



Underground hip hop group breaks through

See Page 5

SJSU to rely on young arms



See Page 8

Spartan Daily

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Students lend a hand at local grade school



Eric Van Susteren / Spartan Daily

Jessica Yano, a senior health science major, helps second-grader Alandra Perez count apple seeds for a science project at McKinley elementary science fair.

Eric Van Susteren
Staff Writer

Students from the health science department helped 184 McKinley Elementary School children complete experiments at the school's science fair Saturday.

"We bring the resources of the university for a hands-on workshop to help families conduct experiments and make posters," said Professor Kathleen Roe, the event's organizer.

Roe said the student organizers and participants came from her Community

Health Promotion class, which focuses on community organization.

"Every kid gets a one-on-one college student ambassador to help them," she said.

Prentice Townsend, a senior health science major, said that the fair was a great opportunity for children from an area that doesn't have the funding for a traditional science fair to discover new project ideas.

"This lifts the ceiling for them to explore new things in science," he said.

See SCIENCE, Page 3

Mailroom problems frustrate students

Melissa Johnson
Staff Writer

Students living on campus have been having problems receiving mail through the Joe West Hall mailroom.

Jasmine Leary, a senior business management major and current resident of Campus Village Building B, said she feels that better communication among mailroom staff members may help resolve problems, or hiring more staff to facilitate the duties.

Leary said she has attended SJSU since 2006 and has had mailroom problems since 2007. She said she's been frustrated with the mailroom while living on campus.

"Of the 20 or so packages I've had sent to me, about 70 percent have had

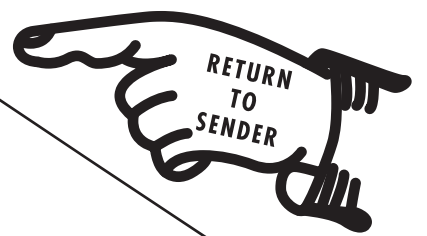
something wrong with them," she said. "I've heard similar stories from all sorts of people having problems."

Having also been a resident assistant in Campus Village, Leary said she understands that dealing with thousands of students can be frustrating. Since the mailroom handles a large volume of mail for all the housing residences on campus, she said they need to have more organization.

Alessandra Imazio Jones, a junior interior design major and CVB resident, said she experienced a delay in receiving packages during her first semester at SJSU.

Jones said she expected to receive a package from a company and said she received confirmation from the company that the package was delivered, but

See MAIL, Page 2



SJSU to add fall classes with funds

\$3.1 million to be used to advance graduation, Whitmore says

Eric Bennett
Staff Writer

In an initiative to bolster students' opportunities to graduate on time, SJSU President Jon Whitmore said additional sections will be offered in the upcoming fall semester.

Federal funds will provide the necessary financial support for the increase in classes, as SJSU will receive \$3.1 million from the \$50 million distributed to all 23 California State University campuses, Whitmore said Feb. 9 in a news conference.

"Last year, one of the initiatives for the federal government was supporting state government in ways that would help turn the economy around," Whitmore said. "Our first priority is to help students graduate from this university."

Michael Yuen, a senior computer science major, said he agrees with the direction SJSU is moving in allocating the extra funds.

"If money is going into schools for students to take more classes, then I think it's a great idea," he said.

Natalia Becerra, a junior accounting information systems major, said she has recently turned to junior colleges to get courses SJSU fills or doesn't have.

"If I can finally get the business classes I need, then it's a good idea," Becerra said. "I have had to take classes at San Jose City College because they aren't offered here."

An influx in courses comes during a time when campuses are experiencing fee hikes, an issue Whitmore said SJSU is currently combating.

"Within the governor's proposed budget is a possible 10 percent increase in student fees for next fall," he said. "But, as we have raised fees, a good portion of that goes into our scholarship funds."

Vincent Loi, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said the

spike in fees is hindering students from graduating, especially those switching majors.

Becerra said another possible rise in fees could make times even harder financially than they are now.

"It's going to make things tougher if it happens," she said. "I'm having trouble with the fee increases we have already had."

SJSU is contemplating refining the methodology the school uses to admit new students, Whitmore said.

"Up until 18 months ago, essentially all students from California who met the basic CSU requirements and applied to SJSU were accepted," he said. "Because we are an impacted campus now, we have to develop mechanisms for who gets in and who doesn't."

Any changes to the current admittance system could deter the chances of students from outside of Santa Clara County, but Whitmore said the school plans to remain true

See FUNDS, Page 4

Bikers compete in new game



Eric Van Susteren / Spartan Daily

Al Soriano and JP Flores, a senior graphic design major, play bike polo in front of the Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch on Wednesday.

Eric Van Susteren
Staff Writer

Cheers echoed off the sides of Cesar Chavez Memorial Arch Wednesday night as speeding bicyclists wielding polo mallets crafted from ski poles and plastic piping wove between each other, chasing a small plastic ball.

"Bike polo is like hockey on bikes," said Matthew Divita, a senior business market-

ing major. "It's good because I'm not good at skating, but I am at bike-riding."

Bike polo is played with two teams of four or five bikers, each player tries to knock a small plastic ball into the other team's goal using a bike polo mallet, organizer Tree Miller said.

Shakeeb Arianta, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and one of the play-

See POLO, Page 3

Weather



Hi: 70°
Lo: 49°

TH Hi: 68°
Lo: 49° | F Hi: 61°
Lo: 49°

THE SPARTAN DAILY.COM

Video: SJSU jazz dance instructor talks about her experience as a performer in New York

SPARTAN DAILY BLOGS

Multimedia: Campus Voices- Students are asked, "What do you think about the shootings by the professor at the University of Alabama-Huntsville?"

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Online: DANCE



Michelle Gacher / Spartan Daily

See www.TheSpartanDaily.com



Michelle Gachet / Spartan Daily

Gina Auland observes her students as they dance across the room at Washington Square Hall on Friday.

University hires Broadway veteran to train dance hopefuls

Andrew Martinez
Staff Writer

The dance department has hired a Broadway veteran as the Jazz Dance IV guest lecturer for the Spring 2010 semester, Professor Janie Scott said.

Gina Auland said her performance background includes numerous dance companies, Broadway shows and even the Radio City Rockettes.

"It's exciting, because the things she has done are the things that I want to do," junior dance major Heather Klobukowski said.

Auland grew up in Novato, Calif. and was strictly ballet trained when she graduated high school at 15 years old and moved to New York City on a dance scholarship, she said.

