

Nazi killing is fun in Tarantino's hands

Director re-imagines the casualties of WWII P. 6



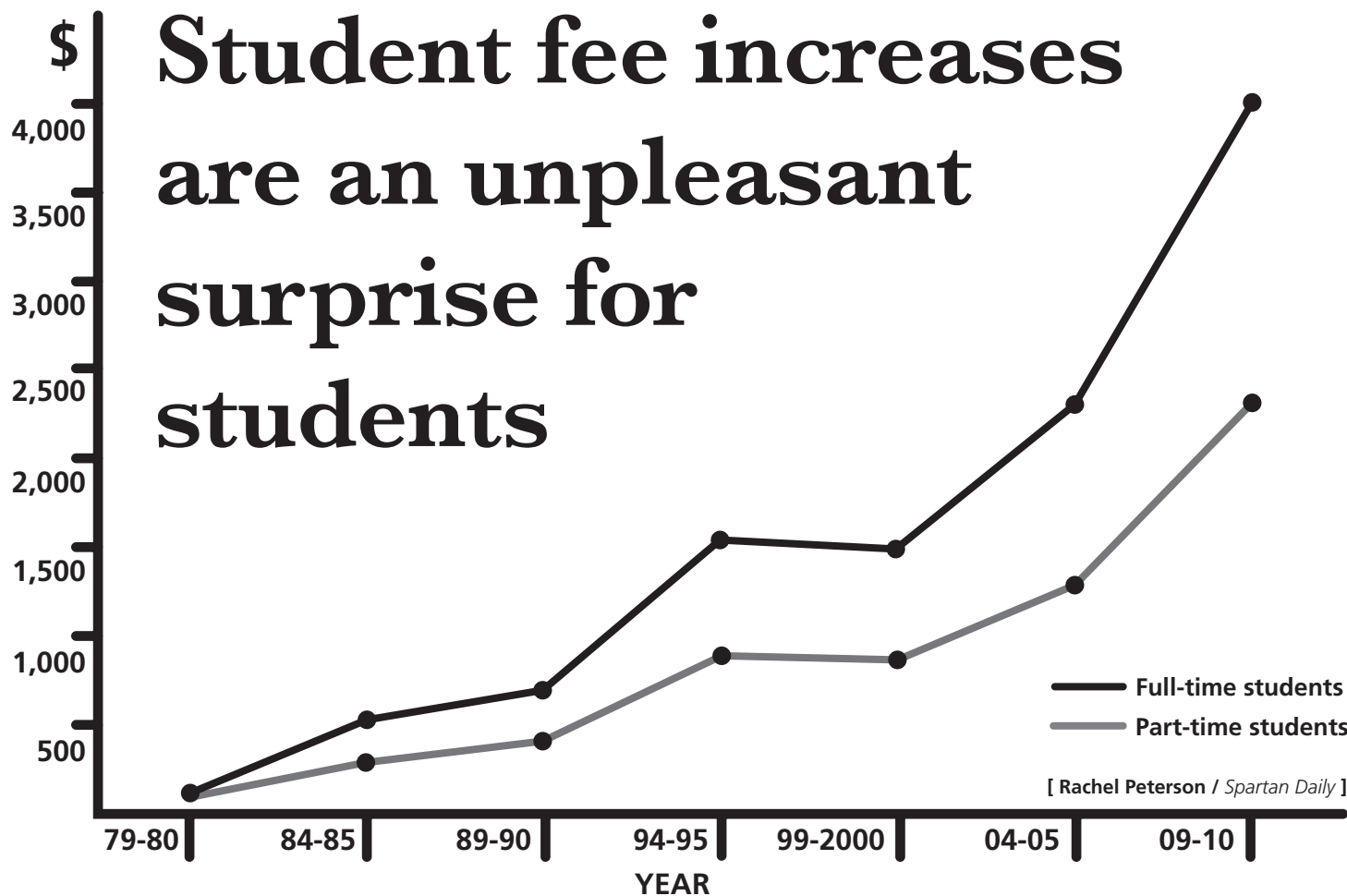
Losing a sense of the self

Using selective amnesia to create a new world P. 5



Young volleyball team could surprise

Inexperienced team expected to finish in low in WAC P. 3



By Tommy Wright
Senior Staff Writer

If you have not recently checked your MySJSU account recently, you may have an unpleasant surprise waiting for you. On July 21, the California State University Board of Trustees approved an increase in student fees.

The increase came after the first fee deadline on July 18. Those who paid before that have a separate charge for the increase.

Undergraduate full-time student fees were raised \$336, part-time undergraduate student fees increased \$195, and graduate part-time and full-time student fees went up by \$240 and \$414, respectively. All extra fees are due in full by Oct. 18.

In the spring, the CSU Board of Trustees raised fees by 10 percent. Combined with the 20 percent fee increase approved in July, the student fee for a full-time undergraduate student increased by almost \$500. The increase raised costs to \$2,013 for the fall semes-

ter, from \$1,524 last fall.

Yessenia Chavarria, a sophomore child development major, said she has other bills to pay, and she is upset about the fee increase.

"I'm not able to pay it all at once, so I'll just work as much as I can," Chavarria said.

At a news conference with student media on Thursday, President Jon Whitmore called the increase "gruesome" and "not what anybody wants." He also said that SJSU would have had to lay off hundreds more people if the fee wasn't increased.

"I think it was a necessary evil, but an evil that I hope would not continue," Whitmore said.

During his Fall 2009 welcome address on Thursday, Whitmore thanked students for helping SJSU close the budget gap with the increased student fees. A chart Whitmore presented in his speech indicated that the increase represented 41 percent of the \$44 million budget gap the university is facing.

