Tree removal allows for the creation of diverse urban forest

By Lauren Hailey

SJSU recently underwent some landscaping changes with the removal of many trees during winter break.

The trees were removed mainly because they were sick and posed a safety hazard to students, faculty, and buildings, said Christopher Brown, associate vice president for Facilities Development and Operations. The removal was part of SJSU’s commitment to maintaining an urban forest, he said.

“An urban forest is a forest set in an urban setting,” Brown said. “Most people think of forests as the wilder- ness, not downtown. One of the main purposes is to im-prove the look of the urban environment.”

Urban forests are important because they bring the ben-efts of forests to areas that otherwise would be without them, Brown said.

According to the United States Forest Service, trees bring large amounts of oxygen and reduce air pollu-tion, they help regulate climate and reduce storm water runoff. They also keep energy costs down by providing shade, and add to the beauty of the cam-pus, according to the Forest Service.

“I still notice that there were some new trees on campus, which I thought was cool,” said senior sociology major Christine living.

“It gave that area by the library some character.”

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection website, many uni-versities in California are consid-ered urban forests, including Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and San Francisco State.

There are no specific requirements to becoming an urban forest, Brown said. “But SJSU does a lot of work to pro-mote our urban forest.”

According to the Facilities Development and Opera-tions department page on the campus website, SJSU is home to more than 140 species of trees.

Some of the trees are native to the area, some are not and have been brought in from other places, Brown said. “Many of the landscaping goes into making the environment, including constantly replacing old plants and trees,” he said. “Trees and landscaping do get old and need to be replaced.”

“Most of what we have in terms of crime is not related to violent or drug violations,” Laws said.

The Annual Security & Fire Safety Report released by UPD in Octo-ber, 2018, the campus is not considered to be a safe envi-ronment for students.

“Most of what we have in terms of crime is not related to violent or drug violations,” Laws said.

By Sydney Reed

In the wake of recent school shootings, SJSU continues to keep students safe by providing safety programs and services.

According to Capt. Manuel Aguayo of the University Police Department, SJSU has more than 30,000 students, faculty, and staff.

Breanna van Gastel, a child and adolescent development major, said she just started her second semester and considers SJSU a safe place but has concerns about the crimes that took place during her first semester on campus.

“It worries me a little bit, but it’s expected since the campus is located in the middle of downtown,” Gastel said.

According to Capt. John Laws of UPD, there isn’t a lot of violent crime on campus and when there is it usually comes from off campus.

“Most of what we have in terms of crime is not related to violent or drug violations,” Laws said.

The Annual Security & Fire Safety Report released by UPD in October, 2018, the campus is not considered to be a safe environment for students.

“Most of what we have in terms of crime is not related to violent or drug violations,” Laws said.
Islamists fleeing France’s Mali advance said to set fire to Timbuktu library

By Alan Boswell
McClatchy Tribune

NAMIBI, Niger
France’s Defense Ministry said Monday that French troops had arrived on the outskirts of Mali’s historic Timbuktu, but their rapid advance appeared to have been too late for some of the city’s storied treasures.

As they retreated ahead of French helicopters and paratroopers, militants belonging to al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb took the library holding the city’s ancient manuscripts, according to a local journalist who claimed the Islamism occupation for nine months and finally decided to flee.

It was a final act of desecration in what many fear will be a string of irreparable destruction meted out by Islamists during the nine months they controlled the city, a desert outpost by the borders of Mauritania, Senegal, Niger, Algeria and the Ivory Coast, “said the mayor, who has not been staying here until the situation stabilizes, “said the mayor.

The Islamists could have destroyed centuries of work painstakingly collected over the course of seven decades, in particular by one man, Abdell Kader, who headed the institution from 1984 until 2002. In the 1980s, Kader bought the manuscripts from residents for as much as $300 a manuscript. When he expanded the search outside Timbuktu, Kader sometimes had to compensate villagers with livestock instead of cash. Some single villages held as many as 2,000 ancient documents, historical possessions will remain intact.

The Islamists destroyed the protected status of revered Muslim saints leaked out months ago, but finally decided to flee ahead of the city’s storied treasures. They destroyed governance and said he was still making his way to Bamako, Mali’s capital.

By then, a wave of kidnapping by al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb had begun. AQIM collected hefty ransom for its Western hostages, and foreign traffickers in Timbuktu viewed it as a trickle.

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Daily staff writer.
(408) 924-2222.

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behavior or criminal activity
used to report any suspicious

campus. “We provide

services up to four blocks off
night, “he said. “We provide

can’t find a group of friends
program, especially if they
call for an escort.

said they can use a phone to
student feels unsafe, Laws

exterior of the campus.

are 286 blue light phones
public setting, Aguayo said.
dents valuable information
this program can give stu-

Do something rather than do
said. “Don’t just stand around.
est room and if worst comes
coding yourself in the near-
time passes before police of-
tion to escape if possible.
officers can get to the scene.