Auland said she found the teaching position on Craigslist.

"That's one of the first things I do when I get to a new city," she said. "I haven't been back here very long, and I always go on Craigslist. It can tell a lot about the city that you're in and what jobs there are."

Auland knew about SJSU because her uncle attended school here, but she didn't know that they had a versatile dance department and dancers, she said.

"They have a real willingness to apply themselves," she said. "And to say, 'Maybe I'm not doing it the best way, but let me figure out how I can be better.' That's a real valued quality that they have, and that's rare to find."

Auland said she plans on re-emphasizing the technique and understanding of the differences between many different styles of jazz dance.

"She has a totally new style," said Lauren Bjorgan, a senior dance major in the new Bachelor of Fine Arts dance program. "She's really focused on technique."

When Auland first arrived at New York, she had no idea that there was anything more than ballet out there and wasn't prepared for the demands of the dance world, she said.

"You truly have to be a multifaceted dancer," she said. "So, if dancers are trained that way, they'll always be working."

Auland said that one dance

form should not exclude the other because they are all interconnected and interwoven, which inspires her to continue dance from a teaching perspective.

"Doing other styles of dance is only going to strengthen your primary dance form," Auland said. "I told them from the very first class that if you have a good foundation, you can do any style of dance, and I believe that."

There is a recent trend in the ballet world of contemporary choreographers working with ballet companies, Auland said.

"Ballet technique is becoming more valued in the commercial world," she said, "and the energy and versatility of the commercial world is becoming more valued in the classical world."

There's a difference between commercial jazz and pop jazz, theater jazz and Broadway jazz, and contemporary jazz and lyrical jazz, she said.

"Versatility is an asset — a huge asset, but you can't get to Z until you lay down ABC," Auland said.

Auland said she is excited about her transition into the world of academics both as a lecturer and as a student.

She said she will be transferring to a four-year university in the fall and hopes to examine dance not only as the practice of dancing, but also the investigation and experiment aspect of the human body in dance.

"How can we train dancers so that their careers are lasting 10 and 15 years longer?" she said. "So that they're dancing well into their 40's and that they're not done by the time they're 25 or 30. And I feel like that's my purpose."



Michelle Gachet / Spartan Daily

Jazz dance instructor Gina Auland leads students in a dance routine at the Washington Square Hall on Friday.

MAIL

From Page 1

when she asked the mailroom staff for the package, she was told it wasn't there.

She said the company resent the item but didn't receive anything. Nearly a month later both packages surfaced in her mailbox. She decided to take the advice she heard from other students living on campus.

"I've heard people say that if your main residence is close enough to campus, have everything sent there," Jones said. "So that one weekend you go home, you know you can pick up everything there. That's what I started doing after my situation. Packages will just be sent to my address back home for now on."

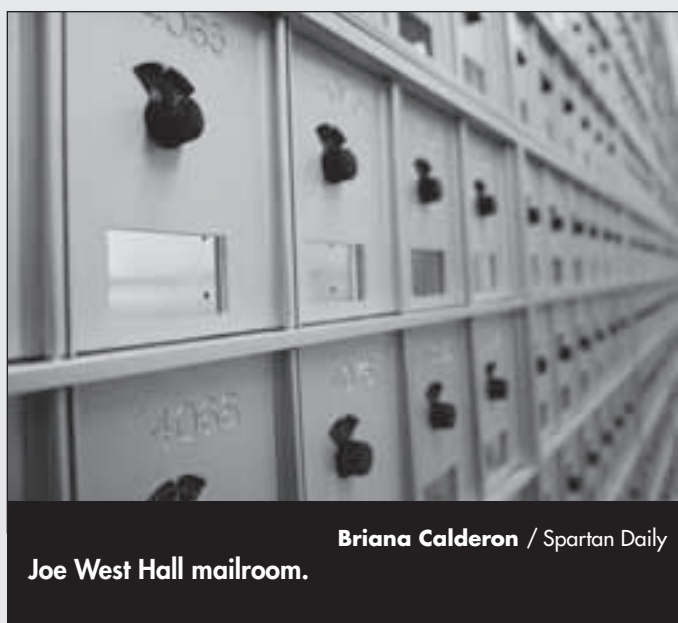
Mike Evans, a senior music major and a resident of CVB since Fall 2008, said he has experienced similar situations with receiving mail, and has since opted to have his mail sent to his grandmother's residence in Sunnyvale.

Liz Hyde, an aerospace engineering major and CVB resident said she has not had any major problems with the mailroom.

Hyde said her biggest concern is when she orders school related material that's time-sensitive. She said those materials sometimes gets delayed despite confirmation her item has been delivered.

"When it's for something like a textbook that you need right away, it can be a pain when I need it to do assignments and I don't have what I need," she said. "From what I see, their big problem is lack of organization."

Rachel Delucchi, housing mailroom supervisor, said the staff sorts through all the mail they receive daily. She said she's been told by some



Briana Calderon / Spartan Daily

Joe West Hall mailroom.

residents that their mail takes a while to get to them, or doesn't arrive at all.

Delucchi said she has been in contact with supervisors at the St. James Park Post Office to ensure mail is delivered timely and has been working with the post office staff to resolve those issues.

Wendy Nicklaus, a mailroom assistant in Joe West Hall, said the blame shouldn't be put on the staff.

"It's not us, it's the San Jose post office," she said. "It gets ridiculous around here, mostly during the holidays. We write packaging slips every day and put them in mailboxes daily. We get grief and it gets busy, give us a couple hours to sort through it all."

Kevina Brown, community relations coordinator for housing, said that back in the Fall 2009 semester, there were issues involving students having their mail tampered with — more specifically, items of monetary value, such as gift cards or cash were not being received by their intended recipients.

Brown said a parent contacted housing, indicating that they sent mail to a student who never received it. More reports followed that incident of the same problem.

Delucchi said she contacted the United States Inspector General's Office as a result of complaints she received.

The U.S. Inspector General's Office launched an investigation. Delucchi said they worked with her to obtain the information they needed to proceed with the investigation — but the U.S. Inspector General's Office has yet to divulge the results of their findings nor make them public information at this time.

"Once the investigation was launched, the problem wasn't being reported anymore," Brown said. "So far it hasn't continued this semester. We're suggesting that students having items sent to them of monetary value to have it sent FedEx Ground or FedEx Home. This method does require a signature, but we sign for them, so it shouldn't be tampered with."

