

Baseball

SJSU pitcher channels strike-out roots

SEE PAGE 4

Restaurant

Jammin' for jambalaya



SEE PAGE 6



Tuesday, May 4, 2010 www.TheSpartanDaily.com

Professors dissect racial terms

Andrew Martinez

Staff Writer

A new Arizona immigration law, which aims to identify, prosecute and deport illegal immigrants, problematizes the concept of the term Hispanic as both a political designator and social identifier, according to an SJSU political science lecturer.

Kenneth Faulve-Montojo said the legislation puts more scrutiny on Hispanics in Arizona, regardless of whether these Hispanics are legal or illegal.

"The entire legislation is geared toward illegal Hispanics," he said.

Ashley Lucas, an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said the new law will have a significant impact on people who phenotypically appear to be - or characteristically resemble - La-

On April 21, U.S. Rep. Brian Bilbray, R-Calif., said on an MSNBC show that he could identify an illegal immigrant "right down to the shoes they wear."

In Monday's issue of the San Jose Mercury News, an article covering early Cinco de Mayo celebrations in San Jose stated that police estimated 8,000 people were in attendance and later said, "Most of the crowd appeared to be Latino."

"The term Hispanic didn't cause that, but it doesn't help," Lucas said. "There's a huge lack of understanding by the general public, including a lot of Latinos ourselves."

SJSU philosophy Professor Carlos Sanchez said that politically in the U.S., Hispanic is the right way to identify this group

See **HISPANIC**, Page 2

Locals rally in May Day march



Thousands of people march on East Santa Clara Street toward San Jose City Hall during an immigration rally on Saturday, May 1. The demonstrators marched for immigrant rights and in protest of SB 1070, the immigration law which was recently passed in Arizona. STEFAN ARMJO / SPARTAN DAILY

SJSU staffer mediates student complaints

Justin Albert Staff Writer

Students who have formal and informal complaints regarding SJSU policies and procedures have a place where they can discuss their qualms, said

the university ombudsman.

"My role is to assure that university policies are applied fairly and consistently," said Demerris Brooks. "If a student has an issue and they aren't sure what their rights are or what the rules are, then I am the place they would come to discuss that."

The ombudsman is an advocate for procedural fairness and handles confidential consultation for a variety of different situations and issues, including faculty and staff complaints, grade disputes, enrollment and

concerns regarding department policies, according to an ombudsman informational pam-

SJSU's ombudsman position was created during the late 1960s, Brooks said.

"It's a position that came about during a time where there was a lot of strife on campus related to civil rights issues," she said. "(The position) was created to assist students in dealing with and addressing some of these issues in a university environment."

The ombudsman is required to be an impartial outlet toward both the university and its students, she said.

"I'm neutral," Brooks said. "I'm not a student advocate nor

am I a university advocate." Pat Lopes Harris, director of media relations for SJSU, said the ombudsman is an integral part of the university because it reinforces university ideals.

"It is a very important role

I'm neutral. I'm not a student advocate nor am I a university advocate.

Demerris Brooks University ombudsman

because it supports our campus goal of transparency," Harris

Junior business major Sheila Martin said she is glad SJSU has a place on campus where student voices can be heard.

"It's important that the faculty and staff listen to feedback and complaints from students," she said. "We make up the majority of the school, and if students have a problem with a teacher, that needs to be recognized."

Since the beginning of the 2009-10 school year, the ombudsman has provided consultation for 44 faculty complaints, 46 issues with department policies, 40 enrollment disputes and 49 grade disputes, according to a tally conducted by the ombudsman's office.

Students come to me for both formal and informal complaints," Brooks said. "It's a con-

See **MEDIATE**, Page 2

Students reveal dining habits

Kathryn McCormick

Staff Writer

Whether its cheaper to eat on- or off campus depends on where you're eating, said the director of Spartan Shops Dining Services.

"For our franchises, we take pricing surveys of other restaurants and we match our prices to their prices as best we can," said Jeff Pauley. "Subway has pricing guidelines and we follow those guidelines. Our prices are the same at Burger King and at Jamba Juice."

Pauley said chain restaurants and businesses are able to sell food at lower prices than SJSU because they are part of larger companies.

"If you buy something at Safeway, it's probably less expensive than if you buy it on campus because Safeway is a multibillion dollar cor-

poration and they're able to buy things much more cheaply than we are on campus," he said.

Senior psychology major Mario Castillo said he likes eating on and off campus. but he thinks

it's cheaper to eat off campus. "Togo's is a great place because they usually have student deals," he said. "And I know other restaurants like University Chicken always give you a discount for being a student as well."

Senior kinesiology major Corrie Borns said she doesn't notice much difference in food prices on- or off campus.

"I get Subway most of the time," she said. "Sometimes it's cheaper here maybe than off campus, but Subways are around the same price on- and off campus I would

Santiago said he has mixed feelings about food prices on campus.

"The student bookstore prices are a little high for certain sodas," he said. "That said, the fact that I don't have to pay taxes on burgers from the on campus Burger King, that's a big incentive to eat there."

Senior music major Danny Owens said it's a better value for him to eat off campus.

