

EDUCATION

Students take learning to a new classroom

By **Yasmine Mahmoud**
@yasminehmahmoud

Walking through Washington Elementary School on a Friday afternoon, you can see a sea of college students – clad in purple – shooting hoops with grade-schoolers, sitting with them at lunch tables and reading aloud in tiny chairs at the library.

This sea of purple is run by the San Jose State Cesar Chavez Community Action Center's Fuerza Escolar Elementary School Mentoring Program.

Students in the program go to an elementary school and help children with reading comprehension, offer support and partners to play with.

Luis Cervantes, a sophomore environmental studies major and mentor

in the program, lives in the Washington neighborhood close to Washington Elementary School. His little sister is a fifth grader at the school.

"I know the kids in the program," Cervantes said. "They're her classmates, so I want to see them succeed."

Washington Elementary School is in the Washington neighborhood of San Jose, which is known to have issues with gang activity Cervantes said.

"I've heard that things get real tough down there," he said.

"We want them to succeed," Cervantes said. "We want them to be the best they can be at reading, so they are not pushed out of the school system."

Shannon Kies, a substitute teacher who works several days a week at

Washington Elementary, sees the students interact with the mentors often.

The school sometimes goes into "code blue" Kies and Cervantes said.

Code blue, or "shelter in place," is a low-intensity lockdown because of a neighborhood situation that requires everyone to get inside. Classes can remain in session, but staff and students must remain indoors, according to Silver Oak Elementary School's webpage, which is in the same district as Washington Elementary.

"What made me join the program is wanting to help the community," said Ramzez Baez, a sophomore sociology major and volunteer. "I was given the same help when I was in elementary school."

Bernadette Faller, the Fuerza Es-

colar program assistant, has been in the program for four years and mentored for three years.

"I've really seen the students grow in terms of reading and having the confidence to read," she said.

There are 35 SJSU students in the program, mentoring third, fourth and fifth graders, Faller said.

Many of the students are lower income, English language learners and struggle with reading comprehension and pronunciation, Faller said.

Students are chosen by their test scores for reading, she said.

"A lot of these students, even if they are third or fourth grade, a lot of their levels are probably like a second or third grade level," Faller said.

The volunteers play with the chil-

dren on the field, read to them or just sit and talk with them.

"When I saw how Sebastian looked, especially with Ramzez, I didn't want to bring the class in," Kies said of a mentee and his mentor. "He really needs that one-on-one attention."

The students form bonds with their mentors, Baez said.

"It's becoming closer, like a big brother and little brother relationship," he said.

Mentors also help students with reading comprehension quizzes.

"It's nice having volunteers coming to the school who can give these kids guidance and the attention that they crave," Kies said.

Yasmine Mahmoud is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

CLUB SPORT

Dancing with the Spartans



Raphael Kluzniok | Contributing Photographer
(Left) Left to right: Devin Davis, senior nutrition major, and Risha Rose, senior RTVF major, practice at the Spartan Complex in front of a small crowd Monday night. (Right) Risha Rose tightens her heels as she gets ready for practice Monday night inside Spartan Complex.



SEE SPORTS ON PAGE 2

COMPETITION

Students encouraged to get creative

By **Brandon Chew**
@bchewphoto

A sea of boxes filled with yellow T-Shirts cover the floor of Associated Students events coordinator Bradyn Blower's office.

If you have been to a sports event, attended an A.S. event or just walked around campus you have probably seen the bright yellow T-Shirts that read "Spartan Squad" across the front.

These T-Shirts are being redesigned through a contest that any student can enter. The deadline for entries is March 28.

"Where the redesign idea came from was that they did some student forums," Blower said.

Conversations in the forum led to the idea that a contest involving students would be a great way to get students to interact with the trending T-Shirts, Blower said.

The most recent event where the shirts were being handed out was

"Home-run Hoopla," located at the Campus Village quad, Blower said.

Shirts have also been handed out at other events or given away as prizes, she said.

"We've also done a trade-in a few times, where students trade in unwanted clothing for a Spartan Squad shirt," Blower said.

Spencer Wong, a senior nursing major, attended "Home-run Hoopla" and said he wore the Spartan Squad T-Shirt to set an example and hopefully get others to show pride in SJSU as well.

A.S. had a booth at the event where students could enter the contest.

Blower said 47 designs were submitted at the event.

Blower said that shirts with the original design will be given out at sporting events until there aren't any left.

"Even if we have a new design I'm sure people would like to get a free Spartan shirt either way," Blower said.

Blower said the old T-Shirts will be used to advertise the contest for the new

ones. She also said that they are going to set up booths around campus over the next few weeks to get more applicants for the contest.