Former chair remembered for 'integrity'

Andrew Martinez
Staff Writer

SJSU Professor Jose Cerrudo struggled against colon cancer for seven years, but Alison Cerrudo said, it was typical of her father, that he believed in being thankful and not sweating the small stuff.

"Life is so frenetic and stressful, and being ill gives you a lot more perspective," Alison Cerrudo said of her father, who taught at SJSU for 35 years and died Jan. 24. "That was a message that resounded with me."

Cerrudo was the foreign language department chair from 1998 to 2002, said current Chair Dominique van Hooff.

"He started to teach when he was 23 years old," van Hooff said. "He was one of the youngest faculty."

Cerrudo obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees at SJSU and, concurrent to his teaching, he earned his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, Alison Cerrudo said.

"I remember him telling me that, in the laid-back decade of the '70s, he had to dress very formally in order not to be confused with the students," said Carmen Sigler, former SJSU provost in a prepared statement for his memorial service.

Cerrudo was a happy fellow, van Hooff said.

"He was very funny," she said. "A real gentleman with a



Courtesy of Dr. Dominique Van Hooff

Jose Cerrudo

lot of integrity, and very helpful in general."



Alison Cerrudo

In addition to modernizing the foreign language media lab and contributing to the teaching credential program, he was a wonderful mentor to both students and junior faculty, van Hooff said.

"He was always guided by ethical and high-minded principles," Sigler said. "He remained committed to the well-being of his colleagues, the success of our students and the fulfillment of the university's mission."

Cerrudo was born on Jan. 4, 1945 in Spain and immigrated to the U.S. with his family when

he was 13, Alison Cerrudo said.

"In his early 20s, he went back to Spain, and he ran with the bulls in Pamplona," said Juan Sempere, a professor in the foreign languages department.

Alison Cerrudo said that food was important in her family's home.

"That's one of the things that was central to our home, was eating a good meal together," she said. "For a great part of the time, he made dinner. Family dinners were really important, and our house always smelled great."

She said food was an intrinsic part of him that connected him to Spain, and it was an opportunity to bring friends and family together.

"His dream was to be a cook in a soup kitchen," van Hooff said. "He wasn't able to do that. He got sicker."

Alison said her father believed that nobody should be hungry.

"He always thought of other people before himself," Sempere said.

In addition to his daughter Alison, Cerrudo is survived by his wife Toni, a father and brother.

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SCIENCE

From Page 1

"Their energy is contagious. An hour ago, we were practically strangers. Now, they know us by name and are holding our hands."

Karen Malm, a junior health science major, said the children can choose between six science projects, which range from determining which kind of apple has the most seeds to using a lemon to power a light bulb.

SJSU students helped the children complete the experiments and make posters describing what happened in them, she said.

Roe said many of the parents in the community don't speak English, which she said sometimes makes it difficult for them to help their children with projects.

"My most important job is translating for the parents or the children that feel more comfortable speaking Spanish," said Miriam Gonzalez, a 14-year-old volunteer. "I help the children understand what they're doing and why it's important."

Yadeel Lopez, whose three young girls have attended the last three fairs, said that each year her children come more confident and prepared than before.

Hugo Mora-Torres, who organized the first science fair workshop three years ago at McKinley elementary, said he's noticed a huge difference since then.

"It's beautiful — I get emotional," he said. "Before we did

this, in an average year, 40 percent of the children completed science projects. After, 60 percent completed them."

Jessica Yano, a senior health science major, said the fair was important because it built trust in the community.

"This event shows parents that there is community support out there for their children," she said. "The people here are willing to donate their time to help them grow academically and personally."

Roe said that making children familiar with college students helps encourage them to go to college.

"The children walk away feeling they've made friends with a college student," said Aldo Chazaro, a senior health science major. "We develop a bond with parents, students and the community."

"It's a fun experience for the children," said Hai Nguyen, a senior health science major. "I think they walk away more knowledgeable and with a sense of belonging."

The city of San Jose is nationally recognized for its Strong Neighborhood Initiative, which gives funding in the form of mini-grants, Roe said.

"It's just enough to give a boost for these events," Roe said.

Roe said that 124 parents came to the event.

"Probably the best thing about this event is the parental participation," said Dario Lerma, an SJSU alumnus who said he's lived in the community for 25 years. "Sciences are critical in education and it takes a lot of encouragement for children to be successful in it."

with a misdemeanor if they incurred enough warnings.

"We're really not out here to cause a ruckus, we just want to have a good time on a Wednesday night," said J.P. Flores, a senior graphic design major.

Miller said the bike polo players are affiliated with San Jose Fixed Gear, a group of people who ride their fixed-gear bikes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

"It's a sub-part of the sub-culture of fixed gear," said Maciej Mackowiak, an SJSU alumnus and player.

Miller said that bike polo is new in San Jose and that anyone is welcome to play.

"People in San Jose already knew about bike polo when I came here," Miller said. "I guess I was the catalyst to get it started."

Andrew Ho, a master's student in economics, said he likes bike polo for its social aspect.

"It's a great way to meet new people and promote bike culture," he said.

Divita said he enjoyed it for the camaraderie between players.

"We're just friends hanging out," he said. "We don't play for keeps and the rules aren't too strict."

Arianta said the sport is more difficult than it looks because players aren't allowed to let their feet touch the ground.

"Hitting a tiny ball with a tiny mallet, trying to avoid the other players all while keeping your feet on the pedals is the hardest part," he said.

Foreign diplomat lectures class

Ashley Finden
Staff Writer

The first consulate general from Azerbaijan, a country neighboring Turkey and Iran, visited SJSU to share the history of the nation, its vision for energy security and the pipeline that connects from Georgia to Turkey.

After a meeting with San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, Consulate General Elin Suleymanov visited Professor Constantine Donopoulous' European Union class Thursday.

As soon as Suleymanov entered the classroom and greeted the professor and visiting faculty, he had brochures handed out to the students while he made his introduction to the class.

Suleymanov said he had a pleasant visit the last time he was at SJSU, and that he was happy to be back.

Suleymanov began his discussion by describing Azerbaijan.

"If you ask the simple question, 'What is Azerbaijan?' ... I don't think there is a simple explanation," Suleymanov said. "But what Azerbaijan stands for is escaping definitions."

Suleymanov said that some may feel that since Azerbaijan is an overshadowing Muslim nation, equal rights were not given until recently, if at all.

"For instance, if you have a stereotype about Muslim nations, you would be surprised to hear that (Azerbaijan) was the first democracy in predominately Muslim nations — in fact, ahead of many nations of Europe in 1918," Suleymanov said.