"Hell yes it's a better value," he said. "I eat at Good Karma, I eat at Sa-By Thai, I eat at Tandoori Oven and I eat at Hawgs. It's cheaper and better food than what's available on campus."

Senior art major Dan Koskie said he thinks it's less expensive to eat off campus.

"Usually I eat off campus, usually at my own place because it's cheapest," he said. "But if I must eat out, I go to Good Karma, Sa-By Thai and Tofoo Com Chay because they're cheap and they have really good food."

Jacee Rengo, a counseling and education graduate student, said she usually eats off

"I try to limit myself to a \$5 meal, and it actually adds up

that it's food that

I'm going to buy.

Melissa Biel

Junior nursing

by the end of the week," I don't know what she said. "I eat at Subit costs, but I know way around here, Lee's Sandwiches somewhere

> a bit more economical." Junior nursing ma-

jor Melissa

Biel said she never eats on campus.

"I don't know what it costs, but I know that it's food that I'm not going to buy," she said. "I usually buy groceries and make my own food, so I maybe spend \$10 to \$30 per week. For restaurants, I get Iguana's because they have whole wheat tortillas. I can get a veggie supreme there for \$5."

Anthit Sharma, a computer science graduate student, said he eats off campus more often than he eats oncampus.

"At off-campus restaurants Junior finance major Jason I spend \$20, \$30 a week," he said. "I live off campus and I just come here (SJSU) to study, so it's usually easier to just eat off campus. I sometimes do go to the Subway here, though, and the Panda Express is really good. At oncampus restaurants I spend \$10 a week."

See **FOOD**, Page 2

Weather



SPARTAN DAILY BLOGS

Staff writer Shiva Zahirfar gives her impression of QTIP's third annual drag show. Read it at spartandailynews.wordpress.com



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The online edition of the Spartan Daily returned to its normal home at thespartandaily.com

MEDIATE

From Page 1

fidential conversation and I give them instruction on what the next step is or how to go about handling their issue."

The ombudsman handles each situation on a case-bycase basis, but the first step to resolving a student's issue is typically to talk about informal solutions, she said.

"Informally, I will always advise students to go back to the person with whom they have the conflict," she said. "If they are unable to resolve it at that level, then it's appropriate to go to the next step, which would be that person's supervisor or department chair."

Brooks said if the student still cannot come to a resolution after going through the informal so-

Disputes by type

COMPLAINT/FACULTY	44
COMPLAINT/STAFF	3
GRADE DISPUTE	49
POLICY/UNIVERSITY	39
POLICY/DEPARTMENT	46
ENROLLMENT	40
ACADEMIC STATUS	16
GRADUATION	7
INFORMATION	25
ADMISSION	2

lutions, then the student can go forward with a formal grade dispute or grievance.

"Then the dispute goes to the Student Fairness Committee," she said. "The Student Fairness Committee will look at the grievance or grade dispute and decide if it meets the criteria for something they will review."

The Student Fairness Committee is made up of faculty

members, staff and students that only look at disputes that rise to the level of a formal grievance, Brooks said.

The committee appoints a subcommittee to investigate the issue and then make a recommendation in favor of the student or the other party, she

"Out of the 307 cases I've dealt with this year, only seven have gone to the Student Fairness Committee," she said.

"Everything else is either able to be resolved at my level or the student decides they don't want to pursue it anymore."

Brooks said that one of the most important parts of her job is responding to students.

"I'm the only person who handles these types of requests on campus," she said. "I want to let students know that I am accessible and that I will respond. That's my practice."

HISPANIC

From Page 1

of people even though it was imposed through the political machine.

"There's a lot of Hispanics in San Jose State," Sanchez said. "But the university is not considered to be a Hispanic-serving institution."

He said students aren't officially identifying as Hispanic in the university because they don't want to consider themselves as Hispanic.

"Personally and existentially, that's a good choice to have," Sanchez said. "But politically, all that money that's not coming to San Jose State because of that, all the things were are not able to do because of that, are shameful. We should be able to exploit that name, at least, politically."

While the reality of the term is part of the political machine, he said Hispanics have to appropriate it for them to be politically powerful in the U.S.

"The law itself is not an insult only to Mexicans or to illegal immigrants from Mexico, it is an insult to all Hispanics and we na, then that law is going to stay that way. So we should allow the term to work for us now. Let's put it to work. Let's see what it does."

Mexican-American studies Professor Julia Curry-Rodriguez said the term has to do with how people negotiate their presence in American society and whether anybody looks at them and says, "You don't belong here."

For some people, she said, it's about history, legacy and membership.

"'Mexican' stills feels like it's somewhere else, and there's no 'somewhere else' for Hispanic," she said. "That's unique."

It's a term that has been constructed, given value and given meaning in the U.S., she said.

"Identity for some is politicized, but for others, it's membership," Curry-Rodriguez said. "It's a way to call yourself that doesn't bring attention to you that doesn't make yourself an outsider or suspect."

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

"It's all about politics," said political science Professor Terry Christensen.

He said the term Hispanic was created in an effort to identify and help build the identity of an emerging group, and first emerged in the 1970 census as a result of Hispanics and Asian-Americans calling for better coverage in the census.

