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Wednesday, March 5, 2014

CAMPUS

Civil engineering students hope to paddle at Nationals

By Tony Nuñez @Tony_Nunez

Two years ago Chris Wong couldn't care less about concrete, but now he can't get enough of it.

Wong, a senior civil engineering major, and the other members of San Jose State's American Society of Civil Engineers will paddle their concrete canoe across Millerton Lake during the first week of April in hopes of placing in the top two to earn a trip to the National American Society of Civil Engineers Concrete Canoe Competition.

"There's no real reward," Wong said. "We're just going out there to have a fun time, but if we make nationals, I'll be really happy."

SJSU's most recent trip to Nationals was in 2010.

The ship, called "Orion," came in second place and earned a trip to the national competition.

All the entrants can earn points in four different categories — two man sprint, two man endurance, a co-ed sprint and a combined score for a design paper, oral presentation and look of the final product.

But the competition for this year's rendition of the canoe, which Wong and his team named "Archer", will be tough.

They are in the the Mid-Pacific regional with other big engineering schools such as Santa Clara University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis and the favorite, University of Ne-

The conference is so tough that, in last year's competition, even though the team did well in the paddling portion, it still finished last, according to the ASCE web-

"We ended up doing our best time but we still got last place," Wong said.

Wong said he and his teammates have taken the steps to compete against the top dogs. They've worked on their paddling form and tried to get into the gym to get in shape to move the 250 pounds of concrete that they molded over the past few weeks.

"Unfortunately, I don't bulk up so well," Wong said.

Last year was his first attempt at designing and paddling the concrete behemoth, and he said he learned from the experience.

"(Last year's canoe) did alright, but I learned that you have to think less about the drag, but how

much it weighs," Wong said. "It was mostly on the design side."

It was also Wong's first time paddling a canoe and he was more amazed with the fact that he and his partner Matt Sheldon did not sink to the bottom of the lake.

"It was interesting paddling, not only paddling the canoe but a concrete canoe," he said. "You have that first thought of, 'wait a minute, it's concrete, it's supposed to sink."

Now, Wong said that the uncomfortable feeling and rookie nerves

SEE **CANOE** ON PAGE 2

CAMPUS IMAGE



Brandon Chew | Spartan Daily

Zack Lee, a sophomore animation illustration major, paints a picture of Tower Hall from across the lawn in his Animation 113A Foundation in Painting class Tuesday afternoon.

EVENTS

Cinequest festival has long standing history with SJSU students, faculty

By Paris Maxey

@Gucci_picasso

People come far and wide for the opportunity to witness film history in the making. Cinequest, one of the most prestigious film clubs in the world is making positive changes that affect the film world and resides in our very own backyard.

Cinequest started as a film festival that had no more than 3000 people attend, and now has more than 100,000 people attend the festival. Ranked in the top 10 of film festivals by the Ultimate Film Festival Survival Guide, Cinequest represents more than 50 countries and has held more than 80 World and U.S. premieres.

Silicon Valley has provided Cinequest with opportunities that other locations cannot provide.

"Being in this area, San Jose State students can walk three blocks for a great film festival because we're right in peo-

ple's backyard," said Halfdun Hussey, director and co-founder of Cinequest. "We also are in an area to bring together a world of creativity through innovation and power of people. That's what Silicon Valley is all about."

SJSU's close proximity to Cinequest does not go unused. Hussey shares his experiences as a professor at SJSU.

"I enjoy passing on the business of film," he said. "I'm in the business and know how things work because I'm still doing things today."

SJSU and Cinequest have been working hand in hand for years. More than half of the 35 interns are SJSU students, along with some of the full time employees, Hussey said.

The Radio, Television, Video and Film (RTVF) department has worked and produced five feature films with Cinequest. Events are held on campus and discount prices for festivals are provided to students. "We have a close marriage with San Jose State," Hussey

said. "A formal partnership where both sides can benefit."