See **BUDGET**, Page 4

SJSU water recycling program wins conservation award



[Courtesy of Facilities Development and Operations]

From left: Jared Isaacson, energy analyst; Gino Garcia, water system operator plumber; Chris Nordby, associate director of utility operation; SJSU President Jon Whitmore; and Adam Bayer, director of energy, utilities and engineering. SJSU received the award from Santa Clara Valley Water District and South Bay Water Recycling.

By Elisha Maldonado
Senior Staff Writer

Santa Clara Valley Water District and South Bay Water Recycling have recognized SJSU for its dedication to protecting the environment through the use of recycled water.

The award, received on the university's behalf by SJSU President Jon Whitmore on June 25, recognizes industrial users who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to recycled water.

"Not only are they one of the largest organizations, but a kind of

trailblazer when they (SJSU) started the use of recycled water," said Mansour Nasser, spokesman for South Bay Water Recycling. "We awarded SJSU because they are a leader in water conservation."

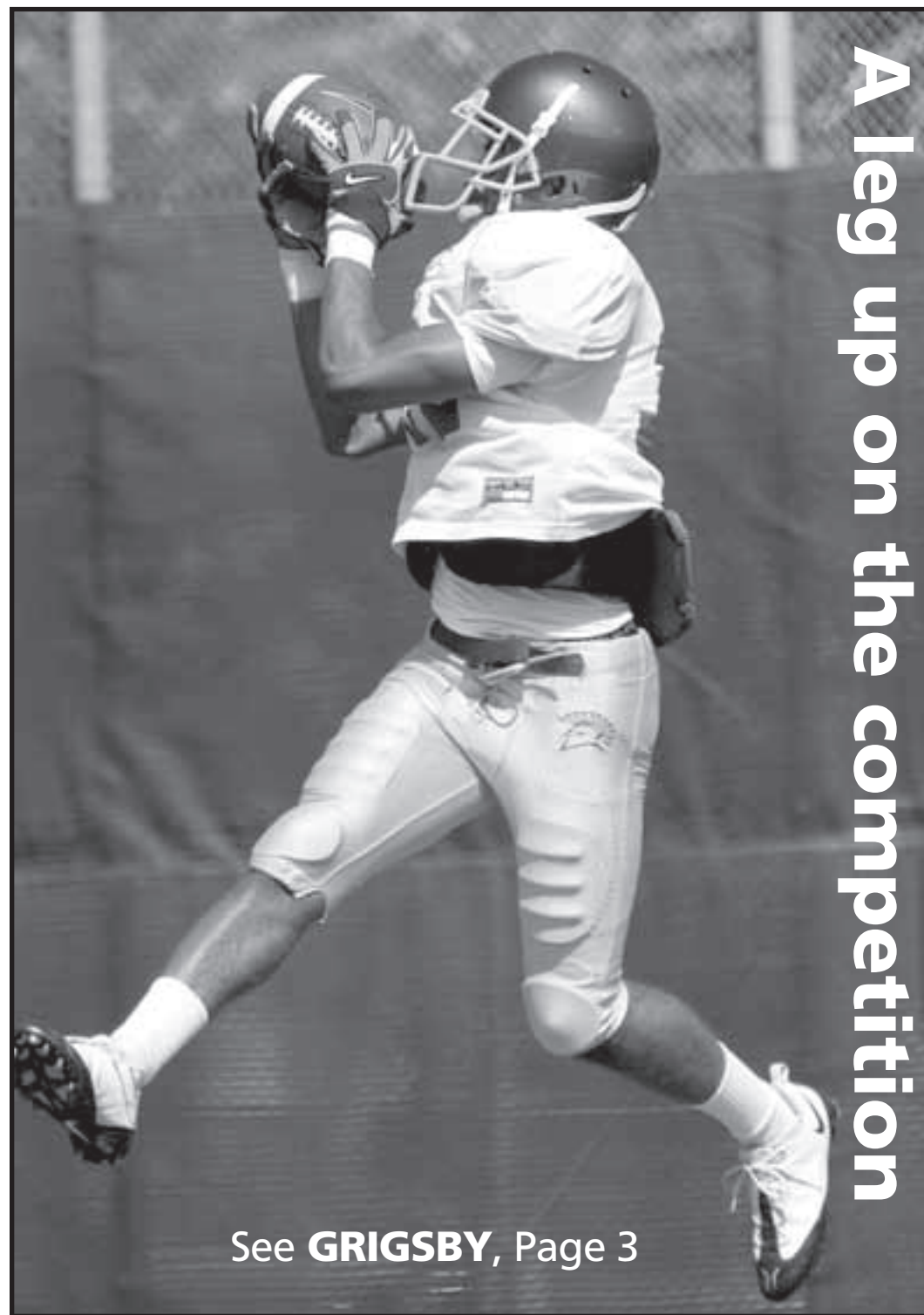
In 2008, SJSU's efforts saved more than 20 million gallons of drinking water at its co-generation power plant and South Campus athletic fields, said Pat Lopes Harris, director of media relations at SJSU.

"That's great that the university is making an effort to be more resourceful," said Kristin Milliman, a social work graduate student.

The water is recycled by the use of the central power plant and two cooling towers, said Jared Isaacson, energy analyst for Facilities Development and Operations at SJSU.

Chillers at the central plant cool water down to 42 degrees Fahrenheit, he said. The water is then piped across campus to most of the buildings. The water is run through a heat exchanger inside the buildings where fans blow air across the heat exchanger and blow cold air through the ducts where air is delivered to building spaces.

See **WATER**, Page 4



A leg up on the competition

See **GRIGSBY**, Page 3

[Daniel Powell / Contributing Photographer]

Noel Grigsby, a freshman wide receiver who played for the USA Junior National Team during the offseason, makes a leaping catch in an SJSU practice.

Correction

In yesterday's issue of the Spartan Daily there was an incorrect caption in the story headlined "Who owns your homework?"

