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SJSU plans for 2,500 fewer students in fall

Amaris Dominguez
Staff Writer

The size of the student body for the fall semester is shrinking as SJSU plans early summer layoffs and student fee increases, said SJSU President Jon Whitmore.

He said in a news conference that decreasing the size of the student body means that fewer faculty will be needed to provide services to students.

“Our strategy is to keep quality high but in order to do that with a smaller budget, we’ll have fewer students,” Whitmore said.

SJSU plans to reduce enrollment of the Fall 2010 semester by offering 2,500 fewer seats to incoming freshmen and transfer students, he said.

Whitmore added that a majority of the incoming students were transfer students.

Pat Lopes Harris, director of media relations for SJSU, said that there would not be completely accurate numbers of incoming students who have enrolled in classes until the end of summer.

SJSU gets a large number of applications from freshmen and transfer students, but she said not all receive admittance letters and even fewer accept and begin the steps of the intention of enrollment.

She said there are 3,057 first-time freshmen expected in the fall, in comparison to 3,113 first-time freshmen in May 2009 — of those expected in the fall, 1,241

turned down admittance to SJSU.

Incoming freshman Anthony Garcia said SJSU was the only school he applied to and that he and his parents are very excited.

“My sister is a psychology major there, so she told me about the budget cuts and fee increases,” he said. “But I would rather go to a university first than to a community college. I already paid for and signed up for my orientation next month.”

Harris said 3,879 transfer students have accepted their admittance to SJSU and signed up for orientation with intent to enroll, while 2,150 transfer students were admitted last spring.

“In comparison to last year, there is a decrease in transfer students from 2009 compared to 2010 because of the lack of enrollment in Fall 2009,” she said.

Ashley Portelo, who is transferring in from Evergreen Valley College in the fall said she accepted her admittance to SJSU because of it is fifteen minutes away from her home.

“As much as I want to go study in a different city or state, I know I can’t afford it and I’m willing to deal with the fee increases if it means no longer having to stay at a community college,” she said. “I was happy to actually be admitted.”

SJSU does not have a report prepared for statistics on the number of freshmen and transfers coming in from different schools for the upcoming fall 2010 semester, Harris said.

“... with a smaller budget, we’ll have fewer students.”

President Jon Whitmore

Veteran reintegration



Mark Hannah, a Marine Corps veteran who served for 11 years, founded the Veterans Student Organization at SJSU in February 2009. THOMAS WEBB/ CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Organization works to ease transition from active duty to civilian world

Hannah Keirns
Staff Writer

Marine Corps veteran Mark Hannah said he had difficulty transitioning from the military culture to the civilian world when he came to SJSU.

“My first semester here was difficult because I was in class and people around me weren’t interested in learning,” he said. “I’m always putting in 110 percent or

more and it’s not the same with other civilians here.”

Hannah, a junior management information systems major, founded the Veterans Student Organization at SJSU in February 2009 to create awareness of veterans on campus and to bring military culture to the attention of the student body.

He served in the Marine Corps for 11 years as a maintenance readiness officer and said there has not

been support for veterans on campus since the last Veterans Student Organization in 1946.

“To be honest, before VSO there was never a place for veterans on campus,” said Hannah. “The Bay Area isn’t necessarily as pro-military compared to places like San Diego where there are bases.”

Jonathan Roth, a history professor and VSO faculty adviser, said the Veterans Student Organization was developed out of a

meeting he organized around a visit by SJSU alumnus Marine Major General Anthony Jackson. Roth is a veteran of the New York Army National Guard where he served for six years both as an enlisted man and as an officer in the 69th Infantry Regiment.

The Veterans Student Organization hopes to provide an environment where veteran students

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After 15 years, nursing student to be honored for community service, scholarship

Hannah Keirns
Staff Writer

Commencement on May 29, will mark the culmination of one nursing graduate’s 15-year journey toward fulfilling a lifelong dream.

Vanessa Brewer is one of the top three graduates SJSU President Jon Whitmore

will recognize at commencement of approximately 8,900 candidates who completed their studies in August 2009, December 2009 and May 2010, according to a press release by Pat Harris, director of SJSU media relations.

Harris said Brewer was one of two seniors named SJSU’s 2010 Outstanding Graduating Seniors in recognition

of scholarship and extensive community contribution.

Eloise Stiglitz, associate vice president for student services, said the process of selection begins with faculty nominations of students with GPAs over 3.75 who also provide their leadership and service to the university and/or community.

Stiglitz said a small committee of 60 faculty, staff and administrators review all applications, select four or five students and forward the selections to the vice president of student affairs and Whitmore.

Whitmore ultimately chooses the final two students to be honored at the commencement ceremony, Stiglitz said.

Brewer has been working toward a career in nursing at SJSU by taking one or two classes at a time while tending to three active children, ages 9, 15 and 18, her husband of 20 years and working part time at Nordstrom in retail sales for the past 21 years.

Though she came from a

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Weather



F	Sat
Hi: 78°	Hi: 76°
Lo: 55°	Lo: 53°

NEWS.SJSU.EDU

Spartan Daily will return August 25, 2010.

Visit the Spartan Daily’s new website for online content at news.sjsu.edu

Audio Slideshow: Get a tour of some of the resources inside the Student Health Center.

Audio Slideshow: Health Center Tour



See www.news.sjsu.edu

Eric Bennett and Melissa Johnson / SPARTAN DAILY

VETERANS

From Page 1

can be surrounded by men and women who either understand or can sympathize with the veterans' experiences and culture, said Mandana Mohsenzadegan, the organization's vice president of public relations.

"Unfortunately, there is an implicit anti-military sentiment on our campus," she said. "Many people fail to recognize that being against war is entirely separate from refusing to show respect for our armed forces, to whom we owe the strength and national security of our country."

Mohsenzadegan said a basic goal of the Veterans Student Organization is to re-instill a sense of unity for veteran students.

Hannah said he found that the teamwork, bond and camaraderie of the armed forces made for better efficiency and unity among people.

"I could tell my Marine, 'This needs to get done by the end of the day,' and I could step away and know it was going to be accomplished," he said. "We were all a team, one, one mind because you're with one another day in and day out — you eat together, sleep together, train together, sweat together and bleed together."

Hannah said there is only one program that effectively aids SJSU veterans — the federal program of the Veterans Services Office, which is available at all 23 California State University campuses.

He said Andrei Ingalla, SJSU special programs coordinator and VSO staff adviser, helps SJSU veterans with GI bills.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website, the "Post-9/11 GI Bill" provides education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, but potential recipients must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible.

The bill, which was signed into law by former President George W. Bush in July 2008, enhances what benefits veterans receive toward education, according to the Veterans Affairs website.

Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Hannah said the Department of Veterans Affairs pays the university directly for veterans' tuition and fees, supplies a \$1,956 stipend per month for veterans in Santa Clara County and provides \$500 each semester for books and supplies.

"This substantial budget is to help veterans who have been in combat to come back to college when they have the opportunity of

retiring from the armed services," SJSU President Jon Whitmore said in a March 24 news conference. "There are more veterans coming back now because they are better supported with (federally funded) tuition."

Hannah estimates that there are more than 400 veterans on campus.

He said 80 members joined the organization in its first semester and currently there are up to 108 members of different age groups and from all branches of the military.

Hannah said the organization supports all of the United States military branches, including the Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps, and that membership is open to all students, but specifically includes students whose parents served in the military, students who are reservists, students who are on active duty and students who are veterans.

"We have not been so lucky with activity and membership this semester and last semester," he said. "This is a commuter school where the majority of students are working harder and longer hours, maybe working a second job, taking more units and are married with children. Veteran students are no different. We come to campus, go to class and go home, so it's hard to organize our events."

Damian Bramlett, vice presi-

dent of community service for the organization, said the organization was necessary to reach out to veterans who are coming out of active duty and entering the civilian world again as students.

"We aim to be a unified support network to get veterans the resources they need, whether it's with their studies, counseling, financial aid or scholarships — whatever we can do," said Bramlett, a graduate student in justice studies and veteran Army and National Guard infantry soldier.

He said the organization also does a lot of community service including SJSU's Day of Service, Sacred Heart food drives and the Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" program, Bramlett said.

Mohsenzadegan said the organization is planning many future events, including social gatherings, lectures by accomplished military personnel and community service projects.

Bramlett and Hannah also said the organization was looking to connect with ROTC leadership figures as a resource for their cadets on both the SJSU and Santa Clara University campuses.

"We want to keep our distance from recruiters though," Bramlett said. "They're the before, we're the after. We want to be there for the ROTC cadets who have questions about active duty and what it's like

out there before they graduate and are sent off."

Hannah said the organization has created a veteran-specific complaint and "to-do list" for Whitmore to address the other needs they would like to fulfill on campus.

"Whitmore wants to find veterans' needs and how the university can help them as a group," Roth said. "We want to find what we are lacking compared to other CSUs."

Whitmore said the university is trying to welcome more veteran students to SJSU with a "Veteran Task Force" that is composed of faculty members, staff and representatives from the Veterans Student Organization who report directly to him.

"I never examined what other universities are doing in regard to veterans' affairs and I believe it's safe to say that we are stepping up our activity," he said. "There are some CSUs that have a much larger contingent of veterans partly because they are located around huge military bases in Southern California, so I'm sure they have more beefed up programs than we do."

Hannah said the to-do list was created by SJSU veterans who want receive some of the "beefed up" programs of other CSUs and includes ideas for change in the Career Center, Student Health Services, on-campus landmarks, the Burdick Military History Project and a veterans' center.

He said the Career Center doesn't have anything specifically tailored for veterans to take their military skill sets and convert them to civilian concepts.

"When I brought my military resume to the Career Center, they just red-penned it and said my experience would intimidate any hiring manager," Hannah said.

The organization is also working with Anne Demers, an assistant professor and master of public health fieldwork coordinator in the health department, for more support in veteran's mental health services with specific attention paid to post-traumatic-stress disorder, he said.

