



Heavy metal still rocks according to Slayer.

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All natural produce enjoys San Jose downtown's Farmers Market.

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People's obsessions with television and movies and the difference between misplaced enthusiasm and misguided actions.

THURSDAY

Thanksgiving School Closed
Enjoy your time off next week with a copy of the Spartan Daily and a cup of cocoa or coffee. Only one issue next week, so make sure to pick it up.

TODAY'S WEATHER

High 63°
Low 46°

Imagine Seattle, but with less grunge.

SPORTS

Jamming from downtown to baseline



Jordan Baker (left), guard for San Jose State, penetrates the defense in an effort to score against Pepperdine's forward A.J. John (right).

Brandon Chew | Spartan Daily

CHECK OUR COVERAGE AND GAME STATS ON PAGE 8

Mendoza takes up the helm
New interim vice president appointed

By LAUREN HERNANDEZ
@LaurenPorFavor

Theresa "Tere" Mendoza, senior adviser for Campus Advancement of the California State University Office of the Chancellor, has been appointed interim vice president of University Advancement for San Jose State.



MENDOZA

President M o h a m m a d Qayoumi announced Mendoza's appointment in an email titled "University Advancement" on Tuesday, stating her executive leadership experience will help serve the campus community until a permanent successor is found.

"Tere has extensive experience and expertise in all aspects of institutional advancement, foundation leadership and campaign management," Qayoumi said in an email statement to the campus community.

Mendoza provided strategic counsel and leadership to the 23 CSU campuses, including managing the chancellor's statewide industry advisory councils in agriculture, entertainment and hospitality, according to her CSU biography.

Mendoza said in an email she hopes to contribute her public higher education experience to SJSU's campus community.

"I have worked in public, higher education for 30 years watching students graduate, families celebrate and young people find their professional passions," Mendoza

said. "I guess the sheer joy of this experience never gets old for me."

Mendoza has served as vice president of San Diego State and interim vice president at Fullerton State in 1998 and 2012, respectively.

Before joining the CSU system, Mendoza served as executive vice president of the Arizona State University Foundation and spearheaded ASU's Campaign for leadership, according to Mendoza's CSU biography.

Although a search for a permanent vice president will begin in January, Mendoza said she will make trips to campus over the next few weeks and establish a regular schedule in the second week of January.

Mendoza said although she plans on focusing on the

SEE INTERIM ON PAGE 2

Snowsports slice into San Jose
Convention Center fills up with bunnies and boarders

By VINCENT VICINI
@thebigvinnie

Snowbomb's 2014 San Jose Ski and Snowboard Festival was held at the McEnery Convention Center Nov. 7-9 to hype the upcoming winter season and offer discounted prices on the latest snow sports equipment.

Snowbomb, a Tahoe City based company, collaborates with ski resorts and vendors to provide special package deals, with many of these partners in attendance.

Vendors from Any Mountain, Burton, GoPro and more occupied booths and stands overflowing with merchandise and staff mem-

bers present to educate on-lookers about the products.

The event opened to the public at no cost on Friday, with sellers offering sales of up to 75 percent off on skis, snowboards and apparel such as beanies, snow shoes and helmets.

"It's a season kick-off sale that we have and we have products pretty heavily discounted," said Michaela Smotrich, a Snowbomb staff member. "We're basically just trying to get snow addicts, people who love to ski, snowboard and do outdoor things, amped about the season and get really good deals on products."

SEE SNOW ON PAGE 2

WHEN WILL LAKE TAHOE'S SNOW SLOPES OPEN?

- OPEN NOW**
- BOREAL — OPEN
- OPEN LATER NOVEMBER**
- NORTHSTAR — Nov. 21
- HEAVENLY — Nov. 21
- MT. ROSE — Nov. 21
- KIRKWOOD — Nov. 22
- SUGAR BOWL — Nov. 26
- SQUAW VALLEY — Nov. 26
- OPEN DECEMBER**
- TAHOE DONNER — December
- DIAMOND PEAK — Dec. 11
- ALPINE MEADOWS — Dec. 12
- HOMEWOOD — Dec. 12

Infographic by Jonathan Marinario
Information courtesy of tahoetopia.com

Preventing sexual assault at Cal State Universities

By LAURA NGUYEN
@Laura_Nguyen_

The updated Title IX legislation has been incorporated into a system-wide sexual assault prevention mandate for the 23 CSU campuses including San Jose State.

California State University executive orders includes training requirements for educating students and investigating cases and various different subtopics.

It mentions the need to have a Title IX coordinator on each campus who can delegate certain tasks to deputy Title IX coordinators, such as Shannon Quihuiz, deputy coordinator for SJSU.

Above SJSU's Title IX coordinator will be Pamela Thomason, the coordinator for the entire CSU Title IX initiative, which was announced Friday by CSU and UCLA officials.

"The purpose of Title IX is to prohibit sex and gender-based discrimination and sexual violence. Schools are required to eliminate the behavior, address the effects, and prevent reoccurrence," Quihuiz said.

Nay Min-Tin, an economics junior and MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center intern, said students need more empowerment.

"I just feel like they're (the policy makers) on the pedestal, and then the students, I feel like their voices aren't being heard because there's not enough sessions that we could go to to voice our opinions," Min-Tin said.

Bonnie Sugiyama, director of the LGBT and Women's Resource Centers on campus said if a certain designated staff member or faculty member finds out about an incident on campus, he or she is required to report certain events, certain behaviors so there can be an investigation.

"Sometimes they feel that the control is taken out of their hands, and so it's a positive thing that we do in investigation, like trying to get that person out of that situation — sometimes it's too swift and too fast for the student that's going through it," Sugiyama said.

A lot of preventative efforts and workshops are already happening according to Quihuiz, but it goes through a channel of impact.

Quihuiz said plans oftentimes start from the chancellor's office to become executive orders then into campus application from Title IX coordinator, such as Elizabeth Pugliese, and then the campus works with individual and collective workgroups to get work done.

Their work can now be seen through the new workshop for incoming SJSU students called HAVEN and informative pamphlets.

