



Spartans look to upset Stanford
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 Weather: Partly cloudy

H: 81
 L: 56

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A cyclist cruises on a new bike lanes next to SJSU along Fourth street. These new lanes aim to offer more safety for both bikers and pedestrians. Photo by Raphael Kluzniok / Contributing Photographer

▪ **CITY OF SAN JOSE**

Bike lanes aim to improve safety, ridership

By Kimberky Diaz
 @SD_KDiaz

New bike lanes were constructed in downtown San Jose this past July in efforts to create safer streets and encourage bike riding in the city.

On August 9, city officials led by Councilman Sam Liccardo opened the lanes to the public with Liccardo riding the new pavement.

There are 7.6 miles of buffered bike lanes installed on Third, Fourth, 10th and 11th street, according to the San Jose Department of Transportation.

The bike lanes are being funded by state gas tax revenues used for roadway pavement maintenance and also by state Transportation Development Act, Article III grant funds, according to John Brazil, Bicyclist and Pedestrian Program Coordinator.

Liccardo, also a local politics lecturer at SJSU, said has been pushing for bike lanes for over four years.

"This isn't just about bikes," Liccardo said. "It's about slowing down traffic by eliminating lanes and making it safe for people."

Liccardo said that some of the car lanes in downtown San Jose have been reduced from

three to two to encourage safe and slower traffic in neighborhoods. This is not only for cars and bikes but also for pedestrians.

California law said that cars in downtown can merge into the bike lane to enter parking spaces, driveways, or at intersections starting at 200 feet away.

Carlos Babcock, San Jose Bike Party route coordinator, said he feels positive about the new bike lanes and said he rides them everyday. He is also the chair of the San Jose Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

"I feel incredibly safe," Babcock said. "They cut down on traffic to slow it down and make it safe for bikers. On 10th street, the speed limit was 30 miles per hour, but cars were going at 38 miles per hour, which was too fast for me to try and ride along with them. Now, with the new bike lanes, traffic has slowed down and I feel safer."

Babcock said the most recent bike party had an attendance of more than 4,500 people as they rode down the newly renovated 10th street.

In addition to these bike lanes, San Jose will also be introducing a new bike sharing program, which will allow people to rent bikes from different parts of downtown San Jose, according to Brazil.

Brazil said the program is being led by Bay

Area Air Quality Management District and will allow people to connect with VTA or Caltrain, via bike, and reach their destination through more transit.

According to Bicyclist and Pedestrian Program Coordinator John Brazil, there are 20 bike stations planned to be built in downtown San Jose and contain a total of 200 bikes.

The bike share project will undergo a pilot program for a year beginning this fall, according to the Valley Transportation Authority website.

Brazil said the new lanes, along with the bike share program, go along with the city's master plan to get more people out on bikes.

"Our main goal is really to provide more transportation options for people," Brazil said. "The city's general plan is to have 15 percent of transit be by bicycle by the year 2040. The city also has a plan to reach five percent by 2020."

Brazil said that the bike share program is being funded by a combination of federal, local and regional grants. A majority of the grant funding comes from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Climate Initiatives grant program, which has contributed \$4.3 million.

SEE BIKES ON PAGE 2

▪ **SCIENCE**

SJSU grad snaps up new shark species

By Jacqueline Orvis
 @SD_jorvis

A San Jose State University graduate student discovered eight potentially new shark species during a two-month research expedition to the Indian Ocean earlier this year.

"It was like Christmas morning," Paul Clerkin said, recalling his excitement when he found the first mystery shark in a catch one morning. "I was really focused on it just studying it."

Clerkin spent two months on a commercial trawler just south of the island of Mauritius sifting through bycatch – or fish unintentionally caught in the trawl – hoping to learn about several different species of sharks living on a semi-secluded deep ocean seamount.

Clerkin is an SJSU shark ecology graduate student attending Monterey Bay's Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, the marine science graduate program for multiple CSUs including SJSU.

"It's like a little island," he said, "and (the sharks) are the biggest, baddest predators on that island."

According to Clerkin, the sharks circling the seamount are potentially very important to the microenvironment, but it's difficult to tell at this point.

"Their biodiversity is fascinating and ranges far beyond the typical great white," Clerkin said.

"But we know nothing about these sharks. They don't even have names."

David Ebert, program manager for the Pacific Shark Research Center, said the naming process is viable to the recognition of the new species.

SEE SHARK ON PAGE 2

▪ **EDUCATION**

Specialized Spanish targets health students

By Devon Thomas
 @dtspartan

The world language and literatures department is introducing a Spanish class geared toward health professionals for fall 2012.

Taught by Professor Francisco de la Calle, a native of Madrid, Spain, who has been teaching Spanish since 2009, the class teaches students in the health care field proper terminology and use of medical words and phrases.

During the first class this past Monday, senior Victoria Montgomery, 21, gave an exemplary story of how the lack of knowledge in medical Spanish terms hindered her during an internship in Belize. Montgomery, a nursing student, was unable to address a person's symptoms due the minor language barrier, despite being fluent in the language.

Department Chair Dr. Damian Bacich said that what helped the department to persevere over financial challenges and envision such a class was more a sense of necessity.

"I personally have been in the ER with my family and seen how few medical people, nurses and doctors, speak Spanish fluently," Bacich said. "So I think it's a definite need."

Bacich added the creation of the class was a collaborative

SEE SPANISH ON PAGE 3

Medical phrases in Spanish:

"Voy a tomar su temperatura."
 I am going to take your temperature.

"Le falta el aire?"
 Do you have shortness of breath?

"Esta es su medicina."
 This is your medicine.

Taken from "Cultural Diversity: Translating Spanish: A Brief Guide for Intensive Care and Acute Care Nurses"

by Ruth M. Kleinpell, RN, PhD, CCRN; Maria G. Vazquez, RN, BSN, CCRN; Kristy Gailani, RN, MSN

Critical Care Nurse, Vol 20, No. 2, April 2000

▪ **EDUCATION**

Farsi class provides cultural, political and practical benefits

By Sage Curtis
 @sagedanielle

Elementary Farsi classes will be offered starting this fall at SJSU as part of the Iranian studies program, furthering the availability of information about Iranian culture offered at the school.

"Right now the U.S. suffers from a lack of linguistically sophisticated people who know a lot about Iranian culture," said Iranian studies department head Persis Karim. "Ultimately, if somebody were really interested in foreign services and diplomacy, (knowing Farsi) makes you a very desirable candidate for employment."

The class is the start of what the Iranian studies department hopes is a series of language classes that enriches understanding of the culture and contrasts it to the typically harsh reception in the U.S., according to SJSU graduate student in U.S.-Iran relations Sarah Aghazadeh.

"There is such a huge immigrant population here (in San Jose), so learning the language is relevant to a lot of people," Aghazadeh said. "We've gotten all kinds of request for the course."

Farsi is defined by the Department of Education and the State Department as a strategic language, or a language that is pertinent to foreign policy and diplomacy, which can lead to careers in the United Nations or NATO, according to Karim.

SEE FARSI ON PAGE 3

• HEALTH

Hantavirus outbreak kills Yosemite visitors

By McClatchy Tribune
Wire Service

WASHINGTON — The National Park Service has dispatched a top Colorado-based epidemic specialist and a Washington-based public health official to investigate the dangerous airborne disease that recently killed two Yosemite National Park visitors and potentially endangers others.