Roth, who is a lead faculty member of the Veteran Task Force, said they are looking to create more meaningful landmarks on campus such as moving the flagpole to Tower Hall.

"One of the first things I hope SJSU does is to move the American flag to a more prominent position in the center of campus," he said. "The first thing a vet looks for is an American flag. It is something we should all take pride in."

Bramlett said he would feel more welcome on campus if the American flag was by Tower Hall and suggested the move should also include placing the state flag and university

See **VETERANS**, Page 3

Patches

Joint Meritorious Unit Award-

Awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to joint activities for meritorious achievement or service, superior to that which is normally expected.

Navy Unit Commendation-

Awarded by the United States Secretary of the Navy to any unit of the Navy or Marine Corps that has distinguished itself by outstanding heroism in action against the enemy.

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon

Awarded to several U.S. military units for outstanding service to the Republic of the Philippines in 1970 and 1972 during disaster relief operations.

Navy Sea Service Deployment-

For Navy and Marine Corps personnel assigned to U.S. homeported ships/deploying units or Fleet Marine Force (FMF) commands, 12-months accumulated sea duty or duty with FMF, which includes at least one 90-consecutive day deployment.

Enlisted Rank Insignia- Three chevrons, crossed rifles and a rocker: Staff Sergeant

Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation-

Awarded by the United States Secretary of the Navy to any unit of the Navy or Marine Corps that has distinguished itself under combat or noncombat conditions, by either valorous or meritorious achievement compared to other units performing similar service.

Years of service-

Each hash mark is equivalent to 4 years. Mark Hannah has two hash marks, signifying eight years of service. He served for 11 years and four months — just eight months shy of earning a third hash mark.

Medals

Navy & Marine Corps Achievement-

Award given for meritorious service or achievement in a combat or non-combat situation based on sustained performance or specific achievement of a superlative nature.

Marine Corps Good Conduct-

For three years of continuous active service by an enlisted member of the Marine Corps or Reserve, of a creditable above-average nature in the areas of obedience, sobriety, neatness, bearing and intelligence.

National Defense Service-

Awarded for honorable active service as a member of the Armed Forces for service during the War on Terrorism.

Humanitarian Service-

Awarded to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves by meritorious direct participation in any significant military act or operation of a humanitarian nature approved by the Department of Defense.

Global War on Terrorism (Service)-

Awarded to soldiers who have participated in or served in support of Global War on Terrorism.

Global War on Terrorism (Expeditionary)-

Awarded to soldiers who deploy abroad for service in the Global War on Terrorism Operations on or after 11 September 2001.

Veteran and business graduate student, Mark Hannah, shows the decorations he earned during his 11-year service in the Marine Corps.

PHOTO BY THOMAS WEBB / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL PETERSON



AFTER READING TODAY'S DAILY, PASS IT ON

VETERANS

From Page 2

flag alongside the American flag.

Mohsenzadegan said the Veteran Task Force is looking to place some sort of monument on campus.

"We feel that this would be a wonderful project for any students and veterans in particular," she said. "We think it would be great if graduate students in the art department would be interested in submitting design ideas for the monument."

Bramlett said the monument would not be focused on war but on the armed forces' humanitarian efforts.

Hannah said the Burdick Military History Project has been in the planning stages by Roth to move to a larger room of the industrial studies building.

Roth said he started a bi-annual newsletter called "The Spartan Salute" — a joint effort between the organization, the Veterans Task Force and the Burdick Military History Project, and that he would like Whitmore to approve some sort of veterans lounge, and hopefully a full-fledged veterans' center "at the very least" of all of the to-do list items.

Mohsenzadegan said veterans on the SJSU campus deserve support and gratitude from civilians all year round and the accomplishing the to-do list would be a step in the right direction.

"As a civilian, I salute them for all that they do, am proud to be part of their group and assist and support them in every way I can," she said.

Despite what the university does for the Veteran Task Force, Bramlett said student veterans are ultimately a significant group on campus that are aware of their differences from other students.

"We're not looking to be treated differently, or to fully stand out," he said. "We just want the university to recognize that veterans are here and we do exist."

Jasmine Duarte
Staff Writer

At SJSU, choosing to be a part of a sorority or fraternity is about more than parties — becoming Greek means making bonds that will last a lifetime.

"It's hard for people who are not involved in Greek life to understand it," said Sarah Lewis, a member of Delta Zeta sorority and president of the SJSU Panhellenic Council.

Going Greek means making a commitment to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service, according to SJSU's student involvement website.

"I never thought I was going to join a sorority, ever," said Lewis, a junior advertising major. "I thought sororities were like 'Legally Blonde' and 'Animal House,' but I quickly saw it was nothing like that."

Three years ago, at the end of Lewis' recruitment, she said she she could not imagine missing out on the great experience of joining a sorority.

Evan Bader, a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, said first impressions are hard to change.

"If people watch 'Animal House' and the show 'Greek,' it's going to be hard to change their idea that being Greek is more than partying," said the senior public relations major and intern for Fraternity and Sorority Life Strategic Planning.

There is more to being Greek than going to parties and socializing with the people in your organization — it takes a lot of hard work and dedication, said Tiara Williams, a freshman criminal justice major and a member of Sigma Theta Psi, a multicultural sorority that is part of the United Sorority and Fraternity Council.

"It's about academic and community service," she said. "I've opened a lot of my friends' eyes on what a sorority is, many of them did not know you did community service and you have to maintain a 2.5 grade point average to

stay active in the organization."

At one time or another, Lewis said the negative stereotypes that currently exist in the Greek community were true, and that people would not be suspicious of hazing and excessive drinking if there had not been instances when they happened and were publicized.

She said hazing and drinking happen in sports and in the military but are not talked about as much as when they occur in fraternities and sororities.

"In the '70s, people were hazed, but now, it's illegal to haze," Bader said. "Fraternities and sororities will get kicked off campus if they haze."

Greek life is about developing individuals to become better people, not about bringing them down and humiliating them, Bader said.

"Parents are better about asking questions about hazing," Lewis said. "We at the Panhellenic educated our

members of what hazing is and there are 24-hour hazing hotlines they can always go to."

During new-member experience, Bader said the Student Health Center gives presentations about excessive drinking to people coming into the Greek system.

He said fraternities are also required to hire University Police Department when they have big parties, and the organizations make sure to check identification and give people older than 21 an identifying wristband.

At parties, Bader said it is required that 15 percent of fraternity members be sober and able to monitor the event to make sure things go smoothly.

Lewis said active Panhellenic sorority members are not allowed to give new members alcohol, even if they are 21. It may come off as a form of hazing and sororities do not want to pressure or encourage anyone to do something they don't want to do.

"If people want to think that being in a fraternity or sorority is just partying and drinking excessively, then any group of college kids or people who come together and drink and party excessively could be seen as a fraternity," said Andrew Villa, a senior Kappa Sigma fraternity member.

Villa said it is rare to read about how much money an organization raised, or how many miles were walked to stop cancer.

"Every year, Kappa Delta sorority has an event and last year they raised more than \$14,000 for their philanthropy, but many people don't read or hear about that," Bader said.

Lewis said Delta Zeta sorority helped raised \$3,000, not including other donations

to different speech and hearing programs.

"The good stuff is not as interesting to read as the bad stuff," she said.

Sororities and fraternities at SJSU are all based on a set of values and scholarships, Lewis said.

Bader said some organizations require a 3.0 GPA — these are students who are able to get good grades while they are a part of the organization.

"Party hard and work hard," he said.

Bader said school is the priority, and comes before any event his fraternity puts together.

"It has taught me to work with different people, to manage time and to be patient and to plan events," Lewis said. "We all have different stories, but being Greek, we all share the same values."

The focus of Greek life is community service, not to party all the time, said Jorge Sanchez, a senior biochemistry major and a member of Gamma Zeta Alpha fraternity.

"Like some people, I use to think it was one big party, but when I was exposed to what they actually did, I became interested," he said.

Bader said a professional image must be kept and maintained, but at the same time, it's a lot of fun.

"It seems like a good place for people want to make friends," said sophomore biology major Amelia Vergel de Dios. "I feel like the media only focuses on the negative aspects of them."

A fraternity or sorority is a home away from home, with people who look out for each other, Bader said.

"You build friendships with people in college, but being Greek, you form a bond," he said.

Septuagenarian graduates after 12 years

Anna-Maria Kostovska
Staff Writer

Senior history major Roger Tuma said he has two celebratory events to look forward to in the next couple of weeks — his 72nd birthday and his college graduation.

"It's incredibly admirable," said Robert Cirivilleri, a lecturer in the history department. "He has a voracious appetite for knowledge."

Tuma said he came to SJSU from West Valley College 12 years ago in pursuit of a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Since then, with the exception of one semester, he said he has taken one class per semester while also working full time.

"(Attending SJSU) is a break from everything else I do in my life," Tuma said. "(On) the days I have class ... I close the door on the business world, I go on campus and I'm a student."

He said being a student has opened up his eyes to a different reality.

"(I'm) not just getting an education," Tuma said. "(I'm) seeing a different light of things."

He said he grew up on a dairy farm in Horseheads, New York, where he helped out with the animals as a young child.

"I think he developed his work ethic at a young age — not always by choice," said Kerry Tuma, Roger's son.

From a young age, Kerry Tuma said his father has been working with his hands, and now sees the value of working with his mind.

Roger Tuma said he always wanted to earn a degree, but didn't have enough motivation after high school to further his education.

Then, he said he got married, had children and bought a house.

"All that stuff sort of got in the way," Tuma said.

An insurance agent for nearly four decades, Tuma said he left the East Coast for California in 1970.

He said he chose history as his major because he has always enjoyed the subject, especially American history.

"American history is my passion," he said. "I appreciate what our ancestors have done here."

Taminderpaul Bariana, a freshman computer science major who is taking a class with Tuma this semester, said having Tuma in the classroom makes the experience more interesting.

He contributes to the class by sharing personal stories of historical events that he has lived through, Bariana said.