Pugliese helps delegate tasks to her deputies and then collaborates with more specialized committees of certain faculty members.

What's challenging now, according to Sugiyama, is there was another update to Title IX within this year and some of the information is uncertain.

Because the wording is still unclear, the CSU system doesn't feel it can legally implement it fully and still fully protect students, Sugiyama said.

"I think it's very ambiguous," Min-Tin said. "A lot of people, they might feel so lost that they aren't comfortable enough to reach out or voice their opinions because there are so many things going on."

In April 2014, the White House issued Not Alone, the first report of the White House Task Force to protect students from sexual violence and provide schools with the best practices, according to Quihuiz.

"Legal details need to be down to the letter, otherwise it can be challenged in court," Sugiyama said.

However, Sugiyama says the statement, in its good intentions, was merely a guide for the update and not written law.

"This has been on schools' agendas for decades, but it's only received heightened media coverage recently, from my perspective, when the president (Obama) took on the initiative of creating the task force and then different states have been doing different pieces, not to mention OCR is currently investigating 85 schools for not addressing these types of situations accurately," Quihuiz said.

Sugiyama advises students to know their rights and resources on campus because there are many departments on campus and web resources to support students in case of a wrong situation.

"You're obviously there to seek help and sometimes you don't know if you need help," Min-Tin said.

Laura Nguyen is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Farmers' market in Downtown San Jose sees increase in foot traffic

Customers purchase organic and local groceries, interact with produce growers

BY ABRAHAM RODRIGUEZ
@Abe_Rodriguezzz

Filing up and down San Pedro Street, vendors smiled in hopeful glances as pedestrians swarmed across the crowded street.

An assortment of trinkets was sold on one end - such as home-made jewelry and folkloric style clothing - with fresh produce being sold on the other.

Planned by the San Jose Downtown Association, the farmers' market occupies the street facing the bustling market and its neighboring bars and restaurants.

Amy Anderson is the events and promotions manager for the San Jose Downtown Association. According to her, the market has been in downtown for the past 20 years.

The association works with businesses to promote the farmers' market on Fridays.

"It's really grown to about 2,000 people a week and has become kind of a Friday institution

in Downtown San Jose," Anderson said.

Anderson said the farmers' market at San Pedro Square is one of the most popular Friday markets for the organization managed by the Bay Area-based Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association.

The Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association has been managing Downtown San Jose's market for more than 18 years and operates 60 markets in Northern California.

Its manager, Tom Nichol, has been working for the market association for more than 16 years. During his time as the manager, he said he's seen it grow in popularity since costumers can interact with produce growers.

"Sometimes people don't understand what it takes to bring product to market," Nichol said.

Jennifer Gorospe, a lecturer at San Jose State, said in an email that buying produce at a farmers' market is "a great way to ensure you are buying local."

She said locally grown pro-

duce helps cut the middle-man pricing lots that supermarkets and food companies impose.

Another benefit is the amount of food miles — the amount of distance food has to travel before it's sold to consumers — is reduced, and therefore decreases the amount of pollutants released into the atmosphere.

It's really grown to about 2,000 people a week and has become kind of a Friday institution in Downtown San Jose

AMY ANDERSON
EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS
MANAGER FOR SJ DOWNTOWN
ASSOCIATION

Though not all produce sold at a farmers' market is organic, organically grown produce re-

duces the amount of pollutants released into the atmosphere.

"In general, organically grown crops cannot be genetically modified (GM or GE), been treated with synthetic pesticides and fertilizers or been grown using treated sewage sludge as fertilizer," Gorospe said.

According to the U.S. organic foods certification, farmers and companies have to be certified by the United States Department of Agriculture. Its website lists the steps it takes to be a certified organic grower, which includes using only natural fertilizers and compost as nutrients for the soils, not using pesticides and avoiding genetically modified seeds or ingredients.

The other benefit to organics is the taste.

Shalinga Paul, a forensics science senior at SJSU, purchased strawberries at the market.

"I just had a sample of a strawberry and it was really good. It wasn't sour or anything," she said.

Paul said she usually seasons her supermarket strawberries to give them a better taste. She preferred the ones she purchased at the market.

"It's all about the quality more than the quantity," Paul said.

As winter approaches and the market season dwindles, uncertainty over the state's dwindling water supplies and sporadic rainfall from the past year casts doubts on next year's supply.

Anderson said in the past year alone, she's seen a minor impact since the drought kicked in. Even during the busy summer season, the market did not see much of an increase in vendors during that time.

"The concern is for the future," Nichol said.

He also added that farmers are resilient people.

"I'm told they're going to be OK this year, but who knows what's going to happen next year," Nichol said. "It's all about whatever happens."

Abraham Rodriguez is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Snow: Drought, warm temps didn't melt passion at Ski and Snowboard Fest

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Three tiers of tickets were sold on Saturday and Sunday: a general admission ticket for \$10, a \$25 powder pass that included free lift tickets to several different ski venues in Tahoe, and a \$50 VIP pass that included additional lift tickets for Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows, plus free beer and wine tasting at the festival.

Snow will inevitably fall, but with the ongoing California drought and low levels of rainfall, will there be enough powder to satisfy the thrill seekers heading to the slopes this season?

According to the current U.S. Drought Monitor, after the recent rainfall, the percentage of the state in a severe drought has only slightly improved from covering 95.04 per-

cent of the state at the start of October to 94.42 percent.

Snowbomb has felt the impact too.

"The last couple of winters have been a little tough," Smotrich said. "If there isn't snow and if people aren't skiing as much, they don't think to come in for ski and snowboard stuff, but we're hoping for a normal season this year."

Paul Ortiz, the general manager of Snowbomb, said he's remaining optimistic about the season ahead and that the fervor skiers and snowboarders have isn't easily shaken by uncooperative weather since it's only making them more anxious for snowfall.

"The drought has hurt sales over the last two years, but hopefully this year it dumps and we'll

be back on track," Ortiz said. "Three bad winters in a row, you're bound to have a good one soon, so the longer it lasts the more excited people get because they know a good one's got to be around the corner."

