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PHOTO COURTESY OF YAROSLAV MUDRIY NATIONAL LIBRARY OF UKRAINE

The library in Nikopol, Ukraine was destroyed during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is one of several libraries which were destroyed during the war.

SJSU community reflects on effects of war in Ukraine

Assistant professor works to preserve Ukrainian history and culture

By Christine Tran
STAFF WRITER

Ulia Gosart, San Jose State School of Information assistant professor, has been trying to preserve Ukrainian books by creating digital copies that are set to be put in a digital library in the near future.

She said she is trying to develop the Nation Digital Library of Ukraine, the first Ukrainian digital library.

Gosart said she prioritized her childhood library in Cherkasy, Ukraine and wanted to recover their collection by digitizing copies, which would otherwise be lost forever.

She also said she hopes her project would assist in cultural preservation in Ukraine.

"Libraries need books in all areas – children books, English language books – my colleagues and I hope to get books and money donations for Ukraine," Gosart said.

On Feb. 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, causing thousands of lives lost and about $97 billion of damage, according to a Sept. 11, 2022 New York Times article.

"Just learning about the damage was really revealing, actually helped me personally to realize how significant libraries actually are for society," Gosart said. "During wartime they might become targeted entities to be destroyed because of their role to support citizenry during the war."

Gosart said it is difficult for regions in Ukraine to get the resources and technology to create a digital library.

"This is the future of the library field," she said. "There are also some really specific questions – the regional catalog and organizing information for a digital library . . . it has to be uniform and it's going to cost a lot to get everyone on the same page."

Anthony Chow, professor and director of SJSU's School of Information, organized a GoFundMe page on behalf of Gosart.

"My first priority as director is to ensure our tenure

LIBRARIES | Page 3

> Students need to know about the war in Ukraine because a hot war breaking out between the United States and Russia, or the United States and China, would affect pretty much every citizen that lives on the globe.
>
> **Raymand Buyco**
> history lecturer

Experts discuss consequences of Russian invasion of Ukraine

By Alina Ta
STAFF WRITER

A handful of guest speakers with expertise on the war in Ukraine came together to discuss how the war has affected the rest of the world from non-partisan perspectives on Wednesday at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

"We thought it was a good time to reflect on the implications of the conflict for the rest of the world," said Karthika Sasikumar, SJSU political science professor and one of the speakers at the panel.

Russian forces started a full-scale invasion into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, according to a Friday New York Times article.

About 300,000 people have been either killed or wounded in the war, according to the same New York Times article.

At the panel discussion, each of the five speakers shared how the war is affecting not only Ukrainian and Russian citizens, but how it is affecting global politics.

Drones and Weapons

Roberto Gonzalez, chairman of SJSU's anthropology department, said the war in Ukraine is not only on ground, but in the air as well.

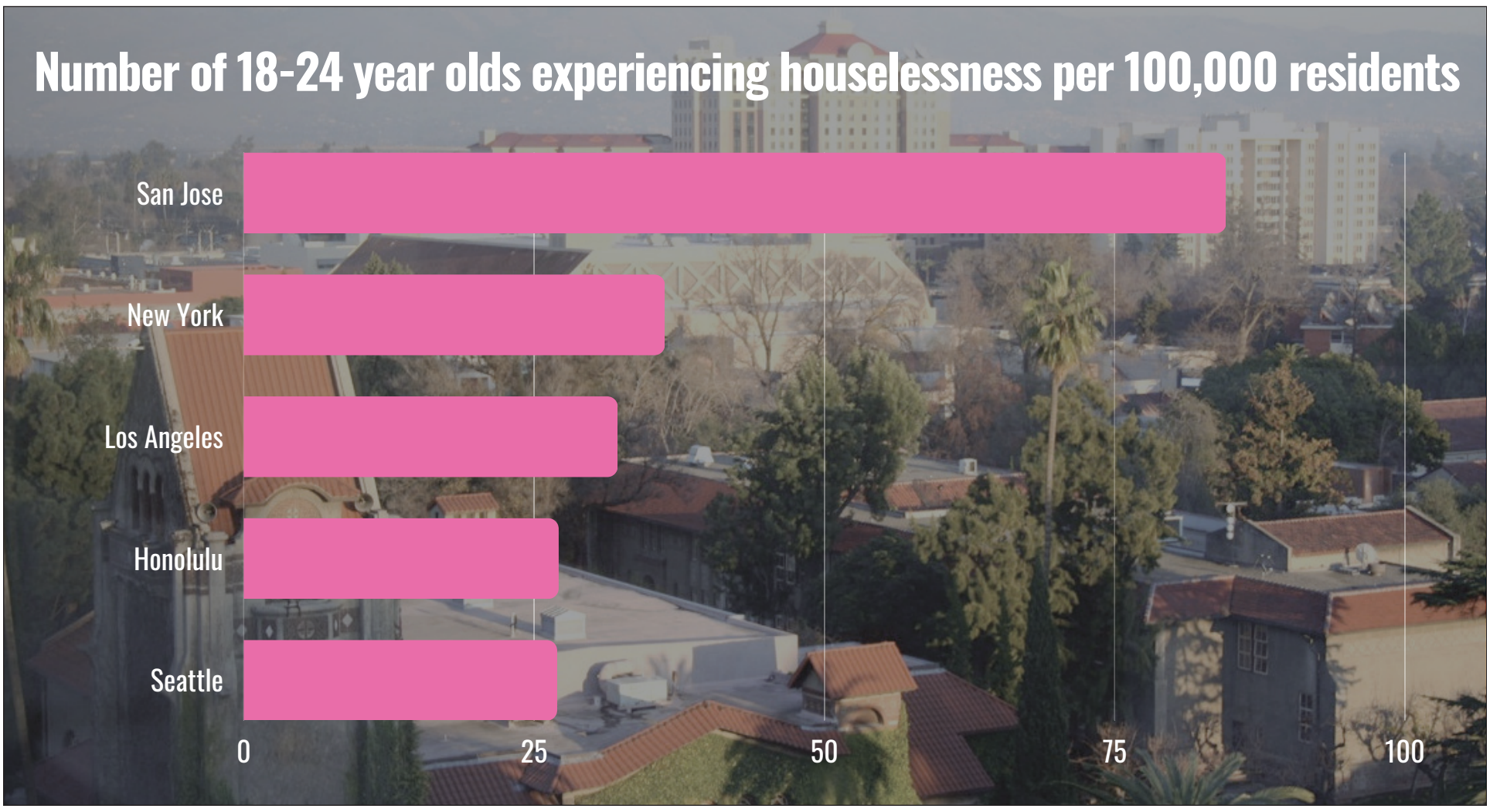
"There's also another side to the conflict, a hyper-modern battleground, where drones play a central role in surveillance, reconnaissance and combat missions," Gonzalez said.