Christensen said the term was about community identity - some of it was about understanding the society better from a social science perspective, and some of it was about how to treat people more fairly in politics.

Curry-Rodriguez said the census created an umbrella term with which to refer to all people

who are of Latin American, Mexican and Central American ancestry, as well as Americans with ancestry in those nations.

Sociology Professor Carlos Garcia said that from a data collection perspective, the term Hispanic is a tidy way of classifying a group of people.

"Is it always accurate, or is it always good?" Garcia said. "Well, no, but if your goal is to describe a population, I really don't see another way of doing

While Garcia said he can see the concern over the term Hispanic, he is more forgiving of its use and thinks it is useful in many different regards.

One reason the term is problematic is its legacy of colonization, Curry-Rodriguez said.

She said some people object to the cleansing or the "Europeanizing" of history at the expense of the erasure of the Western Hemisphere's history.

"And of course, that is part of the legacy of homogenization in the U.S. and of assimilation," Curry-Rodriguez said. "Renaming people, which often again means erasure."

Junior anthropology major Ray Pineda said by calling need it to be that way," Sanchez a group by one homogenous said. "If it doesn't insult every name, it's easier to portray negother Hispanic outside of Arizo- ative stereotypes and practice policies to exploit them.

> "It's like using the term Muslim," Pineda said.

> Curry-Rodriguez said Hispanic is often seen as the official term, and because of that, it's problematic and gets rejected.

> Philosophy Professor Sanchez said the term is both troublesome and the best choice for the same reasons.

> "It shows, to a certain extent, a level of sensitivity that we are going to try categorize all these people by a particular historical relationship that they have to Spain," Sanchez said.

> "It's all about Spanish origin," Lucas said. "It's all about speaking Spanish and there being a Spanish colonial influence over all people who call themselves Hispanic, whereas the term Latino is not language based."

> Lucas said a person can be a Latino and be someone who lives in Brazil speaking Portu-

> "You're not technically Hispanic if you're Brazilian," she said. "The term Hispanic excludes indigenous peoples. If you live in Mexico and speak Nahuatl or Mayan, you're not really Hispanic."

Lucas said she doesn't deny that Spanish isn't somewhere in Hispanics' past or in their legacies, but there are certain implicit assumptions society makes about the people who are grouped into the term Hispanic.

"What does it mean if you are a more privileged person of color?" Lucas said. "What does it mean if you are a whiter person of color? What does it mean

if you don't speak any Spanish?" Those are reverberations that develop from that term, but

aren't associated with being labeled Hispanic, she said.

Curry-Rodriguez said other cohesive term that people in California use more often is "Latino."

"That's also a socially constructed term, because there's no such thing as 'Latino," she said. "But it at least addresses Latin America and a little bit of history, context and culture, and it makes people feel good. It's still an umbrella term but it seems authentic to the group."

Faulve-Montojo said American politics typically look at issues of a particular group's interests, rather than focusing on that group's social identity.

"Now there is a dynamic interplay between interest and identity where people are behaving based on identity," Faulve-Montojo said. "I'm Hispanic, therefore I do this."

The discourse is growing in terms of types of issues that have to be addressed, he said, which is actually good from the political science standpoint.

WHO CARES

"Obviously, it's a student thing," Curry-Rodriguez said. "Usually people in the community are not as concerned with that kind of terminology."

Since people are more politicized on a college campus, she said there is definitely a sense of having to define the terms that are used for them.

"And people sometimes get very angry at being called Hispanic," she said. "Hispanic sometimes is taken as akin to saying 'we're Spanish' rather than saying 'we're Mexican,' as though Mexican was a dirty word."

Lucas said people in the academy are more likely to talk about it being a problem, but it's a problem for everyone because people aren't asked to think critically about what these labels

"There is greater social Curry-Rodriguez meaning," said. "People that are closer to their identity, for whom it isn't in question — non-marginalized people — aren't concerned about their identity label."

Senior anthropology major Monique Posadas said that while the term "Caucasian" glosses over its respective ancestries, the political and social aspects are still not as extreme.

"Because they have superiority in terms of positions of power, the policies aren't going to affect them," Posadas said.

Curry-Rodriguez said the stakes are higher for those who have to keep contesting spaces politically and socially.

She said there is a social weight to this term that marginalizes, disenfranchises and segments people to second-class citizenship status - not white, nor mainstream.

"I think there is an obsession with pure blood," Curry-Rodriguez said. "And the closer you are to European, the greater weight you have as a human be-

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



On May 4, 1973 the Spartan Daily reported that ...

(Above) While some students believed TV caused loneliness, idleness and bad communication between families, others saw TV as an escape.

The California State Senate Education Committee gave initial approval to Senate Bill 381, which would change the name of "California State University at San Jose" to

The Joint Effort Coffee House in the Old Cafeteria Building was closed by the order of the State Fire Marshal for not complying with minimum fire and safety standards.

40 years ago today ...

Four students were killed and 11 people were wounded at an anti-war rally at Kent State University when National Guardsmen opened fire on protesters, according to a May 5, 1970 issue of the Spartan Daily.

