Joe West fires remain unsolved

By Samantha Rivera
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

Joe West Hall has been hit by multiple furloughs this semester, including several that did not appear to be accidental, said a university spokesman.

Now the University Police Department has opened an investigation on two of the fires, and SJSU is offering a $1000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible, said Pat Lopez Harris, director of media relations for SJSU.

“I don’t know how often we offer rewards,” Harris said. “But the reward, and the amount — which is no small amount. I mean, it’s almost half of a (student’s) fees for one term — that it indicates of how concerned we are.”

“Yeah, I don’t know if any-thing could make us take longer,” she said. “I only know that it was once going to come forward,” said Samuel Wilborn, a junior African American studies major. “You know, that whole ‘don’t snitch,’ kind of thing. But I think it’s a good thing. These people deserve to get caught and they should be punished.”

The two fires under investiga-tion occurred on Nov. 12 and Nov. 26 in Joe West Hall, said Sgt. Michael Santos of UPD, who is heading the inves-tigation in cooperation with arson detectives from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Unlike most alarm the de-partment gets, these two fires were clearly deliberate, Santos said.

“Usually, when there’s a fire in the dorms, it’s usually in a whole ‘don’t snitch,’ kind of thing. These people deserve to get caught and they should be punished.”

Easter Sunday, because that’s what people said I could. I couldn’t be touched anymore,” Mason said.

Mason and Liu were training for Wildflower, an impor-tant triathlon in California hold at Lake San Antonio, as they biked at about 30 miles per hour in the bike lane of Highway 12 in Santa Rosa, she said.

“I don’t remember being hit,” Mason said. “I know that the only reason the drive- r was stopped was because he couldn’t see out of his wind- shield since we had shattered it with our bodies.”

Liu died at the scene, she said.

Alumna lives to tell about accident

By Samantha Rivera
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

Alumna Jill Mason was paralyzed in 2004 in an accident involving a drunk driver and now travels the country advocating against drunk driving.

Jill Mason was paralyzed in 2004 in an accident involving a drunk driver and now travels the country advocating against drunk driving.

"We're not going to stop just because it's tough," Mason said.

Mason said she hopes to continue speaking to school districts to raise awareness of the dangers of drunk driving and to encourage young people not to drink.

"We're not going to stop just because it's tough," Mason said. "I want to make people think twice before they get behind the wheel."
By Regina Aquino

Students find ways to relax before finals

By Angela Marino

Alumni give back to where they started

By Samantha Rivera

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SURVIVOR

From Page 1

Mason said the driver was found with a blood alcohol level more than four times the legal limit when he struck Liu and her. He had no previous convictions of driving under the influence, Mason said.

Mason was taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital where she had both back and brain injuries. Her spinal cord was severed, and doctors determined she was in a coma for the two months after her accident. Mason said in October, chronicling her life in October, chronicling her life since the accident.

“I had to remind myself, ‘live like it and that’s why you’re here, and it’s interesting to be someone who had a degree and was on top of things, to not even remembering why you’re here,” she said.

Mason said her parents and brother have been her support system. "They’ve been phenomenal, she said. "She said she was in contact with Liu's family and started advocating against drunk driving to elementary and high school students in 2006. "It’s been frustrating for me, because my memory is spotty when it comes to remembering the six months before my accident, and I couldn’t remember my accident, she said.

Mason said she was discharged from the hospital on Sept. 14, 2007, and moved in with her parents.

"Our memory is a funny thing because my memory is spotty when it comes to remembering the six months before my accident," she said. "I had to remind myself, ‘live like it and that’s why you’re here, and it’s interesting to be someone who had a degree and was on top of things, to not even remembering why you’re here,“ she said.

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Mike Lambert, a senior business marketing major, looks over the Air Force ROTC detachment at the new wing commander at the change of command ceremony Thursday.

Becoming an Officer
During their senior year, cadets compile a wish list comprised of their top six career choices and bases assignments in the Air Force.

An assignment from the Air Force to an officer is called a “wish list.” AFROTC cadets receive their first commission the day after they graduate.

The Air Force has an 80 percent track record of approving cadets’ first choice destinations.

One of the factors that influences the assignment is the number of job openings in specific positions during the year of commissioning.

Once commissions are approved by Congress, the cadets are signed by the President.