Not living off past accomplishments, Cinequest recently developed its own studio and youth focused organization.

Hussey said that Cinequest is no longer confined to showcasing films brought in from outside studios. Cinequest's Maverick Studios allows for the development and distributing

of their own movies. Maverick Studio's newest production, "Life is Love" premiere's this week about women who have overcome adversity to change the world.

Picture the Possibilities (PTP) is an organization that was created two years ago to empower and showcase the creativity of youth. Active youth participants work to create projects that strive for global influence to create a better tomorrow through film. PTP takes the pairing of young

SEE **FILM** ON PAGE 2

POLITICS

Under fire, Border Patrol says agents kill only 'as last resort'

By Tim Johnson McClatchy Tribune

Under fire for killing 21 people along the Southwest border since 2010, the Border Patrol says its agents use lethal force only "as a last resort," even as the Cabinet secretary who oversees the agency has promised Congress that he will personally review recent cases "to ensure that we're getting this right."

A McClatchy report Thursday documented how a Border Patrol agent on Jan. 16 shot and killed a 31-year-old migrant

SEE **BULLET** ON PAGE 2

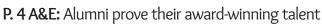
Correction

In the March 4 edition, the cartoon should have been credited to Nate Beeler, McClatchy Tribune. Also, the headline for "Rights Watch" should have read "Net neutrality is threatened by Comcast, Time-Warner Cable merger."

The Spartan Daily regrets these errors.



INSIDE



P. 5 Opinion: No exemptions from social activism P. 5 Opinion: NASCAR isn't just for men









Canoe: Students to face tough competition at Regionals

FROM PAGE 1

are gone and they've been training since the fall semester to earn a spot in the national competition.

"We've been practicing since last semester," Sheldon said. "Hopefully we can make it to nationals, but in the end it's about fun. You meet other people from other schools."

with the 10 other school's canoes in Fresno on April 4.

The concrete canoe is just one of eight other competitions that will go on at the Mid-Pacific Student Conference, including the Geo-Wall, professional paper/presentation, steel bridge, transportation, water research, water treatment and mini games.

Tony Nuñez is a Spartan Daily





Ashley Bulayo | Spartan Daily

Matthew Shelden, a senior civil engineering mjaor, wipes off debris from the concrete canoe stand as the members prepare to break the canoe from its mold Saturday, March 1.

Film: Thousands of movie lovers attracted to downtown

FROM PAGE 1

participants with mentors to a different level by making films for global awareness of youth. PTP connects known affiliates and people with children of the organization. Alec Baldwin and Michael Bloomberg are some supporters of the program that advocate the importance of what Cinequest has

Well embedded in the community, Cine-

quest continues to move forward. The vision and actions of children are the figure, Hussey said.

Cinequest holds soirees and meet-ups for film buffs and up and comers to meet and hang out with people in the industry. Every evening at 9:30 p.m. people can meet with directors and participate in dj-ing contests where prizes includes dj-ing Cinequest's closing night on March 16.

Paris Maxey is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Bullet: Policy on Border Patrol's use of lethal force questioned

FROM PAGE 1

who appeared to be on his knees or on the ground off a highway in southeastern Arizona.

The Border Patrol says the victim, Gabriel Sanchez Velazquez, lunged for the service firearm of one of its agents, meriting his shooting death. The agent's identity has been kept secret.

After the news story was published, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, the umbrella agency that oversees the Border Patrol, issued a statement late Thursday, saying Border Patrol agents "may use deadly force only when the agent or officer has a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger of death or serious physical injury" to the agent or anyone else.

"Excessive force is strictly prohibited and deadly force is only to be used as a last resort," the statement quoted Customs and Border Protection spokesman Michael Friel as saying.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson acknowledged at a hearing Wednesday on Capitol Hill that concern is growing about the Border Patrol's practices on lethal force and secrecy surrounding its poli-

Johnson, who oversees the agency, responded to a question from Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat, at a House Homeland Security Committee hearing.