FOOD

From Page 1

Brittany Romby, a senior radio, television and film major, said she used to eat on campus but it became too expensive.

a week, but it costs too much so I try to go grocery shopping," she said. "I spend at least \$40 or \$50 on groceries and that'll last me about three weeks. I usually go to Trader Joes or dollar stores or The Market."

Pauley, the dining services director, said it's hard "I used to spend at least \$15 to tell whether students

save more eating on- or offcampus.

"Each person's different," he "It's really difficult to say how someone save, unless you break it down to what exactly someone is eating, that's really difficult to

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Spartan Daily Google's Goggles provide inconsistent results

Husain Sumra

Managing Editor

Google Goggles is probably the only app I've ever tried that fails to work more often than it

Goggles is a visual search app, which means the user takes a picture of something and Google sends the user some results based on the picture.

It would be an interesting idea if it was functional and useful, but it was neither.

Still, it's a fairly simple app and the user interface is easy to

The user points the phone at something and takes a picture. Google analyzes the image and displays the search results, or at least that is what it's supposed to

Instead, the app displays things that have no relation to the image the user photographed.

For instance, I took a picture of a face, a human face, and it showed me pictures of kitties.

I took a picture of an Apple logo and it showed me a black and white solar eclipse.

Oh, and taking a picture of the flag of the United States of America gave me Carrie Underwood.

To be fair, the app does warn the user that it does some things advanced in its testing stages.

Except that the app says it can handle product searches - not bar codes, but products.

As in taking a picture of a Chicago White Sox baseball cap and getting similar results to that.

Instead, I got a fish.

Goggles is a great idea though, but even if it did work I don't know what kind of use I would have for it.

I could just as easily go to Google.com and spend eight seconds searching for something.

With Goggles I have to open the app, which takes three seconds, then take a picture, which takes four seconds, wait for the app to analyze the picture, which takes about five to 10 seconds and then give me results, which takes another five seconds.

That's a difference of at least 10 seconds. While that may sound like a small amount, it eventually adds up, and became more and more annoying each time I tried, especially when the app returned the wrong

Google is trying some interesting stuff with visual search, but the execution isn't there yet. Also, Google needs to give users a reason to use visual search in the first place.

Right now, it's nothing more than something to use just to see the crazy results that follow.



Google Goggles is a picture searching app which analyzes photos and returns image results via Google. JUSTIN ALBERT/ SPARTAN DAILY

PlayMesh games revive old-school fun

Google goggles um

No close image matches found

Try a Google text search:

The app failed to return

several occasions.

accurate image results on

STEFAN ARMIJO/ SPARTAN DAILY

better than others. It is also basi-

cally in its testing stage and not

warnings, though. The app is

supposed to be able to handle lo-

gos, but I found that isn't totally

Taking a picture of a Coca-

Cola bottle yielded a boy with his

Yeah, a boy with a red face.

do is make sure the logo takes up

suppose that works. I can't really

Instead, what the user must

It's a bit of a stretch, but I

face painted red.

the entire frame.

totally ready for prime time. There is a problem with the

REVIEW

Donovan Farnham

Staff Writer

Having PlayMesh games on an iPhone is like having a toy box full of board games and a plethora of people to play against all in your pocket.

PlayMesh, like Zynga and other social media game companies, offers an assortment of multiplayer online games that range from online checkers, chess and tic-tac-toe to games similar to Mafia Wars and Farmville — but without the annoying updates from Facebook friends finding a stray cow on their digital property.

The highlights of the collection are the online games which pit players in the community against each other in heated matches of Link4, a version of Hasbro's Connect Four, and Dots, a game in which players connect dots to make boxes for

points. Link4 and Checkers are the best games in this smaller collection because it's easier to find opponents for those games than in games such as Dots.

The worst game in the series has to be Roshambo — even though it has the best music because it's a game of luck and coincidence rather than skill, such as Chess, Checkers or Link4.

These games offer a quick hit of entertainment whenever

there is time to kill, such as terrupt an engaging round of when waiting for an appointment or when a class seems to drag on — not that I would advocate playing a game of tic-tac-toe in the middle of a rather boring class.



PlayMesh games hosts a series of classic games tailored for online multiplayer. DONAVAN FARNHAM / SPARTAN DAILY

Since the games are on a social network, the system will track stats, user profiles and friends' lists over their games, and includes a chatroom so users can network with other players.

The real problem with these games doesn't come from the games themselves as much as it does with the actual applica-

Since the games are free to download and play, they are supported by ads that can incheckers.

There are \$3 premium versions of the apps, but the hassle of dealing with the ads isn't so terrible that it would warrant purchasing the premium versions.

It also doesn't help that these ads can cause an application to crash if the network connection isn't strong

Another shortcoming is the instant messaging system — it works fine, but the whole thing falls apart when people start typing in all capital letters to ask if there are any women online — the lewd comments that follow shortly after are worse.

It's nothing too terrible, but it may deter some people from using a great application and rediscovering some great board games in digital form.

My advice is not to bother with the instant messaging system at all and just keep looking for a game to join.