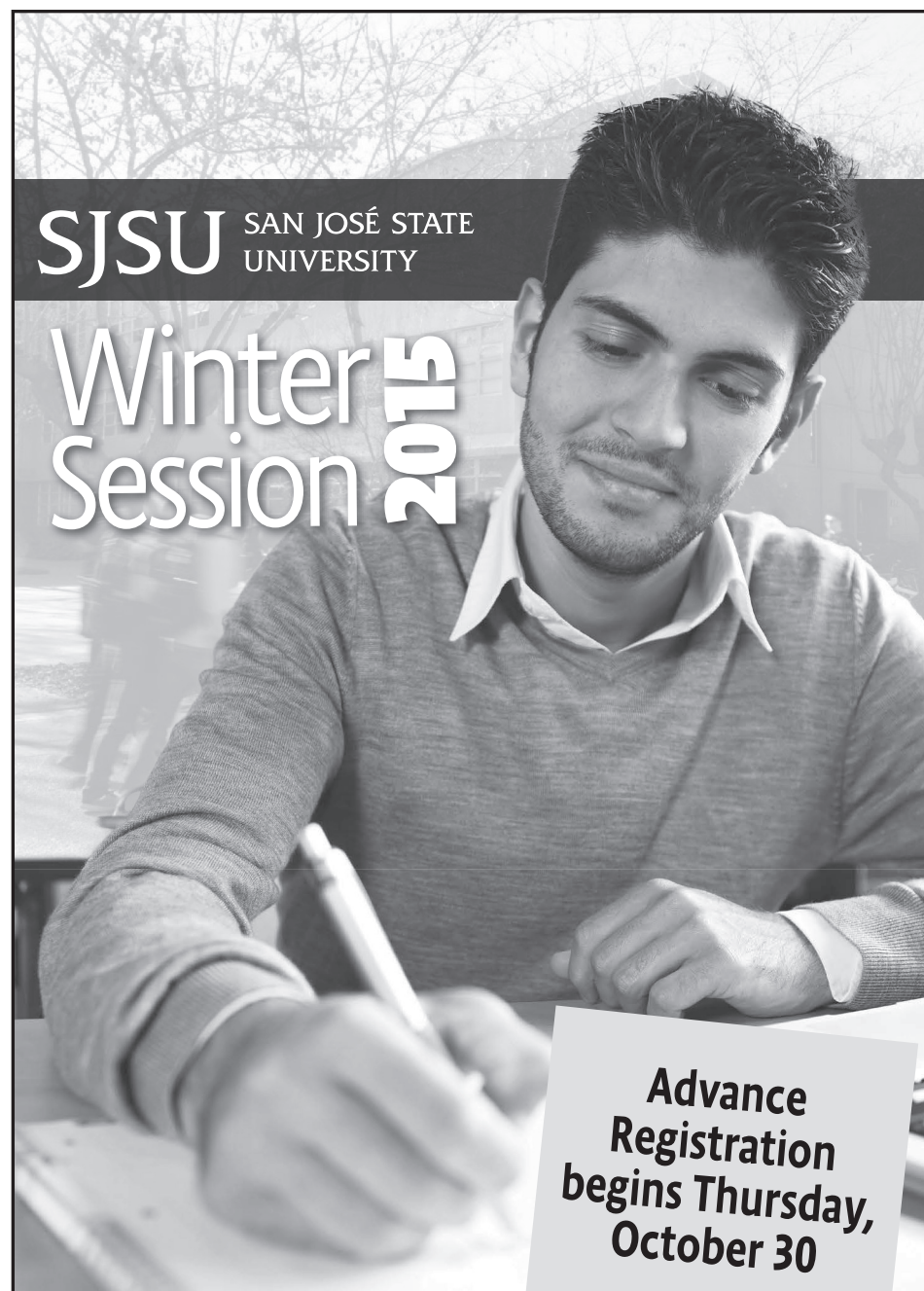
Nathan Hellman, a Newark, Calif. resident, said he is an avid snowboarder and possesses the undying passion that Ortiz spoke about, which is rendered

in the form of what he described as an addiction to an adrenaline rush.

"I'm worried about the drought this year, and there hasn't been much snow yet and temperatures are still sort of warm," Hellman said. "I still have the passion though, and I just bought the season pass and will always go up regardless."

Vincent Vicini is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

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www.sjsu.edu/winter

Interim: Appointment to last until search committee finds person for permanent position

FROM THE FRONT PAGE:

operations of the Office of the President, the campus community is her personal focus during her interim role.

"There are many responsibilities that are a part of this position, but perhaps the most important ones to me are to continue to celebrate the work of the faculty and students, build alumni pride and inspire donors to invest in the university's good work," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said she is honored to have the opportunity to work with SJSU faculty, staff and students.

"I am grateful for her availability and willingness to serve SJSU during this transition," Qayoumi said in a Monday press release.

Qayoumi said in an email to the Spartan Daily that Mendoza will bring a "wealth of knowledge" to the campus community and

said was grateful for taking the position on short notice.

"I received a call from President Qayoumi, whom I have known and worked with before, and he asked if I would help in this important position while a future search is initiated," Mendoza said.

As the Academic Senate leadership forms a search committee for the permanent position, Mendoza plans on carrying out various duties including working with faculty.

"I plan on focusing on the operations of the division, building partnerships with deans and faculty to identify the needs that can be met through philanthropy, and help grow a culture of philanthropy among the internal and external communities," Mendoza said.

Lauren Hernandez is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



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Applicants must be matriculated students attending SJSU with a GPA of 2.0 and above, enrolled in a minimum of 6 units, to be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors. Eligible students selected for Board membership must fulfill a 2 year commitment.

Thursday Thoughts

Purchase your **Spartan Shoutouts**:
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-provocative or inappropriate language or pictures
-must send to spartandailycreative@gmail.com
before Wednesday at 1:00pm

• **Diamond's Shoutout**

From : Diamond To : Therapist

I'm under a lot of pressure right now.

• **Sushi A's Shoutout**

From : Sushi A To : Sushi B

Wassa B!!!!!!!

• **2 Chainz's Shoutout**

From : 2 Chainz To : My Stove

My stove deserve a shout-out, I'm like "What up stove?"