Graduating senior and 71-year-old Roger Tuma walks past Tower Hall in a portrait on May 11. DANIEL HERBERHOLZ / SPARTAN DAILY

Tuma said it is more likely for people his age to simply audit classes, meaning that the student sits in on the lecture but doesn't have to take any exams or write any papers and does not receive a grade.

"I never wanted to do that," he said. "I always wanted to push the envelope, do whatever it took to get (a good) grade."

"I think he developed his work ethic at a young age — not always by choice."

Kerry Tuma
Son of Roger Tuma

He is an unusual undergraduate student because of his age and the fact that he is striving toward a degree, said Patricia Evridge Hill, an associate professor and chair of the history department.

"I think he is a wonderful role model that learning should be for life," she said. "He should be congratulated for his commitment to challenging himself intellectually and (for) refusing to give up."

Kerry Tuma said he has helped his father over the years by proofreading some of his papers.

He said he has seen progress from the first paper he proofread to one that he proofread recently.

"He's just got passion for what he does," Kerry Tuma said. "If you don't have passion for what you do ... it shows."

He said his father has as been committed to earning a degree and has enjoyed the experience of working toward one.

Now that he is approaching his graduation, Roger Tuma said he will attend the commencement ceremony with mixed feelings, because it marks the end of this journey.

"In a way, it'll be sad," he said, tearing up. "But I'll be glad that I have it accomplished."

Though Tuma would like to continue taking classes, he said at this point, he doesn't have any plans to go to graduate school.

Instead, he said he wants to look for ways in which he can use his degree.

"He's always looking to better his life," Kerry Tuma said. "I think it could be valuable for him if he could somehow contribute to society with this degree."

He said he plans to help his father find a suitable post-graduation job, either part time or on a volunteer basis.

"I think I have a good knowledge of American history," Roger Tuma said. "(And) I think there are opportunities there as a volunteer to pass down my knowledge."

Justice major recounts long road toward graduation

Kathryn McCormick
Staff Writer

Senior criminal justice major Manuel Gutierrez said he's crossing his fingers, hoping that this will be the semester he finally graduates from SJSU.

"I was scheduled to graduate last June," said Gutierrez. "I walked the line and everything. What happened was that in my senior seminar class, I failed the final project."

Gutierrez said his professor offered to let him redo the project in the fall semester.

He passed the final and was set

to graduate that fall, he said.

"Well, then I get a letter from the counseling department saying I have six units of electives to make up," Gutierrez said. "I have the units, but I got them at junior college and they wouldn't transfer to SJSU. When I found this out, that's when I really got frustrated."

Gutierrez said he went to see a graduate counselor.

"I wanted to get everything in writing, because I didn't want to keep coming back every semester to SJSU," he said.

He said the counselor told him

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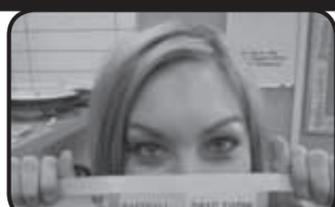
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TO A FRIEND, OR RE-FILL YOUR DOSE BY...

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



On May 13, 1980, the Spartan Daily reported that ...

- Merv Ferreira, a member of the Lupin Naturist Club, practiced tennis in the nude.
- Three SJSU degrees were cut by California State University.
- Auxiliary Enterprises may decide to increase rent for Spartan City, SJSU's married student housing facility.

Admin, students relate post-graduation pitfalls

Amaris Dominguez and Amber Simons
Staff Writer

The No. 1 mistake graduates make in their first jobs actually happens before they leave college, said David Bruck, the associate dean of graduate studies and research.

He said students underestimate the importance of their English, writing and presentation skills.

Bruck said the most important quality that is requested and repeated by employers is good English skills.

Gina Mabalot said she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and a minor in child and adolescent development in May 2008.

"New graduates sometimes put things on hold, such as getting appropriate certifications or licenses," Mabalot said. "And sometimes put it on hold so long that they lose learned information from school."

Besides these mistakes, she said personal lives and the lack of opportunities could sometimes cause setbacks.

"According to what people say, nursing is highly in demand," Mabalot said. "However, I, along with fellow nursing colleagues, found that it is extremely difficult to find a job in nursing within the Bay Area."

She said she got pregnant in August of 2008, three months after graduation, and her pregnancy was a setback to securing a job because of maternity leave, physical demands and insurance issues.

"A month after working, I could really feel the physical demands and constraints pregnancy imposed," Mabalot said. "I was having a difficult time and to top it off, I ended up getting a pregnancy rash that happens to about 1 in 200 pregnant women, called puritic urticarial papules of pregnancy. This rash, along with insurance issues and maternity leave issues, caused me to leave the position."

She said she stayed unemployed until her daughter was 10 months old.

"Having a child after graduation or having an unplanned pregnancy can definitely throw off certain plans in life as it did with mine," Mabalot said.

She said she is currently working part-time as a registered nurse in San Jose and landed her job through referrals from a fellow nursing graduate.

Mabalot said nursing positions are limited for newly licensed nursing graduates, and most positions require previous experience of at least one year – not including experi-

“Honestly, three years out of college and I’m still learning about job hunting and career preparation.”

Robert Miolo
SJSU alumnus

ence gained during school.

SJSU President Jon Whitmore said he advises students to ask a lot of questions when taking a job because there are usually good people there that are willing to help them.

"The negative side of that would be not asking for help when you take a new job and don't know 100 percent exactly sure what you're doing in all cases," Whitmore said.

He also said reading a book on anything you don't know about your job would be helpful.

"My first job out of college was actually teaching at a community college," Whitmore said. "I had been a teaching assistant in college, now I was a full-time teacher at a community college in Seattle. And I was asked to teach a couple of courses that I had had

a course or two on, but I'm not sure I was an expert on."

Whitmore said he spent the summer before his first job meeting with people who were experts and reading books so that he could have more of a background on the subjects.

"So, I think by the time I got there, I was fairly well prepared," he said. "If I hadn't done that, I would have been kind of behind the eight ball."

Whitmore said he expects college graduates to be self-learners.

Robert Miolo graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and said with his degree, he was forced to find a job outside of his field of study.

"Employers generally don't think philosophy majors have any marketable skills," Miolo said. "I really had an interview where the attorney laughed at my face when I told him my major. I wanted to punch him in his face."

He said there are moments when he regrets his degree.

Miolo said he currently is working at a law firm in Palo Alto.

"Honestly, three years out of college and I'm still learning about job hunting and career preparation," he said. "Network, network, network. Don't just depend on craigslist. Finding a reputable staffing agency is especially important in the legal field and utilizing them."

Angelica Mendieta, who graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in general design studies with a focus in interior design, said she is currently working part-time because of the poor economy.

"My advice to graduating students would be that if they can't find a job to meet and fulfill all their requirements including salary, take anything, no matter the salary or position that could in the future lead you to where you want to be," Mendieta said. "Don't expect to be placed at the top for having a diploma."

Job hunt may be looking up

Anna-Maria Kostovska
Staff Writer

There are reasons for students to be hopeful about finding a post-graduation job, said Susan Rockwell, assistant director for employer services at the Career Center.

"What we are starting to see are some good signs that employers are beginning to hire more," Rockwell said. "There are certainly more opportunities (now) than there were one quarter (of a year) ago."

Alexandrina Acuna, a senior graphic design major, said she is both excited and nervous about her upcoming graduation.

"I'm excited because I will finally be done," she said. "(But I am) also, in a way, scared because of the way the economic situation is."

She said she believes it will be hard to find a job, because right now availability is low.

Rockwell said graduating students have reasons to look at life post-graduation in a positive light.

From February to March this year, Rockwell said there was a 20 percent increase in overall postings by employers on the Career Center website.

The number of employers who attended the Spring Job and Internship Fair in April 2010 was 36 percent higher than in 2009, she said.

Rockwell said students must persevere when searching for a job.

"It's going to take longer to find a position in a tough job market like we are in right now," she said. "But employers, I think, genuinely want to be able to hire new college (graduates) into positions when they have them available."

Aside from looking for jobs, there are students who come to the Career Center with other goals in mind, Rockwell said.

She said some graduating students want to further their education.

Kristine Sumabat, a senior nursing major, said after her graduation she wants to either get a Master of Science degree in nursing or attend medical school, depending on where she gets accepted.

Estefany Preciado, a senior social work major, also said she wants to go to graduate school, but first she wants to take a break.

Preciado said she is feeling overwhelmed and is excited to graduate.

Choices are limited for graduates looking for jobs, she said.

Rockwell said things are looking fairly positive at this point.

As for students who want to travel after they graduate, it can get expensive, she said, even though many students know how to travel on a budget.

Joey Tierney, a graduating senior in environmental studies, said he has a ticket to go to Japan with his friends in September.

"My initial plan is just to go travel," he said. "Then, after that, I just kind of want to travel some more."

Tierney said he simply wants to relax and enjoy life.

"I am not in any hurry to get a career going," he said.

Tierney said he works part-time as a bartender and hopes to make bartending his full-time job after he graduates, to support his travels.

SJSU to offer iPad technology course

Lidia Gonzalez
Staff Writer

With its easy-to-use abilities and simple touch screen, the iPad is the future technology graduate students will be learning to use next semester, said a library and information science lecturer.

In the fall, SJSU will be offering an online course, "Implications and Applications for New Media," to students who are in a masters program, Jeremy Kemp said.

The course will be a collaboration between Kemp and Steve Sloan, a help desk and information technology support services specialist, he said.

Sloan said the class will teach students how to use HTML, Cascading Style Sheets and JavaScript to help map out content that can be viewed from the iPad, as well as how to format applications, websites and newspapers.

"We have to think about what is beyond flash," he said.

Kemp said the class will also teach the difference between the iPad and other platforms such as the Kindle and Nook.

He said the university recently purchased a number of iPads and accessories for faculty and staff to learn from.

"You can't teach this stuff without faculty and staff learning it first," he said.

The library and information science department on campus is the largest in the world, Kemp said, and it's purpose is to teach students how to work with information.