It was ahead of the United States in democracy until the Soviet Union took over the nation two years later, Suleymanov said.

Suleymanov moved the speech along by describing how Azerbaijan has been defined by energy politics for the past two decades.

"(Energy politics) directly relates to what the European Union is facing today," Suleymanov said.

The consulate general then explained how energy politics and energy security is a global matter.

"One of the key issues today, in the world, is energy security," Suleymanov said. "It is especially acute in Europe."

The presentation continued, as Suleymanov explained that for the past two decades, Azerbaijan has been popular for its oil.

The nation is where one of the first oil booms took place, even though Pennsylvania may argue otherwise Azerbaijan will share the distinction with the state, Suleymanov jokingly said.

Suleymanov discussed the topic of green energy and what can be expected in green energy, which is an increase in natural gas, a cleaner fuel.

"For us (Azerbaijan), energy security is moving away from monopolies," Suleymanov said.

He said that nations should



Briana Calderon / Spartan Daily

Riley Knight and Veronica Rangel listen to Elin Suleymanov, the Consul General of Azerbaijan, speak to their European Union political science class Thursday afternoon.

want a variety in where they receive their supplies, in case there should be a disagreement with someone from one supplier.

"My European friends talk about (energy diversification), but go back to the dependence of one energy supplier," Suleymanov said.

In basic terms, energy security equals diversification, Suleymanov said.

He mentioned energy security and how Azerbaijan hopes to provide that with energy diversification, which can be achieved with global supplies of energy, such as oil, Suleymanov said.

He described the struggles of Azerbaijan once it regained independence in 1991.

"Building an independent state is not only having your flag waving and being separate from the United Nations, it's also what you do," Suleymanov said.

The nation wants to become successful partners for other nations, Suleymanov said.

"We want to be prosperous, but we cannot be prosperous if our region is not prosperous," Suleymanov said.

The speech covered Azerbaijan's relations, and evolving ones, with other nations along with energy security.

Prior to his speech, Parvin Ahanchi, a visiting scholar from Azerbaijan, spoke about the nation's culture and history.

The end of Suleymanov's presentation consisted of a question-and-answer session from his audience.

"I was very impressed with how engaged the students were," Suleymanov said after his speech.

Suleymanov said students influence his views as much as he does theirs.

"I think the discussions with students, in fact the questions, often shape my own forms of perceptions as well as their perceptions," Suleymanov said.

Some students, such as Nick Pham, a history major, have never heard of or can honestly say they know of Azerbaijan.

"It sounds familiar," Pham said. Even if the country is an unknown entity, Pham said he feels it is beneficial for students to learn about Azerbaijan.

"Some of my friends who are

from overseas know that not many Americans really know anything outside of Northern America," Pham said. "So it's always good to have people know about other countries outside to keep us globally aware of what's going on."

Riley Knight, a senior political science major, said the presentation was helpful.

One reason Knight said he attended the consulate general's speech was because he is in a model UN class and will represent Iran against competing colleges.

"So the fact that Azerbaijan is the Northern neighbor of Iran, understanding the region is extremely important in understanding the country I'll be representing," Knight said.

Jamie Caldwell, a junior political major, said she was not as impressed with Suleymanov's speech.

"I don't think he created a sense of wanting to know more for those who are already hard to convince," Caldwell said.

Not all students were as in

terested in listening to or learning about Azerbaijan from the consulate general Caldwell said.

"I find that in general, most students that I'm in classes with don't care. I mean, we're talking about students who don't even buy textbooks," Caldwell said.

Regardless, Suleymanov and his office hope to become more involved with SJSU.

"We are looking forward to doing more here," Suleymanov said.

"(SJSU) is a very impressive campus, especially in terms of being the key campus in (the) Silicon Valley," Suleymanov said.

Suleymanov, who has visited the campus three times now, thanked the school for his return through the students of Danopoulos' class.

He wants students from all universities to educate themselves to avoid stereotyping.

Suleymanov asked students to study more, to look into things deeper and to look beyond stereotypes.

POLO

From Page 1

ers, said that there's something exhilarating about bike polo.

"It's just like regular polo but less classy," he said.

Miller said that the game is usually played with fixed-gear bikes, single-gear bikes that run on one track.

"We don't discriminate against bikers, but bring your bike at your own risk," he said.

Louie Folea, an SJSU alumnus who heard about the games on the San Jose Fixed-Gear Facebook page, said he recommended not to bring expensive bikes because they might be damaged.

"There have been a few crashes, but everyone walks away from them," he said. "We don't go that fast."

Folea, who graduated in 2009 with a degree in business administration, said he appreciated that they hadn't had any trouble with University Police Department.

"It's been pretty harmless," he said. "We're not vandalizing, and we don't leave any trash."

Sgt. John Laws of UPD said he guessed bike polo doesn't comply with campus regulations, but he'd have to see it first.

"There's a lot of potential conflict with pedestrians," he said. "They might get asked to leave and be given a warning."

Laws said it was possible that the players could be cited

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What do you think about the shootings in Alabama?

Brian Baker
Junior, Management



I wouldn't really put people who are alleged murderers in the responsibility of shaping the young minds of America. I don't think that was a good idea at all (hiring the teacher).

David Strauss
Senior, Finance



Well I think it's an act of violence, that's wrong. She's getting pissed off at the wrong people doing it. I think it was a horrible incident.

Julia Craddock
Freshman, Business



They should take things like that (background checks) more seriously and really take care of it, because it's scary that things like that can happen.

Julian Rosenberg
Senior, Mechanical Engineering



I think it's horrible that it happened over there ... it's still a university. This is still our school, there's still professors here that could be denied tenure. It's scary.

Eidref Laxa
Freshman, Nursing



I think it's pretty sad, she probably has a mental condition or something. From what I hear, she wasn't getting a job next year or something, so she shot some people. That's pretty crazy.

Jaznigie Jamerson
Junior, Film



I just think it's crazy, especially given the budget crisis we're having. What if a teacher flipped out on us because they were having a bad day?

FUNDS

From Page 1

to its traditional policies for accepting students from around the globe.

"We do intend to keep a balanced university," he said. "Meaning that we intend to keep the proportionality — the number of out-of-state and international students — that we have had in the past."

The federal funds may be allocated to advising services to

further support students and their endeavor to fulfill graduation requirements, Whitmore said.