Some 1,700 Yosemite visitors who stayed in the park's privately run Curry Village "signature" tent cabins since mid-June are being warned of their potential exposure, park officials said Tuesday. The tent-dwellers are being advised to watch for signs of the often-lethal hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, caused by proximity to infected rodents.

"We're asking people that if they exhibit any signs of the disease to seek immediate medical attention," Yosemite spokesman Scott Gediman said Tuesday.

Though no definitive proof yet connects the Curry Village tents to the recent hantavirus cases, three individuals known to have contracted hantavirus this year had stayed at the popular Yosemite facilities in June. Two died. Officials say they have also identified a probable fourth Yosemite hantavirus patient.

Already, this makes the Yosemite hantavirus episode one of the Park Service's most severe public health challenges.

"Most cases of hantavirus occur as isolated cases; the cluster of cases associated with Curry Village is unusual," Dr. David Wong, a commander in the U.S. Public Health Service and chief of the epidemiology branch of the Park Service's Office of Public Health, said Tuesday.

In all of 2011, the Park Service recorded a total of 50 public health "incidents" nationwide. These ranged from E. coli infections at the Grand Canyon and measles at Bryce

Outbreak

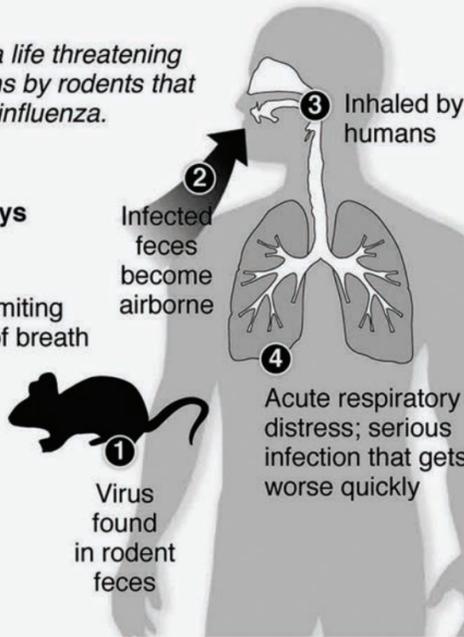
Hantavirus syndrome is a life threatening disease spread to humans by rodents that has symptoms similar to influenza.

Symptoms

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Early | Later, 1-2 days |
| • Chills | • Dry cough |
| • Fever | • Headache |
| • Muscle aches | • Nausea, vomiting |
| | • Shortness of breath |

Stay clear

- Most prevalent in rural areas
- Campers and hikers more likely to catch disease because tents rest on the ground
- Cannot be spread between humans



Source: U.S. Centers for Disease and Control © 2012 MCT Graphic: Melina Yingling

Info graphic courtesy of McClatchy Tribune.

Canyon to valley fever, a fungus that enters the lungs. An archeology student digging in the dust at Pinnacles National Monument in California came down with it.

Though a Yosemite visitor survived a hantavirus bout in 2010, no hantavirus exposures occurred in any National Park Service property last year, according to the Office of Public Health's annual report. A Grand Canyon visitor died from hantavirus in 2009, as did the deputy superintendent of Glacier National Park in 2004, Wong said, though the victims' routes of exposure were not clear.

Nationwide, 24 hantavirus cases were reported in 2011 to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Half of the patients died, though the average mortality rate since the disease was first identified in 1993 has been about 38 percent. The disease is typically caused by inhaling small particles of mouse urine or droppings that have been stirred up into the air.

The illness starts between one and six weeks after expo-

sure, marked by fever, chills and muscle aches. Fluid eventually fills the lungs, with one survivor telling the CDC that the feeling was like "a tight band around my chest and a pillow over my face."

To oversee the new Yosemite investigation, veterinary epidemiologist Dr. Danielle Buttke arrived on Sunday from Fort Collins, Colo., and public health specialist Adam Kramer, a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Public Health Service, arrived from Park Service headquarters. Buttke had already been to Yosemite about a week and a half ago, following the initial hantavirus discoveries. California Department of Public Health staffers have also been on scene.

In addition to being a veterinarian, Buttke holds a doctorate from Cornell University and a master's in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She has served as an "epidemic intelligence service officer" with the CDC.

"Staff from various offices at Yosemite are putting a great deal of time on

this issue as well," U.S. Public Health Service Capt. Charles Higgins, director of the Park Service's Office of Public Health, said Tuesday.

Among other tasks, Buttke and her team have been trapping and testing the deer mice prevalent in Yosemite Valley. Between 15 percent and 20 percent of the deer mice population test positive for hantavirus, Gediman said, though he noted that the likelihood of human exposure also depends on factors such as the rodent's population density and the animal's ability to get into tent cabins. Additional rodent-proofing and trapping measures have been instituted since the hantavirus patients were identified.

The concession company Delaware North, which operates the Curry Village tents, sent emails to most of the Curry Village signature tent visitors by Monday night, and plans to send follow-up letters by Wednesday to those without email contact information. Park rangers are also handing out brochures to visitors.

Bikes: Pedestrians, bikers aided by lanes

FROM PAGE 1

SJSU students are reacting differently to the new bike lanes after the first couple of days of school.

Senior English major Katrina Swanson said she is an avid bike rider and enjoys the new lanes as well.

"Before it was really costly to ride your bike, especially on Fourth street, because all the cars are driving as you go onto the freeway," Swanson said. "They're going really fast and traffic can be really dangerous. I think the best part about the bike lanes is the buffered areas, between the bike lane and the cars, you just feel a little safer."

Despite the positive feedback from a student, several student drivers also have concerns about the lanes.

Junior anthropology major Carlos Bean said he feels the lanes along Fourth street near SJSU, which has the parking closer to traffic, could cause a danger to drivers.

"Those lanes are just accidents waiting to happen," Bean said. "When they put the new bike lane in, they could of fixed this problem giving all the lanes the room they needed. But, also as a cyclist, I love the bike lanes."

Junior philosophy major Armando Mateos, is

also concerned with the new bike lanes in regards to traffic.

"There's more traffic now, which means there's a possibility for more car accidents," Mateos said. "They gave too much room to the bikers I feel. Also, they were a bit confusing. On the first day of school, there was a lot of traffic and it was several blocks down."

Liccardo said he isn't sure why some are still unsure about the bike lanes, but believes these lanes will eliminate any problems soon.

"A little bit of paranoia is healthy," Liccardo said. "The biggest obstacle for us is getting rid of the fear and the idea that it isn't safe on a road. We're doing a combo of that by slowing of traffic."

Liccardo said that more bike lanes are coming soon. Buffered bike lanes along Hedding Street, between 15th street and on the Guadalupe River Trail have been approved by the city council unanimously on August 22.

Brazil said this will add 1.5 miles to the current bike lanes.

Construction is slated to begin this fall, according to San Jose's city website.

Kimberly Diaz is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on twitter @SD_KDiaz

Sharks: Eight potential new species

FROM PAGE 1

"We do not have names for them yet, so we cannot manage them," he added. "The white shark actually receives a large amount of protection in most nations due to its high visibility whereas these sharks are largely unknown and as such have no protective measures."

Clerkin said the tissue samples from the sharks must be compared to those of other known shark species to confirm their genetic identities before they can be properly named, which could take up to a few months.

"Once they have been named then we can go about studying them and learning about their life history and role in the ecosystem," Ebert said.

In addition to the new-found species, Clerkin said they found an abundance of known shark species previously believed to be less frequent.

"People ask me that a lot," Clerkin said. "I didn't kill anything. We're not fishing for sharks."