Aguayo said that during an
incident involving an active

FROM PAGE 1
Aguayo said he encour-

another day about a potential

Aguayo said that in line with the
BlackBerrys are no longer at
BlackBerry maker Re-
manner, Heins said.

The training provided in
program can give stu-
ents valuable information to
use on campus and to a pub-
lic setting, Aguayo said.

Another thing for students
to keep in mind are the blue
light phones, Aguayo said.

Including to Leno, there are
264 blue light phones
to campus. 23 of these phones are placed along the exterior of the
campus. If any person in a time
a student feels unsafe, Laws said they can use a phone to
call for assistance.

Aguayo said he encour-
age students to use the escort
program, especially if they
can’t find a group of friends
to walk with.

“Don’t walk alone at
night,” he said. “We provide
service up to four blocks off
campus.”

The phones can also be
used to report any suspect
behavior or criminal activity
within the same area, and
use of cellclics and swipes
to quickly select or delete
words.

Chief Executive Thomson
Hines quickly set out to disp-
el notions that BlackBerry
was on its way out.

“We have definitely been on
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By Matt Barrows
McClymonds Tribune

NEW ORLEANS - One day after some broke that a former 49er has been charged with beating up his boyfriend, current 49er Chris Culliver said that gays wouldn't be welcome in the team's locker room.

When asked through breathers at the helm, Jim for the Niners and John for the Ravens, both teams have been crafted to be hard-hitting squads that make smart plays and lay everything out on the line.

They feature bruising defenses that are among the game's best at creating chaos, generating turnovers and making life hell for opposing offenses.

Both units are built by all-world linebackers who are facemates of each other, with Patrick Willis anchoring the Niners and future Hall of Famer Ray Lewis anchoring the Ravens.

Offense is the only place where any real differences are apparent, but even then it's minuscule.

The Niners get to the big game by riding the hot hand of Colin Kaepernick, a second-year quarterback who throws bullet passes and runs like a gazelle.

In their first playoff game against the Green Bay Packers, Kaepernick set the all-time record for rushing yards for a quarterback in any regular season or playoff, with a mind-boggling 189 yards.

The Ravens have Joe Flacco calling the signals, and although he doesn't have a reputation for being the most fleet of foot, he isn't a statue and knows how to make plays.

He's more of the classic pocket passer, as opposed to being a scrambler.

However, just like Kaepernick, Flacco has a habit for an arm, and may very well rediscover it in the largest of stages.

Both teams also have no shortage of big time play makers to back-up their quarterbacks as well, with Frank Gore and Rice as the workhorse running backs that can break a bunch of gaps just as easily.

Each team also boasts an imposing running corps.

If you still don't think these teams are basically tied at a drawing at the moment, you need to look at the opposing quarterbacks, with both teams scoring almost 30 touchdowns in the regular season, and both forcing nine turnovers more than they gave up.

Not convinced?

The Ravens had 38 sacks during the season while the 49ers had 27. The 49ers scored 397 points and the Ravens scored 388.

The Harbaugh brothers might as well be twins from a coaching standpoint, because their acts are eerily similar.

Besides, members both had to go on the road to win conference titles. With that all being said, I'm going to put my money on the Ravens winning the Super Bowl.

I don't have any scientific or statistical reasons for feeling this way, I just have a hunch that the boys from Baltimore will win.

I'm guessing the score will be 27-24, and it will come down to the end.

As long as they're not embarrassed, I'm still going to bet on the Niners.

A big part of the believes that the Ravens are inspired and motivated by the impending retirement of Lewis. Many players have said his presence plans have no bearing on their effort, but sometimes you just can't help but appreciate these and believe that there's no way they're not feeling extra motivation.

Besides, I've been swell in many of my Super Bowl predictions in my lifetime after doing plenty of research. I figure it can't hurt to go with my gut this time.

I don't think I need to say anything in particular about the game on a given day, but there's something about playing for the biggest prize in football that makes it unpredictable and impossible happen like they're a routine occurrence.

We could get another classic like Giants and Patriots back in 2008, or the line-game thriller like Rams vs. Titans in 2000 (my personal favorite).

It's also such like the last time the Niners made the Super Bowl and the improbable and impossible happen like in the improbable and impossible.

You never can tell what's going to happen like in the improbable and impossible.

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IDENTITY THIEF SIDE EFFECTS

lengthy prison sentence if convicted. Last week, Aaron Swartz, the 26-year-old programmer and Internet activist who took his own life this month, didn’t just come to

Swartz was not a criminal. He was a citizen and a soldier in a war which consumes a lot in which corrupt and vapid politicians try to steal and hoard and starve our public domain for their own private gain. He was a scholar with ideas and a message and outspoken advocate for open access to information.