The games are spread out on their own applications, which can clutter up an iPhone's or iPod Touch's menu screen.

It would be awesome if I could access all the games from one application.

Despite the faulty network problems, PlayMesh's online games are a good source of quick online competitive multiplayer entertainment while reminding users about some great and timeless

Campus Wi-Fi demonstrates Lo-Fi connection

Ben Cadena

Staff Writer

These are the results of an informal measure of Wi-Fi and Internet connections Friday in Campus Village Buildings B and C, Joe West Hall and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. These measurements were taken using a Toshiba laptop and the Speednet web test for Internet speed.

In campus housing, students can get a wired connection comparable to a dial-up connection at 30k bytes per second.

"To upgrade to a usable 3 MB-plus costs \$ 180 a semester," said Graham Rodriguez, a junior communications major and a Campus Village Building B resident.

"It works fine when you are handling a small-time business, but when I need to download something, or watch online, it is frustrating," Rodriguez said. "If I could put our reception in one word it would be bad."

Amanda Talley, a sophomore sociology major, said campus Internet could use an upgrade.

"I can't use Skype because the Internet is too slow, and I can't talk to my boyfriend," she said.

There was no Wi-Fi connection on several floors of buildings B and C and the only way to get a connection would be to ask a fellow student for his or her password to access the net-

lage buildings B and C has a weak signal of SJSU 7, which is a valid SJSU connection on

Joe West Hall had the same

If I could put our reception in one word, it would be

> **Graham Rodriguez** Junior business major

problem. Students can hook into for downloads and 5.08 MB the cable for 30 kb/second service, which is OK for uploading assignments, but insufficient for watching YouTube videos or downloading MP3s.

The ninth floor of Joe West Hall had no connection unless you had a cable or fast network

The one hot spot in Joe West Hall could be found in the third floor study hall. It had a screamingly fast Wi-Fi with an 6.58-MB download speed and 5.14-MB upload speed. This was the only good, free Wi-Fi connection found in student housing.

For a speedy connection,

students will need to connect on Floor 1 of both Campus Vil- either the fourth floor of King Library, the third floor of Joe West Hall, pay the \$180 per semester for a 3-MB connection in student housing or get a roommate to share his or her net-

work password to share the

That is about four seconds for a 5-MB MP3 download, 30 seconds for a 35-MB video and nine or 10 minutes for an 800-MB movie download.

King Library's eighth floor Wi-Fi had an 8.17 MB download speed and 5.14 MB upload speed.

The fourth floor had the fastest speeds at 13.15 MB for uploads. That means an 5-MB MP3 file can be downloaded in four seconds, a 35-MB video in 22 seconds and an 800-MB movie in eight minutes.

The patio outside the coffee shop on the ground floor of King Library 7.69-MB download speed and an upload speed of 4.67 MB.

Simon Wagner, a computer science major, said he was satisfied with his connection in student housing.

"I paid for my 3-MB connection and it works fine for all my uses," Wagner said.







Like grandfather, Spartan hurler pitches hope

Ashley Finden

Staff Writer

Forty-seven years after his grandfather clinched the still-standing SJSU record for strikeouts in a season, Blake McFarland is leading the Spartans this season in the same category.

The Spartan starting pitcher said his grandfather, John Oldham, is still an enormous influence in his baseball career.

"Even now, he comes to all of my games and gives me pointers after the games," said McFarland, who has struck out 51 batters this season.

Spartans from 1952 to 1954, striking out 166 as a junior and

145 as a senior on his way to the Spartan castrikeout record (412) and a place in the SJSU Baseball Hall of Fame.

SJSU head coach Sam Pi-

raro competed against McFarland's grandfather when Oldham coached the Santa Clara baseball team between 1985

"His grandfather was an outstanding player here at San Jose

State and an outstanding coach and may be my No. 1 competitor throughout my years of coaching," said Piraro, whose Spartan teams were 8-21 against Santa Clara during Oldham's tenure.

Piraro said McFarland has been the team's most consistent pitcher.

McFarland has pitched 70 innings, making him the SJSU and Western Athletic Conference leader this season.

McFarland, who is 5-2 with an earned run average of 3.21 this season, is a first-year transfer student from Santa Barbara City College.

"Coming in (from a junior Oldham pitched for the college to SJSU) I knew I was going to have opportunity to compete because we were los-

<u>From one team to the next</u>

70.0

ing so many pitches from last

year," he said. "So, that was a

Leigh High School in San Jose,

said all of his hard work and

training has paid off.

leaturing.

Benedicts

d) Pancakes French Toast

Sandwiches

Fresh Salads

d Burgers

Souffle Omelettes

Specialty Waffles

McFarland, who went to

big plus in why I came here."

Santa Barbara

City College

"It's just that much higher talent all the way around ... everyone here works hard and wants to succeed in baseball," he said.

McFarland said the atmosphere on the SJSU baseball team is more compatible with his interests.

"In junior college, you don't spend this much time in baseball," he said. "(Here) it's like a full-time job."

McFarland said he hopes to be the kind of player who gives the team a chance to win and be competitive.