Sharks said he throws back the sharks that make it to the surface alive as soon as possible to have as little negative impact as possible.



These two new shark species were recently discovered off the coast of the island of Madagascar. Photo courtesy of Paul Clerkin / Pacific Shark Research Center

been question as to whether his research done with deep-sea trawling is a threat to the new species since most of the sharks in the bycatch are dead by the time they reach the ship, according to Clerkin.

"I really wanted to see as many sharks as I could," he said. "Diversity is important."

As far as continuing field search and discovery of apex predators, the Pacific Shark Research Center might send a team to Taiwan to collect shark specimens, according to Clerkin.

Furthermore, Clerkin said some of his colleagues are preparing for upcoming international expeditions including one to Madagascar to study humpback whales.

In addition to international expeditions, the Pacific Shark Research Center collaborates with fisheries in Alaska and Santa Cruz to provide a detailed biological study of California sharks, stingrays and skates, according to the Pacific Shark Research Center's website.

"As a career path, marine biology offers the potential for international travel."

Jacqueline Orvis is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter @SD_jorvis

-- FOURTH STREET --

DASH to Class



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For parking information, maps and more:
sjdowntownparking.com








12/08-0454

-- SAN JOSE DIRIDON STATION/ALMADEN BLVD --

Farsi: Class works to globalize students

FROM PAGE 1

Since the course is being offered through open university starting Sept. 5, the exact count of students taking the course is not known, but Aghazadeh and Karim hope that the class inspires a conversation about not just the language, but the culture and its reception as well.

"I think that it is interesting that we are offering it at a time when the U.S. and Iran are conflicting and clashing," Aghazadeh said, "because you obviously learn about the history of the relationship between the two cultures and why it is so tense."

According to Karim and the Iranian Studies

department, there more than 120 million people who speak Persian worldwide and California has one of the largest immigrant populations in the country.

"I plan to take the course because my grandmother writes me cards written in Farsi," said sophomore English and humanities major Layla Forooghi. "I can speak the language, but I want to be able to read and write also."

While Forooghi was born in the United States, about half of her family lives in Iran, and she has gone back to visit in the past.

"I feel like the Iranian people have no voice," Forooghi said. "I hope that classes like

these can help people separate the politics from the culture."

The language course is part of a larger program of Iranian studies, funded by grants given to the program through the PARS Community Foundation, which was started by SJSU alumni Noosheen Hashemi and hopes to promote philanthropy amongst the new generation of Iranian-Americans, according to Karim.

A former student felt that there was a limited availability to learn Farsi in a school that offered a wide variety of language courses already and mentioned it to Karim, who was then inspired to apply for

the grant.

The \$200,000 grant was awarded in March 2011 to support Persian language instruction and community programming over a two-year period as part of the foundation's mission to encourage philanthropy, according to Karim.

"The program is really about changing the conversation and inspiring some kind of dialogue," Aghazadeh said, "rather than jumping to a conclusion based on what you see on TV because that isn't the reality of what people are really like."

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

SpartaGuide

Today

Information meetings for volunteer & adventure programs overseas
 Summer 2013
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 King Library Room 225/229
 presented by
 International Student Volunteers

Access Magazine!

Looking for writers and photographers to work on this semester's magazine. See Tim Mitchell at room 213 in Dwight Bentel Hall if interested.

SpartaGuide is provided to students, staff and faculty, free of charge. The deadline to submit is at noon, three working days prior to desired publication date. Entry forms are available in Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Send emails to spartandailyeditorial@sjsu.edu. Space restrictions may require editing or exclusion of submissions. Entry is not guaranteed. Entries are printed in order of which they are received.

Spanish: Emphasis on medical terms

effort of Anne Fountain, a Professor of Spanish, who designed the course, and De la Calle, who co-wrote the class text with his wife, an emergency room nurse.

The class particularly attracted students such as Alexa Delucca, an occupational therapy major with a minor in Spanish and kinesiology.

"I like that it teaches you the health care words in Spanish and something I really want to do is travel," Delucca said. "I'd really love to live someplace like South America and be able to do occupational therapy with special needs children in other countries."

While some students

imagine where this class can take them, other's envision use for these Spanish terms much closer to home.

"I want to work in health promotion and right now I'm taking HS 104 which is a health promotion class," said Corinne Wolf, senior and a health science major. "We work with a school that is bilingual with Spanish speakers and (I) thought that being bilingual would be a good asset to have."

De la Calle said he believes there is a local need for this type of class. "It's obvious that there's a need for caregivers because we are in an area with so many Spanish speakers," De la Calle said. "If you want to communicate, you need to

know the language, especially in the medical field. And who doesn't need to go to a doctor at a certain point."

This is highlighted by such issues as the Dream Act which may continue a growing population of native Spanish speaker to the area.

"(It's) estimated that there are about 50 million people that self-identify with the culture, with the Spanish language. 50 million is a lot, especially since most of them are in California. It's an obvious reason (for this type of class)."

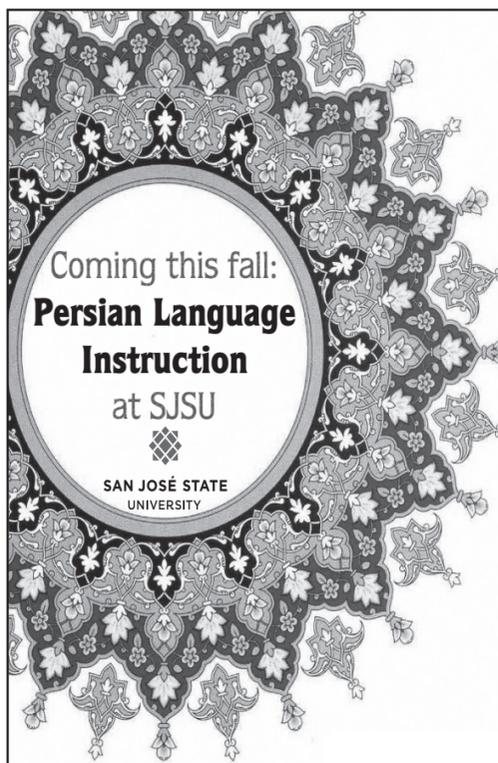
Due to his electrical engineering background, De la Calle has a special interest in looking at the language

in relation to specific fields. The department hopes this class will open the door to more 'field specific' foreign language courses down the road.

"(This class gives) a better understanding of how to speak Spanish," said Delucca, the occupational therapy student, "especially with medical terminology because you don't learn that in normal Spanish class - so I just want this help with my career."

De la Calle's book on medical terms for health professionals is called Spanish for Health Care.

Devon Thomas is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter @dtsspartan



Coming this fall:
Persian Language Instruction
 at SJSU

The Iranian Studies Program
 at San Jose State University is offering instruction in **Elementary Persian** language for the first time!

Fall Semester 2012
 Wednesdays starting **September 5**
 122 Clark Hall, 6-9:45 pm

There are a number of full scholarships for the class available to SJSU matriculated students.

Top five reasons to begin learning Persian:

- There are more than 120 million Persian-speakers worldwide, & California has one of the largest populations of Persian speakers.
- Persian can benefit careers in international relations, foreign service, United Nations, and doing legal, human rights, and literary translation work.
- Articulate, culturally-sophisticated, Persian-speakers can contribute to new policy initiatives to support peace and understanding.
- Persian has largely remained the same for the past thousand years; reading and writing Persian will enable you to read the classics of Persian poetry such as Rumi, Hafez, and Ferdowsi!
- For SJSU and CSU students, Persian can support major and minor requirements in Comparative Literature, Humanities, Middle East Studies, and World Languages, as well as other degrees.

