



P. 2 A&E: Staff writer Devon Thames says “Dredd” is an exciting reimagining of the famous comic book in this movie review.

P. 3 Sports: SJSU womens’ volleyball team wins home opener.

P. 5 Opinion: Staff writer Camille Nguyen says making money in college shouldn’t cost us our pride.



Great food and beer at Original Gravity

A&E review, p.2

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EDUCATION

SJSU climbs US News & World Rankings

By Celeste Lodge
@Celestelodge

U.S. News & World Report ranked SJSU No. 9 of the public West Regional Universities, and the engineering department No. 3 among public schools in the nation of non-doctoral institutions offering bachelor’s and master’s degrees, for the best colleges of 2013.

Although the U.S. News ranking lists ranks the engineering department number 17 overall, it is only the third public school on the list, while the rest are private and military colleges.

SJSU moved up from tenth last year to ninth among public schools on the rankings list, according to Ellen Junn, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs.

“Out of all the options on the west coast I think it’s great that SJSU made the top 10,” said Audra Higbee, a 5th year recreational therapy major. “I feel that, being in the heart of the Silicon Valley, we receive one-of-a-kind opportunities that other schools don’t have and this makes us stand apart from the rest.”

Junn said she is happy that what San Jose State has been doing is now showing positive improvement, and in result increasing the schools national rankings.

“We’re always striving as a campus to do the better things to improve students’ success,” Junn said. “We’ve been working very hard on improving our faculty, the services of students, advising and circular programs.”

“I’m trying to get students more access to technology and improved learning, hopefully at a cheaper price, so that (students) can graduate and have the skills and not have to pay a bunch money,” Junn said.

Junn recently secured a deal with Adobe to offer students the Creative Suite at a 98 percent discount.

Normally the price is about \$600 but students can now buy it at the price of \$47.25 and \$57.25, according to Junn.

“All universities can improve,” Junn said. “No matter how good you are, there are always areas for improvements.”

Junn said she is also looking to increase the number of tenure-track faculty and build new learning spaces.

“Building better classroom environments (is) a part of our strong push to help students and faculty to succeed,” Junn said.

The College of Engineering department moved up from 7th last year to 3rd on the list, according to Ping Hsu, interim dean of the College of Engineering.

Hsu said the credit goes to all the faculty members and the staff of the college, and they are all happy to see their effort recognized.

“We immerse industry professors in our curriculum to teach with us and the students are very well aware of what’s going on with the new technology and new skills and knowledge,” said Ahmed Hambaba, associate dean of the College of Engineering for graduate studies and extended studies.

The College of Engineering started its new biomedical engineering program this semester that only one other CSU, Cal Poly, offers, according to Hsu.

SEE RANK ON PAGE 4

SJSU WINS 38-34

Spartans survive Aztec assault



SJSU Spartan wide receiver Chandler Jones (middle) hauls in the game-winning touchdown with 50 seconds to go in the fourth quarter against the SDSU Aztecs, Saturday. The win brought the Spartans’ record to 3-1. **Photo by Jesse Jones / Contributing Photographer**

SPORTS, PAGE 3

CAMPUS

Students in debt find help at workshop series

By Thyra Phan
@ThyraPhan

When Klayton Tang transferred to SJSU from De Anza College, he owed more than \$12,000 in debt after spending four years at the community college.

Tang, a junior environmental studies major, said he currently owes \$27,000 after taking out loans to pay for SJSU tuition.

According to a 2008 Pew Research Center study, more than \$23,000 is the average loan for students obtaining a bachelor’s degree – \$6,000 more than in 1996.

To provide students and staff with information on how to manage personal finance, the Center for Community Learning and Leadership has launched a free money management workshop series.

Budgeting for college is an issue mainly because students see budgeting as boring and restrictive, according to Bethany Eggman, a Golden 1 Credit Union education program manager.

Eggman advises students to create a budget based on how much money they have, but not to be too strict.

She said if a budget is too restrictive, it will be difficult to commit.

Tang said budgeting teaches him to balance “having fun, studying and working.”

Because he works 20 hours a week, Tang said most of his expenses are school related.

“Most of my money goes to tuition and materials needed for classes,” he said. “Anything left over is used for food or entertainment on weekends.”

Tang said he is interested in attending a money management workshop to see if he can learn tips on how to save money.

“I don’t have a lot of money like I used to, so I have to watch where I spend my money,” he said.

Stacey Domnie, a junior child and adolescent development major, said she knows the importance of budgeting because it encourages her to think about her future.

“I have plans to travel the world, own a home and become my own boss,” she said. “These ideas cost money. Therefore, saving money is important.”

Domnie works more than 20 hours a week as a nanny while balancing a full load of classes at SJSU.



Gregory B. Meyer, a Meriwest Credit Union community relations manager, gives advice to junior Spanish major Clara Calderon at an auto purchasing and financing workshop. **Photo by Thyra Phan / Spartan Daily**

“I would pay bills as they come in, and occasionally I would attempt to stick to a strict regiment, but that only lasts briefly,” she said.