"There may be a small subset of (federal funds) that will help with additional advising ... getting students the right courses they need and the right lineup so they can graduate on time," he said.

Loi said other services on campus do not appear to have more pressing needs than the issues surrounding graduation rates and the amount of sections offered.

"I don't see the difference it could make in advising," he said. "Classes need improvement, not advising."

Despite the growing prevalence of staff reductions, Whitmore said he anticipates avoiding major cutbacks.

"There will be some," Whitmore said. "But the furloughs have allowed us to buy some time. Every year people retire, some people take other jobs and move on. Many of these positions will not be refilled so that allows us to lay off fewer people."

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Bangin' beats, lyrically lacking



Marlon Maloney
Staff Writer

Hip-hop group Strong Arm Steady took a step up from its 2007 rookie album, "Deep Hearted," with "In Search of Stoney Jackson."

Although relatively unknown because of its backpacking style, Strong Arm Steady has been around for some time on the mixtape market. Its second foray into the actual album world is an improvement both lyrically and musically.

Producer Madlib created a masterpiece of hip-hop beat making, more closely resembling an East Coast style to mesh with Strong Arm Steady's style.

"In Search of Stoney Jackson" was filled with funky vocal samples, rambling monologues and the crackle of a record player.

Madlib strayed from the typical West Coast-style beat, choosing to instead use several samples of soul and R&B music reminiscent of Motown.

Strong Arm Steady thrived on Madlib's alternative sound, which doesn't focus on the gangbanging and thug life that has been the West's signature style since the rap group N.W.A. premiered in the late '80s.

While it stayed away from the latter topics, it did stay West Coast with "Cheeba Cheeba," an ode to weed smoking, and a roundabout way of rapping about women with "Chitlins & Pepsi."

The music ended up taking over as the frontman of the group, creating a mellow, melodic playground for Strong Arm Steady members Mitchy Slick, Phil Da Agony, Kronon and an ensemble of 14 guest appearances.

For whatever reason, Mitchy Slick only appeared on two tracks, making the album that much more diluted for a group album. Instead, the album feel more like it belongs to Madlib's and everyone else was a supporting player.

The opening track, "Best of Times,"



Courtesy Stones Throw Web site
The album cover for Strong Arm Steady's CD, "In Search of Stoney Jackson."

featuring Phonte from Little Brother, carried the listener away with a soulful beat that'll have everyone bobbing their head. Phonte took over the track, laying down the chorus and a few bars of his own that touch on more topical subjects like the economy:

"If times get tight, will the shows still sell out? / when poor folk needy they call it welfare / when rich folk need it they call it a bailout."

"Questions," featuring Planet Asia and Fashawn, starts out sounding like elevator music from the '70s that suddenly vanishes into a heavy, bass-filled cadence with a single guitar chord. The song asked how the artists made it to their current points in life.

Unfortunately, Strong Arm Steady failed to match Madlib's efforts lyrically on a consistent basis, ranging from fair to middling most of the time. There are points where the lyrics are good, but for the most part they are, quite frankly, adequate.

The lyrics get the job done, but you can only wonder what a more lyrically gifted group might have produced. They didn't ruin the amazing production done by Madlib, but they certainly didn't help it either. It didn't give listeners a break from the ever-popular auto-tune rap that can be heard on the radio.

Playful jazz concert uplifts

Angelo Scrofani
Staff Writer

If you're anything like senior English major Thang Dinh, "The Listening Hour" is great way to kill time between classes.

"I took jazz last semester and I really enjoyed it," Dinh said. "That's how it got started. Whenever I have gaps, I come here and listen to music."

"The Listening Hour" is a concert series coordinated by SJSU's School of Music and Dance held every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Music Concert Hall.

Faculty member Joel Braverman recently performed as part of this twice-a-week series for an auditorium that began with an audience of 40 students and increased in size throughout the show.

Braverman is a pianist rooted in jazz style who manipulates his technique to explore different chord combinations that create a rhythm both dissonant, yet peaceful to the ear.

Like most jazz musicians who thrive on the art of performance and play on impulse, Braverman improvises every keystroke, replacing the labor of reading music composition with the reaction of the

listeners seemingly augmenting his sound between breaks to satisfy the likes of his audience.

The amount of applause following particular segments was an obvious indicator of that.

The dynamics incorporated during the set — constantly varying the tempo, shifting back-and-forth from a slow crawl to a panic-inducing hustle — had the greatest effect on the crowd.

Although the practice isn't widespread, I wouldn't say this is uncommon among other jazz musicians, especially those in tune with exploiting tempo changes in their music such as Dizzy Gillespie, a virtuoso with the trumpet.

Braverman was not shy about making those of us in the audience who are unfamiliar with the nuances of music theory aware of this element. He paused to stretch his hands and pointed out that a few of the melodies he had played were in 13/8 — a time signature that measures speed by attributing 13 beats for every eighth note played.

I learned in a music composition class that the most common time signature used in a piece of music is four beats for every quarter note played, which in comparison to what Braverman was engaged in could be mistaken for slow motion. Braverman is



Photo by Angelo Scrofani
Faculty member Joel Braverman practices in preparation for his next show.

part of the music department's faculty, and probably relished in the student support more than a paid artist with the obligatory smile and curtsy would.

"For the most part, they're students and faculty," said Andrew Curteman, a junior classical percussionist and concert manager.

I did not regret attending this concert at all. Braverman spoke through his music and allowed the rest of us to listen.

LOOK OF THE WEEK



Photo and interview by Minh Pham

Name: Joseph Kozina
Year, Major: Senior, psychology
What inspired your look today? It was cold so I put on a long sleeve. I love loose, baggy clothes.
What do you hate most about fashion? Too expensive. Charging \$50 for a shirt just because it has glitter on it? Ridiculous.
Where are your favorite places to shop? Target and Anchor Blue.
In what clothing are you the happiest? I like bright and colorful clothes. And those cool running shorts that give you that extra breeze.
What is your most treasured item of clothing or accessory and why? This beanie because my girlfriend gave it to me. And these jeans. It's nice and worn in.

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Bursar's blame and blunder break the broken bank

I will cut straight to the point on this one.

I have been a victim of treason.

Ever since high school, I had always been a skeptic of institutions — whether they be in the form of government, the bank or education.

Speaking on the latter, I am not implying education is a sham. I am referring to the institutions that say they are here to serve in your best interests when in reality, they are targeting your wallet.

As my relationship with SJSU progressed and developed, however, I began to shed my skeptic beliefs on the educational system.