To register for this 5-unit class through the College of International and Extended Studies (IES) go to:
<http://special.sjsu.edu/pdf/registration-add-or-drop-form.pdf>
 and fill out and fax to Office of the Registrar at 408 924-2077

Made possible with a grant from the PARS Community Foundation (in collaboration with Iran Heritage Foundation USA)

More information:

Web: www.sjsu.edu/iranianstudies
Email: iranianstudiesatsjsu@gmail.com
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GALLERY OPENING

Nancy Nowacek's 'In Space' exhibit expands horizons

By Stephanie Barraza
@SD_SBarraza

At first glance, one might think it's one giant bounce house.

"Please don't jump on it!" said Nancy Nowacek to a crowd of people who slowly entered the Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery on Tuesday evening.

It's anything but a bounce house.

The inflating and deflating sculpture is part of Nowacek's art installation titled "In Space," which opened on Tuesday.

"All of my work is an invitation for visitors to become actors, not spectators," said Nowacek. "I'm really interested in works that somehow engages the body in space."

The installation, which takes up almost the entire space of the gallery, is also part of this year's Zero1 Biennial art showcase titled "Seeking Silicon Valley," an art and technology festival which will make its way in and around San Jose next month, which includes the Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery.

Nowacek explained in her lecture before the opening of the exhibit that her interactive piece seeks to find the relationship and struggle between the body and materiality, space, and lack thereof.

"I read a lot about the history of the Silicon Valley. I thought about my own relationship with the Silicon Valley," said Nowacek. "So I began to think about, 'Where is the body in that? Where is the engagement or where is there a lack of engagement?'"

The result was a full transformation of the gallery floor into a terrain-like landscape, and a physical rendition of the "cycles of boom and bust in the tech industry and also the micro cycles of boom and bust in start-ups of Silicon Valley."

"When I got this invitation with the theme of this year's biennial, 'Seeking Silicon Valley,' the first thing I thought about was the kind of material reality of Silicon Valley: silica; sand," said Nowacek. "This piece really became about ambition being made manifest."

After the lecture, the audience, which included mostly art students, was invited into the gallery. Some didn't know what to expect.

"I wasn't sure of what I was going to expect," said Devan



Artist Nancy Nowacek shows her creation titled "In Space" at the Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery in the Art Building on Tuesday. Photo by Kelsey Lynne Lester-Perry / Spartan Daily

Wong, a fifth-year digital media student. "(Nowacek) didn't really describe it and I think she wanted it to be more of a surprise that when you come in, you see this huge inflatable piece. It kind of reminds me of the sunset."

As the audience proceeded to walk around the piece, some began to understand the meaning of physically being part of an artwork.

"Having listened to the lecture, I can really understand it now," said Christina Anderson, an art history graduate student.

Jo Farb Hernandez, professor and director of Exhibitions and Special Projects for the School of Art and Design, said it was refreshing to see an outsider's interpretation of the Silicon Valley.

"It's interesting for me to see, for a person from the outside to come in and see what they take away from what the experience of Silicon Valley is," Hernandez said. "The fact that she chose the reflections of the buildings as well as the shimmering of the sunset and the affect of the sun on the landscape was a really nice combination of what Santa Clara Valley used to be and what Silicon Valley is today."

Much of Nowacek's work deals with physical struggle. In conjunction with her artwork, strength training has also been a big part of her daily life.

"I've only discovered, fully embodied as an adult, a real sense of confidence from being physically engaged with the world," she said. "I'm physically reclaiming my place in the world."

Nowacek said she hopes to encourage art students, as well as her audience, to find the fearlessness in their art and their goals in life.

"I would hope that, after seeing this piece, (they would) have courage to follow their wildest ideas and in so doing to be vulnerable," she said.

This will be the first time Nowacek is debuting her art at the Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery and also the first time she is working on a project completely solo. The exhibit will run from August 28 through September 21. The gallery is free and open to the public.

Stephanie Barraza is a Spartan Daily staff reporter. Follow her on Twitter at @SD_SBarraza.

PERFORMING ARTS

Opera San Jose dives into Georges Bizet's 'The Pearl Fishers'

By Jacqueline Orvis
@SD_jorvis

Opera San Jose gave a preview of the upcoming French opera "The Pearl Fishers" in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library Tuesday afternoon, giving a behind-the-scenes look what it takes to create a show.

Three cast members — Melody King as Leila, James Callon as Nadir and Zachary Altman as Zurga — also attended the preview, each singing arias — or melodies meant as mini intermissions between intense scenes — from the opera.

Altman led the panel with a preview performance from the third act in which his character, Zurga, expresses the conflict between his desire for Leila and his devotion to Nadir.

French composer Georges Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers" is a love story about two fishermen, Nadir and Zurga, torn apart by their desire for a mysterious priestess, Leila, according to Larry Hancock, Opera San Jose's director of production.

In the story set on the island of Ceylon (modern-day Sri Lanka), "The Pearl Fishers" is a "mesmerizing tale of love and sacrifice," as described in the San Jose Opera annual program.

Hancock added that, while the opera is not as famous as Bizet's "Carmen," a "logical progression" of the seduction of a soldier by the gypsy Carmen, "The Pearl Fishers" is a fairytale of sorts, a tale of a magical priestess who provides protection for the fishermen.

Set to premiere in September, it took the Opera San Jose crew a few months to brainstorm, design and erect the set for the performance, scene designer Charlie Smith said.

"We wanted an open, airy feel — a sense of grand environment," he said about the set inspired by ancient architecture and temples.

Inspired by a "battle between man and his own nature," Smith and the set design crew spent two to three months on the set, spending weeks on just creating the vines that blanket the faux stone steps and walls onstage, for example.

He said that the creative process involved researching ancient civilizations, drafting technical drawings of individual elements and building a full-color model to pitch the design details before beginning construction of the set.

"They look like they've been sitting on stage for 2,000 years," Smith said about the stone steps alongside the stage.

Smith also said the set design process became much easier once the design started taking direction.

Even though they are done building the set, there is still a lot of work to be done fitting costumes, adjusting lighting and painting the set before opening night, he said.

The process of creating and coaching the performers on their French is a dedicated role, as well, said language coach Lea Frey.

"Most didn't need coaching," she said, remarking that the performers are experts in the French language.

Nonetheless, Frey said she took meticulous notes on diction during rehearsals and kept track of errors made by each performer to make sure that all vowels were perfectly enunciated and errors didn't become habits on performing night.

Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers" is set to premiere at the California Theatre on Saturday, September 8 at 8 p.m. after the season opening gala dinner at 5 p.m.

For more information and ticket sales, visit www.operasj.org.

Jacqueline Orvis is a Spartan Daily staff reporter. Follow her on Twitter at @SD_jorvis.



Melody King performs during Georges Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers" opera panel in the King Library on August 27. Photo by Jessica Olthof / Spartan Daily



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Including President Obama's August 2009 White House letter to Leland (page 2):

"Dear Leland ... we hope that the issue you brought to the President's attention has been resolved. However, if you still need help with a Federal agency, we are pleased to assist you."