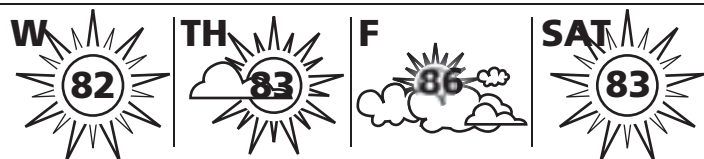
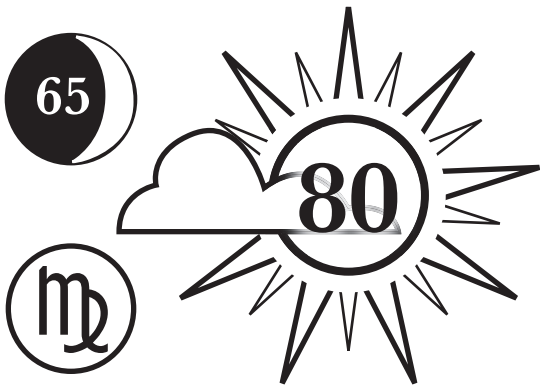
Correct Caption:

Computer science major Kyle Brady posted his Java code homework assignment online after turning it in, which brought up questions of plagiarism and copyright from his professor.



[Ryan Buchan / Spartan Daily]

San Jose Fire Captain Rob Brown talks to Josh Shafer, who lived next door to an apartment complex that was on fire Monday evening. Go to www.thespartandaily.com for a story on the fire.



[Courtesy of Jenni Curtice]

CSU helps needy students meet increased fees

By Allie Figures
Features Editor

Students receiving financial aid and awards need not worry whether the July 21 fee increase will cause them to come up short.

According to the California State University Budget Office, Cal Grants and financial aid packages will be adjusted for both resident and nonresident tuition to reflect the \$306 fee increase adopted by the CSU Board of Trustees in May, and the \$672 student fee increase.

Carli Gouveia, a senior international business major, said she thinks it is good that Cal Grants and financial aid packages will be adjusted to reflect the fee increase.

The California Legislature and governor reduced funding for the CSU by nearly \$600 million because of the state's budget crisis. CSU has set aside nearly \$79 million to help financial aid recipients combat the increases.

"Many of California's neediest students depend on Cal Grant awards to make college a reality," stated Allison Jones, CSU assistant vice chancellor for student academic support on the official CSU Web site. "This increase means that CSU campuses can continue to provide low and middle-income students affordable access to higher education."

CSU campuses have delayed student payment of the State University Fee to facilitate dispersal of California Student Aid Commission Cal Grant funds dollar for dollar to campuses. The Bursar's Office announced that SJSU students must pay the increase in full by Oct. 18.

Edwin Joya, a freshman mechanical engineering major, said the financial aid adjustment is unfair to students who must pay the increase.

"It may be unfair to people who do not get financial aid because they are paying out of their own pocket," he said.

All 62,600 CSU students receiving the Cal Grant and 108,900 students receiving the CSU State University Grant will be covered for the 2009-10 fee increase, while Federal Pell Grant recipients will receive \$619 to cover a portion.

"CSU is committed to ensuring that this situation with the Cal Grants does not hurt our students' academic progress," stated CSU Chancellor Charles Reed in a news release.

However, Cal Grant B recipients, who also receive cash stipends to cover other expenses such as the cost of living, will not automatically receive an increase in funds until the CSAC has issued all initial awards.

"Many students and their families rely on Cal Grants to cover the cost of education," stated Reed in a news release.

"We will do what we can to provide for the neediest of students, many of whom are the first of their family to attend college."

CSU media contact Erik Fallis stated in a July 31 press release that financial aid recipients from families making less than \$75,000 will end up having the fee increase completely covered, while recipients from families making up to \$180,000 will be aided by tax credit or other financial aid options.

Coroner rules Jackson's death homicide

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles County coroner has ruled Michael Jackson's death a homicide and a combination of drugs was the cause, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press, a finding that makes it more likely criminal charges will be filed against the doctor who was with the pop star when he died.

Forensic tests found the powerful anesthetic propofol acted together with at least two sedatives to cause Jackson's death June 25 in his rented Los Angeles mansion, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the findings have not been publicly released.

Dr. Conrad Murray, a Las Vegas cardiologist who became Jackson's personal physician weeks before his death, is the target of a manslaughter investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department. A designation of homicide means that Jackson died at the hands of another, but does not necessarily mean a crime was committed.

A search warrant affidavit unsealed Monday in Houston includes a detailed account of what Murray told investigators.

According to the document, Murray said he'd been treating Jackson for insomnia for about six weeks with 50 milligrams of propofol every night via an intravenous drip. But he said he feared Jackson was forming an addiction to the anesthetic, which is normally used in hospitals only, and was attempting to wean his patient by lowering the dose to 25 milligrams and adding the sedatives lorazepam and midazolam.

That combination succeeded in helping Jackson sleep two days prior to his death, so the next day, Murray told detectives he cut off the propofol — and

Jackson fell asleep with just the two sedatives.

Then around 1:30 a.m. on June 25, starting with a 10-milligram tab of Valium, Murray said he tried a series of drugs instead of propofol to make Jackson sleep. The injections included two milligrams of lorazepam around 2 a.m., two milligrams of midazolam around 3 a.m., and repeats of each at 5 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. respectively.

But they didn't work.

"But by combining propofol with a cocktail of the other sedatives, known as benzodiazepines, it 'may have been the trigger that pushed him over the edge.'"

Lee Cantrell
Director of the San Diego California Poison Control System

Murray told detectives that around 10:40 a.m. he gave in to Jackson's "repeated demands/requests" for propofol, which the singer referred to as his "milk." He administered 25 milligrams of the white-colored liquid, — a relatively small dose — and finally, Jackson fell asleep.