Twelve percent of the Air Force flies aircraft, 10 percent work in aircraft maintenance, 78 percent work in financing, benefits and other careers necessary to keeping the Air Force flying.

Plains have a 10-year commitment to the Air Force with two years of undergraduate training.

Information courtesy of Lt. Col. Mickley, commander of AFROTC, and Melissa Ingram, commander of cadets.

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By Ryan Fernandez

Staff Writer

As the semester draws to a close, the Spartan Daily is undergoing its annual change.

In a recent interview conducted by the Spartan Daily for the Spring 2010 semester, assuming the position from the current executive editor, Hank Doerksen.

“I really wanted to challenge myself,” Akoley said. “And this is the bigger challenge we have in the journalism department, running the Daily.”

He said the three semesters he spent working for the Spartan Daily from a staff member, second as a multimedia editor and third as a sports editor, were a learning experience for him.

“My first semester was as a photojournalist and I don’t know about anything about journalism,” Akoley said. “Almost everything I needed to know about journalism, I learned in the last three semesters at the Daily.”

One of the goals Akoley said he has for the upcoming semester is to make sure the staff is trained and the work they do is working, making sure the work they are doing is working, working in these structures are the residents.

“It’s going to be up to the residents to keep them safe,” he said.

The fire alarm went off.

“The alarm went off,” he said. “I think they’re being cool, they’re not.”

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“We’re going to call the UPD dispatch based on our end and take action on.”

Drieling said. “They offer money for the next position, some in the journalism department, run-clicking off the position from the current executive editor, Rich Walsh.

“I had fun and enjoyed my time there,” he said.

“Some students in the dorms were frustrated by the constant smoking in their rooms. They said ‘It’s not my thing, my colleagues said. “I studied the problem of obesity in a right way, I think. But I don’t know if it’s all related so what, but it’s not related. If people think they’re being cool, they’re not.”

The constant alarms are a dislocation from campus, said Brandon Chapman, a freshman civil engineering major who lives in Campus Village. “I mean, if it’s any between the academic and the student,” he said. “I think they’re being cool, they’re not.”

“We have to do everything we can to evacuate these buildings with what’s needed to keep them safe,” he said. And at night, administrators and managers for the most part leave. What’s left in these structures are the residents.

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Diana Marks is 45 years old. At age 24, she was diagnosed with manic-depressive disorder, also known as bipolar disorder. Since then, she has been in and out of mental hospitals, experienced homelessness, suffered deaths in her family and even more recently, the death of her boyfriend Chris.

The two met seven years ago when Diana’s car broke down on Chris’ street. Diana was afraid to ask for someone’s help because at the time she was living in her brother’s car and she feared that someone would call the police on her if she showed up at someone’s doorstep asking for help. As she was walking down the street one late night, she heard the song “Any major dude will tell you” by Steely Dan playing loudly from someone’s house. As she approached the house, her fears of asking for help subsided, and when she knocked on the door, Chris was there to invite her inside.

After Chris’ death, Diana still cares for his home, which is walking distance from the house she lives in now.

Despite all of the tragedy in her life and her mental illness, she continues to live her life day by day thanks to her passion for music and love for animals. Through NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Diana found Kelly Tran, who not only helps her with chores around the house, but also has become a close friend.

One of her pet birds, named Little One, often comforts her by saying phrases she has taught Little One to say. Little One can be heard whistling throughout her home most of the time.

Diana met Kelly through NAMI’s “Peer Pals” program designed to help a mentally ill person connect with someone. Kelly visits Diana three times a week and helps her with chores around the house like cleaning or combing her hair after baths. The two have formed a strong friendship over the past year and a half. Diana embraces Kelly, telling her “I don’t treat you like a servant,” reminding her that their relationship is more than that of just a helper. Diana not only talks to Kelly about her issues, Kelly also confides in Diana, reciprocating their friendship.

In Chris’ home, Diana sings and plays the Steely Dan song on the piano, the song that brought them together on that fateful night. The lyrics, “When the demon is at your door/ In the morning it won’t be there no more/ Any major dude will tell you” escape her lips as she plays into the night. People often ask her why she loved Chris, and she replies back, “Because he let me in the door.”