Blower says that they want all types of students submitting ideas and designs.

"We made a pretty big point, especially on the Facebook event, that you do not need to be a designer to submit a design," Blower said.

The original design was done by Dang Nguyen, an A.S. graphic designer, Blower said. Blower worked with Nguyen after the shirt was designed and she found out that the idea for "Spartan Squad" was just a fun playful idea at first. Blower said the idea has now transformed into a creative interaction students can be involved with.

Blower said she hopes that the students will be enthusiastic and there can be a new T-Shirt every year. She also said that the winner's name will be printed on the back.

Brandon Chew is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Interested?

Submit your design for the new Spartan Squad t-shirt!

Contest guidelines:

- Must be current SJSU student
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- The shirt will remain gold
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Deadline:

Friday, March 28

Submit to:

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INSIDE 

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CLUB SPORT



Raphael Kluzniok | Contributing photographer

San Jose State alumna Lillian Luu and senior Christopher Li perform a tango routine during a showcase performance in Spartan Complex Monday night.

Dancesport couples are competitors and characters

By Jessica Schlegelmilch
@jessieschleg

Dancesport is San Jose State's competitive ballroom dancing team that competes each year in four collegiate dance competitions in the Bay Area and San Luis Obispo.

Bud Ayers, SJSU professor and adviser for the team, founded dancesport in 2008, but the team wasn't officially recognized as a club

sport until 2009. Ayers is currently the ballroom coach and Stacey Chuang is in charge of the Latin dance group.

"A lot of people don't really realize that (dance) is not only an art but it's a sport as well," said Risha Rose, a senior theater major and dancer on the team. "If you really want to be a competitive dancer, you need to realize that you're going to end up being a competitive athlete."

Devin Davis, a senior nutrition major, and Rose are a couple on the dancesport team who specialize in Latin ballroom dancing. Davis said that in the Latin ballroom dancing tradition there are five different dances: cha cha, rumba, samba, jive and paso doble.

Davis and Rose have been dancing together for a year. They have a personal coach independent from the dancesport team, Frank Flores.

Davis said that for any dancer that wants

to be more serious about competing they have to pursue the private coaching route. Davis said that working out and being physically fit is also important to being any kind of athlete, including a dancer.

Every member on the dancesport team competes. The team's president, Richard Tsai, a senior business major, said that because

SEE DANCE ON PAGE 3

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Dance: Friendly competition

From Page 2

dancesport is a collegiate team they focus on collegiate competitions, but there are internationally ranked competitions that are open to the public.

Tsai said that dancers assume characters when they get on the dance floor. He said the roles dancers play can range anywhere from happy, sad, serious or romantic.

In the paso doble dance the air is more serious, whereas waltz is graceful and romantic and tango is very intense, "like a love-hate relationship," he said.

"Some of the best dancers we have keep to themselves, but when they are on the dance floor it's almost like a completely different person," Tsai said. "They transform into the character that they assume when they're dancing."

According to Tsai, the outfits dancers compete in also function to complete the character they assume.

In ballroom dancing the uniforms are generally more elegant, evening gown and tuxedo style, while the Latin dancing uniforms are more festive and "saucy," generally lending to more skin exposure.

Tsai said that when dancers first start competing at newcomer levels they cannot wear the fancy uniforms that dancers competing at higher levels wear.

"You literally have to earn the right to wear those outfits," he said.

For a lot of dancers reaching the level in which you have the right to wear the elaborate costumes is very rewarding because it helps them fill that character role.

Tsai said that one of the differences between dancesport and other competitive sports teams is that although the dancesport team trains together, like other sports teams, they compete individually against every one, including other couples on the SJSU dancesport team.

Tsai said this structure creates a kind of "friendly rivalry" on the dance floor during competition.

The best feeling, he said, is when the final round of a competition is full of SJSU dancesport couples.

"We go under San Jose State's name but when we compete it's like for ourselves," Davis said.

Universities host dance competitions but they are not school versus school. Davis and Rose said this is one of the most common misconceptions

about competitive dance.

Other misconceptions are the amount of "behind-the-scenes," efforts that go into competitive dancing. Serious competitive dancers, Rose said, practice seven days a week, six hours a day, sometimes more.

Because Rose and Davis both go to school and work, they practice five days out of the week and try to get in at least 15 hours of dancing per week.

At the collegiate level, there are four levels dancers can compete at: newcomer, bronze, silver and gold. Beyond those levels dancers can compete at novice, pre-champ and champ. Rose said that the SJSU dancesport team members compete at levels from newcomer to novice.

During the competition at UC Berkeley last month, Davis and Rose competed in five different events at the gold level and placed in all of them.