He said the university and Apple Inc. made an agreement to have a special price on software that allows students to virtually use an iPad from their computer screens, making it unnecessary for students in the class to have an iPad.

It is important for the university to stay connected with the

leading technology of Silicon Valley, said senior accounting major Steven Zeier.

"I think incorporating an iPad class is going to reach out to more students," he said.

Zeier said the benefit of the course depends on the type of material and the content being taught, but thinks the amount of money spent on the equipment is worth it because in the long-run it will be most beneficial to the students.

"When you're doing something with technology you have to go big," he said.

Junior kinesiology major Meg Hellinan said she thinks it is not necessary for the school to spend money on an iPad class.

"They (the university) should spend money on classes that will help students graduate," she said.

Hellinan said it would be smarter to help students graduate by adding more summer and winter classes.

The money could go toward departments closing, said junior kinesiology major Michael Pierre.

He said the iPad is an item that anyone can buy and learn.

International business major Bhe St. Pierre said having a class specifically for the iPad should not be a priority for the university.

"The iPad is really not that hard to figure out," St. Pierre said. "I don't know why we need a specific class for it."

She said the upside to having an iPad class is the fact that SJSU is part of Silicon Valley.

"We're in the world center for innovation," Kemp said. "Our students deserve the most leading technology."

He said more and more students are living their lives through their phones and that is something teachers need to stay current with.

"Students are using mobile technology," Kemp said.

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A portrait of Vanessa Brewer, senior nursing major, who will receive recognition from President Whitmore during commencement on May 29.

THOMAS WEBB/ CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

TOP GRAD

From Page 1

childhood without hope and poverty-stricken, Brewer said she makes a conscious choice and daily effort to have an attitude of service and gratitude.

"I am convinced that serving others is God's purpose for my life," Brewer said. "My many volunteer experiences have meant so much to me and fulfilled and validated that there is a reason to have hope and that I can make a difference in the world if I try."

Her volunteer work began at her church and her children's schools, which led to leadership positions based on a volunteer basis: president of Martin Murphy's School site council, representative of the Sobrato High School varsity wrestling booster club and volunteer and fundraising director for Morgan Hill Pop Warner youth sports.

Brewer said she was president of Alpha Gamma Sigma, the honor society for California Community Colleges, an organization committed to community service, that has allowed her to volunteer in community outreach programs including soup kitchens, disaster support for Hurricane Katrina victims and turkey drives for local families in need for Thanksgiving.

Harris said Brewer also fundraises for the Leukemia Society and volunteers at Stanford University's Center for Advanced Pediatric Education.

At SJSU, Brewer said she was a note taker for a deaf student, a class representative and liaison between the nursing faculty and students and co-founded and served as president of the Medical Surgical Nursing Organization for two years.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Vanessa will make a positive contribution to the profession of nursing. She is a natural leader, is passionate about what she's doing and is compassionate towards all."

Dr. Lori Rodriguez
Faculty adviser

"I have strived to achieve the purpose of Ex-animus Discipus, which in Latin means life-long learning," Brewer said. "I wanted to connect nursing students with one another and create a learning environment that provides opportunities for encouragement and the mentoring of relationships."

Dr. Lori Rodriguez, the faculty advisor of the nursing organization, credits Brewer's enthusiasm and energy as one of the factors that has made it so successful.

"Vanessa serves as a role model for someone who can balance school and family life," Rodriguez said.

Brewer said her passion and care for people has contributed to my desire to accomplish my goal of getting a a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at SJSU.

"My ultimate goal is to make a positive impact in the nursing profession," Brewer said.

After graduation, Brewer said she hopes to become an excellent professional nurse who delivers outstanding patient care and transforms the profession by being an advocate for the betterment of patients outcomes and health care policy.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Vanessa will make a positive contribution to the profession of nursing," Rodriguez said. "She is a natural leader, is passionate about what she's doing and is compassionate towards all."

Brewer said the vision she has to be a positive change in the world never stops growing.

"I have never focused on any one destination and then been content once I got there," Brewer said. "The joy truly is in the journey."

SJSU student moves from soccer field to pottery studio

Angelo Scrofani
Staff Writer

As an incoming freshman to SJSU, Katie Bonadies said she has early experience with the difficulty of being both an artist and an athlete at the university.

"I had to suppress the whole artistic thing for a while," said the senior studio practice major. "I couldn't take the classes that I needed to get into the art program early."

Bonadies said she began playing soccer at the age of four, and participating in school athletics helped to develop a skill level that earned her a scholarship to attend SJSU.

The conflict, however, between scheduling classes around soccer practice and games made it difficult to enroll in the required classes she needed for her major, she said.

She said she remained with an undeclared major for the first two years of college, only taking the necessary lower-division courses before making the decision to pursue a degree in art.

Bonadies said she grew up in a family of painters and was exposed to a world of creativity at a young age, and that her grandmother, great-grandfather and mom all practice pictorial arts.

By age nine, she said she had dabbled in sketching, sculpture and painting, but found a genuine interest in ceramics.

"I always painted and I always drew," Bonadies said. "But I really loved (ceramics) and I kept doing it. It was in high school that I started to learn how to throw."

She said the practice of throwing involves pottery using a throwing wheel, an instrument with an attached rotating tabletop that turns in a circular direction, to mold clay and begin the process of shaping objects.

When she was an adolescent, before the development of an electric throwing wheel, Bonadies said she used a manual wheel, controlled by a kick pedal, to craft items such as vases and bowls.

She said it required the ability to coordinate the foot movements that rotated the wheel while maintaining the rhythm of her hand movements to shape the clay.

"My motivation is, I really like doing it and I really enjoy it for my own life," Bonadies said. "The fact that my parents are so supportive of it and are so proud of what I'm doing, even though it isn't necessarily the most practical thing in the world — it's great to have that support and not be discouraged."

Last semester, she said she was one of 24 artists from SJSU whose work was chosen to be a part of a student exhibit in downtown Davis, Calif.

Within the first hour of the opening, she said she sold one of her pieces, a ceramic peacock.

Shelby Smith, a ceramics and glass technician for the School of Art and Design, said he currently has Bonadies in his intermediate ceramics course, began instructing her last semester.

"It's fun to see her get excited about (selling her art) and have a collector pick something like that up," he said. "It's an early piece of hers and now has somebody she can contact as she has shows, and they can see her work as it progresses and they may collect more."

Valerie Sagun, a senior spatial arts major, said she was a part of the group who had their work on display in Davis.

She said she's known Katie for a little more than a year and became acquainted with her as a classmate in a throwing wheel class.

"She has her own style," Sagun said. "She comes from a religious background so she does a little bit more religious stuff."

As an artist, Bonadies said one of her main interests is in organic forms such as the shape of birds.

"She's progressed amazingly well in developing a body of



Katie Bonadies finishes assembling her tea pot in the throwing room of the Industrial Studies building on May 7. ANGELO SCROFANI / SPARTAN DAILY

work, and I think there's a simple beauty to it," Smith said. "She's using some traditional forms, like throwing forms, as a canvas to develop these wrapping scene surfaces. She's not doing it like Renaissance or English pottery that is still-life decorated. (She's) pushing the textural envelope and it has much more of a modern twist to it."

Bonadies said she will open her first exhibit on campus in the coming fall semester where she will feature thrown vessels such as vases and cylindrical objects, in addition to a collection of sparrows, doves and swans.

"(Ceramics) has allowed me to express a side of myself and be involved in something that's still kind of organized, but how I want to organize it," she said.

As she gets closer to graduation, Bonadies said the biggest challenge she faces is the question of what role her art degree will play in a future career.

"It makes me think twice about how I'll continue

art, whether it will be in the professional sense or if it will be more of a hobby," she said. "I have to think about what's going to support me for the rest of my life and a family — whenever that is — and still be an outlet for me to be expressive and to do something I really love."

Bonadies said she is a business minor, and after graduation sees herself working in the fashion design industry.

She said she also plans to continue with her studies in some way, whether in graduate school or technical design school.

Many of her family members and friends, Bonadies said, are curious as to what her plans are in the near future.

"As of right now, people are asking, 'What are you going to do next?' and I don't know yet," she said. "I'll figure it out. I have a few things I'm thinking about, but we'll see where I really want to take this."

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The show must go on for Montana 1948

PROFILE

Daniel Herberholz
Staff Writer

Playing without its lead guitarist at a bar in a seedy part of San Francisco, Montana 1948's drummer Charlie Maynard said the band was playing a softer version of its sound.

The gig was the Hotel Utah Saloon, where Maynard hammered out a drum solo as a fan yelled out, "You owe me drum lessons!" reminding the junior graphic design major of a previously proposed engagement.

Maynard said he's been working on his degree in graphic design at SJSU, while in his free time playing for Montana 1948, a South bay alternative rock band.

The band's guitarist, Dan Prull, had flown home to Colorado because of the death of his father from cancer, and had been replaced by four musicians for the show.

The additions were cellist Kerrigan Addicott-Case, pianist and past collaborator Alex DeLuca, violinist and friend Shaly Borgen and backup singer Derekah Jayne.

"The funny thing about (tonight) is, our band originally met through craigslist, and then we found people through craigslist to play with us in this show," said lead singer Ryan Lafferty.

Lafferty said it's been a tough week for the band.

"It's very sad," Lafferty said. "To be honest, we haven't talked to him really at all. We've been really giving him his space. He's a phenomenal human being, he's one of my best friends, but he's going through a lot right now. I would never want to be faced with that situation."

Prull is going through a hard time, Maynard said.

"Obviously, with the loss of his father, that's a really sudden, really emotionally stressful time for anybody," he said.

Maynard said everybody has problems at times, and sometimes things just happen.

"We wish we were playing with him, but we had to sort of soldier on and do what we could without him," Lafferty said. "Dan is the heart of our band. We can't do much without him. If we play without him, we have to do a completely different show."

Playing with a cellist and company was not quite the same, he said, but it worked out well.

After two rehearsals with the band, DeLuca said the seven musicians took time to get the chemistry going.