Murray remained with the sedated Jackson for about 10 minutes, then left for the bathroom. No more than two minutes later, he returned — and found Jackson had stopped breathing.

"There's no surprise there" that death could result from such a combination, said Dr. David Zvara, anesthesia chairman at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"All those drugs act in synergy with each other," Zvara said. Adding propofol on top of all the other sedatives "tipped the balance."

Besides the propofol and two

sedatives, the coroner's toxicology report found other substances in Jackson's system but they were not believed to have been a factor in the singer's death, the official told the AP.

When he died, Jackson was skinny but not overly emaciated, and his body had bed sores, the official said. The singer is believed to have developed bed sores in the months following his 2005 acquittal of child molestation charges, when he went into seclusion and spent long stretches in bed.

Murray has spoken to police and last week released a video saying he "told the truth and I have faith the truth will prevail." Murray did not say anything about the drugs he gave to Jackson. Murray's attorney, Edward Chernoff, had no immediate comment but has previously said Murray never administered anything that "should have" killed Jackson.

A call to the coroner's office was not returned Monday.

Jackson's family released a statement Monday, saying it has "full confidence" in the legal process and the efforts of investigators. It concludes: "The fam-

ily looks forward to the day that justice can be served."

The 25 milligrams of propofol Murray told police he gave Jackson the day he died "is not a whopping amount," said Lee Cantrell, director of the San Diego division of the California Poison Control System. But by combining propofol with a cocktail of the other sedatives, known as benzodiazepines, it "may have been the trigger that pushed him over the edge," Cantrell said.

Cantrell said it's perplexing that someone would give various benzodiazepines if one was found not to be effective.

"This is horrible polypharmacy," he said, referring to the interaction between the various drugs. "No one will treat an insomniac like this."

The affidavit says Murray told investigators he didn't order or buy any propofol and had found about eight bottles of it in Jackson's home along with numerous other medications. But investigators served a search warrant Aug. 11 at a Las Vegas pharmacy and uncovered evidence showing Murray legally purchased from the store the propofol he gave Jackson the day he died.



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Spartans serving up youth

By Ryan Buchan
Senior Staff Writer

As the Spartan women's volleyball team prepares for their first game of the season on Friday, they have a couple challenges facing them.

SJSU will have a new look, as it lost six players from last year's team to graduation and have only two seniors on the current roster.

"Every team I have been on since I have been here has been completely different," said senior Kristal Tsukano. "But this team seems to be more dynamic."

Among the players who departed was first team All-Western Athletic Conference player Kelly Crow, who led the team in kills with 386 — 100 more than any other player on that team. The Spartans also will have to play without Colleen Burke, who led the team in aces.

The Spartans will go nearly a month without playing a game in Spartan Gym and will play most of their entire nonconference schedule on the road.

"This is going to give us the opportunity to play some pretty strong teams early on," said SJSU

head coach Oscar Crespo. "We have the second strongest schedule in the conference next to Hawaii. We will be playing a top-20 team every weekend, which will be very good for us."

Sophomore Kylie Miraldi said she thinks the tough schedule could be helpful in some aspects.

"Traveling a lot gets exhausting and tiring," Miraldi said. "But at the same time, it can bring your team together a little bit closely

this year's squad who was named to an All-WAC team last year.

Kristal Tsukano, one of two seniors on this year's team, led SJSU in digs last year with 380, almost 100 more than dig runner-up Crow.

"Tsukano will have a huge role like she did last year," Crespo said. "She was our starting libero (back row specialist). I see that as a position that is pretty well locked up out of all the positions, just because

and was fourth on the team in blocks.

"I feel like it was good to be able to play last year," Miraldi said. "It gave me experience. As a freshman you don't always get full experience. Coming in, now I know what to expect. It is not a completely new game for me."

Crespo said he expects a lot of freshman to get significant play-time like Miraldi did last year.

"We definitely are going to have freshmen out on the court," Crespo said. "I am looking really for contributions from everyone at this point. All newcomers, it is really open for them."

Crespo said he expects freshman Taylor Japhet to contribute a lot offensively this year.

He added that Alex Akana should also be a major part of the team as a first-year Spartan.

In the WAC coaches poll, SJSU was voted to finish seventh out of nine teams.

"I think every year every team is different and the coaches' poll doesn't really matter," Amian said

SJSU is scheduled to play their first game at the Invitational in Seattle against Washington on Aug. 28.

"We definitely are going to have freshmen out on the court. I am looking really for contributions from everyone at this point."

Oscar Crespo
volleyball head coach

because you have to depend on each other that much more."

Even with six departures, the Spartans do return some key components from last year's team, which finished fifth in the WAC.

Brianna Amian, who will be in her third year at SJSU, was second on the team in kills and aces. In a match against CSU Bakersfield, she had six aces, which is the most any Spartan had last year in a single game. Amian is the only player on

she has been so consistent at it and has done such a great job at it."

The other Spartan senior is Thao Pham, who saw less playing time than Tsukano, playing in 26 of 31 matches. Pham was ninth on the team in digs with 67.

"She is one of our captains," Crespo said. "She leads the team on and off the court, attitude and emotion and drive."

Miraldi saw a lot of time last year on the court as a freshman



[Joe Proudman / Spartan Daily]
Taylor Japhet, a freshman outside hitter, elevates for a kill.

SJSU wide receiver plays for USA Junior National Team, shows promise

By Ryan Buchan
Senior Staff Writer

As most freshmen players are getting their first taste of the Football Bowl Subdivision, SJSU freshman wide receiver Noel Grigsby has already received valuable experience playing against top-rated athletes.

Grigsby spent the summer playing with the USA Junior National Team, where he played alongside other top Football Bowl Subdivision recruits.

"I think it was a good experience for him," said SJSU head coach Dick Tomey. "It was a little bit of a wake up call to what

college football is all about, because he was playing with a lot of players who are going to Ohio State or wherever."