Social Spartan Thoughts of the Week #SpartanDaily



Classifieds

11/20/14

Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Previous solutions

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

Nov 19

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

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
17				18					19				
22	23			24		25	26		27				
28			29	30		31			32			33	
34					35		36				37		
	38					39				40	41		
			42					43				44	
45	46	47		48				49		50			
51			52			53			54			55	
56				57				58		59	60		
61					62	63						64	65
66					67					68			
69					70					71			

- ACROSS**
- 1 Last letter, in Athens
 - 6 Trueheart of comics
 - 10 Wood-working slot
 - 14 Gun, as a motor fabric
 - 15 Nabisco mainstay
 - 16 "... happily after"
 - 17 Ignoring boundaries, in a way
 - 20 Game with checks
 - 21 Kind of soup
 - 22 Docs' org.
 - 24 USNA students
 - 27 Phoebe of films
 - 28 Creepy sort
 - 31 Car dealer's offering
 - 33 Before, to bards
 - 34 Blubber
 - 36 Farm yield
 - 38 Madeleine L'Engle novel
- DOWN**
- 1 Mythical monster
 - 2 De-bussy's "La ..."
 - 3 Sum-moner
 - 4 Babble enthusiastically
 - 5 Abbey area
 - 6 Body part that may be re-moved
 - 7 .0000001 joule
 - 8 On Easy Street
 - 9 China-town neighbor
 - 10 Kind of blues
 - 11 Do the Wright thing
 - 12 Defen-dant, often
 - 13 End of a threat
 - 18 An end to sex?
 - 19 Not included
 - 22 Priest's robe
 - 23 Cat call
 - 25 Hood-wink
 - 26 Indian dress
 - 29 Gam-bler's marker
 - 30 Lei locale
 - 32 Princes, but not princesses
 - 35 Gumbo
 - 37 Trig function
 - 39 Old Italian bread
 - 40 Group in a cloister
 - 41 New York canal
 - 44 Grant of music
 - 45 Portable computer
 - 46 Ancient Greek theaters
 - 47 Certain New York team
 - 49 In a very dry way
 - 52 Cereal killer
 - 54 Alterna-tive to .net
 - 57 Feudal subject
 - 59 Persia, now
 - 60 Alone
 - 62 Cause of inflation?
 - 63 Dumfries denial
 - 64 Churchill signal
 - 65 Super-man's logo

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SPORTS NEWS VIDEOS
A&E OPINION

So | SPARTAN DAILY MOVIE REVIEW

Interstellar combines hard sci-fi and amazing visuals

BY ABRAHAM RODRIGUEZ
@ABE_RODRIGUEZZZ

Whenever I read a hard science-fiction novel, I sit back and think, "How could this end up as a movie?"

If someone translated a hard sci-fi book into the movie format, it would be hours long and make you emotionally invested in the characters and their setbacks.

That's exactly what it felt like walking out of "Interstellar" on opening weekend.

Christopher Nolan's science-fiction movie is almost a hard science-fiction book thrown into the big screen with bits of real life implications, but in a fictional situation with dire consequences.

In "Interstellar," we find the world in disarray following the effects of runaway climate change and stagnating development in technology.

Everyone scaled back on the lifestyles developed in the 20th century that resembled the pre-baby boomer eras of the 1940s.

Anti-technology and Luddite ideologies run so deep in their world that institutions actively argue the moon landings were faked.

With the world in disarray, a clandestine collection of the remaining scientists of NASA put together a mission to travel through a wormhole and find a new habitable world for people.

"Interstellar" has some of the best visuals in a movie thus far, and even better in the science-fiction film genre.

A frequent complaint about sci-fi movies is the creative addition of sound in space, the idea you would hear anything while the action is underway is a fictional element.

Because outer space has no air, you won't hear anything in real life, and it's part of this respect to realism this movie immerses viewers in so well.

You forget you're watching a science-fic-

tion film and almost mistake some of the footage as being captured by NASA.

You feel a certain weight to every situation and decision.

The scale of objects here is most important. Things that are big in real life look big in the movie.

It's important to say for a science-fiction movie, it has some of the best science.

Director Christopher Nolan teamed up with physicist Kip Thorne to examine how some of the objects in the movie would translate themselves from a mathematical equation to something that looks and feels real.

Wormholes and black holes, part of Thorne's speciality, were re-visualized from his earlier equations and built into 3-D visuals for the movie and web reports indicate they actually broke scientific ground in those aspects.

Kip Thorne, a famed physicist for his work in wormholes and black holes, helped provide the mathematical basis for wormholes used in Carl Sagan's book and movie "Contact," where explorers from Earth travel through to meet extraterrestrial life.

Thorne later released a book explaining his findings, popularizing the idea of wormholes to science-fiction writers even though they've never been observed before in the natural world.

"Interstellar" has some drawbacks.

You might guffaw at a phrase or two uttered by some of its actors. However, Matthew McConaughey's drive to reunite with his family on Earth drives the movie onward and makes the plot feel grounded.

It's highly ambitious and draws heavy parallels to "2001: A Space Odyssey."

There's a sense of wonder and exploration that pours out of the movie and into the audience.

You feel the weight of the astronaut's



Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Matthew McConaughey plays an astronaut searching for a planet to replace dying Earth as humanity's home.

mission as they try to carry on despite setback after setback, but the entire last act of this movie is just like a good ol' fashioned hardcover book by Niven or Asimov.

It wraps up so nicely you feel the weight

of the movie's emotions fall off of your back as you move on to another adventure.

If there's a sequel, sign me up.

Abraham Rodriguez is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Check out spartandaily.com for Jason Reed's review of Slayer at Oakland's Fox Theater!



Jason Reed | Contributing Photographer

Exodus guitarist Gary Holt performs at the Fox Theater on Nov 11. Exodus opened for Suicidal Tendencies and headliner Slayer.



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Sunday Assembly Silicon Valley celebrates first birthday with cake, speech from founder in London via robot

BY VINCENT VICINI
@theBigVinnie

Live better. Help often. Wonder more.
That is the motto of Sunday Assembly, a nonreligious movement for wonder and good, which first assembled January 2013 in the U.K. by British comedian Sanderson Jones and Pipa Evans.