"I'm very interested and concerned about use of force," Johnson said. "I think that a law enforcement agency, foreign armed force (or) military, has to be credible in the communities in which it operates."

Johnson said his understanding was that Customs and Border Protection would make public its policy on the use of lethal force "any

day now." The policy has been secret. "I'm also interested in reviewing some of the more recent cases myself to ensure that we're getting this right," Johnson said.

Which cases Johnson plans to review and what the outcome may be wasn't made explicit. Among the cases that have generated controversy:Anastasio Hernandez Rojas, 32, died May 28, 2010, a day after Border Patrol agents handcuffed him, then used a stun gun on him and hit him while he was on the ground at the San Ysidro border crossing. A video that emerged in 2012 showed at least 12 agents standing over Hernandez as he was hit with a baton, shocked with the stun gun and had his pants pulled off.

Jose Antonio Elena, 16, was shot in the back and killed Oct. 10, 2012, on a sidewalk in Nogales, Mexico, by a Border Patrol agent who fired through the border fence from atop a 25-foot hill. Elena was struck by at least eight bullets, all but one hitting him in the back. The Border Patrol described Elena as a rock throw-

Last week, a Border Patrol agent asserted that he was hit with a basketball-sized rock in the face but he recovered in time to shoot and kill a migrant, Jesus Flores Cruz, 41, along a mountain trail near Otay Mesa, Calif. In a rare release of the name of an agent involved in a border death, the Border Patrol identified the officer Monday as Daniel Basinger, a 2-year employee of the agency.

Sixteen months ago, Customs and Border Protection officials asked two government offices and a nonprofit police research council to review its use of lethal force.

The reviews generated more than 90 recommendations, and CBP officials say a number of them have been implemented.

Clinging to a tradition of secrecy, the agency has declined to make the three reviews public in their entirety.

TECH

Samsung announces Galaxy S5 with fingerprint scanner

By Salvador Rodriquez McClatchy Tribune

Samsung has unveiled the Galaxy S5, the latest version of its flagship smartphone. The device includes a fingerprint scanner and will go on sale in April.

Unlike in previous years, when Samsung announced new Galaxy S models with larger and larger screens, this year the South Korean tech giant focused its presentation on a handful of key features.

Samsung said the Galaxy S5 will include a fingerprint scanner that can be used to unlock the phone and make mobile payments. If this sounds familiar, that's because Apple introduced a similar feature with the iPhone 5S when that device was announced in September.

The South Korean tech also said it has improved the camera on its flagship device by giving the gadget a 16-megapixel camera. Samsung claims the Galaxy S5 possesses the fastest autofocus of any smartphone camera, taking just 0.3 seconds to center in on users' targets.

The Galaxy S5, which features a 5.1inch HD screen, also comes with a longerlasting battery. Samsung said users could get up to 21 hours of talk time from one charge. Users can also enable an "Ultra Power Saving Model" that shuts down unnecessary features and turns the display into black and white, extending the device's battery life.

The new Galaxy flagship smartphone also comes with more fitness tracking features than previous Samsung devices, the company said. Among these is a built-in heart rate monitor.

Samsung also said the Galaxy S5 is equipped with IP67 dust and water resistance, making the device more durable than its predecessor. Samsung warned users from swimming with the Galaxy S5, but the company said that users don't have to worry if the device gets wet.

The Samsung Galaxy S5 will go on sale in the U.S. in April along with the Gear 2 and Gear 2 Neo smartwatches and the Gear Fit, a fitness-tracking device that Samsung also announced on Monday.