Grigsby said the experience helped him prepare for college football.

"Coming into here, I have already been through two-a-days (practices) before playing with the national team," he said. "So two-a-days now are not as bad. I am used to it and I got an early start. I got to play football for three weeks in full pads and contact that I normally don't get in the regular offseason."

National team head coach Chuck Kyle said he selected the players on the team by talking to college football head coaches

and finding out which of their recruits would be a good fit on the team.

Grigsby, who competed in practice against a USA defense that gave up three points in three games, said he learned a lot while representing his country.

"I learned how other kids play football around the country — not just California, but Florida, Massachusetts, all over the place," Grigsby said. "Different types of people coming together just playing one sport — football."

The national team scored an average of 58 points per game, and he scored a touchdown in a 78-0 victory against France.

"He is extremely talented," said Gary

Swenson, who served as the national teams' offensive coordinator. "We had six wide receivers that were all Division-I signings. From a talent standpoint, he was top of the list."

Swenson added that the team played a variety of different formations and sets, allowing all the receivers to get a chance to play.

"Wide receivers we rotated every play, so we all scored," Grigsby said. "Every offensive player on the team scored. I would say that is amazing in itself."

While playing for the world title, his team did not get the normal week to prepare for each game.

"It reminded me somewhat of basketball, but a little bit harder," Grigsby said. "It was kind of different for me. Normally you play once a week. We played three games in an eight-day period. So it was different, but it was also good — I was not as anxious waiting for a week."

Grigsby enters his first season at SJSU after playing high school football at Crenshaw High School, where he also competed in track and field and basketball.

"He's got a lot of promise, but he has a long way to go," Tomey said. "Because he is a young guy, he's in a great competitive position. At this point he is just a guy trying to make it, like everybody else."

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	vs. Café 1850
Espresso Shots	
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Medium	
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Large	
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	\$3.15
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Campus Images



[Jenifer Valdivia / Spartan Daily]

Master of Fine Arts photography student Beverly Rayner directs the lighting on her mixed-media art work, Accretion, on Monday afternoon, as photography instructor Yvonne Williams helps her. Rayner's exhibit will be on display through Sept. 3 in Gallery 3 inside the Art Building.

BUDGET

From Page 1

He said that the burden SJSU students face with rising fees is "unprecedented."

"This rapid increase in student fees has resulted in a fundamental change in the balance of how education is funded across the CSU," Whitmore said. "For the first time in history, funding received from student fees — and other such revenue sources — exceeds funding received from the State of California."

In 30 years, the yearly CSU full-time undergraduate student fee has increased nearly 28 fold, from \$144 during the 1979-80 academic year. The current fee is more than twice the \$1,428 it was a decade ago — \$4,026 for the current school year.

Whitmore said the state legislature is letting students down and it "is not acceptable in the long-run."

Associated Students President Megan Baker said A.S. is doing everything in its power to make sure students at SJSU are represented.

Baker also said that the ad-

ditional fee increase is "an inconvenience," but it would be nearly impossible for the universities to "uphold their standard of prestige without it."

"In my mind we were given two options: We pay the same amount of money and not get much of an education because there is not enough funding, or we pay more money and receive an education," Baker said.

Elizabeth Cara, president of the SJSU chapter of the California Faculty Association and an associate professor of occupational therapy, said the CFA has been opposed to student fee increases for years.

"We feel that they are really an undue burden, and we are really failing the students and really limiting access to the university with the fee increases," Cara said.

Penny Speight, an undeclared freshman, said she doesn't like the fee increase but students have to pay them.

"There's really nothing you can do," Speight said.

Whitmore said students and parents should write to their legislators and let them know that education should be a priority.

WATER

From Page 1

Again, the chilled water runs back through the pipes to the central plant where it is run through the cooling towers to extract some of the heat it picked. It then dissipates as vapor visible outside the central plant along San Carlos at 10th Street, Isaacson said.

By doing this, he said, SJSU "avoided the use of 20 million gallons of drinking water."

Because of the success, there are plans to expand SJSU's efforts to other areas of the campus in the future, Lopes Harris said.

"We received this award because we have been a part of the recycling program for a long time," Lopes Harris said.

The recognition, she said, is important to the university and Whitmore because he has made sustainability a top priority during his tenure.

One student, though, was unaware that the program existed.

"I didn't know we use recycled water," said Tye Fong, a sophomore business major. "I hope it's clean."

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Previous Puzzle

7	1	2	5	6	3	8	4	9
6	5	8	9	4	2	3	7	1
4	3	9	7	1	8	5	2	6
8	4	3	2	5	9	1	6	7
1	9	7	6	3	4	2	5	8
2	6	5	1	8	7	9	3	4
5	8	4	3	9	6	7	1	2
3	7	6	8	2	1	4	9	5
9	2	1	4	7	5	6	8	3

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 2 (of 5)

5	4	9						
2	1							
4	9	1				6		
	3	4		7	6			8
	6					3		
2			4		8	6	9	
	3		2	7				
8			3	9		7	5	
				5			1	

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- The 1 in 1000
- More compelling
- Dance or waltz
- Greek letter
- Pay to use
- Fishy
- Media star
- Hard as these days (2 wds.)
1. Echo swimmers
- Wanda's name
- One daughter
- Open an office
- Collars
- Assembly
- Evenings out
- Hamm
- Masterpiece
- Margaret's dad
- Large tank
- Yard part
- Musical units
- Part of summer
- Columbian slat
- Heated up
- Cave
- Horses have them
- Snails
- Devised vocabulary
- Gold medalist's wear
- By the
- Wall legend
- Currently
- Gruzy bear
- Artistic
- Campers pl
- Sagebrush
- Leaked
- Arm the alarm
- Train stations
- 100 — Florida

DOWN

- Not an Irish
- Kind of trading
- Light music
- you please?
1. 1000
- Swallow letter
- Boyhood
- Full
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Back-to-school blues



Angelo Lanham

Yes, I Have A Point

Oh, piss.
It's August. August! How the hell did that happen? I'm not ready for this. Whatever happened to May? What was wrong with May?