Since then, satellite assemblies have sprouted around the world, including in Silicon Valley.

Sunday Assembly Silicon Valley celebrated its first birthday last weekend at the San Jose Women's Club, which serves as the venue for the congregation's monthly service.

The word congregation may suggest religion, and while Sunday Assembly does serve as an outlet for binding a group of people together to celebrate life and positivity, it's essentially executed with an absence of religion.

Gillian Claus, president of the Silicon Valley branch of Sunday Assembly, said the group shares similar activities with churches and other religious institutions, such as getting together and doing community service projects, listening to speakers and readings and singing music together, but they never touch religion.

"There is no instruction on how to live your life, there is none of the doctrine attached that would come with a church service," Claus said. "We have people of all sexual orientations, political background and every belief is welcome, we just don't cover the religion part."

Joseph Roach, a junior electrical engineering major, said that is one of the reasons why he attends Sunday Assembly.

"Church basically fulfills a need for people in a certain way, and we've been seeing that for some, those same needs can be fulfilled by Sunday Assembly, but without the holiness factor," Roach said. "It's our attempt to scratch our own itches, but without the use of a god."

The birthday celebration was hosted by skeptic comedian Ian Patrick Harris.

"Our mission is to help everyone find and reach their full potential," Harris said. "Our vision is a godless congregation in every town, city or village that wants one."

To break the ice and reinforce the light-heartedness of this congregation, Harris initiated a game of rock-paper-scissors that spanned the entire room.

Clenched fists, pairs of extended fingers and open palms were thrown at each count-down led by Harris until the competition was narrowed down to a young girl and a woman who were brought to the front of the room for the final duel.

The child emerged victorious and received



Vincent Vicini | Spartan Daily

Sunday Assembly founder Sanderson Jones spoke from London via telepresence robot to members of the Silicon Valley branch of the nonreligious congregation last weekend during its one year birthday celebration. Jones was able to roam through the room on the Segway-like device and communicate with people.

a gift bag and a round of applause from spectators for her expertise on the battlefield.

A pair of sing-alongs followed, with house band The Lovely Hearts Club Band performing The Monkees' "I'm a Believer" and the catchy American Author's song "Best Day of My Life."

“There is no instruction on how to live your life, there is none of the doctrine attached that would come with a church service”

Gillian Claus
Sunday Assembly Silicon Valley chapter president

Lyrics were projected for those unfamiliar with the songs and everyone rose from chairs to sing, dance and clap along.

The guest speaker was introduced next,

and was none other than the co-founder of Sunday Assembly himself, Sanderson Jones.

It was fitting for the co-founder to be the speaker at this birthday celebration of Silicon Valley's Sunday Assembly, although his presence was anything but typical.

Jones spoke via telepresence robot, which was in essence a Segway with a tablet running Skype attached to it from his home in London.

"I'm sorry, I'm going to try to have this talk while at the same time having my mind blown," Jones said, amazed this was actually happening.

The audience stared in bewilderment as

Jones remotely maneuvered himself around the cabaret-styled room, rotating left and right to scan the audience.

"I don't know if you know, but the person who bought the license for Segway in the UK met his unfortunate demise by driving his Segway straight off a cliff," Jones quipped after bumping into a table, acknowledging the difficulties of navigating with his narrowed field of view.

Jones used his speech to express his appreciation for Sunday Assembly's commitment, stating there are currently 63 satellite assemblies worldwide and an additional 5,000 people have applied to start their own in their regions and cities.

According to Jones, the movement has progressed and spread because it is led by strong participants who have come together for no other reason than the desire to do good to others and create a community.

"We're a community of people celebrating life, not just those that don't have a belief in God, and even those who do are welcome, to have a better quality of life," Jones said. "We have found a way to talk about things we have in common, rather than battle over things we don't."

At the conclusion of his speech, as Jones steered himself to the side of the room, he started chuckling.

"Just take another moment to revel at the fact that I'm a bloody robot," Jones said through his laughter.

The meeting concluded with a stand-up comedy routine by Harris, a sing-along of Monty Python's "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life," and the cutting of a chocolate cake.

There was one final sing-along, perhaps the most important song of the day for the congregation - "Happy Birthday."


Sunday Assembly is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization and meets monthly. The next gathering is Dec. 14.


Vincent Vicini is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

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ONE WORD WISDOM

BY
WES
MOOTS

Standing in a crowded bar with a beer in my left hand, a phone in my right hand and my back against a wooden column, I might as well be invisible despite my size as I play the cocktail effect game.

The cocktail effect is defined as our ability to shut out all other stimuli in a busy environment while focusing on a single element, such as a conversation or someone's appearance.

The cocktail effect game is when you focus on various points in a crowded place and listen to different conversations without people being aware.

Though this is a talent that must be used for good and not evil, it gets me thinking about our attention span and how it shapes our perception of the world.

Every day, people send dozens, maybe even hundreds or thousands of texts, Facebook messages, statuses and tweets.

How often do people get annoyed at a text someone sent because we ascribe intent to the message in a tone they didn't mean?

Intent is not a magic wand, and just because we meant to be funny doesn't stop something from being

Attention: a short attention span can be useful at times



Follow Wes Moots on Twitter @Stevewes

perceived as offensive, upsetting or insulting.

But it's also unfair to say something is an insult purely because we chose to take it as a slight.

The longstanding comment among my friends and I has been, "If I say something which could be taken one of two ways and one of those ways upsets you, then I meant the other one."

I've lost count of the number of times I've listened to a misinterpretation turn into an argument or even a fight while playing the cocktail effect game.

Our generation is quite possibly the greatest generation of professional-level procrastinators to have ever existed.

With the advantage of growing up with the Internet and its gifts of cat pictures and movies, Facebook games, Tumblr, Pinterest, Twitter and Pandora, we have more distractions at our fingertips than anyone before.

How then do we still manage to get anything done?