"In rehearsals, we weren't used to it, but by the second or third time, we were good," he said. "In here, a couple songs at first took a little while to get used to, but I felt like we were cool."

Montana 1948 made a creative choice to change things up, Addicott-Case said.

"They easily could have found another guitarist, but they chose to have a violinist and a cellist

(and others)," he said. "I was happy to be a part of it. I think it worked out pretty well."

Nick Gonzales, a junior graphic design major, said it was a different kind of show.

"I think (tonight) brought a new edge to the table," he said. "It had a new sound and it actually works."

Lafferty said it was a lot of fun putting on a show with the newcomers. But, he said, "it's not going to sound like Montana 1948."

Maynard said the band has a distinct sound but is influenced by many other groups.

"Montana 1948 sound like Kings of Leon meets Foo Fighters," said the singer, who graduated from Santa Clara University last year with a degree in business.

He added that he thinks of his band as a bridge between independent-oriented and radio-friendly rock — "a good indie-rock sound without being too commercial."

"We definitely couldn't compare ourselves to Daughtry or Nickelback or anything like that — we don't sound anything like them," Lafferty said. "But at the same time, we don't sound like uber-indie bands that are out there, like Grizzly Bear. By being able to bridge that gap, it's better for us in the long run because ... people will still look at us as an indie-alternative band."

Addicott-Case said that between initial contact and first rehearsal, the band e-mailed a few songs to him.

"I listened to it, and it's a lot like some other bands that I listen to, and I thought that it was hella cool," he said. "I was like, 'I'm really going to play with some people that sound like what I've been into for a while.'"

Maynard said he used his graphic design skills to produce a poster for the upcoming show at The Catalyst in Santa Cruz for the popular Bay Area band Dredg.

"Dredg is playing over at the Catalyst (tonight) and they have a band opening for them called Ambience," he said. "Ambience asked me to compose a poster for the show."

That band's unique sound and continued success motivated Montana 1948, he said.

"I'd say for Dan and myself, they are a huge influence," Maynard said. "They definitely have a driving side to them, and we try to keep up a driving edge to most of our songs. With the delay and the spacier sounds, which goes back to Pink Floyd and all those bands."

They were one of the first bands that we ever got into that was ever breaking out of the local scene, and they made a huge name for themselves here."

As for their own name, Maynard said inspiration sprung af-



(Above) Vocalist Ryan Lafferty, guitarist Dan Prull, drummer Charlie Maynard and bassist Raza Malik from the band Montana 1948.

(Below) Drummer Charlie Maynard plays during a studio session while recording Montana 1948's first album, "Picket Fence."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF REID MCNALLY PHOTOGRAPHY



ter being stuck in the recording room.

After recording their first song, "The Other Side of Me," Maynard said the band was unable to think of a name.

Maynard said this is when Lafferty suggested the title of a book by author Larry Watson.

"We wanted to keep things literary, and relate things back to poetry and writing in some way, shape or form," Lafferty said.

He said the band compared their sound to the "big open spaces, big sky country" of Montana.

"We liked it because it gave a time and a place — you know, like a movie," Maynard said.

And with Watson's blessing, Lafferty said Montana 1948, the band, was born.

The group spent almost a year recording its new album — first at Castle Ultimate Studios in Oakland and then mixed and mastered it at Panda Studios in Fremont.

The album, titled "Picket Fence," will be released in July, Lafferty said.

"We've self-produced it and recorded it all on our own with our own expenses," Lafferty said, who wrote the lyrics on the record. "We're basically using this, hopefully, as a rental to take us to a label."

He wrote the closing track, "19 Years," about a friend who died of cancer as a freshmen in college, he said.

"He was a great friend of mine and it was a terrible situation to go through," Lafferty said. "Be-

ing able to put that into words was definitely good, to be able to share that, the feelings we all felt."

The band's industry demo begins with the song "How to Swim," which Maynard compared to Dredg.

"How to Swim" is about being caught in limbo ... sort of trying to find oneself and balance out things that they want in their lives," Lafferty said.

The song is a metaphor for

rolling with the punches and making the show go on, Maynard said.

"Basically, it's about being completely disoriented, and that's what happened when Dan had to pick up and go to Colorado," Maynard said.

Lafferty said Prull had time to send a text from Colorado after the show was over.

"He said, 'Hope you show went well. Not going to lie, wish I was there.'" Lafferty said.

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New TBS comedy is not 'very funny'

Husain Sumra
Managing Editor

TBS's first original prime time animated series is not very funny. "Neighbors From Hell," which comes from the producers of "South Park" and "Madagascar" isn't as funny as either of the previous series.

The animated series follows Balthazor Hellman, voiced by Will Sasso, and his family, who happen to be from Hell.

The Hellmans were sent to Earth by Satan to stop humans from drilling into the underworld, and Balthazor is the man — I mean demon, for the job.

What's troubling is that the show makes me want to go to Hell, but that doesn't mean the show makes Hell appealing.

The comedic styling loosely follows that of "South Park." There are crazy characters and completely random moments that don't make sense.

These random moments attempt to make up most of the humor, although they always fall flat.

For example, when the Hellmans' neighbor, Marjoe, farts in her dog's face, or when one character thinks the Hellmans are Jewish and not demons because they have green skin.

I can tell that these are jokes, and I recognize that they could be funny in some way or shape.

But they aren't.

There are even some particular things that borrow from other animated series, such as "Family Guy."



Main characters Balthazor and his family, the Hellmans, move to planet Earth to protect Hell from humans in the new TBS animated comedy series titled "Neighbors from Hell."

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TBS WEBSITE

For instance, the Hellman family consists of a father, mother, daughter, son, crazy uncle and a dog — a dog that also talks.

The dog even refers to itself as Balthazor's soul mate, while Peter Griffin and Brian the dog are pretty much best friends in "Family Guy."

It's essentially "Family Guy" minus the baby.

Did I mention that Balthazor sounds eerily similar to Peter Griffin? They even have the same awkward laugh.

There is, however, one element that "Neighbors From Hell" is missing that great animated series don't.

The animated characters are boring.

They are so boring that they make watching paint dry seem like the Super Bowl.

Part of the art of storytelling is getting the viewer, reader or whatever, to care about what's happening on the screen.

And, this show fails at doing this.

Why should I care that humans are drilling into the underworld? I wish I knew.

In this show, there's no one as interesting or lovable as Stewie or Kenny. There's no hateable jerk like Cartman.

The closest thing to likable is the weird demon dog, and he barely had a presence in the first episode.

It is only the first episode and there's plenty of room for character development to come into play, but if things continue as they do, this show may be in some danger.

Roasted latte rocks taste buds

Regina Aquino
Staff Writer

Only machines refuse to hit the snooze button in the morning.

Americans, on the other hand, eventually turn off the snooze button and head straight to the coffee pot.

My mornings do not start until a sip of coffee reaches my lips. More than 50 percent of our nation consumes coffee daily, according to the Coffee Research Website, and I happen to fall into that population.

Using clever marketing tactics, the creators of Rockstar energy drink understood the public's love for coffee and developed a concoction that fuels the dreary, weary and those who simply run on four hours of sleep.

Rockstar's "Roasted" series features four flavors — Latte, Mocha, Light Vanilla and Espresso. Each can is full of 15 fluid ounces of B-vitamins, caffeine and taurine, blended with coffee and cream.

It was Cinco de Mayo and instead of celebrating in typical party fashion, I was going to see television's recently discharged face of late night talk shows, Conan O'Brien.

In January 2010, O'Brien aired his last episode of "The Tonight Show," because his time slot was scheduled to be given away to another late night talk show host, Jay Leno, at the discretion of the NBC network.

Around four or five in the afternoon is when my morning caffeine drive diminishes, so I kept in mind that I was going to need a refill before heading to the show.

I made my way to a local liquor store in search of an en-

ergy drink that was more on the coffee side of things, in terms of flavor than something carbonated and fruity.

After perusing the glass doors and dreading the thought of settling for a bottle of Starbucks Blended Frappuccino drink, I laid my eyes on something I had not tried before.

Presenting a sultry label featuring the colors of mocha, gold, and chestnut, I picked up a can of Rockstar Roasted Latte in hopes that it would fuel my decreased

espresso coffee, milk and cream blended with Original Rockstar, and is enhanced with guarana, ginkgo, ginseng and milk thistle, according to the Rockstar Web site.

My five o'clock sluggish-session transformed after finishing my can of Rockstar Roasted Latte. The effects of the drink were not overpowering and did not give me the jittery feeling that can be experienced after consuming caffeine.

The smooth and creamy beverage was a perfect balance of the full-bodied espresso flavor that I crave and the energy I need to jump start my day.

Conan O'Brien performed his variety show in a way that reflected his famous persona of sarcasm, class, and blunt, vagrant humor.

And I was excited to be awake for it, thanks to my arbitrary choice at the liquor store.

For students seeking an alternative to sugary, sweet, fruit punch energy drinks, Rockstar Roasted Coffee & Cream drinks provide a boost complemented by taste that satisfies and quenches the body and mind's energy deficit.

Although I am aware of the other flavors available in the Rockstar "Roasted" series, I already know that the latte version is my favorite, because lattes tend to be less sweet than mocha, which is coffee blended with chocolate.

I have been a coffee drinker for 10 years, and I know myself well enough to accept the fact that my relationship with caffeine will continue to progress as my days get crazier and my schedule becomes more active.

Until the day I shake my love for caffeine, I will continue to hit the snooze button seven times in the morning before I reach for the coffee pot.

DRINK OF THE WEEK

The 15-ounce roasted latte is one of four new coffee flavors from Rockstar energy drink.

STEFAN ARMIJO / PHOTO EDITOR

energy level and prepared for a night of comedy and fun.

Based on previous experiences with Rockstar drinks, the Latte drink was a complete deviation from their typical fizzy, fruity, juice beverages.

The flavor was creamy, not too sweet, and had just the right amount of coffee flavor to satisfy my discerning palette.