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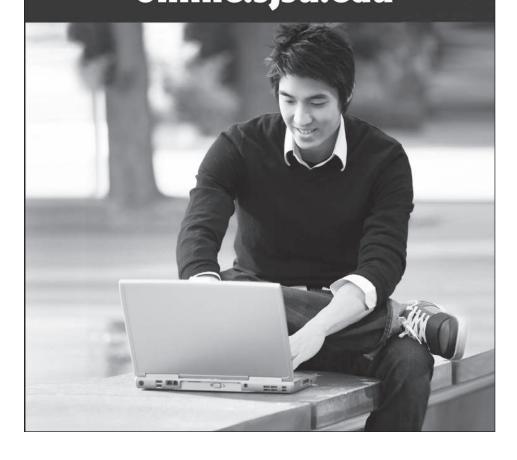
- BUS3 80: Legal Environment in Business (MAJOR REQUIREMENT)
- BUS2 90: Business Statistics (MAJOR REQUIREMENT)
- BUS4 91L: Computer Tools for Business (MAJOR REQUIREMENT)
- BUS3 187: Global Dimensions of Business (MAJOR REQUIREMENT)
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Ashley Bulayo | Spartan Daily

Above: Consuelo Jimenez-Underwood, with her loom, explains her current project. Right: An early thread work of Consuelo Jimenez-Underwood created in the 1960s.

SJSU alumna threads her way to art award

By Josie Chavez @JosieChavez23

As a child, Consuelo Jimenez-Underwood started her days on her knees in the fields, picking crops with her parents.

Jimenez-Underwood, a San Jose State alumna and national lecturer, recently won the 2014 Artist Laureate Award in the "On the Wall" category.

The honor was awarded by private the nonprofit organization Silicon Valley Creates.

The "On the Wall" category pertains to all art that is "affixed to, hung on, projected on a wall or flat panel/screen" according to the Silicon Valley Creates website.

The pieces that hang in places such as the Oakland Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institute have all centered on issues dealing with migrant agricultural work, Jimenez-Underwood said.

The time Jimenez-Underwood spent in the fields shaped the strong theme of borders in her work with fibers and textiles, symbolizing the divide that existed between the two worlds

to which she belonged.

Jimenez-Underwood's childhood consisted of spending time on the United States and Mexico

She obtained her B.A in applied design and masters in art from San Diego State University and later entered the graduate program at SJSU in 1987.

Her background and training in threading came long before her collegiate experiences - she said it runs in her family's ancestry.

She is a descendent of Huichol, a Mexican indigenous tribe known best for its strong threading skills and embroidery.

Jimenez-Underwood first saw her father thread when she was 6

"He would be threading and telling me these amazing Huichol fairy-tales. My favorite one was about the lights getting bigger," Jimenez-Underwood said.

The fairytale explained the population and civilization's destruction of indigenous land, Jimenez-Underwood said.

Iimenez-Underwood credits her Huichol heritage for instilling her respect for spirituality.

"What I got from Huichol was the mystical stuff, the fairy tales," Jimenez-Underwood said.

The fairytales, as well as her experiences in agricultural work, influenced Jimenez-Underwood's strong themes reflected in her pieces.

"Every time I throw a thread, it's a prune that I picked up," she

She said that her experiences in migrant agricultural work are illustrated in her weaving.

Jimenez-Underwood said she tries to make viewers of her art confront important issues such as the experiences prevalent in agricultural fields.

According to Jimenez-Underwood, strong political issues in her work are presented in a manner respectful to her ancestry and medium.

"I will always try and make it as beautiful as I can, even though I'm going to go for the jugular and hit where it hurts the most to society," she said.

She said her creative process is just as premeditated and that when she sits down to weave at her loom, she is conscious of the ideas or themes she wants to represent.

Jimenez-Underwood credits

her time in SJSU's graduate program for helping her realize the impact of content. It was as an SJSU student that

Jimenez-Underwood began to concentrate on content versus form in her work.

Jimenez-Underwood harnessed skills such as weaving, working with materials and process and silk screening images onto her weavings.

"I became a mixed-media queen," she said.

She said weaving has remained an intricate part of her life by passing her wisdom and tradition of threads onto her grandchil-

Jimenez-Underwood said her

granddaughter threads and her grandson has taken up causes that she represents in work via scholastic debates. "The grandkids are amazing,"

Jimenez-Underwood retired from teaching in order to fully

concentrate on her work.