From one of Eggman’s workshops, Domnie said she learned to make small adjustments to her budget to become accustomed to the new lifestyle.

Matthew Lim, a senior political science major, said he finds himself on a tight budget due to a demanding school schedule.

“I don’t work during the school year because I’m taking 16 units and working more than 12 hours a week for my internship,” he said. “I have to budget or else I can’t eat or drive to school or my internship.”

Lim said he has the tendency to spend money if it’s readily available, so he leaves his credit card at home to avoid unnecessary spending.

“(The money management workshop) can be really useful to students on a tight budget, especially to freshmen who just started college,” he said.

Eggman said she relates to those students because, when she was in college, she abused her credit cards, causing her to owe thousands of dollars in debt.

“No one told me how important budgeting is,” she said. “So, I am here to teach college students about budgeting and how it’s really not as bad as it sounds.”

For students looking to start creating a bud-

get, Eggman recommends a website called Mint.com, where users can link their financial information into one place to monitor their spending.

She said users can sign up for text or email alerts, notifying them if they reach their set spending limits.

Eggman also recommends students to write down their expenses, even if it’s tedious.

“If it’s a cash transaction, write it down because there is no record of it unless you get a receipt,” she said. “Use a website or a mobile app that will monitor your spending.”

If creating a budget is difficult, Eggman recommends setting aside 10 percent of a paycheck into savings for an emergency fund.

The Center for Community Learning and Leadership has partnered with financial institutions, such as Meriwest Credit Union, and several SJSU offices, such as the Bursar’s, to provide the workshop series.

Money management workshops are offered through Dec. 3, where more than 10 classes are held at different times each month.

Workshops range from creating and managing budgets to preventing identity theft and knowing how to use credit cards responsibly.

Thyra Phan is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter @ThyraPhan.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Original Gravity brings the science of beer to San Jose

Grade **A-**By Sage Curtis
@sagedanielle

Original Gravity Public House isn't for the college kid drinking Natural Light out of a keg — this is craft beer and gourmet sausages, and they are doing it right.

Original Gravity is the brain child of two craft beer lovers, Johnny Wang and Dan Phan, and they are glad to be offering San Jose an alternative to the Bud Light (bar) scene.

"I always wanted to own my own business," Phan said. "Johnny always wanted to own a restaurant and I always wanted to open my own beer bar. I grew up in San Jose and every time I came home we always thought 'Oh, there's not any place we can go out for beers,' so that's what led us to downtown San Jose."

Craft brew isn't just a business for Phan though — it's a passion, born out of career in chemistry and a true love for a unique beer.

"I was a chemist for awhile, but I got tired of the corporate lifestyle," Phan said. "I got really into the whole craft brew industry and started home brewing a few years ago."

Phan hand-selects the beers Original Gravity serves

on its rotating menu. He stays current with the craft brewing community and keeps an eye out for unique and seasonal beers.

The digital menu board rotates almost daily, making sure that the customer never has the same experience twice, according to Phan.

"Our menu board is synced to our website, so you can always see what we have from home or on your iPhone if you're sitting on the back patio," Phan said.

The beer selection of about 15 different types ranges from \$6 to \$10, and includes local brewing companies, as well as craft brews, from abroad.

"Our beers our about 80 percent American craft beer and about 20 percent international, usually Belgium or Denmark," Phan said. "For the most part, we try to keep beers on tap that are really interesting. There's a lot of science in brewing now. People are kind of pushing boundaries about what they are doing in beer."

It's a perfect fit for an ex-chemist and beer lover, but it isn't enough to just be a beer lover at Original Gravity — you need to be an expert on beer pairing — a cicerone.

"There's a whole program where they train you to be a beer server and then a cicerone," Phan said. "A cicerone starts learning the nuances of pairing beer with food. The

whole food pairing thing is a huge thing now. Chefs really enjoy beer—it's a lot easier to pair than wine because the flavors are more forward."

That's where the sausages come in, and they come in full force.

A menu of classic and gourmet sausages include spicy chicken, Hawaiian, pepper jack, potato and sweet apricot, which range from \$5.75 to \$6.50.