He said both Ukraine and Russia have been unleashing modern weapons to fight the war, including using suicide or "kamikaze" drones.

Gonzalez described how both countries are using Ukraine as "a real kind of testing ground for all of these various technologies."

PANEL | Page 3





INFOGRAPHIC BY RAINIER DE FORT-MENARES; SOURCE: UNITED WAY OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

San Jose tops nation in houseless youth

By Dylan Newman
STAFF WRITER

San Jose has been ranked first out of 100 major cities as the area with the highest number of houseless young adults per capita, establishing San Jose as the number one city in youth houselessness nationwide, according to a Feb. 11 San Jose Spotlight article.

San Jose has nearly 85 houseless young adults between the age of 18 and 24 for every 100,000 residents, according to the Spotlight article.

Kristen Weaver, SJSU Cares student affairs case manager, said although Santa Clara County has "amazing support services that are often overwhelmed," the cost of living in San Jose is to blame for the amount of housing insecurity in the area.

"The cost of living in the city of San Jose is exorbitant," Weaver said. "There are not sufficient social structures in place and resources from the state and federal government to be able to support that in a more substantive way."

SJSU Cares is the university's case management and resource system for students who are experiencing financial crises.

It provides supplemental support through programs for students experiencing insecurities with housing and food, including the Rapid Rehousing Program and the Spartan Food Pantry.

The Rapid Rehousing Program is a three-year state pilot program designed to provide direct support to students who are or are at risk of being unhoused, according to the SJSU housing assistance webpage.

Students participating in this program receive additional case management and financial support to aid with housing insecurity.

The Rapid Rehousing Program is planned to end on June 30, 2023.

The program is a partnership with San Jose's Bill Wilson Center, a nonprofit social services and shelter organization that serves people in need of assistance annually in Santa Clara County, according to the Bill Wilson Center website.

Lana Gomez, sociology masters student and member of the Student Homeless Alliance (SHA) said one of the issues that SJSU has with housing the maximum number of students is struggles with the full implementation of the 2020 SJSU-SHA Housing Agreement.

SHA is a student-led advocacy group focusing on addressing houselessness for SJSU students. It created the SJSU-SHA Housing Agreement, which was signed by former SJSU President Mary Papazian.

"For the agreement to be fully implemented, all obstacles to receiving emergency beds need to be removed," Gomez said. "A communication plan needs to be fully implemented so that students know the eligibility requirements and that the emergency beds are available to them."

The agreement establishes guidelines for SJSU Cares, which includes the implementation of 9,125 emergency beds for students in need.

It also established the incorporation of rental assistance and a dedication to the future construction of affordable housing units for current and former SJSU students experiencing houselessness.

Gomez said SHA is meeting with SJSU President Cynthia Teniente-Matson to discuss the housing agreement in March.

The group met with Teniente-Matson on Wednesday, according to a post on SHA's Instagram account.

"This agreement includes ensuring that SJSU Cares is well resourced, fully integrated, effective and emergency beds are available and accessible to all students." Gomez said. "Dedicating 15% of all new units to affordable housing to future construction on buildings like Alquist will help aid this crisis."