■ ELECTIONS

Vice presidential nominee Ryan rallies GOP convention



Rep. Paul Ryan waves to the crowd with his daughter, Liza, 10, and wife Janna, at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida on Wednesday. Photo courtesy of Dirk Shadd / MCT

McClatchy Tribune

TAMPA, Fla. — Paul Ryan on Wednesday portrayed himself as the vanguard of a new generation, a potential vice president unafraid to urge politically risky steps to reshape the government and ease America's economic pain.

"I accept the calling of my generation to give our children the America that was given to us, with opportunity for the young and security for the old — and I know that we are ready," the 42-year-old Wisconsin congressman said in remarks prepared for prime-time delivery Wednesday at the Republican National Convention.

"We will not duck the tough issues — we will lead. We will not spend four years blaming others — we will take responsibility. We will not try to replace our founding principles, we will reapply our founding principles," he said, according to transcript.

In accepting the nomination as Mitt Romney's running mate, Ryan more than any major convention speaker — had the potential to electrify the party's conservative base, which has been slow to erupt in long, appreciative cheers so far in Tampa. He's this year's conservative hero, and his address was designed not only to introduce the seven-term lawmaker to the American public, but also to energize delegates who have only reluctantly embraced Romney.

"The Ryan pick has helped bring in conservatives," said Justin Machacek, a faith-based film producer in Fort Worth, Texas, and a convention delegate.

Wayne King, vice chairman of the North Carolina Republican Party, found "Ryan brings an element of enthusiasm Mitt Romney's campaign was missing."

Ryan got specific. He discussed his controversial budget blueprint, calling it "a plan for a stronger middle class."

He insisted the 2010 federal health care law be scrapped.

rules, mandates, taxes, fees and fines that have no place in a free country," he said in his prepared remarks. "The president has declared that the debate over government-controlled health care is over. That will come as news to the millions of Americans who will elect Mitt Romney so we can repeal Obamacare."

Ryan's speech was planned as the final message of a night devoted to the theme of "We Can Change It." Before Ryan, though, the evening's premier events recalled the party's past.

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, a key adviser on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the party's 2008 presidential nominee, were featured speakers.

Delegates also watched a video recalling the presidencies of George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. Both are skipping the convention. The elder Bush is in failing health. The younger Bush's presidency remains a subject Republicans would rather not discuss. Delegates rarely invoked the younger Bush's name on the convention floor. One reason: a debt clock looms over the convention hall showing the growing national debt, some of which was accumulated on Bush's watch.

The shadow of that past is a big reason Ryan's speech grew crucial. The House Budget Committee chairman, first elected in 1998, is the author of a detailed plan for reducing future deficits. The most controversial aspect involves revamping how seniors get health care coverage after 2023.

Those turning 65 that year could choose private plans or traditional Medicare, with federal financial support to help pay premiums. Democrats have seized on the idea as a heartless scheme that will ravage seniors' finances. Republican delegates insist something must be done to save a Medicare program bleeding dollars, and they appreciate Ryan's willingness to confront the issue.

"My parents are in their 70s; they know they'll be taken care of. Younger peo-

ple feel Medicare won't be there for them anyway, and they're going to have to have some sort of long-term care insurance," said Michael Noftzger, a delegate and banker from Somerset, Ky.

Some delegates loyal to Rep. Ron Paul of Texas remained unenthusiastic about the ticket. Their candidate did not address the convention but was instead featured in a video. His son Rand, a Kentucky senator, addressed the delegates Wednesday.

Of those backing Romney, many delegates, particularly those in Northeast and Pacific Coast states, worried that Ryan might appear as too doctrinaire to undecided voters in the general election campaign.

They added, though, also argued that voters will choose a candidate based on economic issues and little else.

"The issues New England faces are the same issues everyone faces. At the end of the day, the key issue is what you can afford," said former Rhode Island Gov. Don Carcieri.

He echoed the thoughts of many Republicans — that Ryan's boyish charm will help him overcome the notion that he's too ideologically driven.

"Paul Ryan will help send the right message," Carcieri said. "He's really personable."

President Barack Obama was in Charlottesville, Va., on Wednesday, campaigning for a final time before Romney goes before a national audience at the Republican convention Thursday.

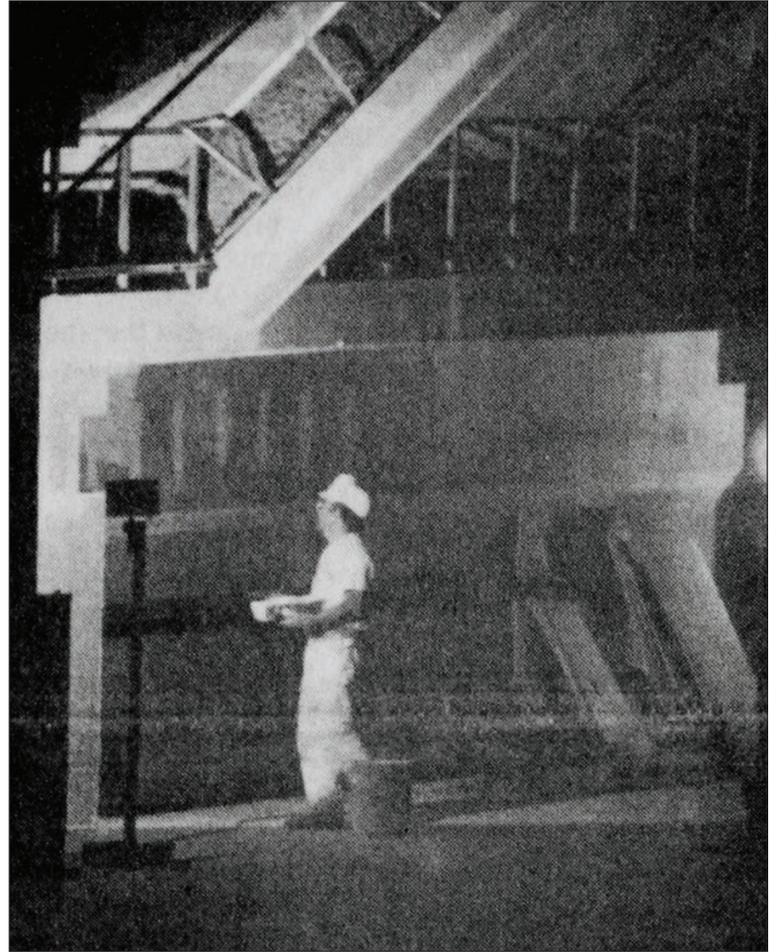
He told a mostly college-age crowd not to let the negativity of the campaigns turn them off.

"There are some folks getting sick of politics, sometimes campaigns seem meaner and smaller," he said, adding that Republicans will tell them, "You were naive last time when you had all that hope and change stuff."

"What they're hoping, even if you don't vote for them ... they do hope you get so discouraged that you just stay home," he said. "That's what they're banking on."

ON THIS DAY IN 1988

THE SPARTAN DAILY REPORTED ...



Above: An illuminated construction worker inspects the progress inside the new Student Union Recreation and Events Center. The Rec Center is expected to be completed by Spring '88. (Photo by Larry Strong / Spartan Daily)

'Prophet' warns students of impending apocalypse: Arkansas prophet Edgar Whisenant spreads the word of a September 12 doomsday. He tells students they are going to hell because they are not saved.

Local politicians supports rally: A rally expressing need to relocate family student housing includes Milpitas Mayor Bob Livengood and representatives of the offices of Senator Dan McCorquodale.

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SJSU FOOTBALL

Spartan football aims to cut down Cardinal

By Camille Nguyen
@camillediem

Slapped across the back of SJSU football head coach Mike MacIntyre's T-shirt are the words "Good, Better, Great" — a mantra that Spartan players and coaches alike hope to emulate as they face Stanford this Friday in the first season game.