She said she is working with Crafts in America, a nonprofit organization "dedicated to the exploration, preservation and celebration on the impact of craft on our nation's cultural heritage."

She is also working on a separate project that includes weaving "rebosos" for the Virgin Mary, the ocean and the Earth.

Josie Chavez is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Find out more about Jimenez-Underwood by scanning the QR code below:



http://bit.ly/1q37IGC

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Seagate Technologies Seneca Family of Agencies

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PROFILE

SJSU alumnus, sculptor Ryan Carrington wins 2014 Laureate Award

By Josie Chavez @JosieChavez23

Sculptor, lecturer and San Jose State alumnus Ryan Carrington recently won the 2014 Artist Laureate Award in the "Emerging Artist" category.

Carrington received the award from the nonprofit arts organization Silicon Valley Creates.

"For me life is about finding where the art is," Carrington said.

I realized the things that I made were elevated by the thoughts that were behind them.

Ryan Carrington

SJSU alumnus, Artist Laureate Award winner

The "Emerging Artist" category is for artists who have fewer than two years of professional experience in visual, literary or performing arts, according to the Silicon Valley Creates website.

Carrington's work addresses important issues such as socio-economics, class and the blue-collar labor force.

"A lot of the issues

revolve around the dialogue between blue-collar (and) white-collar work," Carrington said. "What it means to be a blue-collar worker in America today."

Carrington obtained his BFA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and later entered the graduate program at San Jose State University in spatial art.

Labor is a strong theme in both Carrington's life

Carrington grew up in Wisconsin where a series of labor-heavy jobs at a young age opened his eyes to the issues that would influence his future work.

"I swung a shovel for a lot of hours," Carrington said. "I worked in everything from a maintenance guy to a contractor to landscaping ... even cooking in kitchens."

The work ethic that Carrington developed is rooted in his upbringing. His family depended on the wages of blue-collar jobs.

"There was a lot of love, but there wasn't a lot of extras," Carrington said. "So it was important to go out there and find a way to get it for yourself."

The materials that he utilizes serve as the vehicle that transports the ideas he hopes come across to those viewing his art, Carrington

He uses materials such as screws, construction materials and cast metal.

The work takes some premeditation and serious time, Carrington said.

"It takes about one season



Franko Valencia | Spartan Daily

Artist Laureate Award winner and SJSU lecturer Ryan Carrington works on a project at the SJSU Foundry Tuesday,

of 'Breaking Bad' and two seasons of 'The Walking Dead," Carrington said.

The materials work to encompass the idea behind issues in economics, work ethic and class.

Carrington draws inspiration for his work from various sources, including his family, articles on current issues and various conversations.

Carrington said he saw several different work force issues while at different jobs.

He said that one memory that sticks out to him is of

a contractor who was in the United States illegally, paid taxes and yet could not obtain a license.

"It was really an eyeopener," he said. "It's not that I had these preconceived notions of what an undocumented worker was but it certainly solidified the fact that we need to change that system."

Carrington also credits the time he spent at Anderson Ranch in the artist residency program in Colorado for having an important influence on his work.

"The real huge takeaway for me from that experience, was the idea that thought can play just a big a role as the handwork within the artwork," he said. "I realized the things that I made were elevated by the thoughts that were behind them."

It's a concept that has stuck with Carrington throughout his artistic career when visually presenting issues such as blue-collar labor, and other economic matters.

Carrington tries to pass on specific wisdom to

his students.

"Utilize the things that you make to address universal messages. It's a big part for young people to realize that they're part of a bigger world," he said. "The students at San Jose State work very hard. They work very hard and they work very seriously."

Carrington is working on a large-scale plywood hard hat inspired by a recent art celebration of a colleague in San Francisco.