The Alquist Redevelopment is a planned mixed-income housing facility with up to 1,000 units for graduate students, faculty and staff. It is a part of SJSU's plan to make housing more accessible to the SJSU community, according to its website.

Computer science senior Yorick van de Water said constructing new buildings in San Jose is problematic because of the complications in obtaining permits.

He said he wasn't the least bit surprised when he heard the news about San Jose's ranking in youth houselessness .

Van de Water said a solution to this is through the increase of new housing projects, which would turn homes currently built of decent quality into affordable housing units.

"There should be buildings going up, lots of them," he said. "If there was enough being built, then the price of housing would come down. And then us students and other people at the bottom of the economic totem pole could afford proper or at least better housing."

Follow Dylan Newman on Twitter @th3dylanproject

SJSU weighs in on pedestrian safety

By Mat Bejarano
STAFF WRITER

Two incidents of pedestrian roadway deaths have occurred this year in San Jose after a record high last year with 65 fatalities, according to a Jan. 1 Mercury News article.

With the increased amount of pedestrian fatalities in the last year, students and staff reflect on their feelings of getting to campus.

Kelly Snider, San Jose State's Department of Urban and Regional Planning director, said the city needs to do better regarding the areas surrounding campus.

"This city has done a very bad job for decades," Snider said. "The city doesn't have to do anything except stop putting money into automobile infrastructure and start putting money into pedestrian infrastructure."

According to a Feb. 15 San Jose Mercury News article, e-scooters accounted for 68 deaths nationally from 2017-2021.

"There is no way a student on a scooter can be safe when a bus is driving at 30 miles per hour over the crosswalk or over the bike line," Snider said. "A student on a scooter or a bike is not capable of controlling the buses and the trucks [. . .]"

On Oct. 21, 2022, freshman football player Camdan McWright was killed while on a scooter, after being struck by a bus at the intersection of South 10th and Reed streets, two blocks away from campus.

Snider said asking, "What can students do to be more careful of drivers?" is the wrong question.

"To me the questions should be 'what are the drivers doing to slow down? Why don't they have a stop sign at every single intersection?' " Snider said. "[Students] are going to keep getting killed [. . .] until people stop allowing murder vehicles to speed through pedestrian neighborhoods adjacent to schools."

In 2015, San Jose became the fourth city in the country to adopt Vision Zero, a program that aims to eliminate traffic deaths.

The Vision Zero Task Force meets every three months with the goal of improving roadways to make pedestrians, bikers and strollers safer, according to sanjose.gov.

Information systems graduate student Venni Yu bikes to school because of the proximity of the campus to her house.

"It's better for me to choose a bike over a car because that way I don't have to pay for car insurance, car maintenance or anything relating to cars," Yu said.

Yu said the 15 minute bike ride for her is safe and that she's never seen anyone close to being struck by a driver.

"I think this is a very slow neighborhood," Yu said. "I never see a car that's driving super fast, that's not going to happen in this neighborhood."



FASTILY, CC BY-SA 4.0 , VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A car drives down 4th street at the intersection of Paseo de San Antonio one block from SJSU.

Yu said she splits riding her bike on the road and sidewalk depending on if there's pedestrians on the sidewalk, but suggests the city implement clearer bike lanes.

Theater arts senior Lauren Suiter said she commutes to campus using the VTA light rail because she doesn't want to deal with parking.

"I feel like cars are generally okay," Suiter said. "Sometimes they race down the streets – I'm kind of the asshole pedestrian that will step in front of cars since there's a yield sign there."

Students who commute using VTA transit have to cross three streets, all of which are one-way streets, in order to get to campus.

Students who walk across S. Second Street have to cross the road without a pedestrian signal letting students know when to cross.

Suiter said buses along South Second street always yield to pedestrians while other drivers don't.

"A lot of people look annoyed when I step into the crosswalk," Suiter said. "They have to yield."

The most recent pedestrian fatality happened on Feb. 6 when two people were both struck and killed on the same day, according to a Feb. 7 NBC Bay Area article.

"There's like big trucks parked there who are construction so I can't see if cars are coming in and cars can't see I'm stepping out there," Suiter said.

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LIBRARIES

Continued from page 1

track faculty are flourishing and are successful," Chow said. "This means supporting projects that are important to them."

He said he is committed to fighting for the common good and honoring the privilege of his role.

"I feel that the iSchool has the responsibility to lead and to [be a] role model for all of our students and future Library and Information Sciences professionals," Chow said. "I felt personally and professionally motivated to do more to help."

The money from the fundraiser has been used to purchase a scanner to help a library in Cherkasy.

Librarians in Cherkasy have used the scanner to preserve some of their rarest books and to scan the records of displaced Ukrainians, according to the GoFundMe.

Susan Alman, School of Information faculty advisor, said she decided to help Gosart with the project after attending the SJSU iSchool-sponsored webinar on Ukrainian Libraries, during the ongoing war.