I was just getting comfortable with being in the month of May and then, like Barry Manilow with a bullhorn, up behind me sneaks August.

The end of summer means the inevitable admittance of failure for all the unrealistic goals you set for yourself back in, yes, May.

Just think about all those books you were supposed to have read (but didn't), all that exercise you were supposed to have gotten (but didn't) — in general, any activity you should have done (but didn't) that would have made you a better person.

And all you people who climbed a mountain every day while quoting "Macbeth," pat yourself on the back and kindly go to hell.

And now we're back in academic mode, ready to befriend our close friends who share our major before battling them tooth and nail out there in the job market belonging to this "real world" that is promised to exist after we all get through this mess.

Damn. Damn, damn, damn.
The first week back is always the worst. Uncharted and unpredictable, there is no groove — or, there is one, but it seems to have been spinning without you, and it's up to you to jump

into it whilst it turns at impossible speeds.

OK, enough bellyaching. Time to sit shoulder to shoulder with all those classmates again (whom-ever was able to get in post budget slash). Let's play a game called Polarized Stereotyping. It's easy to pick up, and you can play it with your friends. Today's subject: all those students I mentioned sitting shoulder to shoulder with you.

"The first week back is always the worst. Uncharted and unpredictable, there is no groove — or, there is one, but it seems to have been spinning without you ... "

Since we're playing Polarized Stereotyping, we won't address the variety of students studying abroad, those who are a bit older and returning to school, those who like me, are super-beyond-super seniors.

So all we have are the two worn ideals of what students are: The beer-guzzling Blutos, and the "dress for success" crowd.

Let's focus on the "dress for success" crowd — you can read about all those fun beer fiends anywhere, and everyone picks on them. No one, though, has picked on the "dress for success" kids since they got their suspenders snapped in kindergarten.

These kids come off as snappy, young go-getters who have some-

how escaped the apathetic sludge that has allegedly plagued the last few generations.

Each dress-for-success kid comes complete with a bright future, a whole pile of perfectly sharpened #2 pencils, and sporting a damn sexy pair of slacks.

Encouraged and patted on the back by scholarly authorities, it's obvious that these goons are the future.

With perfect posture and nose slightly in the air, the stereotype goes, this specimen of student will, with little to no provocation, tell you in agonizing detail his or her plan to take over the world and run the workforce like his or her own personal toy, with lots of tough talk about knocking out old ladies' teeth and killing blind puppies as necessary along the way.

Bluto, meanwhile, with one eyebrow shaved off, lies drunk in the gutter.

But we're not talking about Bluto. Since he seeped back into the conversation, though, we'll stop playing Polarized Stereotyping and I'll admit that these days, most of us lie somewhere between the two archetypes.

I could in no universe be accused of dressing for success — matter of fact, most people close to me would suggest that I dress to ward off success. I wear my jeans until they have holes, then keep wearing them until it becomes obvious that I wear my Christmas tree boxers year round (alongside the standard stripes and/or polka dots). I've always seen myself more as a Bluto.

The other day, though, I saw my snotty side, as the eyes of a homeless guy who had asked me for a dollar glared over.

I had just gotten to telling him the part of my success plan for the future that involved getting hired into Microsoft, starting at the mailroom, following Bill Gates home and "accidentally" running into him at his favorite pub, buying him a beer, palling up and starting a golf Saturday with him, and then putting glass into his sandwich over the course of the next few months, thereby inheriting the Microsoft empire.

An obvious success plan, if ever I heard one. Homeless guy, though, now crosses the street to avoid more conversation about my so-called ambitions.

What is this guy prattling on about, you may be asking? What am I supposed to do, trade the shiny new laptop that never leaves my side for a keg?

No, no, no. It is good, of course, that professors are teaching us that the economy is down and that it's a tooth-and-nail battle to find a job.

While the recipe for success certainly isn't drinking your way through college for eight years in order to get a B.A., I fear that moves for world domination by Bluto's business-savvy, "me first" counterparts may not be met with the open arms as promised.

I'm just trying to gain sympathy for my position, and that is that we can go out into the world with a somewhat less pessimistic viewpoint, and thereby, a less combative style of job hunting.

After all, you've got to co-exist peacefully with these life forms for the rest of your life.

Angelo Lanham is a Spartan Daily copy editor. Yes, I Have A Point appears every Tuesday.

A cup of amnesia a day keeps the bad thoughts away



Allie Figue

Figures It Out

I know it says above this piece that it was written by Allie Figue, but I have decided to forsake all that I am, all that I have done, forget the last 23 years and become Jane Doe.

Jon Doe, a real man from Seattle, did not choose, as I sometimes wish, to have amnesia. Years ago, he was found disoriented and dehydrated outside Discovery Park and only recently was the mystery of his identity revealed.

"Sometimes I think I'd like to take up this sort of "Samantha Who?" kind of life. I imagine myself waking up one day with no memory of myself ... "

Turns out his real name is Edward Lighthart. He is an educated world traveler and an experienced chef. So why does Lighthart want to retain his identity as Jon Doe? Why does he want to part from his identity, family and history? Whether fact or speculation, it is clear that Lighthart has a troubling past.

Sometimes I think I'd like to take up this sort of "Samantha Who?" kind of life. I imagine myself waking up one day with no memory of myself — or maybe even the world around me.

OK, so maybe I take that back.Maybe I wouldn't want to forget everything, like the faces of my family or my fond childhood memories, but I can do without the countless hours of Sarah Palin's face time on my television during the election.