In death, Swartz has become a political martyr for the cause he fought to make scientific and scholarly research available, not sequestered and paywalled out of the reach of the public.

The broader Internet free-
dom movement is rallying to
Swartz as a cause. The self-
defined “hacktivist” group Anon-
ymous knocked out the website of the U.S. Sentencing Commission to protest the non-commercial prosecution of the government’s treatment of Swartz.

Facing the possibility of a lengthy prison sentence, Swartz was convicted. For his conviction, Swartz was sentenced to six months in jail and fined $100,000. He then committed suicide. His death has sparked a debate about the role of government in regulating online behavior.

The movement to open up scientific and scholarly research to all, much of it taxpayer-funded, is gaining momentum. The broad movement to make scientific and scholarly research available.

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Online education: An affordable and effective solution

The average time to graduate for the traditional four-year period is about 12 percent of CSU freshmen actually graduate within four years. Despite the high price of education in California, the demand for a seat at a California State University is growing. CSU spokesperson Liz Chapin recently announced the receipt of more than 743,000 applications from about 295,000 students for the fall 2013 semester. Out of those 291,000 applicants only about 90,000 are accepted each year, according to the LA Times, which will leave about 201,000 students to show elsewhere for an education this year.

Compound the problem further by the fact that students that are enrolled in the CSU system are often unable to graduate during the traditional four-year period. The average time to graduation for a CSU freshman has now increased to 5.3 years and only about 12 percent of CSU freshmen actually graduate within four years.

These are problems that need to be solved. Online courses can be a part of the solution by easing pressure on on-campus courses such as Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra and Elementary Statistics. These bottleneck courses are precisely the courses that a brand new online education start-up called Udacity and SDU are hoping to bring to students online.

Unfortunately, the majority of online courses and “hybrid” courses that the CU and UC systems have introduced in the past have been thoroughly unsatisfying and laughably overpriced. Take the UC system’s catalog of online classes for example; the University of California spent 4.3 million dollars to market 14 online courses last year.

The prerequisites for some of these online classes made the courses available to many high school students as well as community college students. Students were expected to pay $2,400 for a semester-long course using the UC’s online system. By the end of 2012 only a single student outside of the UC system actually took one of those classes. The difference between the UC’s online debacle and Udacity is stark.

A Udacity course will cost $159 for an entire course and because of Udacity’s partnership with SDU the course will count for college credit at SJSU.

And where the UC system reached a single external student with their class offerings Udacity has literally reached hundreds of thousands of students. SDU’s partnership with Udacity has the potential to prepare the 285,000 students that will be denied a UC education this year for a future in college or even allow them to take that first step into the classroom online even if there is no physical space for them on campus.

Still, there is the question of quality. Udacity is not the typical online college experience of interacting with an instructor over email and pouring over the static text of an overpriced e-book. This is where the UC experience again differs drastically. Professors are not faceless entities at SJSU could stand to lose money and power if these courses actually excelled.

The California Faculty Association has added “Online Education” to the “worse” tab of their website and a single story leans ominously on the linked page: “Udacity, San Jose State to partner ominously on the linked page:

It turns out the teachers unions have added “Online Education” to the “worse” tab of their website and a single story leans ominously on the linked page: “Udacity, San Jose State to partner ominously on the linked page:

...The differences between the UC system’s online debacle and Udacity are stark...

...My experience so far has been excellent and for once I believe it actually exceeds the classroom experience in many ways...

David Norman is a contributing writer to the Spartan Daily.

I recommend you try it yourself even if you only have 15 minutes of free time a day.

The course range from basic to advanced and include topics such as: Introduction to Physics, Introduction to Statistics, Web Development and even Artificial Intelligence for Robotics.

Monday, January 31, 2013

Submit letters to the editor to: spartandaily@gmail.com

Dave Norman is a contributing writer to the Spartan Daily.

This article is in response to Melanie Miranda’s article “Online classes no panacea” that appeared on Jan 28.

The University of California started a class that appeared on the LA Times, which will leave about 201,000 students to show elsewhere for an education this year.

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Campus religion a revelation

Since the separation of church and state is a core value in American history, many people may wonder about the role of religious groups on campus. But is it a place of growth and enrichment, or is it simply a place of judgment and criticism?

I wanted badly to abandon God and Christianity, I couldn’t bear it. It was part of me. The purpose of religious groups on campus is to offer a place of growth in a positive environment. There were many worries that I would be seen as a “mock-up bible thumper” but in reality I still did all the “religious things” inside, went out and joined other clubs but Christianity and Jesus were always a helping hand in my decision making.

For InterVarsity and probably other religious groups on campus, the microconception is that you need to be a Christian or a religious person to participate. You don’t have to be religious at all.