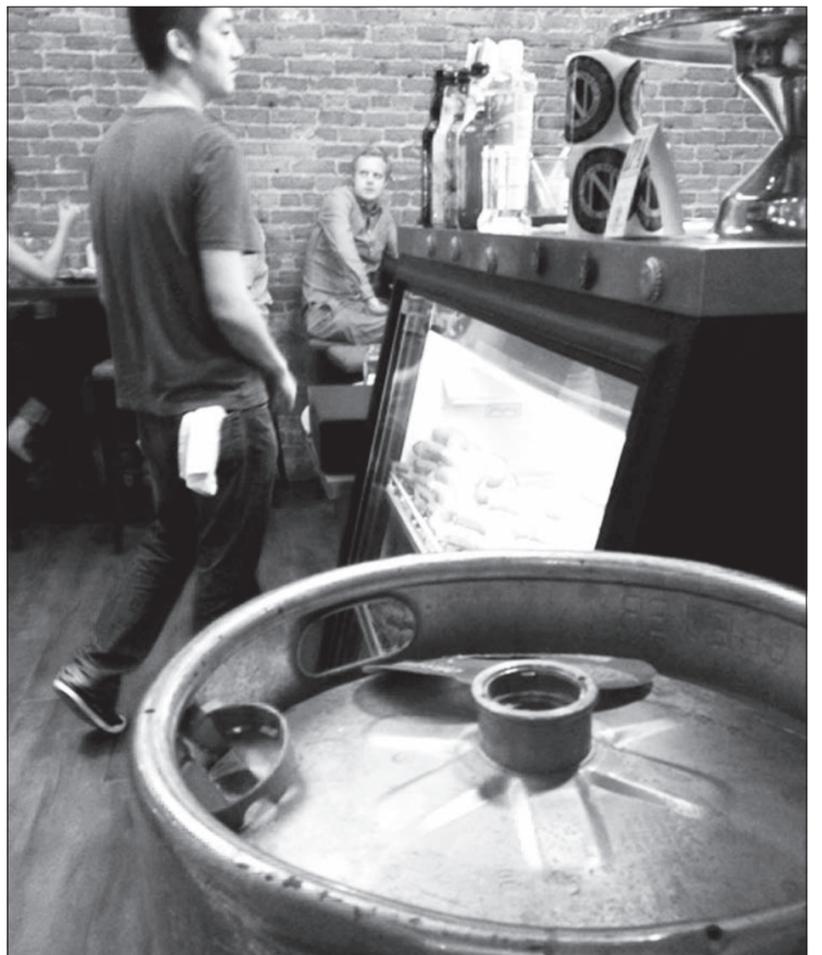
They also have two vegetarian sausages and a rotating selection of exotics sausages, which have included pheasant, wild boar and kangaroo in the past.

All of the sausages come on a toasted bun and can be topped with bell peppers, grilled onions, sauerkraut and candied jalapenos.

"We used to have sausage fests at our houses before we opened," Phan said. "We'd all sit around and try sausages and see how they worked with the beers."

Stopping at sausages was never an option either—they also serve gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches (\$4.50-\$6.75) and duck fat fries (\$3.50 to \$5).

The Mouse Trap grilled cheese (\$4.50) includes sharp cheddar, Havarti and Monterey jack cheeses and is exactly what you would want out of a grilled cheese, especially when you pair with a blonde ale called Beer of the Gods.



Original Gravity Public House serves a variety of international and domestic craft beers in addition to gourmet sausages and grilled cheese sandwiches. Photo by Sage Curtis / Spartan Daily

Of the sausages, the pepperjack, spicy chicken, sweet apricot and Hawaiian were delicious — all of them juicy and flavorful.

"They really add something to the beer," said patron Eric Duft. "All the food is good here."

Original Gravity opened in July during the Craft Beer Fest in downtown San Jose, exposing the bar to its target demographic of beer drinkers, according to bar manager Rob Monroe.

"(The festival) was totally

instrumental in helping get people through our door to see what we are about," Monroe said. "I think people are really curious about what we are trying to do here. We've had a very positive response and some good criticism, as well."

The bar is already reaching out to the community and creating ties with their audience, such as the Spartan Brew Crew at SJSU.

"We just want to connect with the people around us that are interested in beer—

people who want to learn something more than just coming here to drink" Monroe said. "When you know what you're drinking and why it tastes the way it does, it creates a much more diverse and happy customer base."

Original Gravity is located at 66 S. 1st St. and is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, 11 a.m. to midnight Thursday through Saturday.

Sage Curtis is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @sagedanielle.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Dredd 3-D' does justice to the original, but effects fall short

Grade **B-**By Devon Thames
@dtspartan

Hollywood's attempt to remake films over and over is starting to become a trend, and Dredd 3-D is now added to the growing list of Tinseltown's makeovers.

Dredd 3-D will mark the second attempt to turn this British comic book into a respectable film fans can love.

The mysterious Dredd is played by Karl Urban, who first appeared in American cinema as Eomer in "Lord of the Rings."

The New Zealand actor has since done his fair share of American films, including 2004's "The Bourne Supremacy," and the 2009 JJ. Abrams' film "Star Trek," which he played a young Dr. Leonard McCoy.

Urban has also done a number of independent New Zealand films, including my personal favorite, the 2000 film "The Price of Milk."

In the film, the character never removes his helmet, which adds a stronger development to this character as you almost view him as a machine. RoboCop somehow pops into my head as I watched this film.