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SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY | SPARTAN BOOKSTORES

Polo team closes with victory

Daniel Herberholz
Staff Writer

Against San Diego State during the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation women's water polo tournament, junior Adriana Vogt scored three goals in the fourth quarter and overtime which kept the Spartans in contention.

After the Aztecs scored with 14 seconds left in the game to go up a goal, Vogt took what head coach Lou Tully called a designed play and slung a goal into the net with nine seconds remaining.

"When the game is on the line, you need a player who will step up and take charge," he said of Vogt's performance, one of two this season with four or more goals. "She did that."

SJSU ended up losing 12-10 in overtime, and won 10-9 the next day against Arizona State to earn seventh in the tournament.

Vogt, who led the Spartans with 64 scores this season, and sophomore Dani Curran, who netted 50 goals on the season, were both given All-MPSF honors this season.

"We would certainly like to play that San Diego State game again, but the overall picture was very, very good," Tully said.

The Spartans started the season off with a seven game win streak before losing six in a row to top-ranked teams, he said.



Anna Natalizio passes in a 13-6 loss to USC on April 23, the Spartans last home game.
DANIEL HERBERHOLZ / SPARTAN DAILY

"When you're going through a losing streak, stay focused, keep your chin up, and there's a next day so come back and play hard," Tully said. "I love the way the girls responded to that."

Tully said the loss of last year's top scorer Juliet Moss put the team in a precarious position.

"This is a year that we had to rebound well from last year because we lost some top talent and people that we relied on," he said. "So we had to have a lot of the current players step up and they did a great job."

The team finished 17-14 on the season.

3 senior gymnasts lead SJSU

Melissa Sabile
Staff Writer

Though the SJSU gymnastics team has had a few setbacks, head coach Wayne Wright said he is proud of the team and its efforts this season.

"Our struggles were not doing what we know we are capable of doing and not being able to compete how we train," he said. "It's always a struggle when you know you can do better than the end result."

He said the team was led by the three seniors.

"Our senior class was awesome," he said. "They competed in every meet this year. Tiffany

Louie, Jessica Khoshnood, Gabrielle Targosz did a wonderful job in competing this year, especially when needed them they were always on."

He said the highlight of the team's season was having Katie Jo Merritt, Lily Swann and Targosz qualify for the NCAA regional tournament.

"Obviously, our goal was to win our conference and qualify to regionals as a team," Wright said. "We came up a little short, but we had three girls make it and I'm very proud of them for that."

He said the team as a whole did a good job and he's proud. "It wasn't for lack of trying,"

he said. "We tried hard. I've been here for nine years and I guess this is the first time we came up a little short. But in the end, one out of nine years is not a bad record."

Wright said he is excited about next year and the upcoming season and the class of incoming freshman.

"We've identified some of our issues and our weaknesses from last year," he said. "We've been working on them. We have about six athletes coming and so we're really excited and can't wait for it to start. We're looking forward, we're going to be a stronger team next year and we're training hard."

Spain looks poised for win at World Cup in South Africa

COMMENTARY

Husain Sumra
Managing Editor

Soccer fans around the world are counting down the days until the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which kicks off June 11 in South Africa.

Defending champion Italy will be looking to conquer the tournament once again, but the pitch is wide open this year and many teams could topple the Azzurri.

The United States, although improved with emerging talent like forward Jozy Altidore and the dominant midfielder Landon Donovan, may not be able to crack it in the championship just yet, as other teams are closer.

There are five teams sports fans should watch out for during the World Cup, because they all happen to have a good chance of leaving South Africa as champions of the world.

SPAIN

It used to be known as the underachiever, but Spain's success in the Union of European Football Associations Euro 2008 and its strong performance in the 2009 Confederations Cup, which is the dress rehearsal for the World Cup, shows that the team may be able to win it all.

The problem with Spain used to be mental. It would falter at any moment against any team, but the team is too talented for that this time with players such as forwards Fernando Torres and David Villa, midfielders Andres Iniesta and Xavi Hernandez and iconic goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

This team is my favorite to win the World Cup.

NETHERLANDS

The Dutchmen have been on the cusp of greatness for a while but have never delivered. This may change soon though, as the squad is filled with talented attackers.

The Netherlands' weakness could be in its defense, where it may not be able to handle the attacks of teams like Spain.

Players such as midfielders Wesley Sneijder and Rafael Van der Vaart and forwards Robin Van Persie, Dirk Kuyt and Klaas-Jan Huntelaar

will make watching the Netherlands entertaining every time they step onto the pitch.

Seeing Netherlands' bright orange jerseys in the World Cup final on July 11 shouldn't be a surprise to anybody.

BRAZIL

In Brazil, soccer is paramount. Unfortunately for the Brazilians, while their team poses a threat, I'm afraid it won't be enough to usurp teams such as the Netherlands and Spain.

Head coach Dunga chose to leave superstars such as Ronaldo and Ronaldinho out of the Brazilian squad, and that may cost the Samba Boys their chance at a seventh World Cup title.

Defenders Daniel Alves and Maicon, midfielders Kaka, Lucas and Felipe Melo and forwards Robinho and Luis Fabiano will have to step up to deliver a championship to Brazil or it may have to wait until the 2014 World Cup at home in Brazil.

ITALY

Like Brazil, the Italians will have to do without superstars such as forwards Francesco Totti and Luca Toni. Unlike the Brazilians, the Italians may have enough firepower to make it through without those players.

Emerging young players such as forward Giuseppe Rossi and midfielder Daniele de Rossi will have to plow through the competition with the eternal Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Although there is little chance they will repeat the glory of 2006, the Italians could surprise if the youngsters play up to their potential.

GERMANY

The Germans may possess the most well-rounded team in the tournament with players such as defender Philipp Lahm, midfielders Michael Ballack and Bastian Schweinsteiger and forwards Miroslav Klose and Lukas Podolski.

Germany's problem may be avoiding getting beat up in the group stages, where they will face physical teams such as Ghana, Australia and Serbia.

If Germany can make it through the group phases without too many bruises they may be able to do some damage and make it to the final, but that's easier said than done.

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SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY SPARTAN BOOKSTORE

Stanford gains lead on gaff, beats Spartans

Jasmine Duarte
Staff Writer

After a catcher's interference in the third inning from SJSU's Corey Valine, the Stanford Cardinal baseball team pulled away from the Spartans and went on to win 8-3.

Valine said SJSU pitcher David Russo threw an inside fastball low and he reached out for it. To his surprise, he said Stanford's Kenny Diekroeger swung at the pitch and hit his glove, allowing Diekroeger a free pass to first base.

"I thought defensively we were OK," said head coach Sam Piraro. "The mistake was the catcher interference from a guy who was a third baseman all year."

A combination of good offense from Stanford, Valine's error and a flyball lost in the lights contributed to Stanford pulling ahead 5-1.

"The right fielder lost the ball in the lights," Piraro said. "These types of things come back and haunt us."

SJSU got on the board in the second inning when first baseman Danny Stienstra knocked in right fielder Tim Quiery with a base hit, tying the score at 1.

Nine pitchers, one for each inning, appeared in the game for the Spartans - compared to the Cardinal's four hurlers.

"Our goal was to have each guy throw a shut out



SJSU junior Danny Stienstra defends first base against Kenny Diekroeger of Stanford. Diekroeger reached base on an interference call on Spartan catcher Corey Valine. KIBIWOT LIMO / SPARTAN DAILY

inning," Piraro said. Three pitchers allowed earned runs and combined for four strikeouts.

Stanford scored again in the fourth inning when Giuliani was batted in after Colin Walsh doubled.

Giuliani hit another double to left center field in the eighth inning and advanced scored when after Jake Stewart batted him in.

In the ninth inning, both teams scored.

Stanford's Justin Ringo scored on another misque, a wild pitch, to give Stanford a six-run lead.

The Spartans scored when Richie Johnson singled on the right side bringing home Quiery, but the Spartans were shut down after that.

"Our margin of error had to have been really thin, since they're a better team than we are," Piraro said.

This weekend SJSU will be looking for wins in a series at Fresno State this weekend, Quiery said.

"We are trying to get as many wins as we can," said the outfielder.

Softball team sets seven season marks

Kyle Szymanski
Sports Editor

The old adage that records are made to be broken has been taken to heart by the SJSU softball team this season.

While finishing 32-23 and 8-13 in the Western Athletic Conference, the team has claimed seven SJSU team records, including runs scored (276), doubles (84), home runs (35), RBI (238), total bases (633), walks (184) and hit by pitch (28).

The team is currently competing in the WAC Tournament in New Mexico, where it is seeded fifth.

The team opened the tournament yesterday with a 6-5 win against Louisiana Tech. The team came from behind to score three runs in the seventh inning and take the victory.

SJSU's 32 wins ranks as the fifth-highest total ever, trailing only the 1989 and 2005 teams, which finished with 36.

The Spartans have been led by senior catcher Brittany McConnell, who broke the all-time Spartans home run record with a total of 35 home runs in her career.

McConnell also owns the career RBI record, with 164. This season, she has eight home runs and 45 RBI.

McConnell and Julianne Aiello were named to the All-Western Athletic Conference Softball Second Team on Wednesday.

Aiello finished the season hitting .336 with 47 hits, 22 runs scored, seven doubles, 15 walks and three stolen bases.

Pitcher Amanda Pridmore leads the team with a 17-11 record. She has a 2.89 ERA in 191 innings pitched.

The Spartans' biggest win thus far came against No. 11 Oklahoma at the Judi Garman Classic on March. 19.

The team returns to the field today, when it faces top-seeded Hawaii at 11:30 a.m.

Men's golf finishes third in conference tourney

Joey Akeley
Executive Editor

A top-five finish in the Western Athletic Conference Championship was not expected from SJSU sophomore golfer Matt Hovan, said head coach John Kennaday.

In fact, Hovan was nearly cut from the team last year.

"He's a likable sort, nice young man, but he just wasn't producing," Kennaday said. "He put his head down, kept working and became top-five in the conference."

Hovan exemplified a season that Kennaday said was one of the more productive seasons SJSU has had.