“Our attention is something we can choose when, how and where to focus our perception”

This is because of our ability to dynamically focus our attention on a single task to a greater degree than those who have come before us.

Sure, this may not be a lasting attention, but it is one in which we make the seconds count.

But when we focus on this pinpoint attention, we lose touch with everything and everyone else around us.

Texts go unheard and unanswered and others begin to wonder if we're alright or if we're paying any attention to them, which at that time we're not.

The quality of what we're getting done is an entirely separate debate, but if we can use that attention well, it will allow us to create and complete wonders.

It is the same pinpoint attention I use to listen to what one couple is discussing, then what another group is ordering at the bar and why the security man at the door won't let a man, who is clearly too drunk to know his wallet from his left shoe, through the door.

Our attention is something we can choose when, how and where to focus our perception, and how we choose to perceive the world can similarly alter how we feel about the world we live in.

Wes Moots is a Spartan Daily staff writer. "One Word Wisdom" usually appears every Thursday. Tweet a single word to his Twitter handle with the tag "#OneWordWisdom" and your word could be covered in a future column.

Taking your husband's last name isn't about giving up your identity

I remember doodling Mrs. (insert crush's last name) all over my notebooks during middle school and, as embarrassing it is to admit, even high school.

I knew my "Prince Charming" would come some day and I would marry him and take his last name.

But it never crossed my mind someday my Prince Charming could take my last name.

According to The Atlantic article by William Macaskill, "Men Should Consider Changing Their Last Names When They Get Married," half of American's think women should be required to take their husband's last name.

Although the other half say women should be independent from their husband's name and keep their own, I

don't see what the issue is with changing your last name.

My mom decided to keep my dad's last name after they separated.

It was important to her that she still shared the same name as my siblings and, even though she technically was no longer a "Wirtz."

Amal Alamuddin, wife of actor George Clooney, decided she would take his last name after marriage.

Although a distinguished lawyer at 36, she still decided taking Clooney's last name was the right decision for her.

People have criticized Alamuddin's decision for taking Clooney's last name.

One alternative couples have is hyphenating their last names, so neither of them have to change it.

We generally see this happening with celebrities or other men and women who

have established careers and want to keep their name so it doesn't affect their career.

According to Huffington Post's article by Stephanie Hallett, "Changing Your Last Name: Survey Reveals How Americans Feel About Women, Men Changing Their Names," 38 percent of the respondents said hyphenation is a good way for couples to show they respect each other, while 38 percent said it is a silly piece of political correctness.

Although hyphenating names doesn't seem as a popular trend for couples, it does offer an opportunity for compromise, which is what marriage

is all about.

Ultimately, it is a woman's decision whether or not to change her last name.

Changing your last name is a way of saying you and your significant other are a team.

It is an intimate decision you and your spouse decide together as what is best for you — and your new life.

Taking your husband's last name doesn't mean you are giving up your right as a woman, but you are telling the world you have started a new family and you are proud to take your husband's name in the process.

It doesn't mean you're losing your identity because you will always be who you are, no matter what name you have.

But in essence, it's a fresh start to your new life.

It's a great way of telling the world not only have you started a new family, but you are doing it under a name that will continue on with the legacy you want it to.

Kristen Wirtz is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



Follow Kristen on Twitter @KristenWirtz2

“It doesn't mean you're losing your identity because you will always be who you are”

Famous women who decided not to change their last names

1. Beyonce Knowles
2. Mariah Carey
3. Diana Ross
4. Halle Berry
5. Heidi Klum
6. Megan Good
7. Mary J. Blige
8. Jessica Alba
9. Drew Barrymore
10. Iman

Information compiled from www.madamemoire.com

Infographic by Jerica Lowman and Kristen Wirtz

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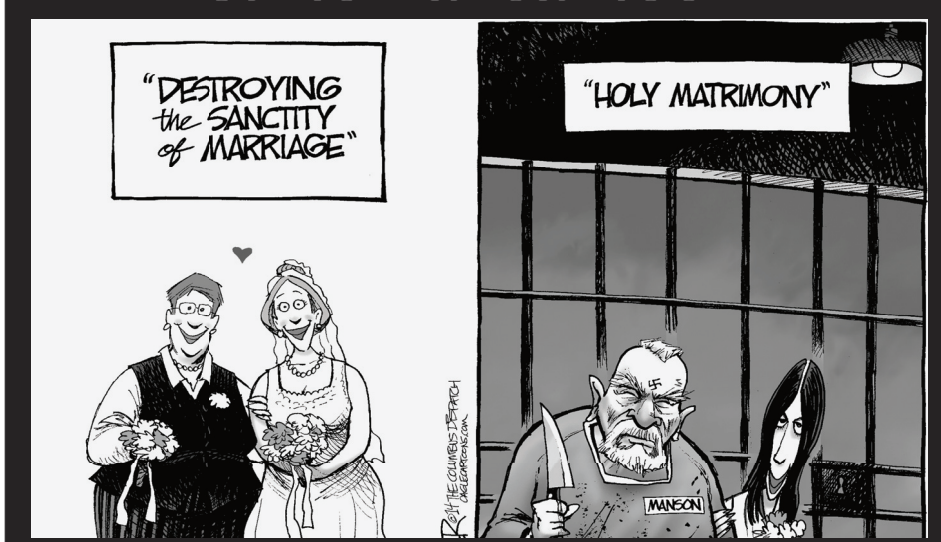
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Equality for women in games is just part of a bigger problem

With the recent uproar in the gaming industry surrounding women's rights, writers such as Luke Plunkett of Kotaku and most notoriously Leigh Alexander of Gamasutra are suggesting we retire the moniker of "gamer." But it seems Alexander and Plunkett are just asking for equality.

The culture of hatred spun by those who shout everything, from childish expletives to death threats on the internet, has them convinced the term "gamer" should be removed as a target demographic and game developers should create games not for audiences who seek them out, but for all audiences.

Personal attacks on Anita Sarkeesia and Zoe Quinn evolved into the GamerGate controversy, a convoluted hate campaign against all women in gaming that doesn't have a simple definition or explanation.