"Our team plays very well behind him," Piraro said.

Piraro said McFarland is competitive, enjoys winning and is mentally tough, which are at-

> tributes required to be a successful pitcher.

"It just seems like whenever Blake's pitching for us ... the game goes pretty smooth," Spartan

center fielder Jason Martin. He said McFarland has the

.282

ability to motivate his teammates on and off the field. "(McFarland) has a good

attitude, so he's a good guy to have in the clubhouse," Martin said. Fellow pitcher John Austin

said he and McFarland became friends when they arrived at the school because they both transferred to SJSU during the same semester.

"Blake brings a hard work ethic," Austin said. "He knows what it takes and he's just been a great role model for all the new guys."

He said McFarland makes



season with the Spartan baseball team. While at Santa Barbara City College, he was named to the 2009 All Western State North First Team. THOMAS WEBB / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

the team feel like there is a better chance of winning in the games he pitches.

"Every time Blake pitches, everyone is really excited because we know we have a

6

2

1

6

3

5

 $20 \times$

6×

4

1

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8

6

144×

7

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5

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2

4

4

9

chance to win," Austin said. "He keeps everything on an even keel," Austin said.

Piraro said McFarland studies and prepares for games and always does the best he can.

"He's been the guy that when he's on the mound, our team has played its best baseball because they have a great deal of confidence in him," he

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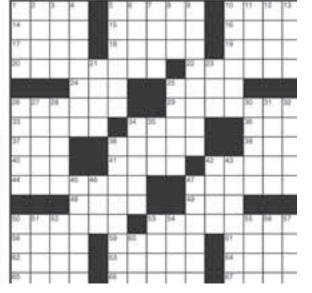
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Offshore oil rigs give planet the shaft

Matt Santolla

Staff Writer

On Monday, Gov. Schwarzenegger announced he will no longer be pursuing an expansion in offshore drilling along the California coast.

Schwarzenegger said the recent oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico was the reason for his decision, according to the Associated Press.

"You turn on the television and see this enormous disaster you say to yourself, 'Why would we want to take on that kind of risk?" Schwarzenegger said to the AP.

Hearing a politician flip-flop on an

I am trying to spark an honest debate about a serious issue that directly affects our country. important issue has never made me so happy.

Offshore oil drilling is a huge risk and should be completely illegal in the United States of America.

More than 400 species of wildlife, including whales and dolphins, face a dire threat from the oil spill, according to CBS news.

I used to agree with Sean Hannity and Sarah Palin that

Americans should "Drill, baby, drill" to get off of foreign oil. Now after the oil spill disaster I agree more with the far-left environmentalists.

The CBS news website also reported that oil is spilling into the Gulf at a rate of 5,000 barrels a day.

What is the cost to the environment? Is the damage to the environment worth the barrels of oil? Is it worth the cheap gas?

This disaster was a wake-up call for me. To know this man-made disaster could seriously harm innocent wildlife on this planet made me reconsider supporting offshore drilling. I constantly hear politicians

talk about the benefits of drilling along the coast and how technology has made getting oil much safer, but seeing images of the British Petroleum oil rig explosion validates my opinion that drilling should not take place in America.

I feel some people care more about their happiness

than the health of the planet.

What gets lost in the debate of offshore drilling are all the animals that are affected by our thirst for fossil fuels.

I am trying to spark an honest debate about a serious issue that directly affects our country. Politicians in this country should find a way to come together to protect the environment.

Whoever or whatever created this planet would have a major problem with oil spills because they show the destruction that people can

cause. People should be aware of the harm we can do to the planet.

What bothers me the most is the fundamental lack of respect people in this country give the environment.

After he flew over the oil spill, U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Miss., told the Biloxi Sun Herald newspaper, "This isn't Katrina. It's not Armageddon. A lot of people are scared and I don't think they should be."

Taylor represents the mentality of many people in this country. It may not be Armageddon for people who do not live by the oil spills, but it might feel like Armageddon for all the wildlife living along the Gulf Coast.

The oil spill catastrophe should be a chance for people to realize the exact cost of offshore drilling.

I care about the planet and feel offshore drilling is much too hazardous for the environment.

I know everybody in this country isn't a treehugging hippie, but we need to realize the danger of offshore drilling and its impact on the planet.

Comment online about any of the articles in the Spartan Daily

at the Spartan Daily.com

From the gridiron to SJSU

Sometimes there are moments in your life that are completely unexpected and will change your life forever.

The summer of 2008, my friend called me and asked if I wanted to go with her to Hawaii, on the condition that we would have to watch the SJSU vs. University of Hawaii football game.

Football and a tropical vacation, all during my birthday weekend? Sounds like a perfect trip to me.

Prior to this Hawaiian extravaganza, I had never known anything about SJSU, the Spartan football team or just how much this trip would change my life.

I also didn't know how close my friend was to so many of the Spartan football players.

As the weekend neared, I packed my bags for the trip, anticipating what kind of shenanigans my friend and I were about to get ourselves into.

The day before the scheduled game, my friend and I were driving down Waikiki Beach, hooting and hollering every time we saw anyone in Spartan colors. We parked our car and made our way over to the hotel where the players were staying.