The movie also stars a fresh faced Olivia Thirlby as rookie judge Cassandra Anderson, whose unique abilities in the film alter the events she and Dredd encounter as he takes her out for a trial run.

Though Thirlby looks like a newcomer, you may have seen

the actress in such films as Juno and the 9/11 film "United 93."

Thirlby's character proves to be a useful asset to the story by coming out of Dredd's shadow at times, allowing her to have display a hero aspect all her own.

British actress Lena Headey arguably retains her elegance as the hooker-turned-drug-lord, nicknamed Ma-Ma, who is feared for her blunt disregard of human life.

Headey departs from her typical feminine roles in this film and is surprisingly effective at being the source of fear, thanks to the grotesque scars on her face and the tattoos covering her body, subsequently giving her an edgy feel.

You may or may not remember the 1995 film "Judge Dredd" with Sylvester Stallone and Saturday Night Live's Rob Schneider, of "Duce Bigelow: Male Gigolo" fame.

Even if you were too young or not even in existence yet to see it at a theater, it may have been amongst your parent's DVD collection.

The Sly Stallone version featured a Dredd going against his brother who was ousted judge. The film was considered a flashy flop that went through a merry-go-round of directors, basically straying from the comic book concept.

In fact, the only thing in common with the 1995 Sly Stallone flick may be the comic book character's source of inspiration, which was created by John Wagner and Carlos Ezquerro.

Set in the future, where the world has been inevitably affected by huge amounts of radiation, there is now ramped

chaos and the use of an illegal drug called "Slo-Mo."

Law enforcement is now in the form of judges, officers who are allowed to not only enforce the law, but to instantly convict and sentence the arrestees they capture.

The idea to create a drug that simply slows down time to a small fraction of its speed proves to be both good and bad for its users, depending on what your doing in the length of time your under the influence. Maybe someone with a quickly approaching deadline would appreciate taking a hit.

The film stays true to the comic book by keeping Dredd a mystery to the audience, making him seem one dimensional.

The film does lack a wow factor on many levels, from the actors to the setting. The story concept does leave you on the edge of your seat, and you quickly do understand why the cameras decided to start filming on this day it Dredd's life.

The entire film is in 3-D and while it enhances the look of the colorful, drug induced scenes, it other wise does little to justify the extra money you pay for the glasses, so save yourself the headache.

If you're looking for an exciting, edge of your seat movie, this will satisfy you for about an hour-and-thirty-eight minutes, but avoid the extra 3-D payment.

All and all, the film issues a decent ride and allows you to immerse yourself into the world of a radiated future, where judges decide your fate.

Devon Thames is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @dtspartan.

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SJSU 34, SDSU 31

SJSU football team upsets Aztecs in fourth quarter

By Peter Fournier
@P_Fournier

SJSU topped the San Diego State Aztecs in a 38-34 thriller Saturday night at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, executing the small things when needed to stun the Aztecs.

The Spartans didn't come close to out-gaining the Aztecs offensively, but it defeated a soon-to-be Mountain West rival who the Spartans will play annually starting next year when it joins the conference.

SJSU junior quarterback David Fales turned around a poor performance in the fourth quarter, throwing three touchdown passes in the last quarter to finish a dismal performance in the first three periods behind him.

SJSU's 21-point fourth was topped off with Fales' 14-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Chandler Jones to put the Spartans

ahead for good in the final minute.

Fales' Eli Manning-esque fourth quarter — Manning is known for making late-game comebacks — was difference-making in a game where SJSU was penalized nine times for 87 yards and outgained by more than 100 yards offensively, according to SJSU Athletics.

The Spartans also appeared ready to take advantage of an early Aztecs fumble, driving deep into San Diego territory until senior running back Ina Liaina's fumble was recovered by SDSU inside its 20-yard line.

What could have been a 10-0 lead turned into a brief 7-3 deficit when Aztecs' sophomore running back Adam Muema blasted 83 yards to the end zone just two plays later.

Sophomore corner back Tyler Ervin put the Spartans back ahead on the ensuing kickoff, dashing 97 yards

down the sideline to put the Spartans up 10-7.

Ervin's kickoff return touchdown destroyed whatever thought San Diego State had of running away with the game.

After the Aztecs scored once again to pull back ahead 14-10, SJSU junior cornerback Damon Ogburn returned the ensuing kickoff 67 yards to the SDSU 22.

The return set up Fales' first TD pass of the game to Liaina to put the Spartans back in front 17-14. An SDSU field goal made it a 17-17 game at halftime. The Aztecs held the Spartans scoreless in the third quarter before SJSU's 21-point explosion in the fourth quarter by SJSU.

SJSU's will play against the Navy at Annapolis, Maryland on Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

Peter Fournier is a contributing writer. Follow him on Twitter at @P_Fournier.