Since Tsai became president two years ago, he said the team has grown in popularity and size. Dancesport now has 40 members.

Davis said that the team doesn't really need to go out and recruit members because the size of the team has allowed for a lot of people to see the team perform and get interested in what they are doing.

Following and leading roles are not limited by gender. Although the team does not have any males who follow, there are female dancers who lead instead of assuming the traditional following role. Rose said that at the amateur level same sex couples compete with the opposite sex couples.

Tsai said he takes a business approach with the dancesport team. Each year, the team must submit a budget proposal to SJSU. Funding from SJSU helps pay for the team's two coaches, their physical conditioning coach, competitions, insurance and team apparel.

Tsai estimates that with all of these expenses, dues should roughly be \$200 a member each semester. But because of funding and carrying over money from previous semesters, the semester dues for each member is only \$45. The team also holds fundraising classes where students can come and pay a small fee to learn the basics of ballroom dancing.

This year Tsai is pushing for more fundraising because SJSU plans to remodel Spartan Complex, a building where the team practices and trains in.

Tsai said the construction will have a huge impact on the team.



Raphael Kluzniok | Contributing photographer

A pair of dance shoes that belong to dancesport member Devin Davis lay on the floor of the Spartan Complex during a showcase performance on Monday night.

Without the complex Tsai said that getting new members will become difficult because he does not know where the team will train.

At the collegiate and amateur levels dancers don't make a profit from competition.

Tsai said a money pot "would dirty the competition," because dancers could compete at lower levels to win money instead of competing at the actual level they should be competing at for their skill level.

Their last competition for this academic year will be held on April 26 at Stanford University.

Jessica Schlegelmilch is a *Spartan Daily* staff writer.



<http://youtu.be/jVZ7oyp-DoZo>

Check out the SJSU Dancesport team in action at SpartanDaily.com



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BOOK REVIEW

Buddhist advice columnist provides counseling for the generation no one understands

By **Jasmine Leyva**
@leyvaleyv3

Who would have thought Buddhism could answer so many of Generation Y's questions? It seems far-fetched that an ancient religion could apply to the lives of a generation that most people find odd, but Lodro Rinzler, author of "Walk Like a Buddha: Even When Your Boss Sucks, Your Ex is Torturing You & You're Hungover Again," gives young adults the advice they can't give themselves. While some young adults may find the genre of this book frightening — spirituality and self-help — it's not like the self-help books people are ashamed to buy in stores and instead order online.

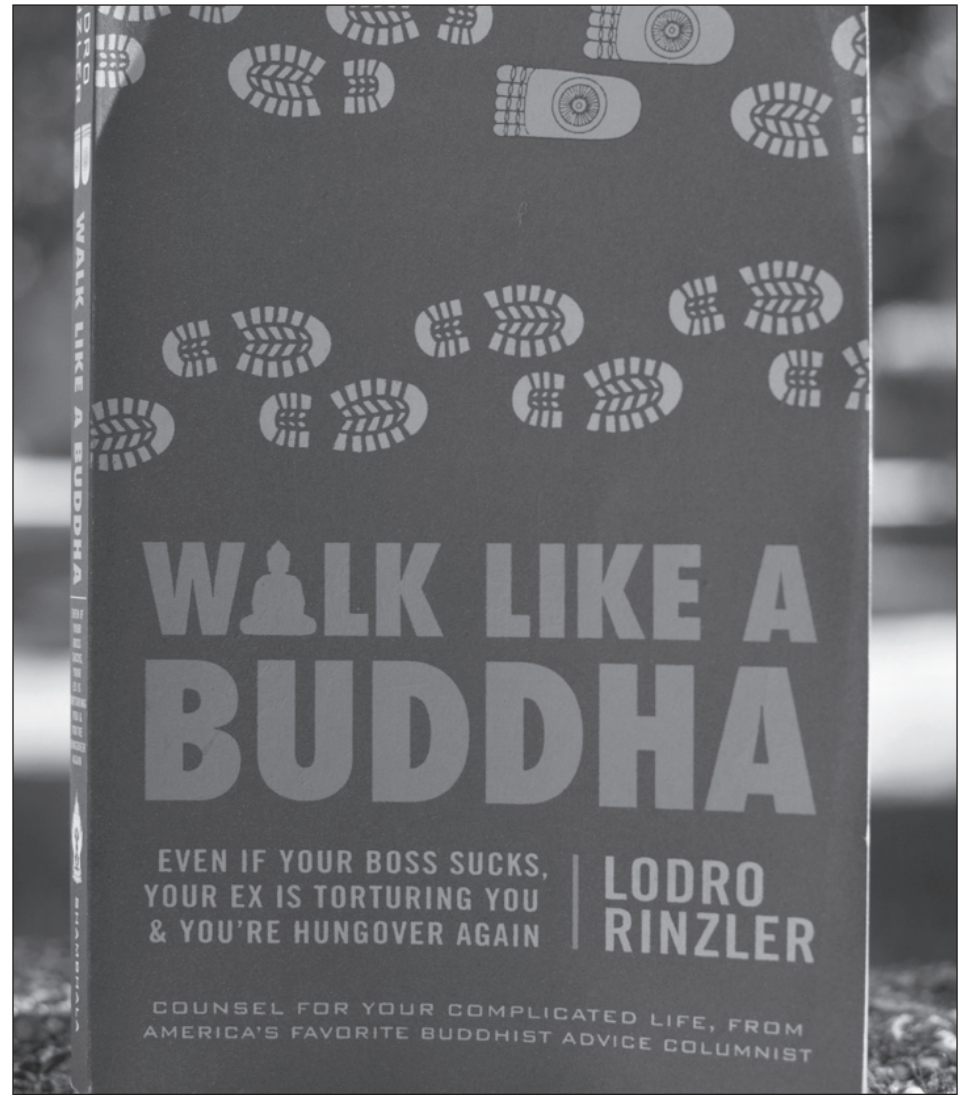
Any young adult looking for the answers no one can seem to give needs to read this book.