> **Just learning about the damage was really revealing, actually helped me personally to realize how significant libraries actually are for society. During wartime they might become targeted entities to be destroyed because of their role to support citizenry during the war.**
>
> **Ulia Gosart**
> assistant professor
> SJSU School of Information

Alman said, as a college student, she visited the city of Kyiv, where she was charmed by the people and the rich cultural history.

She said she wanted to support the Ukrainian community in the best way, by having a strong library and resources for children and adults.

"We cannot stand by when it is in our power to mobilize support for our Ukrainian colleagues," Alman said. "Sadly, this is a teachable moment that we must use to compel others to participate in this global crisis."

Chow said one of the primary roles of libraries is to preserve the history, rare books and the cultural artifacts of any community.

He said libraries are the place to go for current and future generations to learn about their own history and culture.

"Original works that are not digitally preserved are likely gone forever," Chow said. "This is a huge issue for humankind but, first and foremost, it is a significant loss for the Ukrainian communities and people that libraries serve – regardless of whether it is a small village or a large, urban city."

The GoFundMe has raised $6,678 of their $25,000 goal, as of Wednesday night.

"It's been incredibly wonderful to see the support of the SJSU colleagues and students," Gosart said. "It's been heartwarming to see that people care – people want to support – and it was also wonderful to see other people join the initiative."

Chow said the best type of leadership is to be the first follower – that supporting someone else's vision, in this case, Gosart– accomplishes something important for her and all of us.

"I will always remember that if I feel strongly enough about something that I, in fact, will try to help no matter how small that may be," Chow said. "Often, this just means supporting and helping others do good in our world."

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PANEL

Continued from page 1

He said drones will not only impact the war in Ukraine, but future battles as well.

Gonzalez said many countries around the world are investing time and money to develop more technologically-advanced drones.

He said the use of drones in warfare is much more common and accessible.

"One lesson is that drones have become democratized, accessible to anyone with a few hundred dollars," Gonzalez said.

He said, although drones can be cheap, many countries, including Russia, China and the U.S. are stockpiling weapons in the new global arms race. Gonzalez said they are spending millions of dollars to develop technologically advanced drones.

This includes drones that can fly at lower altitudes, travel farther and be controlled by A.I.

Gonzalez said drones are now being used more in armed conflicts around the world.

Economics

The war in Ukraine has not only affected how wars are being fought, but also economies in multiple countries.

Matt Holian, chair of SJSU Economics Department, said Russia's financial strength when importing oil and gas is allowing it to hold some influence over other countries.

He said 60% to 70% of Russian exports is based on selling energy sources, such as natural gas or oil.

Holian said Russia cut off natural gas exports to countries in the European Union as an instrument of political influence during the war.

He said the EU had to find alternate energy sources after the Nord Stream pipelines were blown up.

The Nord Stream Pipelines are two pipelines that run underneath the Baltic Sea. These two pipelines move natural gas from Russia to other countries in the EU, according to a Sept. 28, 2022 article by Vox.

Holian also said Russia's influence in natural gas and oil supply gives it the financial strength to work around sanctions placed by other countries, including the U.S.

He said Russia is able to continue funding the war because there are a few countries around the world that are still paying for natural gas and oil from Russia.

"[Sanctions are] somewhat effective, but obviously you're not going to stop the war," Holian said.

He also said the war in Ukraine is affecting the cost of food and that one of Ukraine's main exports is grain.

"There's probably nobody on the planet or a few people at least that are totally untouched by this," Holian said.



ALINA TA | SPARTAN DAILY

From left to right, Roberto Gonzalez, Raymand Buyco, Matt Holian, James Armstead, and Karthika Sasikumar discussing the consequences of the war during the Global Implications of the War in Ukraine panel on Wednesday, at MLK Library.

Holian said food prices are rising as the war continues, leading to an increase in global food insecurity.

"There are millions of acres that haven't been able to be harvested or planted in Ukraine," he said. "So that is contributing to higher food prices."

Asia's Influence

Russia's strength in the natural gas and oil industry affects both the EU and Asia.

Karthika Sasikumar said India and China continue to indirectly support Russia's finances.

Sasikumar said because of the drop in natural oil prices, India started purchasing more oil from Russia, making it India's third largest source of foreign oil.

Russia has also been India's number one supplier in firearms, according to a Feb.12 Reuters article.

"[There's] a very long relationship that starts from the Cold War onwards," Sasikumar said.

She said the Chinese government just announced that it would start selling weapons to Russia.

Gonzalez said China is now the world's biggest drone exporter.

"The US certainly doesn't want Russia to benefit from buying cheap Chinese drones," Sasikumar said.

Why it all Matters

Sasikumar said it's important for students to stay knowledgeable on what is happening in Ukraine.

"As a citizen of the world and as someone in a very privileged position [or] as someone who has access to all kinds of information, it's important for students to [stay] informed," she said.

History lecturer Raymand Buyco also said it's important for students to stay informed on the war.

"Students need to know about the war in Ukraine because a hot war breaking out between the United States and Russia, or the United States and China, would affect pretty much every citizen that lives on the globe," Buyco said.