Linebacker Keith Smith and the rest of the SJSU football team celebrate a SJSU fumble recovery during Saturday's game against SDSU Aztecs. Photo by Jesse Jones / Contributing Photographer



The SJSU women's volleyball team celebrates a match point during their victory over the Idaho on Thursday night in the Spartan Gym. Photo by Raphael Kluzniok / Contributing Photographer

VOLLEYBALL 3-0

Spartan volleyball team sweeps home opener against Vandals

By David Sheffer
@SD_DSHeffer

The SJSU women's volleyball team defeated the University of Idaho Vandals with a clean sweep, winning 3-0 last Thursday in the Spartan Gym.

Thursday's game against the Vandals was the Spartan's first home game, and their first win in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC).

The Spartans highest scorers were junior left setter Hanah Blume, with 12 kills and 12 points and senior middle blocker Alex Akana, with 11 kills and 14 points.

"We were very prepared and had a lot of confidence in this match," Akana said.

The Spartans won the first match 25-15, remaining in the lead the whole time, with a .455 hitting percentage with 33 attempts and four errors.

Blume, who was just recovering from strep throat the week earlier, led the first match with eight attempts, .500 hitting percentage and five kills.

Freshman setter Michaela Leonard played her first game at Spartan Gym, led for most assists in the first set with 16.

In the second match, the Spartans won 25-14 maintaining their lead the whole

match, with seven errors by the Vandals.

"Idaho is a very good team, we did a lot of great things as a team, and their errors helped us," said Spartan head coach Oscar Crespo.

The Vandals had 19 errors, seven serving errors, and one blocking error in the game.

The third and final match was far closer, with 13 tie scores and eight lead changes before the Spartans won 28-26.

The Vandals had eight errors in the third match, including an error near the end of the match by senior setter Ryann Carter that brought the score to 27-26.

Akana then gave the winning kill ending the game.

"It is hard coming back from the 10-minute break, and we had to limit our errors in the third set and be confident in ourselves," Akana said.

Neither team had a lead greater than three points in the third match.

"By the third match, they caught onto our game plan and settled in," Akana said.

Akana finished the game with 14 points, the highest number points scored for the team.

The Spartan's win on Thursday gives them a 5-7 record for the season.

Blume attributed Thursday's win to the large chunk

of time the team spent studying up on the Vandals.

"We were very prepared for this game, we watched videos of their games for two days," Akana said.

The win against the Vandals is the second sweeping win that the Spartans have had this season.

"Stepping into the match we were confident," Crespo said, "We came out the strongest I've seen all season."

By the end of the game, the Spartans had a combined 48 kills out of 101 attempts with 14 errors.

"We have been yearning to play at home after being gone for a month," Blume said, "Nothing is better than coming home and playing such a good team, playing well and having such a great crowd to support us."

Leonard had the game high for assists with 43 out of 46 total assists made by the Spartans.

"I was connecting with Michaela tonight and her confidence in me helped me to put the ball away," Akana said.

The Spartan volleyball team will be playing the University of the Pacific Tigers on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

David Sheffer is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @SD_DSHeffer.

SJSU 2, NJIT 4

Spartan men's soccer team splits weekend tournament in Santa Clara

By David Bermudez
@Bermudez_Dave

The SJSU men's soccer team found themselves on the losing end of a frustrating loss on Sunday, when they fell 4-2 to the New Jersey Institute of Technology Highlanders in their last non-conference match before opening up conference play in Seattle.

As part of two game San Jose State/Santa Clara University tournament, the Spartans (3-4-0) won the first game on Friday 3-2 against Bradley University and came into Sunday's match with a two-game winning streak.

The Spartans came out aggressive in the first half, controlling possession early on in the match. The team had a chance to go to score in the first minute of play, when left forward Jonathan Salceda gave a leading pass to senior forward Steven Sanchez, a leading SJSU goal scorer, but NJIT goalkeeper Lars Maalen-Johansen forced Sanchez outside and blocked his shot.

But NJIT capitalized on two SJSU mistakes in the 19th minute and 21st minute of the first half that gave them a quick 2-0 lead.

"It's always frustrating when you have possession and most control of the game and you make simple mistakes and the other team capitalizes on one, two, three mistakes," said assistant coach Chris Behler. "Those mistakes cost you even when you're dominating."

The first mistake for SJSU came in the 19th minute when NJIT defender Jimmy Myers gave the Highlanders a 1-0 lead when he headed the ball past SJSU goalkeeper Michael Schwinn on a fluky bounce that the SJSU defenders failed to clear out.

Two minutes later, defender Marco Drljic increased the Highlanders lead to 2-0 on another free kick goal.

The Spartans finally got on the board with three minutes left before the end of the first half, when SJSU freshman forward Thomas Barnes found sophomore forward Garret Foster, who easily put

the ball behind the net and the Spartans trailed 2-1 going into halftime.

SJSU again came out strong to begin the second half, but within six minutes into the second half NJIT went up 3-1 when junior defender Christian Galindo received a pass on the left wing, dribbled to the center and shot it low and to the right of the goal, right past a diving Schwinn.