My friend called some of the players, who then came down to meet us in the lobby, and for the first time, I got a glimpse into what college life was supposed to be like.

Meeting the players and having a good time hanging out, all with a hint of school spirit hanging in the air, was enough to get me excited for the next day's game.

The next day's game.

The next day, we bought shirts



Melissa Sabile
Staff Writer

to decorate, decked them out in full Spartan spirit, put player names on the back and headed over to Aloha Stadium to watch the game.

For once, I felt like a real college

For the past two years, I had been going to school at a community college, where I was distant toward other students and detached from the school as a whole.

Sitting there, cheering for a team of players who I had met less than 24 hours before, I felt more connected than I had with people who I had been going to school with for the past two years.

As luck would have it, with 1:49 left in the fourth quarter, SJSU place kicker Jared Strubeck made a 47-yard field goal to put the Spartans in the lead 20-17, which eventually won the game.

All fired up and ready to celebrate, my friend and I made our way back to Waikiki Beach to meet the players and bask in the sweet victory our Spartans had over Hawaii's football team.

The week after we returned home, my friend was celebrating her 21st birthday. She convinced me to drive to San Jose to meet her other friends who were her former teammates from the SJSU gymnastics team.

After only my second encounter with these amazing athletes, not only did they accept me into their group, but continued to ask when I would be back to hang out with them again.

Before my trip to Hawaii, I had no idea what school I would be transferring to for the following year. It was near deadline time for school applications and I just figured that I would apply to Sacramento State and live at home, like everyone who stayed in Vacaville did

My friend suggested that I apply to SJSU because I had already made friends there. I would have a place to live and ultimately, it just seemed right.

Honestly, the thought had never occurred to me, even though she had been trying to get me to visit her for years.

Never had I imagined that one weekend in Hawaii would change my life forever, or that I would meet some amazing athletes who will no doubt be friends for life.

Now, as a reporter and future sports editor of the Spartan Daily, it seems like I have a vast knowledge of the athletic department and unprecedented connections to some of our school's finest athletes, but I don't see them as connections.

I see these athletes as my friends and the reason that I had the courage to apply to this school in the first place.

My bro saved my soul

When I was 14 years old, I almost tried the pill option.

I picked up a bottle of Advil with a couple of Vicodin and pondered the end of my life in my parents' bathroom.

You may be wondering, "Why would any sane person want to end their life?"

It all started when I was 11 years old.

I started playing volleyball in sixth grade. It became my heart and soul.

I was a sold-out, 100 percent, volleyball freak.

I was one of those strange people who, when watching the Summer Olympics, only watched indoor and beach volleyball.

Working my ass off through three years of junior high school, I made it on the club team for 18-year-olds when I got to my freshman year in high school.

School started in September and I trained over the summer and prepared for a school year of tournament after tournament.

October 31, 2000 was a fateful day.

The team arrived at the new gym, which was carpeted — a ruinous environment for the team.

After an extreme amount of softball-sized rug burns on the girls' knees, there was one more epic failure

I turned to dive for the ball and my foot stayed planted where it had been.

A loud pop could be heard throughout the gym. When I woke up, I saw my coach and teammates had gathered around me, ready to carry me off the floor

or. My life was over, I was sure of it.

Two months later, my mom was finally able to get me an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon.

Dr. Golod's Christmas gift to me was that I would be unable to play volleyball for at least six months because of tears in the anterior cruciate ligament and meniscus of my right knee.

My surgery was finally scheduled for the first day of spring break in April 2001.



pressed and on strong painkillers and I decided to end my life. I was looking at the pills that

After the surgery, I was de-

night when my brother came home early from an event he'd gone to.

I realized I couldn't leave him, I loved him too much.

I had someone to live for.

Seeing my knee bleeding through ace bandages was not fun and physical therapy was more than hard, but life was worth it.

In my junior year of high school, I was able to play again.

I was back to rigorously practicing on a daily

Scholarships were a possibility for me and I

searched extensively for a school.

The Olympics were my ultimate goal.

I was actually looking into being on the U.S. Olympic volleyball team.

Within the first month of playing for the club team

in my senior year of high school, I had another episode.

I ran to the net with the proper steps, jumped up for the hit and landed wrong.

Students across the three-court-long gym heard the pop in my knee that time.

As I laid on the floor, writhing, I held my knee and yelled, "Oh God, not again! Not again!"

This time, I had torn the anterior cruciate ligament

and meniscus of my left knee.

My Olympic dreams and thoughts of a scholarship

were gone forever.

Lately I've wondered what would've happened if I hadn't realized there was more to life than volleyball

in my freshman year.
I'd either be dead or I'd still be living in my "glory days."

Instead, I'm working at Starbucks, majoring in journalism, teaching piano and training to be next semester's managing editor at the Spartan Daily.

I can't say enough how thankful I am that my brother came home that night.

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The seafood jambalaya made with a combination of prawns, sausage and vegetables served over rice at Gumbo Jumbo in downtown San Jose. MATTHEW SANTOLLA / SPARTAN

Gumbo jams with Asian twist

RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

Matthew Santolla

Staff Writer

Living in the Bay Area, I rarely come across Cajun food restaurants, so when I discovered Gumbo Jumbo in downtown San Jose, I jumped at the chance to try the food.