The cover art itself is appealing enough to make someone want to take a look. No stereotypical picture of a person looking happy is on the front cover, nor is there a doctor looking straight at the potential book buyer. A calm periwinkle background with dandelion yellow shoe prints assures the reader this is not like other self-help books. One pair of footprints on the cover is different from the others. The footprints illustrate the idea that people can follow Buddhist teachings without having to compromise their everyday lives. Young adults may see practicing Buddhism as a drastic change to their lives, but Rinzler explains to readers that Buddhist teachings

can be a sort of guideline to figuring out life as readers try to sort their way through it. He leaves no stone unturned, touching on topics such as drug use and masturbation. Rinzler doesn't give advice in the sense of telling people that they're wrong. He gives advice by applying Buddhist teachings to explain why readers do what they do. For example, Rinzler explores why people drink. Buddhists monasteries don't drink, but Rinzler isn't a monk. The fifth precept, a part of the Buddhist code of ethic translates to, "I undertake the training rule of abstaining from intoxicants that cause heedlessness." Rinzler explains the precepts can be interpreted in a variety of ways. One interpretation is that a Buddhist can consume alcohol, but only to a certain limit before they reach a reckless behavior. Many of the interpretations apply to the lives of young adults because of the issues it addresses.

Better yet, the interpretations cause the reader to think critically about their actions and whether those actions are making their lives miserable or awesome. Rinzler speaks effectively to Generation Y in comparison to other religious or self-help texts. He addresses problems to which no one else could provide a helpful answer.

"Walk Like a Buddha: Even if Your Boss Sucks, Your Ex is Torturing You & You're Hungover Again" was published in 2013. Rinzler's first book was "The Buddha Walks into a Bar..." published in 2012. Any young adult looking for the answers no one can seem to give needs to read this book. The best part about reading this book is that readers don't need to be a Buddhist to understand the text. They just need to be willing to re-evaluate their lives. *Jasmine Leyva is a Spartan Daily staff writer.*



Basil Sar | Spartan Daily

"Walk Like a Buddha: Even When Your Boss Sucks, Your Ex is Torturing You & You're Hungover Again" is based on author Lodro Rinzler's advice column and offers readers advice with Buddhist methods on everyday life situations.

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Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Previous Solutions

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

E	F	T	S	A	B	U	T	S	N	C	H	S
B	R	I	O	G	A	S	U	P	M	O	U	E
B	E	D	R	O	M	S	L	I	P	E	R	S
S	T	E	E	R		R	I	T	U	A	L	S
A	G	A		G	O	D		S	T	E	N	C
N	U	S		I	N	U	R	N		L	O	R
T	A	K	I	N	G	T	O	O	N	E	S	B
E	V	E	N		H	O	H	U	M	L	E	G
D	A	R	K		E	R		L	I	M	B	E
S	L	A		T		B	A		R		K	E
B	O	T	A	N	I	C		R	E	T	I	E
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A	N	O	N		R	I	A	L	S		P	I
H	E	R	D		V	A	N	K	S		R	A