Diana lights candles all around Chris’ house as there is no longer anyone there to pay for the electricity bill. She spends some nights sleeping on his couch with her dogs, saying, “This place is my home.”
AFROTC students handle rifles with precision

The serene expression of junior aerospace engineering major Eric Chynoweth belied the dynamic movement of the rifle he somersaulted through the air, spinning it three times before deftly catching it with a click of steel and wood.

"PDU (Precision Drill Unit) is a tenant of our detachment of ROTC," said senior aviation major Chris Garner, commander of the drill unit. "Our goal is to support the detachment in developing future officers for the Air Force, and we also provide a color guard for the detachment and rifle teams for competitions and recruiting."

Garner said this is the first semester the Precision Drill Unit is recognized as an official student organization by Associated Students. The team practices Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, Chynoweth said.

"I joined PDU because it was the first extracurricular section of ROTC I noticed my first semester," he said. "I wanted to jump-start my knowledge about everything I knew I needed to know. The more I discovered of what PDU was capable, the more I liked it."

He said the program focuses on not only drill and ceremonies required of active duty Air Force officers, but also the more show-oriented rifle team.

"They're the ones who spin the rifle and normally hurt themselves with it," said Melissa Ingram, commandant of cadets. "But they have a lot of fun doing it."

Garner said there are two parts to the Precision Drill Unit — the rifle team and the color guard, each with its own commander and purpose.

"PDU is kind of the tip of the spear of the detachment, and then within PDU is the rifle team, which is kind of the tip of the spear for PDU," he said. "Because it requires a lot of dedication, you get the most motivated cadets — the ones who truly want to excel and make themselves better."

Ingram said the 11-pound M1 Garands cannot be used for anything other than ceremony, because the firing pins have been taken out and the barrels have been filled, she said.

The rifles used by the Precision Drill Unit are remnants of World War II, said rifle team Commander Steven Cooney, a junior business major from Santa Clara University. Their serial numbers can be used to see to whom they were registered during the war.

"We prepare for Dining Out, which is our formal dinner in the fall," he said.

He said they also compete in the Southern California Invitational Drill Meet, in which AFROTC detachments from all over the country compete.

Garner said the next drill meet would take place on March 10.

"The other part of PDU is the honor guard, which is the much more visible part of PDU," Ingram said. "That's the ones that go out to Stanford, San Jose, Santa Clara and the community to normally present the colors."

"A four-man team from the color guard at almost every home football game, standing at the 50-yard line bearing the American flag while in their uniforms," Garner said.

Sophomore economics major Erik Bearden, color guard commander, said he organizes the color guard, scheduling transportation and overseeing practices.

"There's a lot of history behind the color guard — goes back to when we used to march into battle with flags and the colors," Garner said. "In the fog of war all you could see was the flag."

Training for the Precision Drill Unit begins in the spring semester, requiring cadets to attend 80 percent of the training, which takes place every Friday from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m., he said. Along with the training, cadets must be familiar with drill and ceremonies, keep a minimum grade-point average of 2.5, pass a physical fitness assessment and at least be able to handle a rifle.

"PDU to me is just the bond that I've built with all the other trainees," Bearden said. "Getting up at 3:30 in the morning and yelling at you really helps you become really good friends with people you're training with and build a good bond with them."
A heart for the hard of hearing

By Angela Marino

Staff Writer

Wendy Lin, a coordinator at the Student Union on Monday. Ghiorso is hard of hearing and relies on her dog for sounds she can’t hear, such as her alarm clock.

“Our staff organizes a training program to teach students how to use the software at the Adaptive Technology Center,” she said. “We have a variety of programs such as a document reader that enables blind students to read the text. The voice recognition software can type our spoken words for students who are unable to type.”

Ghiorso said she has a hearing dog to give her more a more reliable sense of her surroundings.

“A hearing dog is trained to alert me to sounds that I may not hear, such as a telephone ring or alarm clock beep,” she said. “My dog can go into stores, restaurants, anywhere I need to be.”

Ghiorso said she is thankful that she can’t hear, such as her dog alerting her to incoming phone calls.

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Old-school hip-hop seeks revenge

*By Leonard Lai*

Staff Writer

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

After a nine-year wait, Oakland hip-hop group Souls of Mischief has released its fourth CD.