He said although he believes students should stay informed for these reasons, he understands that college students are busy.

"We should be lifting their heads sometimes and looking at the world, you know, together," Buyco said.

He said this is why he encourages students to pay attention to what is happening around them, regardless of whether or not they are majoring in the social sciences.

Buyco also said SJSU has many international students and that the events happening around the world may be affecting them personally.

History senior Trong Khoi Tran, who is a Vietnamese immigrant, said he is interested in the relationship between Russia and Ukraine because China and Vietnam share a similar relationship.

"I think we are all affected by this war," he said. "Directly or indirectly, I think it's important that we need to know what's going on."

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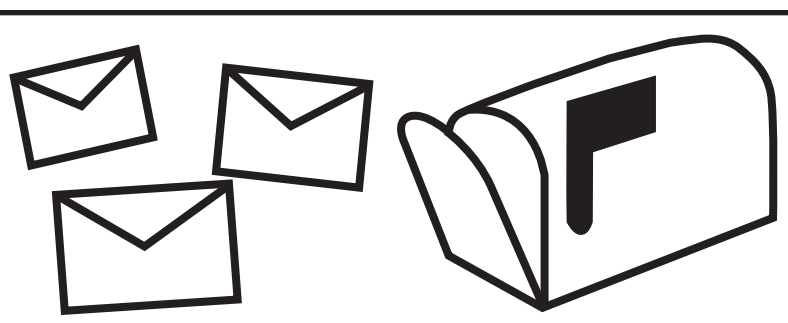

– send a letter to the editor –

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MEN'S BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

Spartans prepare for MW Championship

By Oscar Frias-Rivera
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



TITUS WILKINSON | THE SPEAR

Senior shooting guard Omari Moore prepares to attack the basket during Tuesday's game against Colorado State at home.

With one game remaining in conference, the San Jose State men's basketball team will look ahead to play the Mountain West Championship in Las Vegas next week.

The Spartans have a record of 18-12 and are 9-8 in conference play. This Saturday, they are heading to U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado to go up against Air Force in the final game of the regular season.

Air Force hasn't looked too strong this season with a record of 14-16 and 5-12 in conference.

The Spartans are in fifth place in the conference and could keep that position if they beat the Air Force on Saturday.

New Mexico, who beat SJSU twice this season, is just below them at sixth place with the record of 8-9 in Mountain West play. The Lobos are facing off against Colorado State Saturday.

If SJSU loses its final game and New Mexico wins against Colorado State, the Spartans will drop to the sixth seed in the tournament because the Lobos have the season tie breaker.

This also means the Spartans will have to play right away in the first round instead of getting a bye and playing on the second day of the tournament.

The top five seeds get an extra day break and don't have to play in the first round as they have already qualified for the quarterfinals, according to the Mountain West Tournament bracket.

If SJSU retains the fifth seed, it could face either the University of Nevada, Reno or Utah State University, depending on which team finishes in the fourth seed this weekend.

The Spartans split the season series against Utah State but defeated the Aggies 69-64 on Feb. 11.

If the Spartans have to face Nevada instead, the Wolf Pack might present a tougher matchup. SJSU lost by almost 30 points in the first game and 15 points in the second.

With this many circumstances that could happen over the weekend, it's unpredictable which team the Spartans will be facing, but they will have to face one of the Mountain West juggernauts as they move through the Mountain West Tournament.

According to the first edition of ESPN's Bracketology predictor, San Diego State, Boise State and Nevada are the three Mountain West teams that are slated to make the tournament.

With this tournament also possibly being Coach Miles' last hoorah as reports have indicated that other power five schools are looking to hire him, the Spartans have a lot to play for, even if they don't make the NCAA Tournament.

SJSU has the opportunity to bring home its first ever Mountain West Championship.

As senior guard Omari Moore is nearing the end of his experience at SJSU, he can put a staple on his career with a Mountain West Tournament Championship.

Moore averages 17 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 4.8 assists per game while shooting 42.3% from the field. He has been the team's best player on the floor this year.

Sophomore guard Alvaro Cardenas is another player that can help the team's chances to advance. He is only a sophomore, but has helped the Spartans get to this point as the team's lead ball handler.

Cardenas averages 9.9 points, 2.8 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game.

Both players have played in all 30 games this season while averaging 30-plus minutes a game.

After a historic regular season, SJSU can put a stamp on its season with a deep conference tournament run in Sin City.