Leading the SJSU-Stanford series 50-14-1 and ranked No. 21 in the pre-season top-25 according to ESPN, the Stanford Cardinal defeated SJSU last year with a score of 57-3, maintaining the Cardinal's four year reign over the Spartans.

In spite of last year's loss, the third-season head coach remains confident and optimistic about Friday's outcome.

"Last year as we started winning more games and we were in every single game, except for the first one against Stanford," MacIntyre said after practice Tuesday morning. "So we hope to rectify that this Friday night,"

The Spartans were dealt a major blow when sophomore offensive guard Keith Bendixen injured his kneecap and was forced to sit out a few of this season's early games.

"It affects us (defense-wise)," MacIntyre said when detailing the repercussions of Bendixen's absence. "He was able to play guard, center and some tackle."

However, MacIntyre said the coaches and players didn't let the injury bring them down as they continued to prepare for their

face-off with Stanford and the 2012 season.

"There's a huge improvement in the chemistry of the team — the overall speed, strength and conditioning," said SJSU athletic trainer Hisashi Imura. "Our health is really good right now and in the past it hasn't always been that great."

There's a huge improvement in the chemistry of the team — the overall speed, strength and conditioning

Hisashi Imura
athletic trainer

Players were sprinting, smashing and launching themselves across Spartan Stadium's playing field Tuesday morning in preparation for the season opener.

"The intensity (has) definitely gone up," said SJSU junior quarterback David Fales, adding the team was pumping themselves up for a game that seemed to have taken an eternity to arrive.

While this is the first time Fales is facing Stanford,

the SJSU starting lineup holds five offensive and five defensive players that started in last year's opening game against the Cardinal.

Among those returning is junior linebacker Vince Buhagiar, who had a season-high of 10 tackles against the Cardinal in last year's game.

"We expect to see some good stuff from them," Buhagiar said as he explained his and his teammates' mentalities regarding Friday's game. "We're working hard and we're trying to prepare as best we can."

According to SJSU Athletics, this Friday's game will be the fourth season in a row and ninth time in school history that SJSU faces off against a ranked team as a season opener — and after eight tries, an attempt at the first Spartan victory against Stanford since a 35-34 victory on Sept. 9, 2006.

In addition to their goal of beating Stanford Friday night, Spartans also hope to win their first season opener since 2008, when they defeated the UC Davis Aggies with a score of 17-13.

Spartan football closed out the 2011 season in a two-game winning streak against Navy and Fresno State, edging out both opponents by three points.

SJSU will be taking on Stanford on Friday, Aug. 31, at Stanford Stadium at 7 p.m.

Camille Nguyen is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Follow her on Twitter at @camillediem.

SJSU Football Starting Lineup

#	Offense	Pos.	Year
1	Jabari Carr	WR	SO
2	De'Leon Eskridge	RB	SR
10	David Fales	QB	JR
10	Harrison Waid	P/K	JR
23	Noel Grigsby	WR	JR
42	Ina Liaina	RB	SR
54	Reuben Hasani	C	JR
74	Ryan Jones	OG	JR
75	Nicholas Kaspar	OG	JR
76	David Quessenberry	OT	SR
79	Jon Meyer	OT	JR
82	Ryan Otten	TE	SR

#	Defense	Pos.	Year
3	Travis Raciti	DT	SO
7	Tyler Ervin	CB	SO
10	Harrison Waid	P/K	JR
25	Ronnie Yell	CB	SR
31	Keith Smith	LB	JR
34	Derek Muaava	LB	SO
36	Vince Buhagiar	LB	JR
39	Cullen Newsome	S	SR
41	David Tuitupou	DE	SR
43	Travis Johnson	DE	SR
81	James Orth	S	SR
91	Joe Nigos	DT	SR

2011 in Review

Record	Overall	Home	Away
All Games:	5-7-0	3-2-0	2-5-0
Conference:	3-4-0	2-2-0	1-2-0
Non-conference:	2-3-0	1-0-0	1-3-0

Starting lineup and information courtesy of SJSU Athletics

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■ HURRICANE

Isaac pounds Gulf Coast on Katrina anniversary

McClatchy Tribune

GULFPORT, Miss. — Although the National Weather Service downgraded Isaac late Wednesday afternoon, the slow-moving tropical storm continued to menace the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama coasts with high winds, heavy rains and flooding as it drifted slowly northwest.

Isaac had made landfall earlier in the day as a Category 1 hurricane, exactly seven years after Hurricane Katrina struck the region, and even after its downgrade it was expected to pound the coastline well into Thursday with 70-mph winds, storm surges of as much as 12 feet and localized rainfall of as much as 25 inches.

“Now is not the time to let your guard down,” New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said in a news conference.

Stronger levees in New Orleans, built after Katrina, appeared to be holding.

“Right now, we’re in good shape,” said Ricky Boyett, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District, which manages the levee system.

“The system is doing exactly as it is designed to do right now.”

The Mississippi coast appeared to have escaped much of the storm’s wrath, with minimal damage and no reported injuries. But officials said a full damage assessment wouldn’t be possible until more of the storm clears.

In a haunting reminder of Katrina’s aftermath, Louisiana National Guard troops rescued dozens of people from their flooded homes in Plaquemines Parish, a swampy area that sticks out like a finger in the Gulf of Mexico southeast of New Orleans.

More than 1,800 people along the Gulf Coast died during and after Katrina, and the disaster displaced tens of thousands more residents, many of whom never returned.

“For those of us who live here, this brings back very painful memories,” Landrieu said.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said in a news conference Wednesday in Baton Rouge that the storm surge had topped a levee in the parish, and that officials were considering whether to breach the levee intentionally to relieve the pressure.

Coast Guard spokeswoman Elizabeth Bordelon said late Wednesday afternoon that two rescue helicopters were on their way to Plaquemines Parish and other hard-hit areas, something weather conditions hadn’t allowed earlier.

“They know what they can safely execute, mission-wise,” she said of the helicopter pilots. “Hopefully, we’ll have someone on the ground.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency dispatched four Black Hawk helicopters from Fort Campbell, Ky., and two Seahawk helicopters from Norfolk, Va., to assist with the rescue effort.

More than 600,000 Entergy customers in the region were without power Wednesday afternoon, most of them in Louisiana, and flooding and downed trees complicated efforts to restore service. The storm closed major roads and bridges, halted trains and barges, and shut down ports.



Rescue operations are under way in the town of Braithwaite, Louisiana, where dozens of people are stranded due to high floodwaters amid Hurricane Isaac on Wednesday. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Cole / MCT

Jindal, who canceled his appearance this week at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., advised Louisiana residents to hunker down, with the storm expected to linger. Isaac was moving northwest at 6 mph late Wednesday and was forecast to move farther into Louisiana and southern Arkansas on Thursday and Friday.

“There is much more coming, not just in Baton Rouge but other parts of our state as well,” Jindal said.

He said he had asked President Barack Obama for federal disaster assistance in all 64 of Louisiana’s parishes, the equivalent of counties. Obama on Sunday approved a disaster declaration for a limited number of Louisiana parishes and Mississippi counties.

Jindal, Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant and Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley had declared states of emergency earlier in the week and ordered mandatory evacuations of the most vulnerable areas.

The president received a briefing Wednesday morning on the storm’s impact, and he later spoke by phone with Gulf Coast governors, mayors and emergency responders, the White House said.