My self-induced selective amnesia would let me rediscover

the wonderful things that make my mouth water, pulse race and heart pitter patter.

I will either realize why I love the things I love and abhor whatever else. Maybe I will even develop new likes and dislikes. My amnesia can be a sort of fresh start.

I'd like to forget my insecurities and unhealthy fears. I'd like to forget a couple of those "one nights."

I'd like to make a different choice or take the other fork in the road. I do have regrets I would like to not remember and character traits I'd like to erase.

Of course, there are certain things we can't simply give the Heisman stiff arm. Debt and off-spring don't just disappear with your memory — both will still come to collect what you owe.

We still have a responsibility to whatever our names are attached to.

When I change my name to Jane Doe, I do not expect Fannie Mae to forget about my outstanding student loans.

Sure, it's easy to argue that these life experiences helped shape the person you are today. But what if you are not satisfied with the road you've traveled or your destination?

Accomplishments can only take certain people so far in life. Jon Doe's life resume may have looked good on paper, but ultimately was something saddening and unforgiving.

Can you blame him for wanting to click the CTRL+Z?

Allie Figue is the Spartan Daily features editor. Figures It Out appears every Tuesday.

Healthcare hell: how much worse can it get?



Adam Murphy

Murphy's Law

Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.

Murphy's law stipulates that if there is a chance of something terrible happening, it might as well have already happened. Recently, it seems as if Murphy's Law is in full effect.

The stars have aligned to deal us an unprecedented cruel hand at a time in our lives when a little luck would go a long way. It doesn't seem as if our luck is going to get any better, either.

First, the stock market crashes out of nowhere, causing massive unemployment, and house prices to crash. Now there are a ton of people without jobs and without homes, wandering the streets and going to movies.

As it turns out, more people attend movies during a recession. Ticket sales have increased 8.7 percent from the first half of 2008, according to the Hollywood.com Web site. So now we have a bunch of people with no homes or jobs, watching movies in the hopes of momentarily escaping from the everyday monotony of unemployment.

These people may not have jobs, but at least they will have healthcare. Thanks to President Obama, all those unemployed/uninsured moviegoers now have nothing to worry about. Unemployment checks and free insurance — sign me up!

Then comes the unexpected, the wrong that can and will go wrong, and boy is it a big wrong. Thanks to our friendly southern neighbors, swine flu hits with a vengeance this winter.

The unemployed and homeless will be the first ones to get sick.

Luckily, Obama saw this coming. That is why he is proposing "death panels," so the sickly can be put out to pasture to save the majority from infection. What Obama didn't take into account was our societies' unhealthy love for celebrities. As the recession deepens, movie ticket sales continue to rise.

Movie theaters become swine flu Jacuzzis. As the number of the infected skyrocket, so too will the line to see a doctor, thanks again to Obama's healthcare reform.

And here is where my little fable takes a turn into reality.

What if Murphy's law was applied to our current system?

Medical costs keep getting higher and higher, breaking the backs of the middle and lower classes that are unlucky enough to get sick or hurt. Life savings are drained, second and third mortgages are taken out on houses just to cover the bills.

A higher authority decides between the have and the have-nots of medical care based on how much money the patient's care will cost.

All the while, this higher authority reaps in the benefits while twisting a system meant to protect into a system of profit.

Oops. I accidentally described the system we have now, not a Murphy's law doomsday scenario.

The thing about Murphy's law is that it doesn't affect everyone equally. Some people just have bad luck. Having a system that is designed to help the sick but deny those sick people coverage just doesn't make sense. This is the system we have. It's a doomsday scenario for those unlucky enough to get sick.

I don't know what Obama's healthcare reform will look like, but it can't be worse than what we have now, and it certainly

won't be a doomsday scenario. Spiraling healthcare costs have to come down and the system has to be corrected to suit the needs of those it was designed for.

The current healthcare system is Murphy's law on overdrive. I hope Obama can hit the brakes.

Adam Murphy is a Spartan Daily sports editor. Murphy's Law appears every Tuesday.

Did you know ...

The biggest hamburger ever served weighed 8,266 lbs? It was cooked in 2001 at the Burger Fest in Seymour, Wisconsin. The Hamburger hall of fame is located in the same city.

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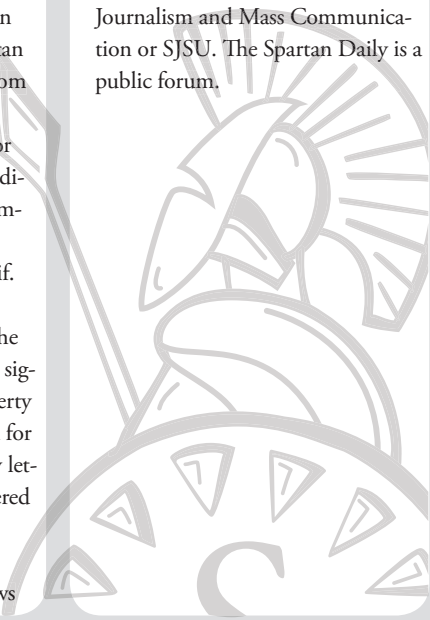
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Movie Review: 'Inglourious Basterds'

Tarantino turns Nazi hunting into a work of art

By Leonard Lai
Staff Writer

"Inglourious Basterds" is Quentin Tarantino's absurd alternate-history vision of the end of the second World War — although the word "absurd" should be a given the moment Tarantino's name is associated with any film.

If you're a hard-core fan of Tarantino films, this movie is for you. There was so much content in the two-and-a-half hour movie that I'm still trying to process everything.

And it's a Tarantino film, so that means you're pretty much obligated to go watch it anyway.

The film introduces you to "The Basterds," a group of Jewish-American soldiers set out to go behind enemy lines in France with one mission — "We're gonna be doing one thing and one thing only ... killin' Nazis."