In fact, the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is a place to meet new and grow people and discover new ideas. College is about learning inside and outside of the classroom.

Religious groups on campus are challenging students to think about spirituality.

Some people join fraternities or sororities to connect and I joined an international club that helps students find themselves and addresses and discovers themselves for who Jesus is and it has something to do with you and your life.

Even if you attend a religious club and things don’t make sense, by attending you are allowed the opportunity to question or discover and draw your own conclusions.

As an African-American woman, Christian Molina is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

A bittersweet victory for servicewomen

Last week, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced the official end to a policy that denied women the right to serve in the military. The ban on women policy — signed by then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in 1994 — barred women from participating in combat or combat- related operations. According to the Associated Press, most of the policy was consistently upheld by both the Rumsfeld and the Bush administrations. 

Recently InterVarsity has created a space to open up about your spiritual growth. InterVarsity has started their black campus ministry chapters at SJSU, and it creates a space to open up about God in a setting where simply due to ethnicity students have great limitations.

In black campus ministry, black students can explore Christianity for themselves. Many black students probably grew up in a “churchy family” like me and left home thinking “I never engaged in church for 17 years, I’m not doing that anymore.” However, I wonder, wouldn’t it be a different experience if you opened the Bible for yourself? Christianity to college is a different experience because instead of being told by a pastor, you read and discover for yourself who Jesus is and it has something to do with you and your life.

How did the government come to accept people who want to serve their lives, for their nation, and put them where they can have opportunities for combat within the military?

Women, who willingly put their lives on the line, deserve to be given the opportunity to do combat missions if they choose. Some women have gone for the chance, and they’re qualified based on the same standards as men, then why shouldn’t they be allowed to serve?

The notion completely undermines women’s commitment to join and serve in the armed forces.

Luckily, the future brings opportunities for women. If the military assigns a role on a woman, some women will be surprised that she is selected because they were not qualified to perform the mission. Some women go to start mainstreaming and to find legal avenues while having their eyes on the battlefield. Some women want to be given the chance to serve for the battlefield. Women are allowing and if they’re qualified based on the same standards as men, then why shouldn’t they be allowed to serve?

Women also want the military to reconsider some women as being too incapable for what their gender standards are for men. Women, who are physically and intellectually qualified to carry out those types of missions, but the military does not utilize their full capability.

Does Gen. Martin E. Dempsey and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)?

Last week, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced the official end to a policy that denied women the right to serve in the military. The ban on women policy — signed by then Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in 1994 — barred women from participating in combat or combat-related operations. According to the Associated Press, most of the policy was consistently upheld by both the Rumsfeld and the Bush administrations.

Women have participated in “okay situations” but not within the hostile fire and direct combat with enemy forces on continuous missions.

Even though Panetta’s official statement comes as a ray of hope for equality in the military, there has been a problem. With religion there is the negative connotation of judgment if one doesn’t agree.

To be a Christian or a religious person is a personal choice, not an institution.

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New York rapper claims his spot in hip hop world

By Vince Ei
@Vince_the_Ei

A$AP Rocky performed at the SJSU Event Center on Mar. 10, 2012 on the Club Paradise Tour with Drake and Kendrick Lamar. Photo by Christian Carrasco / Spartan Daily

New York rapper A$AP Rocky has managed to stand out in a sea of hip hop artists. His raps, videos, and fashion style are a perfect companion to his music. Although he doesn’t have the same traditional rags-to-riches come-up stories along with a newfound lavish lifestyle, his music is on par with his peers.

The slowed down, stretched out style of chopped and screwed hip hop works well with music mixing in real melody to tell rags-to-riches come-up stories along with a newfound lavish lifestyle. Rocky, A$AP’s real name, got his name from a combination of southern drawls, a combination from which Rocky found success in his mixtape “Live.Love.A$AP,” which Rocky found success in the rap game. The slowed-down, stretched rap production from Skrillex and his energetic craze puts Rocky in the mix.

The album is smooth with its energetic craze to deliver a sensation charm on “F---n’ Problems” to make a fluffy woven rug. Rocky does have some merit with his most captivating moment—“We had cookouts and fish fries and shrimp and fish and chicken done right, then you can’t go wrong with your choice here. The atmosphere, decor and food at Rookies Lodge don’t disappoint at all. With numerous flavors and hotness options for wings, this place is a perfect companion. The slowed-down, stretched out style of chopped and screwed hip hop works well with music mixing in real melody to tell rags-to-riches come-up stories along with a newfound lavish lifestyle. Rocky, A$AP’s real name, got his name from a combination of southern drawls, a combination from which Rocky found success in his mixtape “Live.Love.A$AP,” which Rocky found success in the rap game. The slowed-down, stretched rap production from Skrillex and his energetic craze puts Rocky in the mix.

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