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
17					18						19				
20					21						22				
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25	26	27							28	29					
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40						41						42			
						43						44	45		
46	47	48						49	50						
51								52	53				54	55	56
57														59	
60														62	
63														65	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Front of a boat
 - 5 La _____ (Italian opera house)
 - 10 Fully qualified
 - 14 Name on many jeans' labels
 - 15 He was pied in Hamelin
 - 16 Use a cat-o'-nine-tails on
 - 17 Genesis garden
 - 18 Manner of speech
 - 19 "Can't complain"
 - 20 Many are guarded
 - 23 Had _____ children, old-style
 - 24 Place for a watch
 - 25 Cut the fat
 - 28 Coal locale
 - 30 Petri dish content
 - 31 At right angles, in law
 - 33 Fond du _____, Wisc.
 - 36 Agree to wed
 - 40 Beast that bore Balaam
 - 41 Com-mando incursions
 - 42 Equine dinner
 - 43 "The Golden _____" (Drake's ship)
 - 44 Stage-coach robber
 - 46 Bowling rentals
 - 49 "All kidding _____"
 - 51 Have nowhere to go but up
 - 57 Babble on
 - 58 Store-hours word
 - 59 5-Across highlight
 - 60 With the bow, musically
 - 61 Part of some chains
 - 62 Place for figure eights
 - 63 One who changes colors
 - 64 Wrongful acts, in law
 - 65 Ox-cessory?
- DOWN**
- 1 Naval Academy freshman
 - 2 Provide with a new look
 - 3 Dreaded word on "The Price Is Right"
 - 4 It might cause rosy cheeks
 - 5 Poinsettia, for one
 - 6 Pancho's TV amigo
 - 7 No longer together
 - 8 Big name in construction
 - 9 Hawkish god
 - 10 Maintain to be true
 - 11 Russian pancake
 - 12 Has a hankering (for)
 - 13 Discharge, as undigested waste
 - 21 Common Market, for short
 - 22 Recipient of many questions
 - 25 Hindu noble
 - 26 Hollywood giants?
 - 27 Banquet speaker's spot
 - 28 Puts in rollers, as hair
 - 29 Ability to distinguish pitch
 - 31 At the center of
 - 32 Poorly behaved Laundry
 - 34 Prefix with trust or social
 - 35 Dermatological diagnosis, sometimes
 - 37 Emerald Isle folk
 - 38 Bert's fictional twin sister
 - 39 Like some rewards
 - 43 Trojan War hero
 - 44 Sworn-up-on stack
 - 45 "Without further _____"
 - 46 Expensive violin, for short
 - 47 White-haired with age
 - 48 An _____ of prevention
 - 49 He may play a part
 - 50 Woman's garment
 - 52 What stainless steel doesn't do
 - 53 More than suspicious of
 - 54 Foursome minus one
 - 55 Pig sound
 - 56 Produce



Obama is God's GIF to American politics

Voting is serious business and should not be dictated by some GIF you saw on a blog that makes the president seem like a chill dude.

Chill dudeness is not a credible reason for putting someone in the White House or supporting his or her bills.

If I wanted chill dudes running my country, I'd vote for Paul Rudd or Jason Segel.

President Barack Obama was recently featured on actor and comedian Zach Galifianakis' Internet comedy show, "Between Two Ferns," to promote and encourage young people to sign up for health care online.

A good portion of the "interview" promotes Obamacare and Obama's sense of humor.

In the interview, Galifianakis said "It kind of stinks that you can't run three times," to which Obama replied "That would sort of be like doing a third Hangover movie. Didn't work out very well did it?"

Conservatives have criticized Obama for going on the show, saying it is "unbecoming" for a president to promote himself politically through that kind of outlet.

Obama appears often in entertainment media and is not beyond using pop culture to his advantage.

During a speech about the controversy of Jay Z going to Cuba while the U.S. has a tour-



Follow Jessica on Twitter @jessieschleg

ism embargo against the country, he said "I've got 99 problems and now Jay Z is one of them," a reference to Jay Z's song "99 problems."

While campaigning, Obama discussed getting rid of "the dirt" in Washington while Jay Z's "Dirt Off Your Shoulder" played in the background.

Obama said, "That's all you got to do," as he coyly brushed the dirt off his shoulders like a pop artist in a music video.

GIFs and photos of Obama with funny phrases and slogans are plastered all over Tumblr, Facebook and other social media sites.

Obama's image as a hip, progressive dude is a tactic used by his campaign to charm young people ...

He is an expert at using pop culture in a way that makes it politically relevant. This strategy appeals to young voters in an unprecedented way.

At times, his identity as a president is eclipsed by his status as a major American media symbol.

I'm not going to pull the

ultra-conservative card and criticize Obama for promoting himself in this way.

In fact, I think Obama's approach is refreshing to the same-old boring suit-and-tie approach.

It allows citizens to see him as a "real" person and to get to know their president beyond politics.

