet, sweet love to Mrs. Valentine. The next morning he'd probably buy a bunch of Hallmark stock.

Now, there are plenty of you out there screaming back at this black ink that you do not need romantic love to survive. Even on Valentine's Day. Especially on Valentine's Day.

I'm honestly happy you accept your own current circumstances and relish in the potpourri that is single life.

I'll be over here, listening to Justin Timberlake and the Black Eyed Peas, wishing I had a hand to hold.

Lunar New Year: the other holiday on Valentine's Day

You didn't think I was going to let this page be dominated by Valentine's Day hoopla, did you? Not when one of the most important Vietnamese (and Chinese, Korean, Tibetan) holiday falls on the same day.

This weekend will be a second Christmas for me, with red envelopes holding green cash to be passed out as lucky gifts to all those unmarried. Getting money for being single? Now that's something to celebrate.

There are many reasons why this column is great. First off, the fact this column even exists demonstrates the importance of increasing ethnic diversity in the media.

I, being Vietnamese, threw a fit when I learned all the opinion pieces were going to be about Valentine's Day. The Lunar New Year seems to be the after-

thought, something somebody pipes up after it's mentioned that Valentine's Day is coming — "Oh yeah, New Years is on that day too!"

Tet, the name of Vietnam's celebration of the Lunar New Year, means more than just free cash, delicious traditional foods and gambling — it also means tons of dragon dancing and fireworks.

Just kidding.

The need to measure time required ancient women to find something that stayed consistent in its changes. The different calendars used were mainly based on agricultural, climatic and weather events.

In warmer climates, such as Vietnam, where weather changes weren't so drastic, the people looked to the moon to indicate time.

The older I get, the closer I get to

nature. Nature makes more sense. The stars have been here for a hell of a longer time than we have.

The Lunar New Year represents change, the coming of spring, and the new alignment of our universe. This year, the year of the Tiger, is supposed to bring strength, courage and passion to those who believe in the astrological calendar.

I'm reflecting on when humans depended on nature and didn't demand to control and own it, but worked with it and took care of it — when the moon was our clock and the stars were our news.

But here we are, people of modern technology and innovation. We have new indicators of change and new worries to take care of. We have more holidays we need to celebrate and more

things to buy in order to celebrate. We have cards to write, candy to give and lines to stand in.

The big idea dwindles down to those small details.

Don't worry, I'm coming to my hippie-dippy point.

The coming Lunar New Year reminds me to put our world into perspective.

Imagine our Earth as the size of a ping-pong ball. Now picture the sun as the size of an orange. And now picture Arcturus, a star, as a watermelon.

The further out we explore from Earth, the more I realize how we com-



Minh Pham
Obligatory Space Filler

pare in the scheme of things.

With such a grand view, I'm reminded to stay confused and fascinated and be in awe with what is happening now.

For me, that would be enjoying the chocolates I received while writing this article.

So whatever it is you're doing right

now, tomorrow, or this weekend, try not to waste any of it worrying too much. Things should change in just a second.

"Obligatory Space Filler," appears normally biweekly on Wednesdays. Minh Pham is a Spartan Daily A&E editor.

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Phone: (408) 924-3281

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Faculty art fascinates and liberates

REVIEW

Lidia Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Ribbons of warm red and orange colors tango, a blur of what looks like a pile of wood and an angry-looking Asian man with horns called my attention as I walked into the exhibit.

The Pictorial Art Faculty Exhibition held in the Natalie and James Thompson Gallery deleted the gap between being an art professor and being an art professional.

Represented through their art, I could see that our professors' lives involve more than teaching.

The artists' love for art was seen immediately as I walked through the exhibition.

Loud colors drew my eyes toward the center of the gallery. The eggshell-white walls illuminated the silhouettes of soft charcoal and pencil art pieces.

Walking around the gallery, it was hard to block out the idea that these artists are also devout professors who have the time to work on projects.

The assortment of media used complemented the mind

of each artist. Wild and simple, the styles used are followed by technique.

The methods used ranged from geometrically sharp to organically intertwined forms and colors.

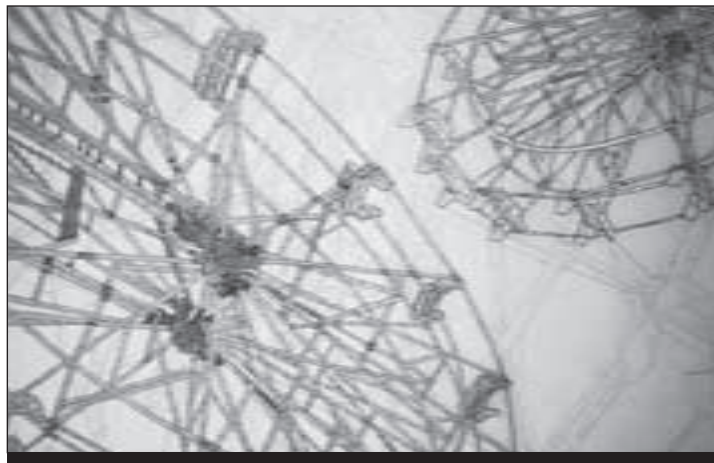
Each piece is dramatically different, telling a unique story upon the observer's interpretation.