In the 64 minutes the Spartans almost cut down the NJIT lead to one, when Sanchez gave a nice through ball to Salceda that split the defense, but Maalen-Johansen was able to make a foot-sliding save.

The Spartans continued to attack on NJIT and in the 80th minute, SJSU senior defender Christian Romero found a wide-open Sanchez who easily headed it past the Highlanders keeper, scoring his sixth goal of the season and had the Spartans down 3-2.

NJIT put the game away with two minutes left in the game when midfielder Christian Marcel gave a chip pass that

went over Spartan senior defender Nick Murphy's head and right to junior forward Franco Gamero, who struck the ball right past Schwinn and put the Highlanders ahead 4-2.

"The whole thing we talked about before the game was that we wanted to remain consistent, and I still believe that's something we need make sure we're doing and that's to be more consistent with our play," said Behler. "The confidence was there, it's just a matter of not being consistent and executing."

David Bermudez is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at @Bermudez_Dave.



SJSU's Nick Murphy takes the ball downfield during the Spartans' 3-2 victory over Bradley University Friday night. Photo by Raphael Kluzniok / Contributing Photographer

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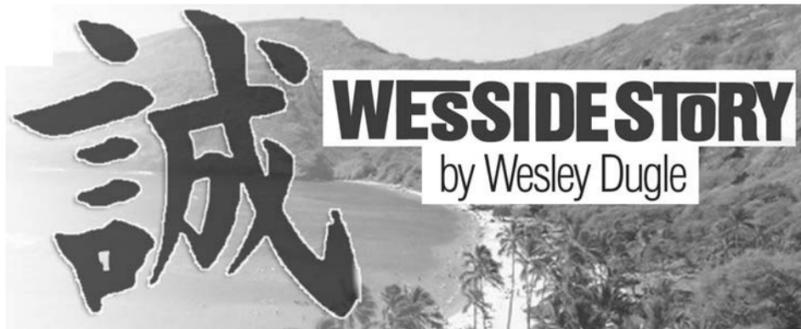
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More competitive teams keep games fresh for fans

Since I was a kid, I've always been a huge basketball fan.

From the mid-'90s, during Michael Jordan's golden years on, I've loved the game of basketball and watching the athletic plays, the great games and the last-second winning shots.

Growing up in southern California, near Los Angeles, has also given me another perk as a basketball fan: the Los Angeles Lakers.

Yes, I am a Lakers fan.

Yes, I can already hear your "Beat LA" chants as I type this, Warriors fans.

I guess I shouldn't mention I'm a Dodgers fan, too. Whoops.

I love being a Lakers fan because they are consistently competitive year in and year out, and are virtually guaranteed a title every few years, as they have won at least one in each decade, minus

the '90s when Jordan was beating every team in his path.

Hell, an off year in Los Angeles is still making the playoffs, as they have only missed the playoffs five times in franchise history, but that would be a successful season here in the Bay Area.

Yes, being a Lakers fan is good, but their recent moves highlight a problem I have with the NBA these days.

This offseason, the Lakers managed to get all-star point guard Steve Nash from the Phoenix Suns, and all-star Orlando Magic center Dwight



Wesley Dugle's column appears every Monday.

Howard for virtually nothing, besides trading away their center Andrew Bynum.

I can hear some of you saying "Wait, you are complaining about this?" and surprisingly, I have to say "Yes, I am."

While it is pretty awesome to see two great players join an already good team, it shows the big problem between big and small market teams in the NBA.

When the NBA went into a lockout last season, one of the problems the new collective bargaining agreement was supposed to solve was the great divide between the big and small market teams, and make the league more competitive.

It was supposed to limit how superteams like the current champion Miami Heat could be formed, who managed to nab all-stars Chris Bosh and LeBron James to add to their already talented roster with Dwyane Wade.

These moves by the Lakers last season show that the lockout virtually did nothing.

While I am a Lakers fan, I'm a basketball fan first, and I like to watch competitive games between competitive teams.

Sure, I love an ass-whooping as much as the next sports fan, but 120-70 blowouts aren't as much fun as the 120-119 close wins.

Part of the reason why the Lakers' last championship was so much fun for me was that it went seven games. The Boston Celtics were competitive against them, unlike the four games to one snoozer the year before, where they dominated the Orlando Magic.

Stockpiling superstars doesn't make the game very competitive — just ask the Miami Heat, which handily beat a very tough Oklahoma City

Thunder in the finals last season.

It doesn't add much intrigue to watching a season of basketball when there isn't much competitive parity between all the teams.

Hockey and football have managed to keep things competitive for most all their teams each season, but the NBA still needs to work on ways to get teams such as the Toronto Raptors and Charlotte Bobcats involved.

At the rate the league is going, it will be just three to four teams with five all-star-caliber players apiece vying for the title while the rest of the league wallows in mediocrity.