He said the team progressed throughout the season and nearly reached its goal of winning the WAC Championship.

At the championship in Las Vegas, junior Mark Hubbard finished in a tie for second and Hovan finished in a tie for fourth, but the team finished seven shots behind the winning New Mexico State Aggies.

"It was probably a lot closer than that," Kennaday said. "We were be-

hind and we knew that and we needed to take some risks coming down the stretch and they didn't pan out."

Kennaday said in the last three tournaments, SJSU averaged under par as a team.

"That was really rewarding," he said. "But it was also disappointing and disheartening that we didn't win the WAC."

The team benefited from playing a schedule that Kennaday said was the toughest in 20 years.

"Some teams that had our number early in the season, we walked

all over at the end of the season," he said.

Kennaday said the two players he could always rely on were Hubbard and sophomore Jay Myers. Hubbard led the team in stroke average with a 73.90 and Myers was second with a 74.09.

Kennaday said winning the WAC next year is within the team's reach.

"Our goal is to compete in nationals," Kennaday said. "We should be winning the WAC hands down and it drives us."

SUCCESS

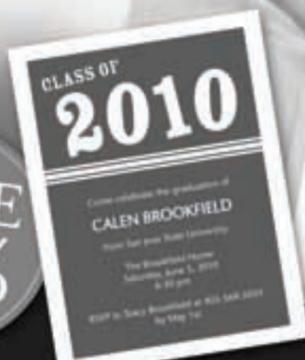
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The Poison (written three days After Kylie)

The situation was poison and thus, for me, she was venom. Poison, like the love we felt, is just another natural part of the order of things. But in the end, it's a terrible part of the order of things. Back when it happened, I hoped that one day she would want to have me around in her life.

Today, I'm not so sure. Why would I allow poison to seep back into my existence, stealing my strength against reality? Alright, I AM sure - I don't want her around again. However, the world changes every day. So just like the world is not set in black and white, neither is that thought.

I realize she wouldn't have done certain things - positive things - if she didn't want me around. I want her to realize the same. If I didn't ever want her in my life, I wouldn't have kept that great photograph she took in China - the one she left at my place that last night, the one which will stay at my place. BY DANIEL HERBERHOLZ / STAFF WRITER

(31 A.K.) The FLAMES licked the FLOWER but the FIRE was doused.

31

Cosmochronic (62 A.K.) The past always worked The future never will The present is fleeting But the moment is still

62

Roses And A Breakfast Tray (72 A.K.) I could've made her dinner in the bedroom. I could've surprised her with lunch at work. I could've cooked breakfast in the morning. I could've had the ultimate quirk. I should've known that that was coming. I should have had a more solid plan. I should've been more of a secret. I should have portrayed the manly man. I would've served eggs and bacon. I would've learned all of her ways. I would've never even considered lying. I would've used roses and a breakfast tray.

72

Holder Hates Holding (80 A.K.) Holder hates holding - Golden-gated grass - Bearer's buttons browning - Like licking brass - Words within wing it - Contemplated crash - Softly slowly sing it - "Don't be so brash."

80

Write & Wrong (103 A.K.) There's no reason to write the future Instead just write the now There's no reason to right the past Instead just do right, now There's every reason to do right in the future Instead we'll be wrong right now There's every reason to write the past Let's just be wrong, here and now

103

Lions Pit (150 A.K.) The pit in my stomach is dug down deep. The lion that dwells there clenches its teeth. He claws at the dirt and calls out for food. Nothing thrown down there can quench his mood.

150

For Safekeeping (183 A.K.) Songs That Remind Me of Her Six Months Later: - "First Day of My Life" by Bright Eyes - "You Got" by Melee - "Inevitable" by Anberlin - "Heart of Life" by John Mayer - "Peculiar People" by Mute Math - "Dismantle. Repair" by Anberlin - "Too Much" by All Time Low - "Slow Dancing In A Burning Room" by John Mayer - The entire album "Happy The Man" by The Guggenheim Grotto

183

There's A Reason Metamorphosis Contains The Latin Word For Love (199 A.K.) My mind feels blank like a freshly-made chalkboard, Yet cluttered with words you splattered on top. My mem'ry flows like juice off a table, It's spilling forth in a bright orange slop.

199

Would You Do Me A Favor? (224 A.K.) It's been long enough that you've lived here in my head... You've ripped down my posters and slept in my bed... I've been out in this rainstorm soaked to the bone... With your nightmare thundering inside of my home. The windows are chained up, the lights switched off, the icebox is empty, the fans are all dead. The couches are seatless, the fishtank unkept, the doorbell is broken Get out of my head.

224

Teme-cula (262 A.K.) The name bounces around in my mouth like a jawbreaker wanting out. Teme-cula, California. Teme - cula. Near Rainbow Road and Elfin Forest. Near past love who was from Teme-cula. A little poem in a word a little tug of the heart. A little poet in the world a little dug in the dirt. Her name bounces.

262

Electric-Shock Muck (286 A.K.) The brick walls laid With careful, trembling hands, Now crumble from the fringes All crippled from the bends. Mortar falling like stars From the clouds overhead - Another night of rain and Thunder claps over the bed. These, the late night forays Into electric-shock muck.

286

Green Eyes, Warm Heart (324 A.K.) Why has the dust not settled? Why has the tree not toppled? Why has the metal not rusted? Why has the sky not risen? It's been 10 months since - It's been three journeys hence. It's been time to change - It's been past forgiven. The days keep going by and the memory of you fades... Like footprints on the road but your boots just stayed. Green eyes staring and warm heart beating; Both were still at first but they became fleeting. Why has the dust not settled?

324

Morrow Musing (337 A.K.) Another night in this bed looking up at chloroform skies. It never was a dream of mine to lay alone in this silicon disguise. No homely cabin with barking dogs and the clutter of living by your side. Telling little stories for little ears Of how slow but short the days go by.

337

Rainless Spring Night (355 A.K.) There are no drops of heaven dripping on the drains The ceiling is feeling awkward and just a little bit of strange Rain was falling Saturday but the flow has lost it's steam Like the healing time after a mess when it's open at the seam My soul was heating up for a time while I was away But the reason I've been defeated now is hard to say There was stormy weather en route from the hence Now, time to rearrange exactly what that meant

355

The Antidote (365 after who?; Day One) The sun rises with my forehead, the pillow acts like the earth - it has spun a full 365 days, and this is the first of worth. There were many truths to be told, endless words to be penned. But the inkwell has run dry - No more battle wounds to mend. Today is a brand new day. Spring has been born at last. With each step my soles take, I plod on remnants of the past. The sun rises on a crisp May morning. One year later and my memory is clean. Her name once burned in my brain - Until it was gone like a dream...

365

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Sudoku grid with numbers and empty cells.

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Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Large crossword puzzle grid with black squares.

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Youthful exuberance

Needling our way through towering pines of rapidly thickening forests was just the beginning of my “going-out-with-a-bang” trip, intended to welcome the end of my days as an unserious undergrad.

A weekend of camping in Yosemite National Park seemed like a suitable antidote to my worries regarding whether or not I did anything interesting while away at school.

All those suspicions gradually began to dissolve the deeper we dug in to the stony, green kingdom, trudging along in my best friend’s ’97 Toyota 4-Runner.

We weren’t prepared for the newly icy roads, due to the sprinkling snowflakes. We dodged the slick patches and persevered.

Apparently this natural and humane instinct — avoiding ice — is what foiled my long-anticipated dream camping trip, as flashing lights from behind brought us to a halt.

A park ranger had tailed us shortly after we entered the Yosemite grounds. The ranger endured about four miles worth of curves until he decided he had reason to signal us off the road.

This is about when I started cussing myself out for not bringing eye drops or cologne, although I doubt these men need much probable cause anyway.

In the aftermath of the pullover, the driver was to stay in holding for the night and my other friend was charged \$250 for possession of marijuana.

All I could think of as I watched my friend get frisked and robbed of any strings and shoelaces, was,



Eric Bennett
Staff Writer

“Shit, this is all my fault. This dumb trip was my idea.”

I felt guilty for eluding the dicey situation unscathed and financially intact. But three of us had to rat out our friend and keep the story straight when the cop asked, “Who’s pot is that back there?” My honest friend had already given himself up to the cop before further questioning.

Although advised to hang out at the Yosemite Village Center and wait for a phone call, I sat in a cold blank hallway to await any news of my friend’s release. After all, all of our cell phones had little-to-no reception.

The cops holding her overnight said they couldn’t take the warm food I tried offering for my vegetarian friend. I went back to our camping site, defeated, about four hours into the wait.

Fast forward to now, as the driver of that 4-Runner faces a DUI charge and we are all readying to graduate college. I still cringe, remembering the sinking feeling in my gut I felt upon experiencing — second-hand — the repercussions of the silly things we do.

My friends in the back seat were trying to get rid of the bits of weed left before we entered the federally patrolled camp grounds, but we were ultimately caught green-handed.

It’s obvious how dumb and wrong we were, so I’ll save some space. Me going on that trip was the equivalent of feverishly poking the slow-mo button on the remote that controls my life.

Unfortunately, the trip sped the program way up. My friend spending the night in jail was jarring and shook me the hell awake — perhaps just in time.

I’ll miss being an irresponsible kid, and the naivety that comes with being an untouchable 21-year-old college student. There’s something about being that young that makes you feel invincible.

Real life is sneaking up quick, but at this ripe age, there’s always turning 25 and being able to rent a car to look forward to, right?

In due time, I’ll throw myself into what’s left of the work force as a floppy guppy fish and hope to “work” my way up to a CEO-like killer whale. Like my good friend in Radiohead says, “the big fish eat the little ones.”

I clearly have some maturing to do or I will surely be swallowed up like inferior fish lurking frigid waters and getting swooshed into a blue whale’s toothless cave.

Here’s to graduating in a 2010 economy ... sweet.

Complexities of life and death

There is something about life and death that never ceases to amaze me. I think I’m enticed by the mystery, the irony and dynamic of reconstruction and deconstruction so much that I tend to apply it to the most minute of things.