SJSU provided me with hope and instilled me with motivation to get a degree, which was believed to be nothing more than a "receipt" to me back in the day.

While here, I've encountered numerous professors who made me realize that there are people in this world who actually want to help you out of the kindness of their hearts.

I've encountered professors whose pas-



Regina Aquino
Staff Writer

sion for whatever subject they taught me served as the utmost form of inspiration.

Basically, up until this point, I have felt as though our university was on my side.

I fall into the category of students who attend SJSU part time and have full-time jobs, all while balancing other facets of life such as bills, rent and a personal life.

My love for SJSU has turned somewhat bitter ever since I had an incident with its collections office.

Can't find the SJSU collections office link on its Web site? Try searching under its more "formal" title — the Bursar's Office.

Some time in December 2009, I logged onto my MySJSU account to search for classes when I was hit with a surprising message.

For some reason, my account was past due in the amount of \$440 because of my Fall 2009 semester.

The Bursar's Office claimed I did not pay the amount in full.

I am not new to this university, and have been steadfast on paying for my courses every semes-

ter, so I was convinced this was a mistake.

As I mentioned earlier, I am not exactly swimming in cash. I am a student with a full-time job who is trying to rebuild her credit after learning about financial stability the "hard way."

With a \$440 past-due amount burning in the back of my head, I contacted my bank to send me a copy of the check used to pay for the previous semester.

The bank responded in two days, so I rushed to the Bursar's Office with what my bank had sent me, convinced the matter would be resolved and the fee would be cleared.

I had to pay \$440 because some clerk at the Bursar's Office told me the incorrect amount back in September when I wanted to pay for one class and a parking permit.

Every semester, I go through the same process — I register for my classes at the Admissions & Records desk then walk the 20 or so steps to the Bursar's Office to make the payment owed.

Every semester, I notify the clerk at the Bursar's Office that I would like to purchase a parking permit in addition to the registered course(s) and ask for the total amount, which I write on the check.

All of this is done the same day, so I could

check that task off my list.

What bothers me the most is how the lady from the Bursar's Office, who will remain nameless, made me feel as though the \$440 mistake was my fault.

She offered no compromise, nor an apology for the inconvenience.

She made me feel like a delinquent, that I intentionally paid the wrong amount for reasons unknown.

"What you need to do is pay us the \$440 as soon as possible," she said over the phone.

That statement definitely is not SJSU being on my side.

Instead, I was punked for a \$440 mistake made on its behalf and offered no form of settlement.

To the Bursar's Office, thank you for providing me with the most inconvenient experience yet here at SJSU.

Thank you for burning a \$440 hole in my wallet, which is almost equivalent to my rent.

Thank you for being a poor misrepresentation of what SJSU stands because in no way have you "enriched my life" or "provided me with the best possible service."

To the Bursar's Office, my middle finger salutes you.

Letters to the Editor

This letter is a response to 'SJSU bicyclists ride past the rules' that appeared Tuesday.

As a near victim of a careless bike rider I strongly endorse Steve Sloan's efforts to reinstitute the ban on wheeled vehicles on campus sidewalks.

Bikes approaching from behind are a particular hazard. They cannot be heard and any unexpected move by an unsuspecting pedestrian can lead to a potentially serious mishap.

I hope it will not take a debilitating accident to convince the administration that the decision to allow bicycles on campus sidewalks was a mistake that needs to be corrected.

E. Bruce Reynolds
Professor of History

This letter is a response to 'SJSU looks to keep trees upright' that appeared Wednesday.

I found the article Andrew Martinez wrote about the trees on campus to be very interesting.

I am one of the many students who ride light rail to school and enter campus between Washington Square Hall and Yoshihiro Uchida Hall.

It has come to my attention that a few of the trees in that area have been discolored for many months and do not appear to be well.

The article stated that the budget situation has not impacted funding for grounds services.

So why is it that these trees have not been taken care of if the "grounds team is always evaluating the health of the trees?"

Stacey Pinheiro

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3	1	6	4	2	5

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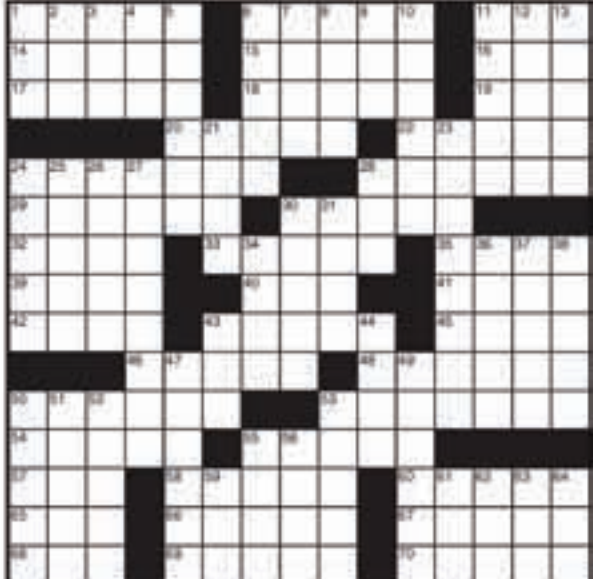
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- 1 Feinted
 - 6 Story with a point
 - 11 Antenna type
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 - 15 Best possible
 - 16 Cambodia's Lon
 - 17 Willow twig
 - 18 Brain messenger
 - 19 Quid — quo
 - 20 Sealing a deal
 - 22 Tenet
 - 24 Gas guzzlers
 - 28 Faked
 - 29 Goings-on
 - 30 Bracing
 - 32 — Zeppelin
 - 33 Vibrate
 - 35 Consumer gds.
 - 39 Peon of yore
 - 40 Vienna is its cap.
 - 41 "QB VII" author
 - 42 Treats fractures
 - 43 Too aggressive
 - 45 Went under
 - 46 Incisors
 - 48 Show clearly
 - 50 Fall blooms
 - 53 More villainous
 - 54 Scold
 - 55 Gives a leg up
 - 57 Type of microscope
 - 58 Baked ham spice
 - 60 Pigeon
 - 65 Festive quaff
 - 66 Magnate
 - 67 Pertaining to hearing
 - 68 Telecom letters, once
 - 69 Run up bills
 - 70 Hesitant
- DOWN**
- 1 Celeb in the news
 - 2 Sounds of hesitation
 - 3 Jazz's — Wind-ing
 - 4 WNW opposite
 - 5 Intrepid
 - 6 Conclusion
 - 7 Yemen's gulf
 - 8 Freightier hazard
 - 9 Scold
 - 10 Puts in office
 - 11 Dismantle a tent
 - 12 Crowd
 - 13 Inundate
 - 21 — la vie!
 - 23 Grammy genre (2 wds.)
 - 24 Outer limits
 - 25 Leaf's language
 - 26 Economy-size
 - 27 Overman
 - 28 Close kin
 - 30 Squeeze
 - 31 — Hashanah
 - 34 High-class
 - 36 Guzzled
 - 37 As of
 - 38 Glacial ridge
 - 43 Foot, in zoology
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Who's keeping up with their New Year's resolutions?