Follow Daniel on Twitter @Nyancloud

It seems to be a campaign of internet bullying by media personalities and their followers.

Few people are able to see the bigger problem. Outside of feminist groups, few have campaigned against inequality in games — perhaps because campaigning against the common perception of what it means to be a "gamer"

seems like a lost cause.

Gaming doesn't just need to be a place where women can feel comfortable, it needs to be a place where everyone can feel comfortable — regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or creed.

That isn't to say games can't be challenging or poke fun at certain groups, but game designers need to consider ethics.

Race in particular is something rarely talked about and is dealt with poorly in most games, but there are few people who cite it as a serious issue.

Something else rarely talked about in gaming is sexual orientation.

In the culture of online gaming, being gay is accepted as a generic insult most lifetime gamers (myself included) learn to shrug off without a second thought.

When I boot up an online game like Halo, Call of Duty or League of Legends, I prepare myself by either muting players or steeling myself against the inevitable text chat.

The thought a substantial percentage of gamers might have a different sexual orientation seldomly crosses their minds.

What's most interesting is that gaming has never been shy about quietly slipping LGBT characters into the games.

As early as Super Mario Bro. 2 (1988), Birdo appeared as gaming's first popular transgender character, and numerous examples in many games can be listed throughout the next 12 years.

However, until recently, most of

these characters were depicted as villains and deviants.

It wasn't until the Sims in late 2000 that same-sex relationships were displayed prominently.

After this, many games started to feature LGBT characters, including Fable, Knights of the Old Republic and most famously, Mass Effect.

Recently, Todd Harper examined the new Borderlands title and how it casually depicts a world open to LGBT relationships.

Last July, San Francisco hosted the second annual GaymerX, a convention catered to LGBT gamers and allies.

At many of these conventions, it feels like gamers must conform to a certain stereotype of what gamers are and GaymerX allowed gamers to let their guard down regardless of orientation.

If the moniker "gamer" is going to survive, we all need to look at events like GaymerX and ask why we can't come together as a community outside of curated spaces.

Games should be a place where people can escape and be treated as equals regardless of labels.

Daniel Lipson is a Spartan Daily contributing writer.

It feels like gamers must conform to a certain stereotype

Join the discussion online!

Comment on these articles at www.spartandaily.com/category/opinion



Speaking out about unrealistic images in media is one step toward changing ideas

As much as I would love for it to stop, fashion magazines and websites continue using Photoshop.

Photoshopped beauty standards are unrealistic and can be harmful to young girls and women.

Keira Knightley recently spoke out about how she took control of her photos when she was featured on the cover of Interview magazine.

In a Times interview, she opened up about her decision saying, "I've had my body manipulated so many different times for so many different reasons, whether it's paparazzi photographers or for film posters."

Knightley's decision highlights the problem of how and why women are being objectified today.

Knightley's biggest reason for taking control of her photos was because of how many times her breasts have been altered.

The United States especially seems so keen on objectifying women's bodies, especially anything revolving around breasts.

At the same time, young girls are often shamed for having them.

I was in the third grade when I was told I would have to wear a bra for the first time.

This isn't an uncommon occurrence, but it doesn't normally happen so early.

Most girls I know didn't start wearing bras until junior high school.

Every girl knows that shopping trip, whether you were 8 years old like me or just graduated from high school.

The first time you buy a bra stays with you forever.

The same year I began wearing a bra, I also learned to be ashamed and hate my breasts.

I was 8 and puberty had hit me like a bus.

I got many unwelcomed and creepy stares from men old enough to be my grandfather.

One time in class, my teacher pulled me aside when we were playing indoor tag.

She told me I needed to cover myself because boys were staring down my shirt.

I had been crawling on the floor wearing a loose shirt.

The older I got, the more and more I became aware of my changing body.

I spent most of my childhood wearing big shirts and hoodies to cover up my breasts.

At the same time, my friends were obsessed with them.

I reached a point in my life where I knew I was going to be well endowed in comparison to most girls my age.



Follow Jerica on Twitter @thehellajerica

Photoshopping normal women to make them look unnaturally "perfect" is a conflicting message

Ironically, while I was hating my boobs, everyone else was praising them.

But I learned in the past six years of college (yes, six) to embrace and love them.

Yet, there is something still annoying me to this day.

Now that I am an adult, people still stare at my breasts.

My classmates, much like the ones my third grade teacher had warned me about, still continue to stare at women's breasts and make comments.

The thing I wonder about it is did anyone ever tell them to stop? Were they ever told staring at a woman's body is rude?

Were they warned about girls who might stare at their penis? Most likely not.

Girls are taught from a young age to cover their bodies, but not so much where they might be considered a prude.

According to its website, The Representation Project is a movement that uses film and media to expose injustices created by gender stereotypes and to shift people's consciousness toward change.

The organization created a documentary based on the topic of women's representa-

tion in media called Miss Representation.

The website states, "The film challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, which make it difficult for women to achieve leadership positions and for the average woman to feel powerful herself."

Girls are taught to cover up while at the same time are bombarded with images, advertisements, commercials and movies with exposed women's bodies that have been photoshopped.

Miss Representation stated that American teenagers spend 31 hours a week watching television and 10 hours a week online.

Fifty-three percent of 13-year-old girls are unhappy with their bodies, a number that increases to 78 percent by age 17.

Women need to be taught at a young age to accept and love their bodies.

And photoshopping normal women to make them look unnaturally "perfect" is a conflicting message.

This encourages men to have unrealistic expectations as well, but until men are told the way they dress dictates how they are treated, the situations are not similar.

I'm just looking forward to the day when I don't have to remind someone where my eyes are.

Jerica Lowman is the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor. "Phenomenally Feminist" usually appears on Thursday.

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Waves 63, Spartans 44

Spartans tumbled by Waves, look for answers against Titans

BY SAMUEL BRANNAN
@Sam_Brannan

The Pepperdine Waves capitalized on San Jose State's 20 turnovers in a blowout 63-44 win over the Spartans last night at the Event Center.

The Spartans struggled on Sunday against Portland with 12 turnovers in the second half, and the problem continued against Pepperdine.