Lecturer Erin Goodwin-Guerrero's "Tigre Serves the Pulque," 2003, 60 inches by 48 inches, stands strongly between two smaller works of art. Using silk screen and acrylic paints, Guerrero's work reminded me of the wonderful colors and architecture of my Mexican heritage.

Rich earth-tones of red, orange, yellow, bronze and forest greens are the colors that are quickly embraced by my Mexican lineage.

It seemed as if she took giant photographs of a Latin trip and overlapped them to tell an interesting story.

Birds, iguanas and Mother Nature alike co-exist in the jungles of Mexico. A tiger happily looks to be walking along tree branches feeding the mouths of hungry skeletons. Hidden behind the drama of dancing and singing stands a tall pyramid. A



Photos by Jasmine Duarte
A detailed shot of Erik Friedman's art "Disperse" during the Pictorial Arts Faculty Exhibition in the Art building on Tuesday.

dungeon or sanctuary, the pyramid screams mystery from its dark entryways.

Guerrero's enticing colors made me want more of her art. Lecturer Erik Friedman's "Disperse," 2008, is clean and piercing and is spatially more open than Guerrero's work.

The use of powder blue and dull gray made me feel the enigma of his inspiration. Friedman takes large, two-toned ferris wheels and dimensionally spaces them out on a 40 inch by 30 inch canvas in a way that keeps your eyes moving.

At first glance, the acrylic paints on canvas depicted the

giant wheels to look like bones. Complementing his murky mood, the detailed floating ferris wheels hang on to your curiosity.

Extremely innovative, lecturer Teresa Cuniff's "Beast of Burden," 2009, fascinates me and took me into the mind of a zoologist. Watching an intricate film of a polar bear standing upright while intimately listening with headphones to the roars and breathing of a wild beast made me think of the movie, "The Sandlot."

With saliva and foam at his mouth the white bear powerfully sways left and right — similar



A detailed shot of Erin Goodwin-Guerrero's art "Tigre Serves the Pulque" during the Pictorial Arts Faculty Exhibition.

to the way the intimidating dog from "The Sandlot" guarded his yard. The best effect I got from this art piece was when I closed my eyes and used my imagination to create a scene relative to that of Cuniff's.

Every artists' art inspired me to assemble some colors onto

a palette, pick up a nice set of brushes, find an interesting medium and begin developing my own work of art.

The Pictorial Art Faculty Exhibition will continue through Feb. 19 in the Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery located in the Art building.



Photos courtesy of Ken Howard

Actress Adriana Sevahn Nichols performs "Taking Flight," and plays multiple characters.

REVIEW

Anna-Maria Kostovsko
Staff Writer

This one-woman act, written and performed by Adriana Sevahn Nichols, took the audience on an emotional journey through the ups and downs of the friendship between the main characters Adriana and Rhonda.

The play came close to being laugh-out-loud funny a few times — especially as Adriana and Rhonda were engaging in typical girl talk concerning sex — but never quite made it all the way.

As for the visual aspect of this play, it was disappointing. Though the setting of the plot changed, the objects present on stage — a chair and not much else — remained the same from the beginning of the play until the end.

That goes for the actress as well, who wore the same outfit — a pair of blue jeans and a green top — throughout the play.

On a positive note, it should be said that Nichols brilliantly

One-woman show takes flight into the heart

managed to put not only one, but a few personalities into the play as she took on the various roles that included herself, her best friend, a taxi driver and more.

Unfortunately, that served as a confusing factor at the beginning of the play, as the audience was presented with the different characters but only saw one person on stage.

But as the plot unfolded and one got used to only Nichols performing, the bits and pieces fell into place. Only a few minutes into the play, the process of distinguishing between the characters came naturally and didn't distract from following the plot.

"Taking Flight" mainly took place in Room 302 of a New York hospital, where Rhonda was being treated for injuries suffered on 9/11.

The audience was eased into the events of 9/11 — which were at first only hinted at, and it was not until later that Nichols, through the voice of one of her characters, confirmed that the event she had described as having caused a "blizzard of black ash" was indeed the attack on World Trade Center.

This event was to some extent significant to the plot, but didn't serve as the main theme.

What really colored this play was the intense, short-lived friendship between Adriana and Rhonda, which started off as something wonderful but developed into almost a burden on Adriana's part.

Nichols' emotional pain could be sensed in the air as her character Adriana narrated the events following Rhonda's hospitalization.

"Taking Flight" is pure dialogue. Most of the conversations were between characters, but there

was some intrapersonal communication as well.

Rhonda, who was in the midst of planning her wedding together with her best friend when tragedy left her unable to walk, depended heavily on Adriana's help and support during the year she was hospitalized.

Adriana wanted to be the good friend and ended up putting her own life on hold while focusing all of her attention on Rhonda.

As Adriana and Rhonda's friendship unraveled, it triggered memories in me and, for the first time, I was able to truly relate to the characters.

That was the moment when I changed my opinion regarding "Taking Flight." I went from seeing rather dull and pointless to seeing it as a good play with a message to give the audience.

During a question and answer session after the play, Nichols said "Taking Flight" is based on a true story, with some elements changed to protect the privacy of the real Rhonda.

The play will run from Feb. 18 to Feb. 21.

In the end, there was a lesson to be learned — be it never to take friendship for granted or never to lose oneself in someone else's problems.

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