We're a month-and-a-half into the new year and I'm wondering, how many people have been following through with, or at least got the ball rolling, on their New Year's resolutions?

Everybody and their mothers make one of these things, but nobody follows through on them. If they do commit, they quit two, three, four months later.

Sure, we all intend to better ourselves, change our behaviors and improve on a lifestyle that isn't quite working for us anymore. The fact remains that human beings are creatures of habit, and unless a certain amount of discipline has been met before making these ridiculous testaments, a sad face with puffy eyes will birth a sense of disappointment.

It's counterproductive to realize so late in the game that the end result of halfheartedly pursuing this beginning-of-the-year epiphany will lead to a forfeiture of the dignity you have, forcing you to sprint back to old habits and hide beneath the blanket of what's familiar.

We set ourselves up to fail sometimes, and that's precisely what this yearly tradition is meant to drive.

What's amazing is that people actually convince themselves that the urge to eat fast food will magically vanish after eating McDonalds for the last 365 days.

I mean, come on, it's completely unrealistic to believe this is possible.

What about saying to yourself, "I'm only going to eat five grease burgers



Angelo Scrofani
Staff Writer

this week, and next week, four-and-a-half, maybe four-and-one-quarter?"

It's all about moderation, man.

If the discipline to slowly reduce the bad habits you wish to eliminate is the foundation of what this New Year's

resolution pursuit is built upon, I'm pretty confident success would be inevitable.

Instead, we live in a world of people who WANT to exercise, who WANT to eat healthier, who WANT to stop urinating in public pools — whatever, the point is that wanting to do something adds nothing to these goals.

Listen, I don't pass judgment. That's not what I do.

I just don't understand the logic behind making yourself feel bad when you say you're going to scale Mount Everest when you can barely climb the stairs of a two-story apartment building without the help of the handrail. Tell me that's not destined for failure?

OK, OK, the truth is I actually used to be "that" person.

I'm guilty of having been a resolution maker and quitter. I was a smoker for seven years, and before I quit, I was content thinking that every January was going to be the last year I would pick up a cigarette. Wouldn't you know it, 24 hours pass, it's Jan. 2, and I'm nonchalantly walking over to my secret stash reaching for a Marlboro cancer stick. Nobody likes a quitter right? Wait a second, I don't think I'm using the colloquialism properly.

Anyway, let's ease up on the whole New Year's resolutions thing. Let's make them, for tradition's sake.

But don't let them dictate the next 52 weeks, making us feeling sorry about the fact we let some unrealistic goal get the best of us.

It's not that serious.

What do you mean I'm too fat to fly?

The moral of this weekend is, if you're going to go anywhere and get into trouble, it's always better to have the Internet watching your back.

Case in point is film Director Kevin Smith, who was kicked off a Southwest Airlines Inc. flight from Oakland to Burbank for, lacking a better explanation, being too fat to safely fit in the seat provided for him.

Smith responded to his ejection from the jet via Twitter, arguing that what Southwest did was wrong, because he was already seated with his luggage stowed away and waiting for the plane to take off.

Southwest responded with a flurry of messages to Smith through Twitter and then posted a blog entry about the incident on its Web site, apologizing about what happened and how this was part of standard operating procedure and how Smith normally buys two seats to accommodate his size.

Two things can be learned from what happened here. The first is, if you're fairly large, buy two tickets on Southwest if you don't want to be embarrassed.

The second is, if you're going to complain about a company, make sure you post about it on Twitter and have a lot of people following you.

If you or I were to be kicked off a plane for some bogus reason and we did the exact same thing Smith did — rant our



Donovan Farnham
Staff Writer

hearts out to the Internet — nothing would come of it, because we don't have 1.6 million followers as Smith does.

If this was anyone else, I doubt a company would have acted this quickly to solve the problem.

Before the advent of Twitter, this would have been a funny story that Smith probably would have told to his close friends or added to a future script, in which this incident would have happened to his film persona, Silent Bob.

Since Smith was able to use his celebrity status and rant about it and get the word out there, he was able to right a small — no pun intended — social wrong.

A wrong that normally would have taken multiple people being kicked off of multiple flights to bring it to the attention of the public at large.

Smith, according to a CNN article, said he wasn't just ranting, but he wanted to change the way Southwest was

dealing with its overweight passengers, which Southwest will need to look closely at if they want to avoid another public relations fiasco such as this one.

The last thing someone with a weight problem needs is an airline, which they are a customer of, telling them they're a safety hazard to the other passengers.

This isn't the first time social media has contributed to a cause greater than itself.

If you look at the Iranian protests, the best way for the protestors to organize and rally against their government is through Twitter feeds and other social media outlets.

In June, when the Iranian riots were at their bloodiest, there was even a call to Internet arms to have Twitter users change their time codes, so any posts actually coming from Tehran would be masked in a slew of updates, such as "drinking my caramel Frappachino, yummy!"

It's impressive what the Internet can do from a technical standpoint, but it's even more impressive what can be accomplished when the technology is used to accomplish something great and meaningful, such as staging mass protests against a corrupt government — or just complaining about how an airline threw you off a plane for loving junk food a bit too much.

Overweight body highlights ego

The obesity epidemic in the United States has reached epic proportions.

That is why I applaud Southwest Airlines, Inc., after it kicked Director Kevin Smith off one of its airplanes for being overweight on Saturday.

Smith, the director of "Chasing Amy," "Mallrats" and "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back," was forced to leave a flight from Oakland to Burbank after a pilot deemed him "a safety risk," because Smith's armrest couldn't be moved completely down, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Smith had bought two tickets for his original flight, but ran into trouble when an earlier flight became available with only one open seat, according to KGO TV.

Smith fired back through Twitter by releasing a number of messages chastising the airline for treating him worse than a terrorist, according to the Los Angeles Times.