"It is frustrating because we're just giving away possessions," said Spartan head coach Dave Wojcik. "It's a combination of

our offense and us not making good decisions with the ball."

The Spartans recorded nine turnovers and failed to sink a 3-pointer on seven attempts in the first half.

"Something I tell these guys is that a quick shot is a turnover," Wojcik said. "We took too many quick shots in the first half, which led to run outs."

The score was 26-22 going into halftime with Pepperdine holding the lead. Junior forward Frank Rogers had six points and five rebounds leading the Spartans into the locker room.

The Spartans came out strong in the second half as sophomore guard Jalen James knocked down the first 3-pointer of the game to make the score 28-35.

Just a minute later, Rogers followed up with another good 3-pointer to make the score 31-35.

For the next 10 minutes of game time though, the Spartans went scoreless.

The Spartans were held without a field goal at the 17 minute mark to the seven minute mark.

Long scoreless runs for the Spartans continue to be a problem they hope to solve.

In Sunday's loss against Portland, they went nearly seven minutes without a field goal.

"They were playing good defense and we gave up too many turnovers in the open court," said Spartan sophomore guard Rashad Muhammad. "We had too many one-sided shots — we didn't get any reversals and we have to swing the ball around more like Pepperdine did."

Turnovers continued to hurt the Spartans as the Waves left them in the dust with a 10-0 run in the second half, and Pepperdine's biggest lead turned to 21 points with just over eight minutes left.

"We didn't get a chance to get the ball inside because we were shooting the ball so quickly," Wojcik said. "They did a good job at getting us off balance and pressuring us, but we have to do a better job."

Muhammad finished the game with nine points and took a tumble in the second half.

Muhammad stayed down for a couple

minutes, but said he felt great and is ready to go for the next game.

"We did not have the look in our eye that we had on Sunday," Wojcik said. "In time-outs, we weren't focused and I could see it in our eyes."

Rogers led the Spartans with nine points and 11 rebounds with one of the three total 3-pointers made for San Jose State.

"Losing is always discouraging," Rogers said. "Once they started building the lead, we weren't able to pull it together."

Wojcik played a bigger lineup for the Spartans — a majority of the game with freshman center Leon Bahner and Rogers playing together at times.

"Leon is developing extremely well," Wojcik said. "We tried to get the ball to him a couple times with the high-low passes, but we turned it over a couple of times trying that."

The Spartans look to break their losing streak as they take on the Cal State Fullerton Titans this Saturday on the road.

Samuel Brannan is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



Brandon Chew | Spartan Daily

Spartan sophomore guard Isaac Thornton stretches out his arm for a layup in a 63-44 loss against the Pepperdine Waves last night at the San Jose State Event Center.



Brandon Chew | Spartan Daily

Spartan head coach Dave Wojcik yells instructions at his players during a 63-44 loss to the Pepperdine Waves last night at the San Jose State Event Center.

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Spartans hope for improvement in freezing conditions against Aggies

BY BRIAN STANLEY
@BStanleyPhotos

The San Jose State football team has been practicing late into the evening under the lights this week to prepare for sub-freezing temperatures in Logan, Utah. The Spartans will face the Utah State Aggies on Friday.

The Spartans (3-7, 2-4) are in the midst of a four-game losing streak after a shutout loss to the University of Hawaii in the last game of the season at Spartan Stadium.

The Aggies (8-3, 5-1) are on a four-game winning streak and are undefeated at home this season.

"It's definitely challenging times right now," said San Jose State Spartan head coach Ron Caragher.

Caragher said the team's maturity of the defense, the struggling offense and red zone performance stood out to him.

"Our defense is much improved over last year," Caragher said. "I think that shows up statistically."

Caragher parallels the improvement of the defense to the veterans on the roster.

San Jose State has four second-year starters, two third-year starters and one starter in his fourth year, according to Caragher.

"With that maturity, we are seeing better execution and better play on defense," Caragher said.

The Spartans have seen a turnover of personnel on the offensive side of the ball this year compared to last

year, with only two second-year returning starters and nine starting for the first time this season.

"On offense we are going through some growing pains right now," Caragher said.

Caragher said while the team is moving the ball up and down the field, the growing pains are apparent in the red zone offense performance, which is a direct result of turnovers and missed field goals.

"Field goals got to be automatic," Caragher said. "You got to make those."

As a team, the Spartans have only made half the field goals attempted this season.

Junior kicker Austin Lopez is 12 of 23 on field goals this season with two of them being blocked.

Lopez missed both of his attempts against Hawaii and Caragher replaced him with punter Michael Carrizosa to kick the Spartans third attempt, which was blocked.

Between Lopez and Carrizosa, Caragher is deciding on the kicker Friday.

"Iron sharpens iron is our motto around here," said special teams coordinator Fred Guidici. "It makes Austin better, it makes Mike better and it makes our team better."

When in the red zone, San Jose State has scored on 25 of 37 attempts with only 16 touchdowns.

The Spartans have turned the ball over seven times in the red zone — 3 interceptions, 3 fumbles and 1 turnover on downs

and failed to score on 5 field goals.

"If you fixed both of those, we would be pretty darn good," Caragher said. "If you fixed one of them, we would still be good."

The offense has had to face these challenges without the experience of sophomore running back Thomas Tucker, sophomore tight end Billy Freeman and senior guard Kieth Bendixen, who were unable to play because of injuries.

The backfield of the Spartans has also been without sophomore running back Jarrod Lawson, who has been suspended for most of the season for violating team rules.

"Those are four guys who would have helped us," Caragher said.

The Spartans may also be without junior quarterback Joe Gray due to a shoulder injury sustained last week against the University of Hawaii.

"Joe right now is day to day," Caragher said.

If Gray is unable to play against Utah State, graduate student and quarterback Blake Jurich, who started the first three games of the season, will take the starting spot, according to Caragher.

The Spartans lead the all-time series 20-15-1 and the Aggies have won the last five matchups.

The game will be televised on ESPN2 and broadcasted on KLIV 1590-AM radio with kickoff scheduled at 7:30 p.m.

Brian Stanley is a Spartan Daily staff writer.