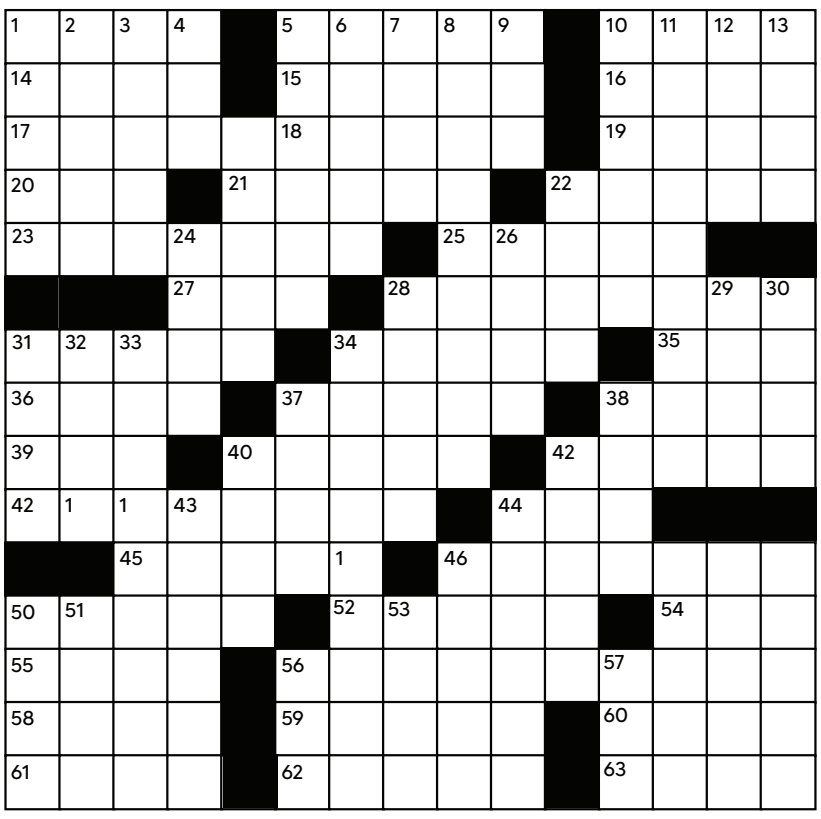
If the Spartans obtain the fifth seed, they are scheduled to play at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday. If they drop to the sixth seed, SJSU is scheduled to play its first game on Wednesday at 4 p.m.

All games at the Mountain West Championship are scheduled to be played at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Follow Oscar Frias-Rivera on Twitter @oscar_frias408

CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1. Pay attention
5. Not second
10. Tent-pitching place
14. Against
15. A city in Nebraska
16. Follow orders
17. Food dryer
19. Close
20. An uncle
21. Keen
22. Flair
23. Medical needle
25. Coronet
27. Falsehood
28. Union
31. A group on concubines
34. Cool down
35. Director's cry
36. Genus of gorse
37. Board game
38. Of higher order
39. Diety
40. Levitate
41. Adjust again
42. Coastal region
44. Hurried on foot
45. Tally
46. Laic
50. Complete
52. Rent
54. Sash
55. Greek goddess of discord
56. Belonging to the past
58. Dispatched
59. Not outer
60. Speed competition
61. Clothing
62. Cast out
63. Large northern deer

DOWN
1. Hell
2. Foe
3. Aromatic solvent
4. Do It Yourself
5. Scrounge (for food)
6. Picture
7. Assess
8. A small group of applicants
9. Driveway surface
10. Against
11. Suspensions
12. Lunch or dinner
13. Combustible pile
18. Jeans material
22. Travel on water by wind
24. Holly
26. Misfortunes
28. Coming up
29. Adorable
30. French for "State"
31. Embraces
32. Balm ingredient
33. Editing
34. Chuckling
37. Extended family
38. List of choices
40. Highly offensive
41. Formula 1 driver
43. Brags
44. Holiday destination
46. Satisfies
47. Neighborhood
48. By surprise
49. Angers
50. Exam
51. Black-and-white cookie
53. Slave
56. Hasten
57. Anger

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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1	7		2					6
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		8		4	7		1	
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8					3		2	7
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JOKIN' AROUND

"How did the barber win the race?"

"He knew a shortcut."

SOLUTIONS 2.28.23

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

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ILLUSTRATION BY VANESSA TRAN

Should cancel culture be canceled?



Matthew Gonzalez
STAFF WRITER

Influencers and celebrities gaining notoriety by making damaging comments and doing heinous things is the fault of those who partake in cancel culture, not the celebrities or influencers themselves.

The general public has become the judge, jury and executioner to celebrities and influencers.

Celebrities are A-list or household names, including Kanye West or Colin Kaepernick, whereas influencers are those who attained fame through social media platforms such as Jeffree Star, a makeup guru who rose to fame after his prolific MySpace presence.

The collective disapproval of well-known individuals's actions has culminated into something

widely known as "cancel culture."

Cancel culture was introduced to public consciousness around 2017, according to an Aug. 6, 2020 Insider article.

From 2017 to 2020, being canceled was an influencer's worst nightmare.

One of my favorite influencers, Tana Mongeau is all too familiar with cancel culture.

Mongeau rose to fame on YouTube in 2015, posting weekly storytime videos about her life experiences that came as a result of her unorthodox teenage years.

Her videos highlighted her sense of humor and made me laugh from beginning to end.

She found a lot of popularity with teenage girls and the LGBTQ+ community.