The other day, I came across a movie called, “You Don’t Know Jack,” on HBO, which was based on the work of real-life physician and pathologist, Jack Kevorkian, also known as “Dr. Death.”

As I write this, I’m re-reading these first two paragraphs realizing I sound like a dark, gothic individual who is heavily into the occult and malicious side of life, but that is far from the case.

I’m just a person who is fascinated by the beauty of creation. I believe creation can sometimes come forth by destruction on a multitude of levels, including death.

Prior to watching “You Don’t Know Jack,” the only thing I knew about Dr. Kevorkian was that he engaged in a concept called “assisted suicide.” He basically provided aid to those who were close to dying and wished to end their lives by setting up a system in which a patient was able to “cut the cord” and take their last breath.

While I watched the movie, I was slowly reminded of my real-life experience seeing Dr. Kevorkian on television back in 1998 as a child.

His most famous case, involving Thomas Youk, a 52-year-old male from Michigan who was suffering from Lou Gehrig’s disease, cost Kevorkian eight years of his life to be spent in prison because Youk’s case was charged as a homicide.

I remember watching the show “60 Minutes” that evening with my parents and witnessing Kevorkian inject Youk with a lethal concoction that would eventually end his pain.

In other cases, patients execute the final act by pressing a button on a euthanasia device created by Kevorkian, but Youk’s case marked the first time death was administered at the hands of the doctor.

As a child, I understood what was happening, but I was unaware of the ramifications following Kevorkian’s



Regina Aquino
Staff Writer

broadcasted “assisted-killing,” nor did I think of the reasons behind Youk’s plea for help from Dr. Death.

The creepy, sinister social stigma attached to Dr. Kevorkian I once believed in was challenged after listening to the philosophy behind his practice of assisted living.

I believe creation can sometimes come forth by destruction on a multitude of levels, including death.

I’m not stating that I necessarily agree with Kevorkian’s concept, nor am I advocating it, I’m simply admitting the fact that I can see the reasoning behind his practice.

Up until the Obama administration, the United States was the only industrialized country to not provide a universal healthcare system, and the idea that our health is of the utmost importance substantiated the need for a new outlook on well-being overall.

In the 1990s, which was the time of Kevorkian’s reign as Dr. Death, Americans were faced with expensive hospital bills and high prescription costs by drug companies. The United States had the highest total health expenditures per capita, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation website.

Kevorkian said that his service seeks to liberate those who wish to end their physical and emotional pain and are tied down by financial turmoil by preventing the accumulation

of bills being handed down to other family members.

In the movie, Kevorkian said that the terminally ill patients who seek his assistance have been properly evaluated and he does not conduct treatment on all of them.

For example, there is a patient Kevorkian encounters in the movie who he declines to help because he believes the patient is suffering from bipolar depression. Kevorkian mainly focuses on patients who are severely suffering from excruciating pain.

Those who challenged Kevorkian said he was a nutcase who aimed at playing God.

Kevorkian responded to the public by saying that doctors are playing God all the time by prescribing pills and administering treatment to patients with various ailments.

“Any time you are interfering with a natural process, you are playing God,” Kevorkian said.

Other things that the public may not be aware of about Kevorkian is that he is an oil painter, a jazz musician, and considers himself an activist who advocates a human’s right-to-die and dying without pain.

These descriptions alone prove the fact that there are many facets to a person that may be different from what is displayed in the media.

While Dr. Death no longer lives up to his name and is instead travelling the world as a public lecturer, I’m intrigued by how his provocative practice sparked public debate.

The question of morals and ethics, financial struggle and unbearable emotional and physical suffering are brought forth into discussion that does not seem to have a clear-cut answer.

After watching “You Don’t Know Jack,” I am clearly reminded of how the concepts of life and death are not as simple as they appear.

I’ve encountered those who “live life in the fast lane,” engaging in dangerous antics and I’ve met people who live in a hypothetical bubble. Regardless of where a person falls within that spectrum, I continue to be fascinated by the complexities, ironies and challenges life (and death) bring for an individual and a population overall.

The last family vacation

When you think of family road trips, do fond memories come to mind? Or are these memories tainted with bittersweet experiences not easily shared with others?

Summer will soon be here, and for some of you it lies in wait to clobber you and your family with its temperamental issues, testing family members’ patience.

Last summer, my parents, brother and I ventured out for a road trip. It was not the typical off-to-Washington-to-see-relatives trip we had been accustomed to in the past.

This trip lasted for four weeks while driving, sight-seeing, and might I add “staying alive” through five countries.

Since the airline tickets were booked just a few days after the last day of school, my parents had to attempt to teach me how to drive stick on the day of arrival, because the family’s primary mode of transportation was a class-c RV booked via online reservation. Did I mention this was in Europe?

From Frankfurt, Germany to London, England, my family somehow managed to live somewhat harmoniously inside that 25 foot war zone called an RV.

Funny moments like figuring out how to empty the RV’s sanitation tank or watching my brother trying to communicate with French women oddly added to the humor that helped us keep temperaments away and enjoy each other’s company.

I had my doubts from the very day my mom told me that we were going to Europe.

Let’s just say that when it comes to caravan road trips, the “fun car” would be the one behind ours.



Kirsten Aguilar
Burstin’ With Kirsten

At the same time, I was excited to explore a European country for the very first time, and yet my knowledge of family members’ temperaments held me back from pure excitement as I pondered over how one survives a road trip in Europe with only a GPS to reference all directions and points of interest.

For every day that we traveled, there wasn’t one that didn’t include a U-turn or spontaneous “detour.” Three or four backseat

drivers would suggest different streets and turns to get back on track. By the third week, everyone just rolled with the wrong turns and kept quiet in their seats like sedated congressmen.

If families had resumes, this 2009 Europe trip would have definitely been added, bolded and linked with its own portfolio.

For some, this road trip would have been a piece of cake. For my family, it was a huge accomplishment to come back alive and still be on good terms with one another.

On the last day before catching our return flight to the U.S., my mother told my brother and I that this road trip will probably be the last major vacation we will have with just the family before my brother and I graduate college to pursue our careers.

After coming back my uncles and aunts asked us, “How was Europe?” to which I answered with jet-lag written all over my face, “Good. Crazy, but good.”

This is the last appearance of “Burstin’ With Kirsten.”

Kirsten Aguilar is a Multimedia Editor for the Spartan Daily.

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GUTIERREZ

From Page 3

that as long as he passes his two classes this semester and keeps his GPA above 2.0, he should graduate in the spring.

Prior to SJSU, Gutierrez said he studied at several other colleges.

"I started at Fresno City College in the fall of 2003," Gutierrez said. "I did one semester there, came back to live with my parents in Salinas and went to Hartnell College for two and a half or three years."

After Hartnell, Gutierrez said he went to California State University Monterey Bay for one semester in the spring of 2007.

The school didn't have his major, so after taking a few elective classes there, Gutierrez said he transferred to SJSU in the fall of 2007.

Unfortunately, his academic troubles were not over yet.

"Because I transferred in so late, I wasn't aware of the WST," Gutierrez said. "I took it two times and failed it. I took a remedial English class and then took the test again, but I still failed it."

The only way Gutierrez could get into advanced classes and graduate at SJSU was to petition.

He submitted a research paper he wrote in one of his criminal justice classes to demonstrate his writing abilities and finally passed the test.

Gutierrez said he has always had a strong interest in justice.

"My main goal is to be a lawyer because I'd like to actually help people and advocate for human rights — that interests me a lot," Gutierrez said. "I'm really into equality and fairness. I think justice really promotes that."

Gutierrez took several justice studies courses with SJSU professor Sang Kil.

"Manuel was a good student in the sense that his learning was progressive and consistent," Kil said. "I am a very challenging teacher because I have high standards for my students. Manuel stepped up to the plate several times by taking my classes and each time I saw a significant improvement in his critical thinking skills, his reading ability and writing skills."

Gutierrez's sister, Jessica Gutierrez, a sophomore occupational therapy major, said her brother is a dedicated student.

"He really applies himself in school," she said. "He kind of procrastinates sometimes, but

“My main goal is to be a lawyer because I'd like to actually help people and advocate for human rights — that interests me a lot.”

Manuel Gutierrez
Senior justice studies major

he always makes sure he gets everything done. He's really smart, to me. I can ask him for anything. He helps me with all of my homework, no matter what."

Jessica Gutierrez said that she looks up to her older brother.

"Through all of he's been through with school, he's been really strong," she said. He's made it through and he doesn't let it affect him. He's really positive—he's a really kind person. Very outgoing, self-driven — he's a role model to me. If my brother can do it, I can do it."

In addition to justice

studies, Jessica Gutierrez said her brother is passionate about sports and family.

"He loves playing and watching sports," she said. "He used to wrestle and he played football. He was very good at football. He's very family-oriented, too — he spends a lot of time with our grandparents."

Gutierrez said he still lives with his family near Monterey, which means he has to commute to SJSU.

"I live in Prunedale," Gutierrez said. "It's about 15 minutes from Monterey and about 60 miles away from San Jose. It's just a long, tiring commute, especially when I was taking night courses and not getting out until 9 or 10 p.m. I wouldn't get home until almost 11 p.m. and I'd just be dozing off."

Gutierrez said that he took classes every day of the week one semester, so he'd have to drive to and from SJSU Monday through Friday.

"And that was when gas prices were, like, \$4 per gallon, so I was just blowing all kinds of cash," he said.

Gutierrez said his sister lives near campus, but said he prefers to live in his hometown, despite the commute.

"I like living in my area, where I'm from," Gutierrez said. "I have all my friends and family here. Plus, financially it's more sensible to live at home right now, so that plays its part, too."

Gutierrez said he's looking forward to graduating, but said he doesn't want to count his chickens before they hatch.

"It feels good, but in the back of my mind I still have this thought of, 'what if something goes wrong? What if I don't meet the GPA requirements?'" Gutierrez said. "So I'm really excited, but because I've gone through so much, I still have the 'What if? What if?' So I'm crossing my fingers right now."



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