Americans can like their president on levels beyond politics, even if that doesn't mean they will get their vote.

The problems arise when unconscious voters use media and entertainment appeal as the only basis for giving a candidate their vote.

Obama's image as a hip, progressive dude is a tactic used by his campaign to charm young people, especially the voters who wouldn't vote for the Republican stiff but might be talked into voting for Obama if he appeals to their cool radar.

However, this image is not completely void of politics. Obama's ideas about gay marriage, for example, appeal to many young people.

I give Obama props for being the first American president to openly support gay marriage.

However, young voters often use his stances on issues such as gay marriage to substantiate voting for him without looking at the whole picture.

His campaign teams know his "cool guy" persona will get the support of people who are too lazy to look into his policies and actions taken on those issues.

Obama can say awesome things and his words can be turned into GIFs on Tumblr, but conscious voters and citizens will actually look into those issues and make an assessment of whether or not what he says is congruent with things he does in office before they cast their vote.

Do I think Obama is awesome? Yes. Do I think Obama is a "cool" president? Yes.

Seeing GIFs and funny photos on Tumblr can convince me that he is a rad dude.

But I won't be giving any candidate my vote until their actions convince me that they are someone I want running my country, not just someone with whom I want to go to happy hour.

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

COLUMN LIKE I SEE 'EM



NCAA pays the price for not paying athletes

The NCAA's back is against the ropes, its face is bloodied and its legs are shaking like jelly.

College sports' governing body is one haymaker away from a knockout and the punch is ready to be thrown.

Ed O'Bannon has launched deafening blows at the NCAA since 2009 when he filed a

class-action antitrust lawsuit against the organization to do away with restrictions preventing athletes from profiting from their name, likeness and image.

A federal judge green-lit the suit in February to proceed to trial on June 9, four and a half years after the suit's inception.

Already weakened by a negative public perception, the NCAA is about to step into the ring with a new contender, this time in the form of sports labor attorney Jeffrey Kessler.

Kessler filed a suit this week against the NCAA and five of the largest conferences alleging that capping player compensation at the cost of a scholarship is an antitrust violation.

While not related to the O'Bannon case, the most recent attack on the NCAA is meant to bring the collegiate behemoth to its knees.

"We're looking to change the system," Kessler said in the suit. "That's the main goal."

The system is broken and ready for a monumental overhaul.

Kessler sees the NCAA as nothing more than a cartel, placing a ceiling on the compensation that may be paid to athletes for their services at zero.

According to the suit, the NCAA and five power conferences "earn billions of dollars in revenues each year through the hard work, sweat, and sometimes broken bodies of top-tier college football and men's basketball athletes."

Even with its broken bodies and egos, the NCAA is doing little more than proposing a stipend along with a scholarship for college athletes starting this year.

Sadly, this proposal only comes after the suggestion that the NCAA give a \$2,000 stipend based on need was rejected in 2012 by almost half of the NCAA's Division I member schools.

I smell a little greed in the air.

Last year, Johnny Manziel's number two jersey was listed for



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sale on the NCAA website. Interestingly, the jersey had no mention of Manziel's name, thus garnering Manziel nothing for his image or likeness.

Although Manziel is projected to be a first round pick in this year's NFL Draft and make millions of dollars, how is it just for any person's image to be used and sold without them profiting?

Without the athletes, there would be no college sports, no March Madness, no late nights spent watching Sports Center for highlights from the day's exciting matchups.

Currently, NCAA policy requires players to sign a waiver forfeiting any right to make money off of their likeness as NCAA athletes. This needs to change.

The first major blow to the NCAA came when Electronic Arts and licensing company CLC settled with O'Bannon and the rest of the plaintiffs for \$40 million last November, ending EA's exploitation of players through its football and basketball video games.

Now, the NCAA must defend the principles of amateurism that they've championed for years and defend their right to bring in billions of dollars at the expense of young men's lives.

I'll admit, I love NCAA sports. I don't watch basketball religiously like some fans, but I'll be filling out my bracket tonight in hopes of winning Warren Buffet's billion-dollar gamble.

On Saturday mornings, college football is the only remedy for my NFL withdrawals and never fails to excite.