However in 2017, in a now-deleted YouTube video, she had her first date with serious cancellation after she accused fellow YouTuber Ian Jomha, better known as iDubbbz, of being racist after he used the n-word at one of her meet and greets.

Shortly after, videos of her using the same slur surfaced.

As the incriminating videos of Mongeau circulated, iDubbbz cemented her cancellation in a Feb. 6, 2017 video titled "Content Cop - Tana Mongeau," where he called out Mongeau's hypocrisy.

Flash forward to 2022, when Mongeau launched her podcast called "Cancelled."

In the podcast, she posted content similar to what she had on YouTube, except this time, with higher production quality and a co-host, fellow influencer Brooke Schofield.

The podcast was extremely entertaining and covered up-to-date conflicts Mongeau found herself in, she also rehashed past scandals that often included drama with men she had dated or with other women influencers.

The point is, celebrities and influencers are starting to see that being canceled may not be the end of the world.

In fact, people like Mongeau are capitalizing on the fact they've been canceled.

This is a clever marketing tool that traces back to the saying, "All press is good press."

Another influencer whose content I frequent, but also uses this problematic-based persona to their advantage is Trisha Paytas, who is known for doing and saying off-the-wall things to garner attention.

Paytas built a name for themself by trolling people on YouTube.

Unfortunately, their trolling has come at the expense of people's culture.

One example is their creation of "Popstar Trishii," in which they mocked and appropriated Japanese culture.

They also received criticism from their now-deleted 2020 YouTube video titled "MEET MY ALTERS" where Paytas diagnosed themself with dissociative identity disorder, a mental illness causing people to develop multiple distinct personalities, according to a Cleveland Clinic article.

Paytas has cleaned up their act since 2020, and is now a parent to their beautiful daughter, Malibu Barbie Paytas-Hacmon.

Their content has shifted from trivial trolling to relatable car conversations, in which they try out new menu items from various fast food restaurants.

Paytas is now the first person to admit to their problematic ways and has no problem taking accountability for their past wrongdoings, something I admire and believe is a genuine sign of growth.

By no means am I condoning the things these influencers have done or said in the past, but I'm raising the question as to whether or not "canceling" them is the best course of action if people want to see influencers and celebrities stop being controversial.

Social media has allowed influencers to utilize being "problematic" as a tool in their repertoire.

People know what to expect when they see Mongeau or Paytas pop up on their screen, being scandalous is on-brand for them, and their audience (including me) is eating it up.

Social media has the ability to ruin reputations of influencers, but celebrities who found their fame through a broader audience are a different story.

A recent incident that comes to mind is Beyoncè's performance in Dubai.

Social media scrutinized Beyoncè for performing in the large Middle Eastern city because of their anti-LGBTQ+ laws, but let's be honest, are we really canceling Beyoncè?

The answer is no, so let's allow her to get that $24 million bag without trying to cancel her.

However, in Kanye West's case, his revolting behavior has earned him a spot on the public's shit list.

Whether he's harassing Taylor Swift or praising Donald Trump, social media genuinely seems to be irritated with his antics.

I think people have handled West's contentious actions well.

Whenever I hear people talk about him, there seems to be an overall theme of disappointment.

Many conversations I've had in 2023 regarding West always seem to go a little something like: "I love his music, but…"

Cancel culture is not the key to accountability.

Influencers and celebrities gaining notoriety by making damaging comments and doing heinous things is the fault of those who partake in cancel culture, not the celebrities or influencers themselves.

Cancel culture has clearly been exploited by public figures and is starting to have the reverse effect.

If you feel like someone's actions are horrifying enough to the point where they should no longer have an influential platform, the answer should be indifference to their content.

With all this being said, can you people please let me watch Trisha and Tana in peace?

Follow Matthew Gonzalez on Twitter @MattG2001

Jenny Slate talks mental health

By Enrique Gutierrez-Sevilla
STAFF WRITER



JANANI JAGANNATHAN | SPARTAN DAILY

The Spartan Speaker Series hosted actress, comedian and author Jenny Slate on a webinar on Wednesday to discuss her career, Women's History Month and the intersection between comedy and mental health.

Slate has appeared in "Marcel the Shell with Shoes on," "Parks and Recreations," "Saturday Night Live" and is the author of "Little Weirds."

She discussed her beginnings into acting and comedy from her time as a student at Columbia University.

"Being at Columbia was about finding a community of creative people that I really connected with and understanding that I didn't have to compromise and I could still be a person," Slate said. "Reading books, into literature, would all feed into making me a better performer."

She said her biggest supporters in life are her parents, grandparents and comedian friends.

"As an actor, I didn't have a single connection in the entertainment world," Slate said. "My parents supported me by constantly keeping an open conversation with me […] my grandparents supported me […] I was lucky when I started to be around a community of comedians who were so thrilled to see what other people were doing because we all fed off of it."

Slate said she believes the most crucial role in the development of her acting career was playing Donna Stern in "Obvious Child."