To quote an interview by the Mercury News with Golden State Warriors center Andrew Bogut, "The rich get richer."

The league needs to change and help the smaller market teams from being robbed by the bigger ones all the time. There's no fun in watching a sports league that is virtually dominated by three to four teams each season.

Now, this isn't going to keep me from rooting for the Lakers this next season.

Being the villains has always been the role of Los Angeles in the league, and stealing these great players like these only adds to that identity. But if they do end up winning the championship this season, it's going to feel a bit hollow for me because of the lack of true competition for them.

But who knows, maybe they'll end up like my Dodgers, which I'm sure would make the Giants fans reading this happy.

But probably not.

Deal with it San Francisco!

Wesley Dugle is a Spartan Daily Production Editor. Follow him on Twitter at @WesSideStories.

G.E. classes set a high price with little gain for students

Five years ago, I was excited to get out of high school, move away and start on my educational path to a career I could enjoy doing every day.

I became disillusioned when the classes I didn't enjoy not only continued into my college career, but actually intensified.

I was one of those annoying kids that graduated from high school with a plan — I knew what I wanted to major in and what I wanted to do with my major after I graduated.

I was a journalism student and an English student, so why was I taking math and science classes and wasting hours out of my day?

I didn't really think anything more than "Oh, it's just G.E. Get it out of the way and you'll be done with it" until I studied abroad and learned how higher education works in other countries.

In England, you aren't accepted into a university without a specific course of study and then you spend your time specializing within that area, immersed in your chosen topic.

In Germany, you are either put on the university track in your pre-teens or can choose to have a more vocational course of study, which takes you out of the academic world and into actual training.

Why did I waste hours of a semester in a meteorology class when all I've ever wanted to do is write?

I know the arguments for general education: It rounds us out as students, it offers options to learn things you knew nothing about before and it gives us an all-inclusive education.

And yes, I wouldn't have my minor in humanities or the history knowledge I have without some of my gener-



Sage Curtis is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

al education, but what did I learn in meteorology?

Well, I could tell you that if there's cloud cover during the day, the night will be a little bit warmer. That's about it.

I took calculus in high school, but took Math 10 at SJSU, learning Roman numerals and how to turn fractions into decimals — I was only satisfying requirements.

I don't think this approach to education was what the original thinkers had in mind, but I think most G.E. has turned into just that — take the class that sounds most interesting or the easiest, the easiest "A" you ever got, the one with the least amount of homework.

Take it with your friends and sit in the back on Facebook.

The product of this, I think, is that we usually don't come out any more well-rounded, but still three units closer to graduation and with about 45 hours of our lives put into something for which we couldn't be bothered to do the homework.

I'm not saying that it's the right approach, but still a pattern that takes place with a lot of students.

In England, I think that students come out more knowledgeable about their subjects, ready for a career and just as well-rounded as American students (if not more so) because their lower-level schools take care of the general education.

They made their choice in university, as adults, to study what they are interested in without any distraction.

But I have to go now, I have to study for a math test.

Follow Sage Curtis on Twitter at @sagedanielle.

Degrees shouldn't cost us our dignity

If you are a regular reader of the Spartan Daily, you are no stranger to the "\$\$ Sperm Donors Wanted \$\$" or more recently, the "Companion Wanted" ads in our Classifieds section.

Both ads incite some laughter at the utter ridiculousness of providing bodily fluids or some sketchy and odd hangout time for complete strangers in exchange for money. But, is the idea really that ludicrous in the current state of the economy?

CNN recently published an article titled "Paying for college with fertility clinics, sugar daddies" that detailed some of the extremes students across the nation went to in order to pay off college tuition and loans.

From volunteering in medical studies for pharmaceutical companies, to donating ova to clinics and browsing online dating sites to hook up with older, wealthier men, students are willing to jeopardize their health, safety and dignity in an attempt to receive a college degree.

Personally, I do not find myself facing financial issues when it comes to school — I have had a few part-time jobs, but my paychecks were extra spending money and

didn't go into paying off debts, tuition or anything of the sort.

However, many of my close friends and peers don't consider themselves as lucky as myself.

Telling me of their financial troubles and hardships concerning the rising cost of education at SJSU, they admitted that the

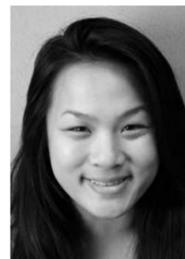
idea of selling things such as their sperm, eggs and even hair have more enticing payoffs than looking for, applying and working six to eight hours at a second job.

The mere notion that students much like myself are either considering or already throwing themselves into potentially dangerous situations in an effort to obtain higher education is insane.

Education is an entitlement and right, and it is not something that should be forcing us into selling our bodies.

Every politician espouses some sort of mantra on how present students are the future of tomorrow.

With election season well underway, we are constantly reminded that the fate of the country lies within our hands and



Camille Nguyen is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

that it is our responsibility to get an education, vote and ultimately make a difference.