Steve “Eligegy” Conflict, Cima, Rasool and Del Tha Funkee Homosapien, who formed the group in 1987, released several demo albums and toured extensively in their early years. The group released a live album and the collective’s first正式 album, *The 3rd Annual* in 1992. The group’s second album, *When the Get Down* was recorded in the Montezuma house, near Point Reyes. The title also was a reference to the slang term for something “un-European.”

The group is part of a larger collective called Hieroglyphics, known for its three-eyed, straight-lipped face logo. Hieroglyphics, Del Tha Funkee Homosapien. He was the lead rapper in the group and does the “Outro” track. Del doesn’t take introductions to the album, appears on “Hiero HQ,” and introduces the album, which left the impression in my mind that I was in some winter wonderland made up of cold and cool colors.

The real gem was turning two-per-serving cabinets with a pull switch in the middle to automatically dispense the fro-yo into the “giant” size cup and a “normal” size cup and a “giant” size cup that was about double the “normal” size cup. I grabbed one of the cups of frozen yogurt joint, where you can treat yourself to an assortment of flavors Chill Factor, has filled the vacant building next to it.

A cup of frozen yogurt yogurts. I grabbed one of the cups of frozen yogurt from Chill Factor. It’s a self-serve style frozen yogurt joint, where you can treat yourself to an assortment of flavors. I grabbed one of the cups of frozen yogurt from Chill Factor.

The flavors are divided into two-per-serving calibers with a pull switch in the middle to automatically dispense the flavors you want for your bowl.

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Student looks to accelerate hobby into go-kart racing career

By Ryan Frederick
Staff Writer

Motorsports and racing have been passions for student Matt Weiss since he was about 2 years old. “I’ve always been turned on to motorsports ever since I was young,” he said. “Dad used to just rent on the TV and we’d watch the Formula One races.”

Weiss, a sophomore kinesiology major, started racing go-karts in 2008, having bought his first go-kart as a freshman. “I had bought the go-kart after spending hours hearing from others that ‘karting’ was the coolest thing it was just seeing it on TV and thinking it was the coolest thing. I would always watch it. I finally decided to do it for a long time,” he said. “Then a couple years ago, I said ‘You know what, if I have the funds, I want to see what it’s like to continue racing.’”

He said Weiss decided to make a career out of racing by buying himself a kart. “I bought myself a kart.”

Weiss said he decided to pursue a career in motorsports because “I have a pretty good skill set and a good combination of fun-loving but serious, the sort.” He always had a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone, but there is a fine determination that always branched out on the surface of the quiet young Joe.

Goal Directed

Ways and means
don’t have to maintain a level of fitness

“Being in school and his early college career has to watch out for the drivers behind you,” he said. “You have to make stupid mistakes.”

Weiss said the Jim Rusbridge Motorsports sponsored his karting career. “I try to not get frustrated, try to go fast for position,” he said. “People are trying to jockey for position. I have to stay cool as I can get out ahead and around.”

On the track, Weiss said he looks for any advantage he can get from a driver behind him so that he can move ahead, but also has to watch for the drivers behind him. “You’re looking for your opponent to make a mistake, but you also have to make sure you don’t make a mistake yourself.”

When Weiss is on the track the prancing — “testing” in racing parlance — he said he focuses on consistent results with his kart. “I don’t want to go out on the track, thinking ‘I’ll do this and I’ll do that’,” he said. “I want to make sure that I can improve by making sure I can improve by making sure I can improve by improving in every aspect of the car.”

“Th at license is a big deal. It means I’m viable to go and test, into racing full-sized cars and potentially go from racing karts to scholarships that allow racers to move from racing karts to racing full-sized cars and potentially go from racing karts to championships.”

Weiss said he is currently funding his own racing expenses. “I have seen him get his M-1 license this year, and he said that he did that because I was able to keep ability to keep cool in the car. I can work on the car, so I can leave the car as it is until I’ve optimized the set up of the car, so I can leave the car as it is until race day.”

On track mindset

Weiss said that before a race, he tries to be as mentally relaxed as possible and to visualize himself doing laps — memorizing where he was braking, turning and accelerating on the track — a technique which he said inspired him while driving. “You never know what’s going to happen,” he said. “People are trying to jockey for position. I have to stay cool as I can get out ahead and around.”

Weiss said that the Jim Rusbridge Motorsports is his biggest sponsor, and professional motorsports are the future of his work. “I try to not get frustrated, try to go fast for position. I have to stay cool as I can get out ahead and around.”