Josie Chavez is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

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Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

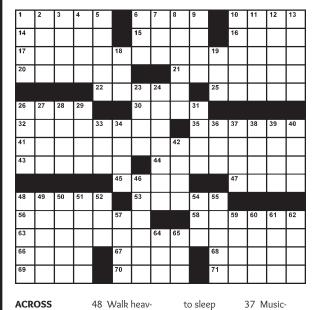
Previous Solutions

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Crossword Puzzle



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10 Downhill

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lead to an indictment 35 Undertake 41 Feel free

43 Responds brattily to 44 Little League World Series par-

ticipants, e.g.

45 Swing a spar around 47 Go AWOL

53 Slack off 56 Accoun-

tant, at times 58 "Into the Wild" setting

63 Some Madison Avenue output 66 Stayed fresh

67 Sock mender's oath? 68 Plains of old

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tion fluids 71 Decreases, as pain

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There is no security blanket against being socially active

"Fruitvale Station" is an independent biopic film that tells the true story of Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old African-American who was fatally shot by a white BART officer in 2009.

A special public screening of the film was held at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library last week.



Follow Jessica on Twitter @jessieschleg

When I first walked in at 6 p.m., the room was almost empty with only about 20 people in it.

But as 6:30 arrived, more people came until the entire room was packed with roughly 75 individuals.

As I looked around, I noticed that I was one of the only white people in the room, but that's not to say that there were only

African-Americans.

The audience was diverse, including Asian, Indian and Latino-Americans. The only demographic that did not seem as prevalent in the audience was mine.

As I watched the movie and learned more about the tragedy of Grant's death and the lack of repercussions the officer who shot him faced, I became outraged.

At the end of the film, we all sat in silence, many of us in tears.

Throughout the discussion after the showing, we talked about

We should

comfortable

world where

people are

persecuted.

not be

empowering the African-American community and carrying on a legacy for the next generation.

Empowering specific living in a ethnic communities is essential to preserving cultures and cultivating pride throughout that community.

I think it is wrong to say that this is the only thing that needs to be done in order to end racial injustice.

Instead of joining together as people, we divide ourselves into the groups in which we "belong to".

Everyone stands up to fight, but their battles are predetermined for them by the color of their skin.

When I asked my white friend why he thought there were so few white people at this film showing he replied, "Because we (white people) do not face the same struggles as they do which makes it hard to relate with them."

It is this type of philosophy that perpetuates racism, sexism and bigotry in our world.

When we stop believing that we need to be involved in social change only because we are not in the demographic that is being discriminated against, we fail not only them, we fail ourselves as human beings.

It makes no sense to say the only people fighting for women's rights

should be women. It makes no sense

to say the only people fighting for gay rights should be people who are gay.

It makes no sense to say the only people standing up against racial injustice should be people of color.

We should all be appalled by the injustices that people such as Trayvon Martin and Oscar Grant experienced regardless of the color of our skin.

We should not be comfortable living in a world where people are persecuted.

Desmond Tutu, a South African social activist once said, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

Social change cannot be achieved until people from all racial backgrounds collectively make issues of race important.

We are not exempt from race issues because of our skin color.

There is no security blanket against being an activist.

Jessica Shlegelmilch is a Spartan Daily staff writer. "That's What Shleg Said" usually appears the first and third Wednesday of the month.



NASCAR: Not just for the good ol' boys

Follow Austin on

Twitter

When you hear the name Danica Patrick, who do you think of?

The attractive, bikini-clad star of GoDaddy's annual Super Bowl commercials?

Or the former Indycar racer and current draw of the NASCAR circuit?

Ask Richard Petty, seven-time NASCAR champion, and he'll tell you Patrick

shouldn't even be behind the wheel. Let's put that car back into first gear, Mr. Petty.

At last month's Canadian Motorsports Expo in Toronto, Petty told reporters the only chance Patrick would have at winning a Sprint Cup race would be if "everybody else stayed home."

Fine, drivers like to talk a little

It's all part of the sport.

But Petty's a 76-year-old "good ol' boy" looking to stir the pot with more than just a jab at Patrick's driving ability.