Gumbo Jumbo is located at 80 N. Market Street in San Jose next to Shisha Hookah Lounge.

Gumbo Jumbo's approach is to serve Cajun food with an Asian twist - I was surprised to see Thai iced tea on a Cajun menu.

This sounded like an odd combination at first, but the tea nicely complemented the Cajun food.

The restaurant seats roughly 40 people and has colorful Cajun decorations on the walls. There is a private seating area in the back that looks right out of Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

I started my dining expedition by ordering a fried calamari appetizer. Ordering the calamari was my attempt to judge Gumbo Jumbo's seafood, because in my opinion, calamari can taste bad

when not kept or cooked in the proper conditions.

When the plate of rings and tentacles arrived, I was surprised to see a plate full of fried onions and bell peppers. The combination was spicy and delicious.

The calamari did not taste like bad fish in any way.

At \$7 for a full plate that serves two people, the fried calamari provided the most value for my dollar.

For entrees, I ordered the \$16 seafood jambalaya. From what I know, jambalaya is the quintessential Cajun food, so if this wasn't good then the rest of the menu probably wasn't either.

The seafood jambalaya had prawns, catfish, scallops, andouille sausage, bell peppers, onions, zucchini and celery, all served over white rice.

The mixture of seafood with spices and vegetables was a prawns in garlic noodles, seatasty combination. The contrast between the spicy seafood and the fresh vegetables over rice satisfied my taste buds.

Off the Asian fusion portion of the menu, I ordered the tiger prawns in garlic noodles for \$16.

The tiger prawns were huge but it took me several minutes to take them out of their shells.

I had to use my hands to shell the prawns, which was not cool because my hands got dirty I would say the tiger prawns in garlic noodles is a dish you should pass on when ordering.

For dessert, I ordered the bread pudding and a special blend of coffee from New Orleans.

This was probably the best thing I ordered — the bread pudding looked like a fried piece of bread with a strange pudding in the middle. The pudding was made of cinnamon, pecans, raisins, bread and brandy sauce.

It was a unique dish and one I recommend.

The coffee was also above average — it was a darker roast which helped soothe my stomach from the fried bell peppers, onions, calamari and mounds of seafood I had just eaten.

The fried calamari, tiger food jambalaya, bread pudding, two coffees, and two Thai iced teas totaled \$59.

I give Gumbo Jumbo and its Asian fusion twists on Cajun cuisine a strong recommenda-

Jalapeno Caipirinha delivers fiery goodness

DRINK OF THE WEEK

Marlon Maloney

Staff Writer

If you're one of those people who likes to try something new, the Jalapeno Caipirinha (pronounced cai-pe-reen-ya) is a drink that should draw your attention.

The ingredients for this cool beverage are the juice of one lime and then the lime itself, half of a seeded jalapeno — wait, seriously — a tablespoon of white sugar and two ounces of cachaca, which

is made from distilling pressed fresh sugar-cane juice, and ice.

Once I read these ingredients, I had to try the spicy beverage. I made a beeline to Flames Eatery & Bar, located on Fourth and San Fernando streets, with one of my buddies and pulled up a seat at the bar.

When I ordered my drink, the bartender knew exactly what I was talking about. How many times a year could patrons be coming into Flames, of all places, for a taste of Brazil's national drink?

When the drink ar-

rived it looked harmless enough — there wasn't anything eye-catching about it. The presentation of the beverage looked rather sophisticated.

The color looked like a slightly cloudy vodka on the rocks with lime. But once I took my first sip, I knew better.

Initially, the lime and white sugar made the alcohol taste sweet and tangy, but that taste quickly subsided and gave way to the

jalapeno flavor.

The caipirinha transitions from its candied flavor to a cool, spicy sensation, creating a fiery chill flowing over your taste buds down to your stomach.

Another gentleman sitting next to me at the bar said, "Caipirinha? We used to drink those back in the '60s, man, when I was back in Portugal."

The man seemed to be a little tipsy, but provided some good laughs while I enjoyed my hotcold concoction.

As I reached the middle of my drink, the spiciness of the jalapeno became a little bit more pronounced, as I could feel a subtle fiery

> tingle over my lips. The cool touch of the ice cubes from the next sip intertwined two contrasting feelings.

Having not eaten much that day, the cachaca's effects on me were a little sneaky.

It tasted like the type of drink that could hit you like a ton of bricks if you had two rounds.

So don't go out there trying to down this drink like water.

Savor the interesting flavor that Brazilians have been hiding from us.

Overall, the drink was very interesting. It's not my new favorite

beverage, but just might be added to my normal drink rotation.

Since many people have never heard of the drink, ordering the caipirinha is a sure-fire conversation starter, especially if you're looking to make a move on that special lady.

Don't be afraid of the spice, and definitely give this drink a taste – it's worth it.



The Jalapeno Caipirinha from Flames

Eatery & Bar. MARLON MALONEY / SPARTAN

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