How are we supposed to get past the first step when we are drowning in fees, tuition and debt, and turning to unhealthy extremes to make ends meet?

No, Mr. Romney, borrowing money from our parents is not an option.

At the rate of tuition increases and the possibility of more students participating in these desperate and risky get-rich-quick schemes, I don't see the future as looking all too bright for the nation.

After all, if so many of us are already putting our health and bodies in such hazardous situations, will there even be enough people from this generation to create a future?

If the government truly cared for this generation and what's to come, they should work toward making education affordable for everyone willing to put in the time and effort to pursue it.

Follow Camille Nguyen on Twitter at @camillediem.

Leo Postovoit's column, Just Add Coffee, will return next week.

Read his previous columns at spartandaily.com

Are you in a bind? Need a voice of reason? Just ask Kelsey in her advice column!

"In my Experience" runs every Tuesday. You can send in your question anonymously, and if selected you could win a prize.

Submit your question to spartandaily@gmail.com or visit Spartan Daily office DBH 209

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MUSIC FESTIVAL

Silicon Valley Sound Experience brings the beats to downtown

By Stephanie Barraza and Natalie Cabral

San Pedro Square Market echoed with the sounds of their first act of the night, Dirty Pillows, Saturday evening.

The Silicon Valley Sound Experience, hosted by Metro Silicon Valley Newspaper, featured a refreshing variety of local talent at nine venues scattered around the downtown area.

Participants in this event received a \$15 wristband allowing entrance to all venues which included the Myth Taverna and Lounge, The Mmoon, the Hedley Club Lounge located at the DeAnza Hotel, Johnny V's, the Pagoda Lounge at the Fairmont Hotel, Mezcal, The Old Wagon Saloon and Grill and The Blank Club.

Silicon Valley's diversity shone through each venue with their varying genres.

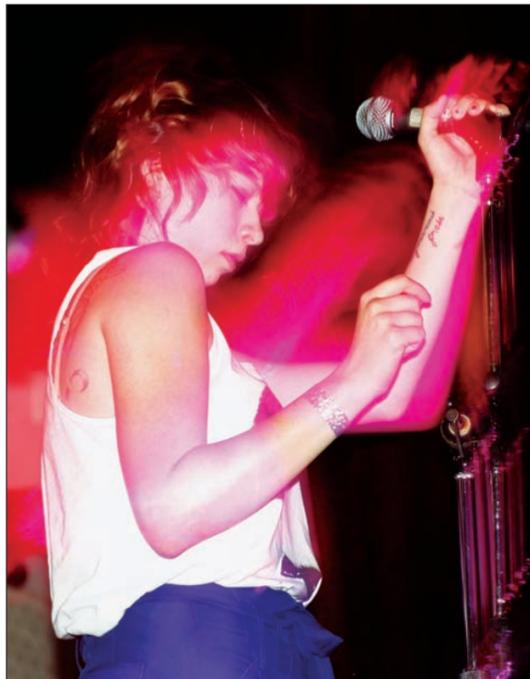
Sweet HayaH kept the crowd on their feet with their rhythmic and soul-infused rock performance at the Hedley Club Lounge at the De Anza Hotel. The four-piece eclectic set included a keyboardist, bass player, lead guitarist and drummer, all contributing to the vocals, keeping a worldly sound to them.

The main vocal performance, however, stemmed from keyboardist Nehal Abuelata.

Fresno-based indie rock band Fierce Creatures didn't shy away from the intimacy that is the Pagoda Lounge at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown San Jose.

The seven-piece set brought an electrifying and energetic show with their poppy yet harmonious and folksy sound that is indie rock.

Stephanie Barraza and Natalie Cabral are Spartan Daily staff writers. Follow them on Twitter at @SBarraza and @SD_NCabral.



Vocalist Amanda Valdez performs with her band Fierce Creatures at the Pagoda Lounge in the Fairmont Hotel on Saturday. Photo by Stephanie Barraza / Spartan Daily



Fierce Creatures are a seven-piece band which allows them to have the ability to play the kind of music they want. Photo by Stephanie Barraza / Spartan Daily



The indie-rock band Fierce Creatures use bits of pop, folk, soul, classic rock and some experimental sounds. Photo by Stephanie Barraza / Spartan Daily



The young group The Line-Up (left) use the classics of jazz, R&B and sometimes reggae in their song. Photo by Natalie Cabral / Spartan Daily

Lead singer Nehal Abuelata and her band Sweet HayaH (bottom left) mix rock, soul, blues and folk music to create their unique sound. Photo by Stephanie Barraza / Spartan Daily

Dirty Pillows' vocalist and guitarist Alejandro Villanueva (right), who goes by his nickname "Millhows," and drummer Jeff Evans (bottom right) play at San Pedro Square Market on Saturday. Photos by Stephanie Barraza and Natalie Cabral / Spartan Daily