"If she had been a male, nobody would ever know if she'd showed up at the race track," Petty said. "This is a female deal that's driving

While Patrick may only have one top 10 finish in her 46 Sprint Cup races, she ranks with some of the best in the

She made history at the @AustinBelizzle Daytona 500 in 2013 as the first woman to start from the pole position and finished eigth for her best finish of the year.

Petty's comments only validate the common perception of NASCAR as a "sport" dominated by white men and enjoyed by the redneck masses of America.

While not totally true, it's hard to ignore the cut-off sleeves, cans of beer and RV's that populate racetracks across the country when the engines are revved.

The mysoginistic words of Petty unfortunately hum loudly over the roaring of NASCAR's symphony of engines.

Why can't a woman win a NAS-CAR race? How much easier is it

for a man to turn left at 200 mph around an oval track than it is for a woman?

Tony Stewart, a longtime face of the fledgling NASCAR brand, challenged Petty while on Performance Racing Network's "Fast Talk" program.

"I think that a race would settle it once and for all – maybe get him to shut up a little bit, too," Stewart

Clearly, Petty's viewpoint isn't publicly shared by all drivers, but it makes one wonder how many racers truly resent Patrick's presence on their track.

I'd love to see a race, a modernday "Battle of the Sexes" between

Women's sports have never earned the respect they deserve, simply because men such as Petty can't stand to see women on the same footing as men.

Women's basketball? Boring, say most sports fans.

Women's hockey? Lame, there's no checking, not as many fights.

Women's golf? Amatuer, the women can't even drive the ball 300 yards.

If and when Patrick decides to race Petty, I'll be tuned in.

Not because I'm suddenly a fan of NASCAR, but because I'm a fan of Patrick, whose journey has seen her ridiculed and criticized as nothing more than a pretty face.

Pretty faces don't drive full throttle at breakneck speeds around a racetrack, bumping and scraping other cars along the way.

Champions do, and soon enough the "king" of NASCAR will be left feeling like a queen after Patrick makes him eat her dust.

Austin Belisle is a Spartan Daily staff writer. "Column Like I See 'Em" usually appears the first and third Wednesday of the month.

Public Opinion

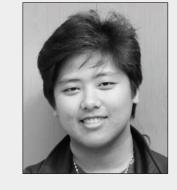
By Jeff Gonzalez

What should Americans give up for Lent?



Diana Tippelhofer, 27 Major: Art Hometown: Redwood City

"Reality shows. And things that don't mean anything and don't help us in any way."



John Magtoto, 19 Major: Mech. Engineering Hometown: San Jose

"Judging. They can use anything whatsoever to juage anyone. Juaging in general, they should just give up for a little while."



Martin Leenhouwers, 19 Major: Business Hometown: Redlands

"Fast food. Considering the fact that we're probably, I believe, the most obese nation in the world."



Vanessa Santos, 19 Major: Psychology Hometown: San Jose

"I think they should give up being on their phones all the time."

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SPORTS

NATIONAL

Marcus Thompson II: 'Saban Rule' reveals NCAA's duplicity

By Marcus Thompson II McClatchy Tribune

Miccialchy Tribune

What's perhaps most slimy about the NCAA is its facade of athlete advocacy.

Undoubtedly, hundreds of schools and thousands of coaches really do have athletes' best interests at heart. But the NCAA as an entity is far more concerned about power and money, yet it plays the part of concerned surrogate parents.

The "Saban Rule" is the latest example. Yes, a lesser one, but still. It's the same kind of veiled hustle that exemplifies the way NCAA operates. And if it votes to adopt this proposal, it will again confirm the organization's underhandedness.

The gist: The NCAA Football Rules Committee is considering a rule that requires offenses to wait 10 seconds before snapping the ball. Basically, the offense would be required to allow the defense to adjust.

The pitch: The rule is designed to protect players. Against fast-paced offenses, defenders are playing more snaps.