One of Smith's messages read, "Rests come down, and voila! I'm legit! I've passed the stinkin' arm-rest-test. And still, the lady asks me to get up and come with her off."

As soon as Southwest got word of Smith's rants, it immediately issued an apology on Twitter and its blog, according to TV Guide's Web site.

Southwest went as far as calling Smith and offering a \$100 refund to him, which he declined, according to the Los



Kyle Szymanski
Running With Szyssors

Angeles Times.

In the end, Smith was able to board another flight and landed safely in Burbank, but his story has made national news and is all over the Internet.

Southwest implemented its "Customers of Size Policy" 25 years ago and kicked Smith off the plane to preserve the comfort and protect the safety of other passengers, especially if a forced evacuation needed to take place, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Southwest did nothing wrong and didn't need to apologize.

In all seriousness, if overweight people are allowed on planes without having to buy two tickets, it could create a safety hazard if people needed to get off the plane in a hurry.

There is no denying that people who are overweight are more likely to move slower, thus impeding the progress of those stuck behind them in an event of an emergency.

As a business trying to make a profit, Southwest shouldn't have to cater to the select few over-

weight people by making its seats bigger when the vast majority of its clientele are not obese.

Maybe for obese people, the realization they can't fly on an airplane without having to buy two tickets will open their eyes to the reality that without changing their lifestyle habits, they are not only prohibited to fly like average folk, but are on the fast track to the grave.

According to a report released in July of 2009 by the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, adult obesity rates now exceed 25 percent in 31 states and exceed 20 percent in 49 states and Washington, D.C.

I know public relations is an important element of running a business, but shame on Southwest for buckling under the pressure of Hollywood stardom and responding so quickly and openly to Smith.

If Smith wasn't famous, I doubt Southwest would have responded in as prompt a fashion.

Shame on Smith for being so selfish and for letting his ego get as big as his body.

Is your safety and comfort more important than the dozens of people sitting near you?

Just because you are a star in Hollywood, Mr. Smith, doesn't mean you deserve special treatment in everyday society.

"Running With Szyssors," appears biweekly on Wednesdays. Kyle Szymanski is the Spartan Daily sports editor.

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Nelson Aburto/ Spartan Daily

Sophomore Esteban Guzman delivers a pitch during Saturday's alumni game at Blethen Field.

Baseball team preps for upcoming season

Spartans look to make transition with young pitching staff

Matt Santolla
Staff Writer

If the SJSU baseball team is going to repeat its 2009 performance in 2010, it's going to have to do it with a revamped pitching staff.

Out of the 41 games won by Spartan pitchers last season, only four of those wins were accumulated by pitchers on the current roster.

Reigning Western Athletic Conference coach of the year Sam Piraro, who is entering his

23rd season as head coach at SJSU, said the biggest question mark for the team is its pitching staff. "We have a lot of inexperience on the mound right now," said Piraro. "It is a young staff and we want to see how they develop."

Piraro said the coaching staff has been focusing on finding where each player fits on the team.

"We have been working very diligently to find out which guys fit which roles," Piraro said. "That has been our biggest challenge, getting guys in areas they are most comfortable in."

The Spartans have two players who were named to the pre-season All-WAC team: senior third baseman Corey Valine, and junior outfielder Jason Martin.

"We are feeling pretty good (about the season)," Martin said. "We all have worked hard and prepared a lot."

When speaking about the offense, Martin said that he has a lot of confidence in the team.

doing pretty well swinging the bat," Martin said. "I think that we will be able to put up a lot of runs this year."

Senior outfielder Alex Sofranac said that he has been working all offseason and is ready to start the year.

"Excited," Sofranac said. "With all the work done in fall ball, and the winter break, we are ready to get the season started."

"We have been working very diligently to find out which guys fit which roles."

Sam Piraro
head coach

SJSU won the WAC regular season championship with 15 conference wins, but lost to Fresno State in the WAC Tournament, missing out on a College

World Series appearance.

In a poll voted by the WAC's seven head coaches, SJSU was picked to finish fifth in the conference, according to the conference Web site.

"It is great competition in the WAC," Sofranac said. "Our whole schedule, including the preseason schedule, is going to be tough."

SJSU starts the season in a three-game series against Saint Mary's College on Friday.

Piraro said he is expecting to figure out his team by the start of conference play.

"By the time we get in to conference, I'm hoping we have the puzzle pretty much put together," Piraro said. "We have to use a lot of these nonconference games to find out what we are all about."

SJSU Home Games

Feb. 20	Saint Mary's
Feb. 26	Santa Barbara
Feb. 27	Santa Barbara
Feb. 28	Santa Barbara
March 2	USF
March 6	Santa Clara
March 10	Southern Illinois
March 12	Air Force
March 13	Southern Illinois
March 14	UC Davis
March 23	UC Davis
March 26	Pacific
March 27	Pacific
March 28	Pacific
April 1	Brigham Young
April 2	Brigham Young
April 3	Brigham Young
April 16	New Mexico State
April 17	New Mexico State
April 18	New Mexico State
April 19	New Mexico State
April 30	Sacramento State
May 1	Sacramento State
May 1	Sacramento State
May 2	Sacramento State



Nelson Aburto/ Spartan Daily

Preseason all-WAC third baseman Corey Valine dives for a ground ball Saturday at Blethen Field.

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HIGHLIGHTS

SUPER HERO PARTY CLOWN



DIRECTED BY A SJSU STUDENT

Jeremy Inman's *Super Hero Party Clown* blasts off the screen with a youthful exuberance, imaginative storytelling, romance...and yes, plenty of over the top antics. As Stan "The Man" Lee would say, "Evil-doers, beware!"

PUCK HOGS



U.S. PREMIERE

Puck Hogs takes sports comedy to a new level as it follows a recreational Canadian men's hockey team that well, just plain stinks. Director Warren Sonoda offers this hilarious comedy and love note to hockey, filled with memorable characters who create gut-busting hijinks both on and off the ice.

LITTLE FISH, STRANGE POND



FEATURING AN ALL-STAR CAST

Matthew Modine (*Married to the Mob*, *Weeds*) and Callum Blue (*Dead Like Me*, *Smallville*) lead an incredible cast in a twisted comedy of two men philosophizing on life, death, love and violence, while leaving a small trail of murders in their wake. Also starring Adam Baldwin (*Chuck*, *Firefly*), Zach Galifianakis (*The Hangover*), Paul Adelstein (*Private Practice*), and Liza Weil (*Gilmore Girls*).



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