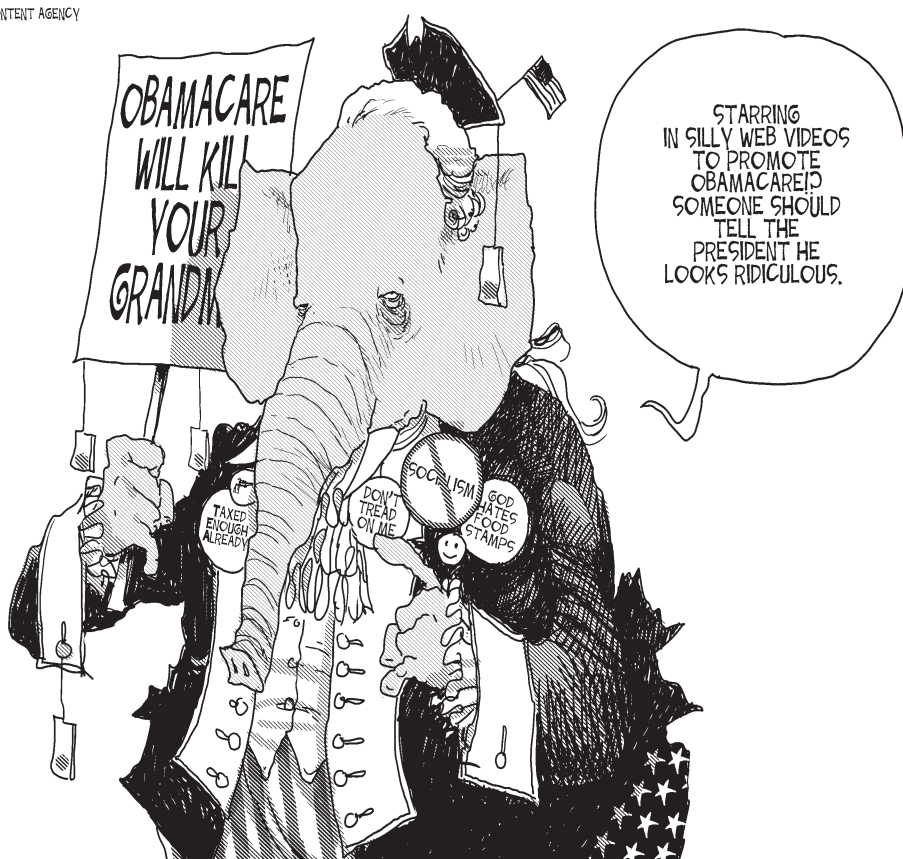
But I'm an educated sports fan. I know that there's more to the game than athletes pitting themselves against one another on a field or court.

There's money switching hands from television executives to the heads of the PAC-12, ACC, the Big 12, Big 10 and the SEC and being pocketed without hesitation.

The latest suit, filed by Kessler, may be the NCAA-killer we've been waiting for. I sense a 12th-round knockout coming very soon with the NCAA flat on its back and struggling to pull itself off the mat.

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

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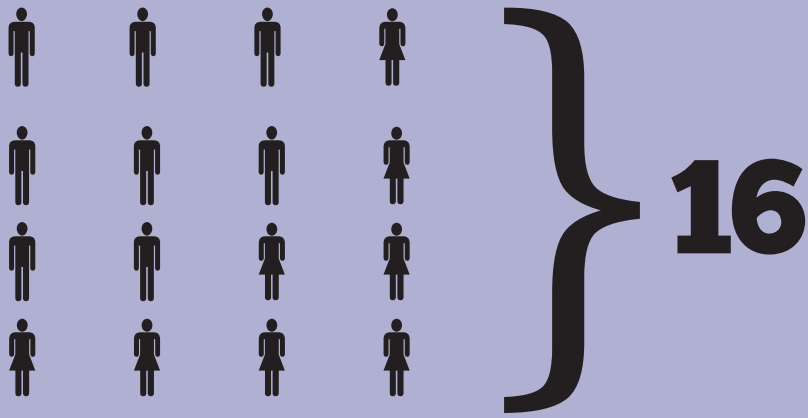
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A New Government

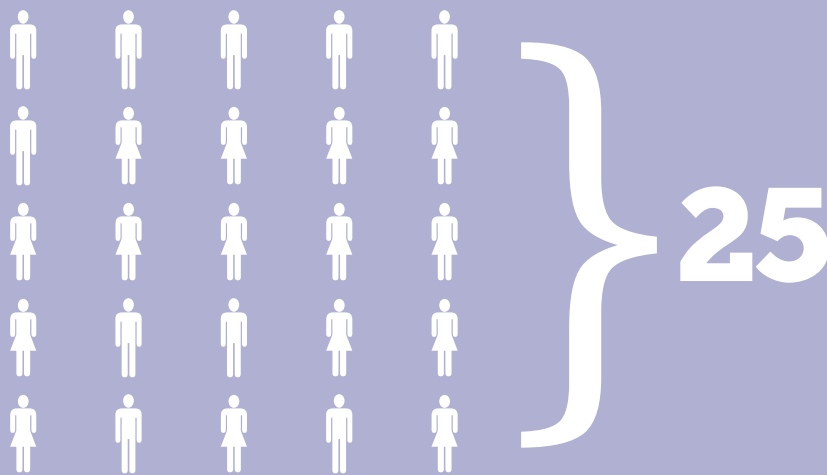
Current Government

The current A.S. government is comprised of three executives and a 13-member Board of Directors.