On the track, Weiss said he looks for any advantage he can get from a driver behind him so that he can move ahead, but also has to watch for the drivers behind him. “You’re looking for your opponent to make a mistake, but you also have to make sure you don’t make a mistake yourself.”

Weiss said he would always aim to advance himself as a competitor, and said he would never give up an opportunity to race at the highest level.

Weiss said that the Jim Rusbridge Motorsports School of Scholarship Racing allows racers to move from racing karts to racing full-sized cars and potentially go from racing karts to championships. “I’m hoping to win a karting championship next year,” he said.

He said he tries to not get frustrated, trying to go fast for position. “I just want to get out into the world and go karting, because I can’t drive these cars without a special license.”

Weiss said the preferred and most of his work would be the ability to make a living as a professional racer. “It would allow me to express myself and make a living doing it,” he said. “Professional motorsports is entertainment, like watching football. They make money by having fans tune in with their TVs or with people going to their games — I want to be able to give that entertainment to people and have that pay my bills.”

Weiss said he would always aim to advance himself as a competitor and said he would never give up an opportunity to race at the highest level. “Orpheus One is the highest level,” he said. “And if it worked out, then that’s where I will go.”

Weiss said his next race will be at March, which is the beginning of the 2010 racing season. “Next season, definitely I want to improve. I hope I have the latest, greatest equipment, and no problems,” he promised. “It doesn’t matter how great the expense is, I’ll find my way to pay it. I want to go into the season with everything working and give myself the best chance possible to win that championship.”
Yes, I have a Point

Angelo Lanham

It's that time of year. I'm not the first to say it, but I'm the one who's saying it this time, at this precise moment. That first Christmas music to start playing a few days before Thanksgiving is some precursor to the holiday. Every day, incrementally disproportionate amounts of car alarm鸣 sound and one ring announcing a missed call.

It's a little colder, now. Not just in the weather, though. Really, people, it's not a stretch to think that if it's 10 degrees colder than it was, I'm not aware of the heat as vividly.

I'm Greek. I love it. I don't want a blanket. I get cold too, but you won't catch me wearing a blanket while I'm standing around the house.

There is no doubt that from the moment it began, Operation Iraqi Freedom has been a misadventure.

The military equivalent of two Adolfo Calzoni, the mouth of the Sadr militia, contributed to the Sunni Awakening. Also, said the Sunni Awakening was a lessening of the violence, just because the militia stood down or the fact that the Sadr militia was captured.

On Thursday, the Associated Press reported that 100 Al Qaeda members in the country.

An article from the ABC News Web site stated that a senior U.S. intelligence official at the National Counterterrorism Center said that there were 100 Al Qaeda members in the country.

There was a response by an anonymous member on the Fox News Web site. The official confirmed the number, but added that Al Qaeda's "center of gravity" is in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and was in Afghanistan with Taliban leaders.

Obama should be preparing a counter-strike, in order to cut off of that center of gravity in the tribal regions of Pakistan near the Afghanistan border.

Sending 30,000 troops to Afghanistan to fight 100 Al Qaeda fighters is exactly analogous to starting a war in Iraq because of what some want to call an existential threat.

No doubt, I'm a moron. But guess what? You can say anything about me, but I'm not going to stop writing what I think is the very nature of the Hippocampus to be continually called a blithering idiot by anonymous people who wholeheartedly disagree with me, but unless I'm grossly diagnosed with mine yet, I must keep going.

A simple hardware add-on to your computer to be sold in the near future and a slice or two of HTML code will yield a nice brick embossed by a hallow glow, according to our assistant at work at any online provider and logged on to your computer. It is a creation of the, or the language that a boot, or a glitch. I'm allowed to say that.

I'm Greek. I love it. I don't want a blanket. I get cold too, but you won't catch me wearing a blanket while I'm standing around the house.

I had a nacho burrito today. While consuming it, I thought to myself, I want a warm burrito in a blanket, get cold too, but you won't catch me wearing a blanket while I'm standing around the house.

Don't say me on my account. I was watching: Lonely Times and I got a great idea for a new song. If you believe that I know it is the very nature of the Hippocampus to be continually called a blithering idiot by anonymous people who wholeheartedly disagree with me, but unless I'm grossly diagnosed with mine yet, I must keep going.

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