Jindal said that as many as 8,000 Louisiana National Guard troops could be called to assist during and after the storm. On the Mississippi coast, about 1,500 National

Guard troops were ready to help with search and rescue. Dusk to dawn curfews remained in effect for New Orleans and several other cities.

The storm shut down shipping channels and major highways, including the 24-mile Lake Pontchartrain Causeway and U.S. 90, the main route along the Mississippi coast.

Rupert Lacy, the emergency manager for Harrison County, Miss., said Wednesday morning that there had been some street flooding and some homes had water in them.

“We’re lucky at this point, but we do have some infrastructure damage,” he said.

Gulfport Mayor George Schloegel said there was some damage, “but everybody seems to be OK.”

“That’s the most important thing,” he said. “Everything else can be fixed.”

Mark Kirsch and his family have lived on the Gulf Coast

only a couple of years, but he’s a hurricane veteran. Kirsch, who worked as a meteorologist in the Coast Guard, has ridden out other hurricanes along the East Coast.

“When you live through storms,” Kirsch said, “it brings your level of preparedness up.”

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Republicans are living in a fantasy world



Follow Jonathan Roisman on Twitter @jonroisman

I have a confession to make.

I'm a registered member of the Green Party and clearly that means I'm a liberal.

I'm not ashamed of that.

I don't really consider most Democrats to be liberals because it is a flawed party, but what drives me insane is listening to Republicans.

Listening to speeches at the Republican National Convention Tuesday in Tampa was painful.

Their party is a mess.

It's a party that has politicians who believe a woman's body can stop a rapist's sperm from fertilizing her egg.

It's a party that has a large contingent of supporters, known comically as the tea party, who think President Obama is going to come to their homes and take their guns away.

Most of them even know the history of the actual tea party.

It's a party of evangelical Christians who believe Earth just celebrated its 6,000th birthday.

I'm guessing that a lot of people are offended right now and that's fair.

But let me make it clear that I'm offended that a large sample of one of America's largest political parties doesn't believe in science, logic or common sense.

The convention Tuesday reinforced my beliefs.

Let's start with how the Republicans "will take our country back," according to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in his keynote speech.

Take our country back from what?

I'm pretty sure it's the same country it was four years ago when George W. Bush was president.

I wasn't a fan of most of Bush's policies, but my life didn't change when he took office after Bill Clinton.

Republicans paint a picture that under their leadership, Americans live in a Star Trek like utopia where people don't work for money, but because they just love improving society.

In their minds it seems the world under Democrats is similar to a Mad Max movie, where people fight to the death for the Earth's last bit of resources.

It's bullshit.

Most people's lives under Clinton didn't change because Bush was elected and their lives didn't change when Obama was elected. Their lives probably won't change if Romney wins in November, although I think it would show this country's lack of judgment.

Gov. Christie said the country isn't so afraid as to

"shy away from the truth."

Yes we are.

This country is in a major crisis; I would argue we haven't been this polarized in decades.

People vote for a Democrat because they're a Democrat and Republicans do the same for their candidates.

People today don't ask very basic questions.

We think we're great because we have freedom or because we have the American Dream, but those are just buzz words.

Is the United States a great country?

I'm an American who loves many of our values and the policies we've implemented.

But does that make us great?

I can tell you I'm not un-American because I ask the question.

I'm sure many people think so, but I'm not.

Questioning the demons in our country's past or asking whether the American Dream still exists, or ever did for most people, is trying to get to the truth.

What isn't truthful is when Ann Romney tells millions of Americans on TV that "I love you women. I can hear your voices."

She can?

Did she forget she's apart of a political party that isn't a big fan of women?

You can't love women if you think they don't have the right to decide what they can do with their own bodies.

If they want to get an abortion or want their boyfriend

to wear a condom they should have every right to do that.

The Republicans always declare they want smaller government, that they want it out of our lives.

Except when they don't.

I'm not a libertarian, or a socialist or an anarchist.

Being a conservative doesn't make you evil.

I'm tired of hearing about the 99% or Occupy Whatever.

A lot of those people need to learn we live in a world that isn't fair.

It never was and never will be and sometimes you have to play the game.

But that doesn't mean you can't question your surroundings or wonder whether something needs fixing.

You should because that is American.

That's not shying away from the truth.

George Carlin once said "the reason they call it the American Dream because you have to be asleep to believe it."

Call me cynical, but I agree. However, you'll never wake up if you believe Mitt Romney will "take our country back" or that Obama and his death panels will decide whether your grandma lives or is buried six feet under.

Wake up.

Jonathan Roisman is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Sound off on this story online. Follow us on Twitter! @SpartanDaily

San Jose needs more police on the streets

I never really gave the idea of crime in San Jose much thought before my first semester at San Jose State University.

As far as I was concerned, crime was crime, and it happened just as much in San Jose as it did in the next town over.

Growing up in areas that straddle urban and suburban status, I became desensitized to crime and violence at a young age. However, getting shot on my way to school never really crossed my mind.

Until I started getting those late-night UPD alerts about shootings in the parking garages, and then seeing bloodstains on the sidewalk on the way to La Victoria's for lunch

Ten years ago I would fearlessly hitch rides home from work in suburban Phoenix, Ariz., without an ounce of fear. I had some close calls. Dangerous ones. Now I can't consciously walk to the train station alone at night, fearing that I'll either get shot or raped.

At this point, I wouldn't be surprised if I did get shot because I've come to terms with the fact that violence happens in San Jose. I shouldn't think that. Even if I expected San Jose Police to protect me, I don't. Not because I don't think they can — more because there aren't enough of them.

I rarely see San Jose police officers patrolling the streets surrounding campus these days. I'm not sure when I last saw a police officer patrolling downtown San Jose at night. Without that guardian angel,

I'm an open target for assault and I won't pretend to be able to fully defend myself in case I unintentionally walk into a gang fight.



Follow Jacque Orvis on Twitter @SD_jorvis

So what's the answer? Learn self-defense? Enlist a random boy at school to walk me to the light rail station? It's not about me — only police presence will curb street violence. While I understand that politics dictate the ability to hire more officers to patrol the streets, I feel it costs more to allow crime to go unmitigated.

Then there's the expectation for every citizen to do their part to control violence in the city. But let's face it — we're not getting involved. We're not trained to handle acts of violence, and we don't want to get hurt.

Violence is best deterred by the lack of opportunity, and opportunity disappears when there are enough cops on patrol. Someone once told me mitigation is key and without it, the aftermath is likely to cost more than it would have to prepare for a disaster.

Jacque Orvis is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

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Announcements

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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

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

Today's Crossword Puzzle

8/30 Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker August, 30, 2012
YOU'RE GROUNDED! By Kathy Gotler

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Previous Puzzle Answer:

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By **Nina Tabios**

I left my heart in New York City

All my life I had always considered myself a proud Californian.

For 22 years, I lived and breathed California's crisp, clean air, drank its water and adored its Mexican food.

But even after 22 years of living in the Golden State, a change of scenery was necessary and in an act of complete spontaneity, I applied to New York University for a summer journalism program.

I had never been to New York City, so you can only imagine how wide-eyed and bushy-tailed I was once my taxi crossed the Queensboro Bridge and into Midtown Manhattan.

The city was hot, humid, way too crowded and operated at a pace that ran laps around California.

I loved every single second of it.

Yellow taxi cabs squeezed into lanes and locals rushed the streets in every direction, weaving around clueless tourists trying to figure out the jungle that is Midtown.