Proposed Addition

The proposed addition would add a 25-member Senate with representatives from housing, student organizations, each college, graduate students and international students.



Infographic by Jessica Barajas

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

A.S. growing new branch

By Nick Ibarra
@NickMIbarra

The largest proposed change to Associated Students in more than a decade would create a new branch of student government: a 25-member Student Senate.

A.S. President Nicholas Ayala said the Senate would function “to broaden the scope of A.S. so that A.S. can be knowledgeable on what’s going on on the campus, but also on the flip side the campus gets to know more about what A.S. is doing.”

Peter Lee, a junior business major and A.S. vice president, said the student senate is “an open democratic forum in which students of all parts of campus can participate.”

He said it would be comprised of representatives from housing, student organizations, each college, graduate students and international students.

According to Cheryl Vargas, A.S. executive director, the basic notion to create something such as a student senate has been floating around A.S. for the last three years, Lee said that part of the reason the idea is coming to fruition this semester has to do with last Fall’s hate crime.

Students came to A.S. from all over campus asking to have their voices heard, and the infrastructure wasn’t in place to take the diversity of perspectives into account, Lee said.

“Here we are, a board of 16 members that are trying to make decisions that affect 30,000 students,” he said. “The biggest problem we face is how do we accurately represent what the students need and what the key issues are.”

Another benefit of a student senate, Ayala said, would be to allow senators to get their feet wet, learn how A.S. works, start really knowing the other side of San Jose State and eventually prep them up to where a board of directors have a little more in depth knowledge than previously.

Earlier this semester, the A.S. board created

a six-person ad hoc committee, co-chaired by Peter Lee and A.S. Vice President Aaron Miller, that is tasked with figuring out the logistics and implementation of the senate, Lee said.

Miller said the committee expects to present an ironed-out proposal to the board by the end of the semester.

Initially, Miller and Lee said they expect the senate positions to be filled by appointment, partly because it would be difficult to generate enough interest to hold meaningful elections.

That’s not their final vision, though.

“Ultimately we want this process to be as transparent and open as possible,” Lee said. “Eventually, we want the model to be that student senators run just like directors do.”

“Eventually, we want the model to be that student senators run just like directors do.”

-Peter Lee
A.S. vice president

Ayala, Lee, Miller and Vargas each separately emphasized that at this point nothing is set in stone, and this is a process that is likely to take some time.

There are a lot of logistical hurdles to contend with.

Bylaws still need to be created, Vargas said, and “the government structure itself needs to be modified.”

She predicted that the student senate won’t be fully implemented until the 2016-2017 academic year.

The ad hoc committee will meet Friday at 6 p.m., in the A.S. house boardroom where, among other things, a more concrete timeline will be discussed.

“It’s an open meeting,” Lee said. “We’d love to have people come out.”

Nick Ibarra is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

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MEDAL OF HONOR

Obama honors slighted heroes

By Michael Doyle
McClatchy Tribune

Uncommonly brave men and their loved ones gathered in the White House for belated recognition Tuesday, as President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to 24 standout soldiers.

Three medals were presented to living recipients, two Texans and a Floridian, who fought in the Vietnam War. The other 21 honors, the nation’s highest for martial valor, were presented posthumously for deeds going back to World War II and the Korean War.

There was a reason, though not a very good one, why some of the medals came so late.

“This is long overdue,” Obama said. “Some of these soldiers fought and died for a country that did not always see them as equal.”

The Army usually imposes a three-year limit for the Medal of Honor. In 2002, though, Congress used a defense authorization bill to order re-examination of older

decorations that may have been improperly withheld from Jewish or Latino soldiers. The review subsequently expanded to include others, as well.

In each case, the Army examined records of those who had received the Distinguished Service Cross, the military’s second-highest medal.

“It’s exciting to know he’s finally getting recognized after all these years,” said Reedley, Calif., resident Dominga Cano Perez, the daughter of the late Army Pvt. Pedro Cano. “I was 9 years old when he died, so there is not much I can say about him personally, much less about the war.”

A native of Mexico recognized for his World War II service, Cano was one of six Medal of Honor recipients Tuesday to have been born outside of the continental United States. Four were born in Puerto Rico.

“This is the single largest group of service members to be awarded the Medal of Honor since the Second World War,” Obama said. “Their courage almost defies imagination.”

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