Of course, more snaps is more exposure to injury. And the NCAA is all about preventing injuries. But if you believe that, I'd like you to donate to my new movie project that is sure to win an Oscar next

This is not about player safety. This is about crippling the up-tempo offenses because they level the playing field for the lesser talented.

This is about throwing a bone to NCAA powerhouses, such as Alabama, who thrive on defense. That's why South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier dubbed it the Saban Rule, after Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban.

"I really don't necessarily have an opinion on the 10-second rule," Saban told AL.com, then gave his opinion. "I think there are three issues that need to be researched relative to pace of play. The first being player safety. When you look at plays that are run, and a team averages 88 plays, and we average 65 at Alabama, that's 20-something plays more a game over a 12-game season.

"That adds up to four more games a year that guys have to play. I think it's wear and tear and tougher to prepare players when you have to play against a hurry-up offense because of the way you have to practice."

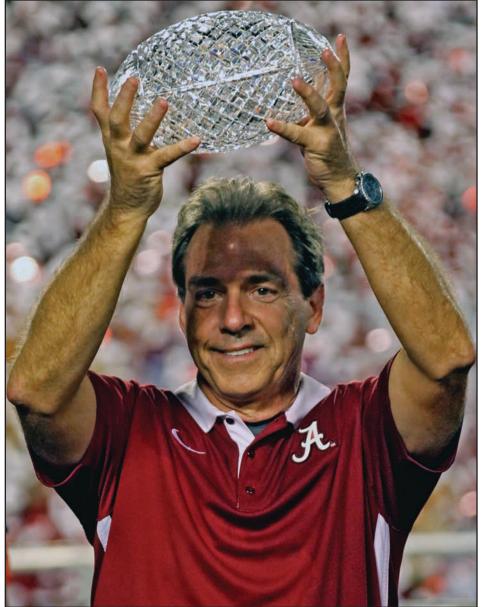
The other two reasons he gave for supporting the rule are that it would allow referees to control the tempo of the game and that pace of play creates a "competitive imbalance." No, speeding up play helps to alleviate the competitive imbalance. Speeding up the game is often the plan of attack for the overmatched.

In basketball, if you're being dominated by a bigger team, you push the tempo. In baseball, if you're facing a dominant pitcher, you want less time between pitches, so you stay in the batter's box between pitches and do what you can to get base runners _ speeding up his pace.

In football, when your opponent is bigger and stronger _ programs such as Alabama, which gobble up a lot of the top recruits _ you spread 'em out and pick up the pace. This rule would take away a major tool from the programs that don't get the best talent and aren't as deep as the powerhouses.

Fast-paced offenses allow for more schools to compete at higher levels, which threatens the dominance of those higher-level schools.

If the NCAA were really concerned about player safety, why is concern for defensive players the only reason given for this pro-



C.W. Griffin | Miami Herald

Alabama Head Coach Nick Saban hoists the trophy following a 42-14 win against Notre Dame in the BCS National Championship game at Sun Life Stadium on Monday, January 7, 2013.

posed rule? And why doesn't it prevent players from playing too many consecutive possessions? Oh, wait. That doesn't help the powerhouses built on defense and running the ball.

If the NCAA really were concerned about player safety, why did it expand its men's basketball tournament to 68 teams? And with all the extra games created by its conference basketball tournaments, the extended season threatens player safety.

The Saban Rule is not about protecting players. That is never the primary motive of the NCAA, no matter how its leaders spin it. They say they don't pay athletes because

they want to preserve the integrity of the game, as if it has nothing to do with not wanting to cough up some of the billions they make in television deals.

They didn't want to switch to a playoff system in football because it adds extra games to the season, as if they weren't trying to preserve the ultra-lucrative bowl system. It's easy to respect those who are at least upfront about their motives.

There's no mistaking what 50 Cent is about with an album called "Get Rich or Die Tryin'." But the NCAA repeatedly hides behind the aura of higher ideals to obscure ulterior motives.



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