The city forced people to be in a constant rush to get somewhere.

If you were to lollygag or mosey down the street, it was a guarantee that you'd be bumped, shoved and cussed at until you got the point: Move fast or get out of the way.

Within my first few weeks, figuring out New York City



Nina Tabios' column appears every other Thursday.

consisted of getting lost, learning the subway system and being awake for 22 hours each day, which explains why there is at least one Starbucks located on each block.

I pride myself in not succumbing to coffee addiction while I was there, but I didn't think I really needed it.

For six weeks, I lived and thrived off of the fire that made up the city's locals: every person I met out there was on some kind of grind, some kind of hustle.

Everyone either had just started their own clothing line, their own magazine, was writing a script or had some crazy idea to pitch; everyone was working towards some kind of grandeur in their respective field.

I couldn't help but admire their work ethic and self-determination to make it in New York City; after all, Frank Sinatra did say, "in (old) New York, if I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere."

One of my roommates is originally from New Jersey, and he couldn't have described the city better than I could have: "New York is just inspiring."

Walking down any part of the city had my mind racing at the people who had previously walked this street.

My mind was blown at the idea of the history and culture that exists there and I was right in the thick of it.

There were moments where the city was talking to me, telling me that I belonged there and shouldn't go back to California.

Sitting in my favorite diner, I was halfway through my breakfast staring at the photographs of iconic New York City before I realized that Jay-Z's "Empire State of Mind" was playing over the diner's radio.

Right as my eyes diverted to a picture of the Empire State Building, the hook hit, saying, "There's nothing you can't do, now you're in New York, these streets will make you feel brand new, big lights will inspire you, let's hear it for New York."

I originally chalked up that moment to irony, but a number of other incidences wouldn't let me ignore the idea that I was meant to be there.

On my last New York City cab ride to the airport, the taxi happened to stop in front of a car shop as a worker was pulling down the garage door.

Spray-painted on it were the words, "reality shows aren't made about good girls," and ended with a hashtag "don't go home." Never has a hashtag spoken so loud to me before.

In six weeks, New York City stole my heart and refused to give it back.

In every right I am determined to get it back. Or I might just leave it there.

Nina Tabios is the Spartan Daily Sports Editor. Follow her on Twitter @SD_ntabios.



Gay men: We are more than a fashion statement

"I wish I had a gay best friend. Someone I could go shopping with. Someone I could complain about men with. A really saucy guy I could hang with and not have to worry about getting pressured into sex."

I have heard this or some similar refrain too many times from straight women (and even lesbians or gay men who expect me to dress them).

While I recognize women struggle to secure their personal safety in a society that encourages male sexual advances, does their solace have to come at the expense of a gay man's sense of worth and individuality?

In my household, it is clear that straight women and gay men can thrive on their own merits.

My mom and my sister rely on me for much more than my fashion sense or my sassy remarks; in fact, they look to me for my pedagogical, analytical and artistic strengths – despite the overt "flaming" qualities of mine that strangers may gravitate toward.

... does their solace have to come at the expense of a gay man's sense of worth...

Straight women have traditionally turned to their peers for friendship and support.

The fact that some of them invalidate each other and beeline for unwitting gay men indicates denigrating views toward both straight women and gay men.

Perhaps straight women distrust each other with matters of the heart because they believe their peers can be catty or mean.

Somehow, gay men escape this demonization and instead maintain an unfailing image of loyalty, reliability and sexual innocuousness, often compounded with sass, elegance and daring fashionability – traits largely reminiscent of a woman's favorite handbag.

It's as if every time a straight woman is in trouble, she dials Gay-1-1.

Straight women seem to feel entitled to a gay man's stereotypical friendship: a fresh gay is always within arm's reach – to sling over one's shoulder, of course.

A sanctuary of sorts for gay men, the online dating scene, allowed me to witness an especially disturbing example of straight female

propriety over gay men.

In two separate instances, I encountered straight women with "men seeking men" profiles soliciting for a "gay best friend."

I felt sickened, objectified and violated.

Gay men had gone online seeking relief from the stresses of having to guess at another man's sexuality and having to fear homophobic backlash when meeting men.

These straight women had manipulated their way through the gender filters on these gay dating sites just so that they could cull through pools of gay men, whom they expect to serve such narrow, demeaning roles as the personal shopper, the "Gossip Girl" commentator and the relationship hotline operator (and in case you haven't figured it out, I'm just as confused about straight men as straight women are).

The assumptions about the roles of gay men stem from their societal perception as subordinate, secondary, and subservient: in other words, gay men are made to cater to others' needs, never to have their own feelings, desires and passions.

A gay man may want the chance to form meaningful relationships with a variety of people, but because of his stereotype, people assume that he only wants to dress, console and pose in glamour shots with a straight woman.

It is assumed that he wants to be a straight woman's best friend.

And not just any best friend, but a "gay best friend," with all the campy, subservient trimmings.

When a straight woman meets a gay man, there should not be a zero-sum outcome in which her satisfaction feeds directly from the objectification of his "gay persona."

A gay man's sexual orientation is not a frivolous convenience to flaunt like a fashion accessory.

My gayness is a source of pride and empowerment.

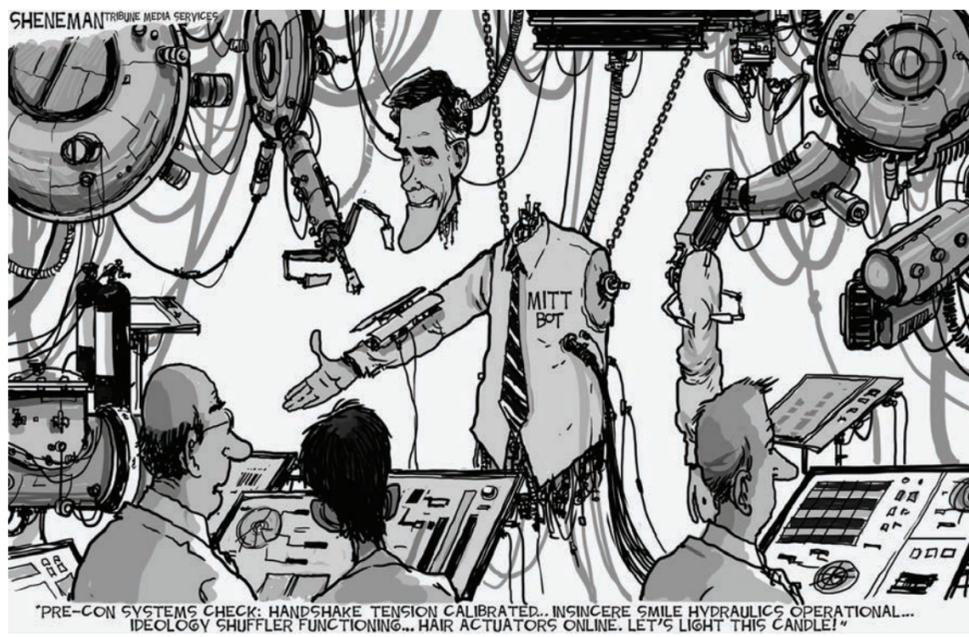
Above all others, I deserve to wear it, not as a shiny trinket but as a medal of honor.

I am no one's "gay best friend," but I am more than willing to embrace someone who will put aside any preconceived notions of me and wait to see who I really am.

Nick Chu is a Spartan Daily contributing columnist.



Nick Chu's column appears every other Thursday.



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