Leading the Basterds is the rough-edged, no-nonsense, direct and to-the-point Lt. Aldo Raine (Brad Pitt), who demands that each of his soldiers bring

him at least 100 Nazi scalps. Rumors spread about the "basterds" and their methods of cruelty, instilling fear into Nazi forces, and even Hitler himself.

Among the basterds are Sgt. Donny Donowitz, otherwise known as "The Bear Jew," who is known for beating Nazis to death, in Tarantino detail, with his iconic wooden bat, and Hugo Stiglitz, a former Nazi soldier who was imprisoned for treason after brutally killing many ranking officers of the Nazi party.

The most memorable character would have to be Col. Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz). As the villain of the story, he uses his charm and sharp mind to efficiently get into the heads of anyone who talks to him. By the end of the film you will love to hate him.

The movie paces itself into chapters like some of Tarantino's previous movies. Instead of having a consistent flow, the film is driven more by dialogue and only shows a few short bursts of violent action.

When the movie does have

action, though, you will see the basterds scalping heads. Lt. Raine uses his knife to carve swastikas on the foreheads of spared Nazis, German soldiers becoming Swiss cheese when shot at, and explosions, since every summer movie needs those.

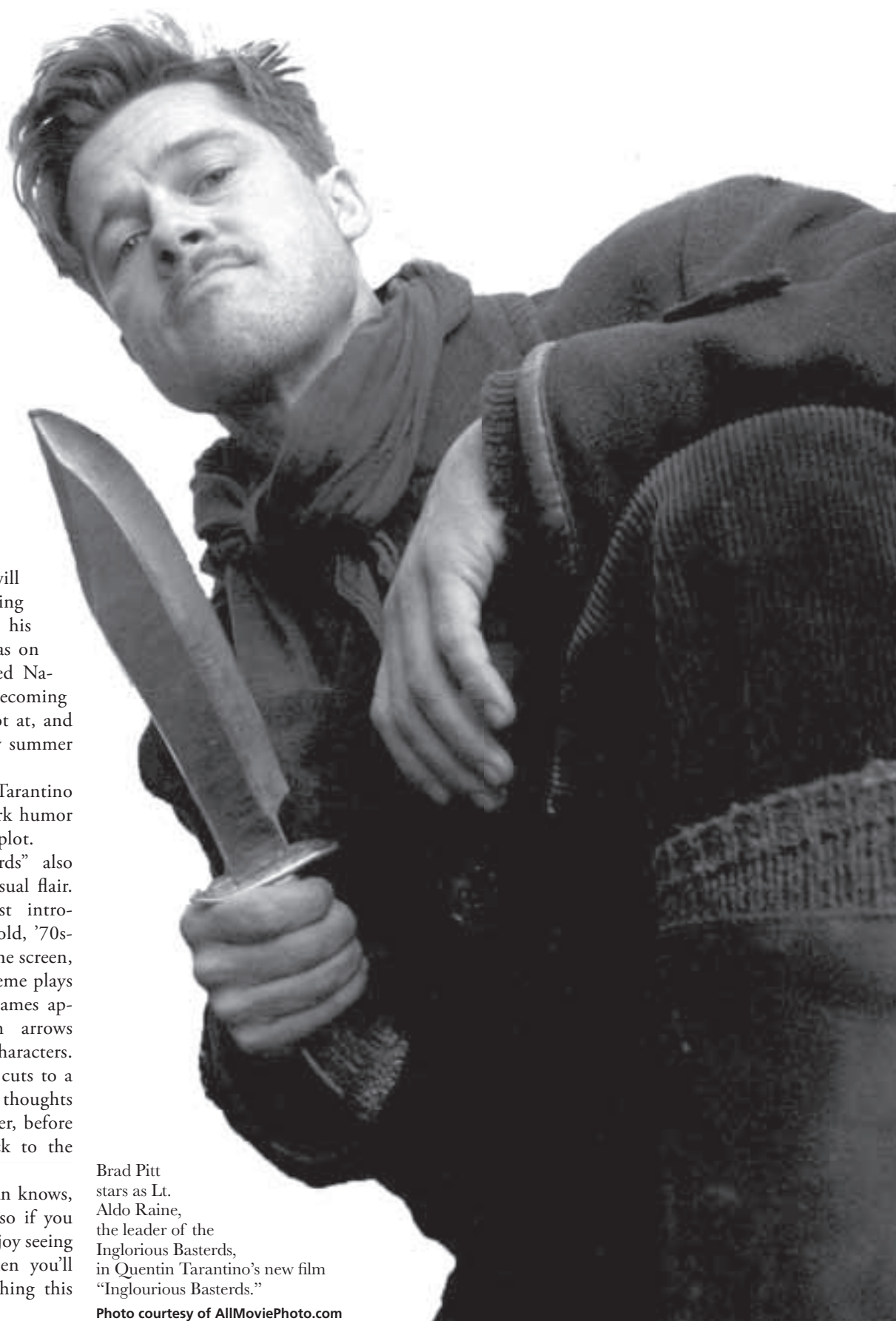
As in previous Tarantino films, his sense for dark humor is used to advance the plot.

"Inglourious Basterds" also has random bits of visual flair. When Stiglitz is first introduced, his name, in bold, '70s-style text, appears on the screen, while his own rock theme plays in the background. Names appear on-screen, with arrows leading to certain characters. The movie sometimes cuts to a scene that shows the thoughts of a particular character, before quickly switching back to the main scene.

As any Tarantino fan knows, his films are graphic, so if you don't mind that and enjoy seeing some Nazi killing, then you'll have a fun time watching this flick.

Brad Pitt stars as Lt. Aldo Raine, the leader of the Inglorious Basterds, in Quentin Tarantino's new film "Inglourious Basterds."

Photo courtesy of AllMoviePhoto.com



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