Donna Stern is a persona transitioning into adulthood who becomes pregnant after a one-night stand and doesn't want to have a kid, according to Charactour.

"I think I experienced what you might call a feminist awakening and I understood that misogyny can be silent and internalized," Slate said. "By living in patriarchy, it's a joyful process to identify it and route it out."

In addition to being an actress, Slate said being a producer is a luxury and something she has worked hard for.

"I like being a producer because you can lay kind, but clear boundaries about what can be included and what cannot be included," she said.

Slate said it's essential for her to be supportive of comedians and performers because she believes she earns other people's compassion by being kind.

She said she suffers when she feels as if she's untouchable, unviewable and unlovable.

"I think that with any hardships that I've experienced, there has always been this weird secret wellspring of energy," Slate said.

Sarah Strader-Garcia has been a counselor of Counseling and Psychological Services at San Jose State for nine years. She advocates for people to take care of their mental health.

"Mental health means having a good relationship with yourself, knowing yourself really well, because you're with yourself for the rest of your life," said Strader-Garcia. "Emotions are supposed to flow through us so being able to allow our feelings to come and go is natural."

She said comedy and laughing can help relieve mental stress.

"Laughter is great medicine. When you're laughing, you're tightening your muscles, your heart rate increases, and so you're having this experience, but then afterwards, it's a relief," said Strader-Garcia.

She said she believes the qualities of a relationship, whether family, friend or associate are important.

Slate emphasized the importance of having people around you who love you, which helps during negative moments in life.

She said she needs people around her who are going to dip a hand down into a shaft so she can pull herself up.

Slate said putting emotion into art is a way to recover from a sad mental state.

"When you put those feelings into art, you can give the art as a gift to other people. You also package it as something beautiful and nontoxic," Slate said. "When I do that for myself, I can repurpose my painful feelings as something useful and capable of change."

She said people should accept change because everything changes all the time, even the good things.

"Your life is your life, you're living it right now," said Slate. "If you're happy today you'll worry less about whether or not you're happy tomorrow.

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ALBUM REVIEW

'Love Sick' is another disappointment

By Vanessa Tran
A&E EDITOR

Don Toliver released his newest album "Love Sick" on Friday, and it was another underwhelming project that didn't wow me.

I was first introduced to Toliver when I listened to Travis Scott's 2018 "Astroworld" and loved his work on Scott's 2019 compilation album "JACKBOYS."

This may be a controversial opinion, but I think Toliver is better off as a feature on other artists' songs.

A lot of the saved songs in my music library feature him, but I don't like many of his solo songs.

His previous album, "Life of a DON," released in 2021 and was lackluster and disappointing. I gave the album several listens and only added one song to my library, "What You Need."

He undeniably has talent, but I think his signature sad sound doesn't fit well with his rapping.

All of Toliver's best songs feature hard drums, a style that's rarely seen in his work.

Toliver's albums sound so repetitive – the mellow sound and lyrics are hits, but when it's constantly repeating song after song, I feel like I'm falling asleep on Xanax.

His music sounds so much better when there's a contrast between his soft voice and a high bass.

"Private Landing," featuring pop singer Justin Bieber and rapper Future, is hands down the best song of the album.

This is the ideal track to play when pregaming with friends before heading out to the club. I would've never dreamed of Future and Bieber collaborating, but they absolutely carried the song.

Listeners can easily grasp onto how much Future appreciates his partner in his single verse.

He raps about how he likes to flaunt his girlfriend and his inclination to buy everything she wants in the lyrics, "Diamonds and Margiela, AP canary yellow/ Yeah, she deserve a Patek, 'cause she one of the members."

Another of my favorite songs from the album is "If I Had" featuring Charlie Wilson.

I loved Wilson's vocals featured on Tyler, the Creator's "EARFQUAKE" and Kayne West's "No Mistakes" because his voice was integrated in a way that made the songs come together.

"If I Had" stood out because it had a '70s sound that I didn't think Toliver's style would mesh well with, but it did.

"Let Her Go," featuring British electronic musician James Blake, was another favorite of mine because Blake does an amazing job at incorporating gospel sounds.

You would think his voice wouldn't pair nicely with rappers, but his work with Travis Scott on "Mile High" and "STOP TRYING TO BE GOD" says otherwise.



ILLUSTRATION BY VANESSA TRAN

Blake absolutely kills every track he's featured on and outshines the other artists.

All of my favorite tracks from this album featured artists who outperformed Toliver.

I wish "Love Sick" included a built-up story line. It would've been better if it was an EP so I wouldn't get bored as fast.

If you're going to drop an album with 16 songs, please take the time to make sure every track doesn't sound like one whole song.

I think Toliver should dive more into an indie sound, similar to what rapper and comedian Zack Fox did in his 2022 EP "wood tip."

Fox's EP was a completely different concept from his usual rapping.

An indie sound would fit Toliver's low and monotone voice.

I also think Toliver should feature more female artists, especially for his love songs. The addition of divergent views would be a fresh change from his usual one-sided perspective.

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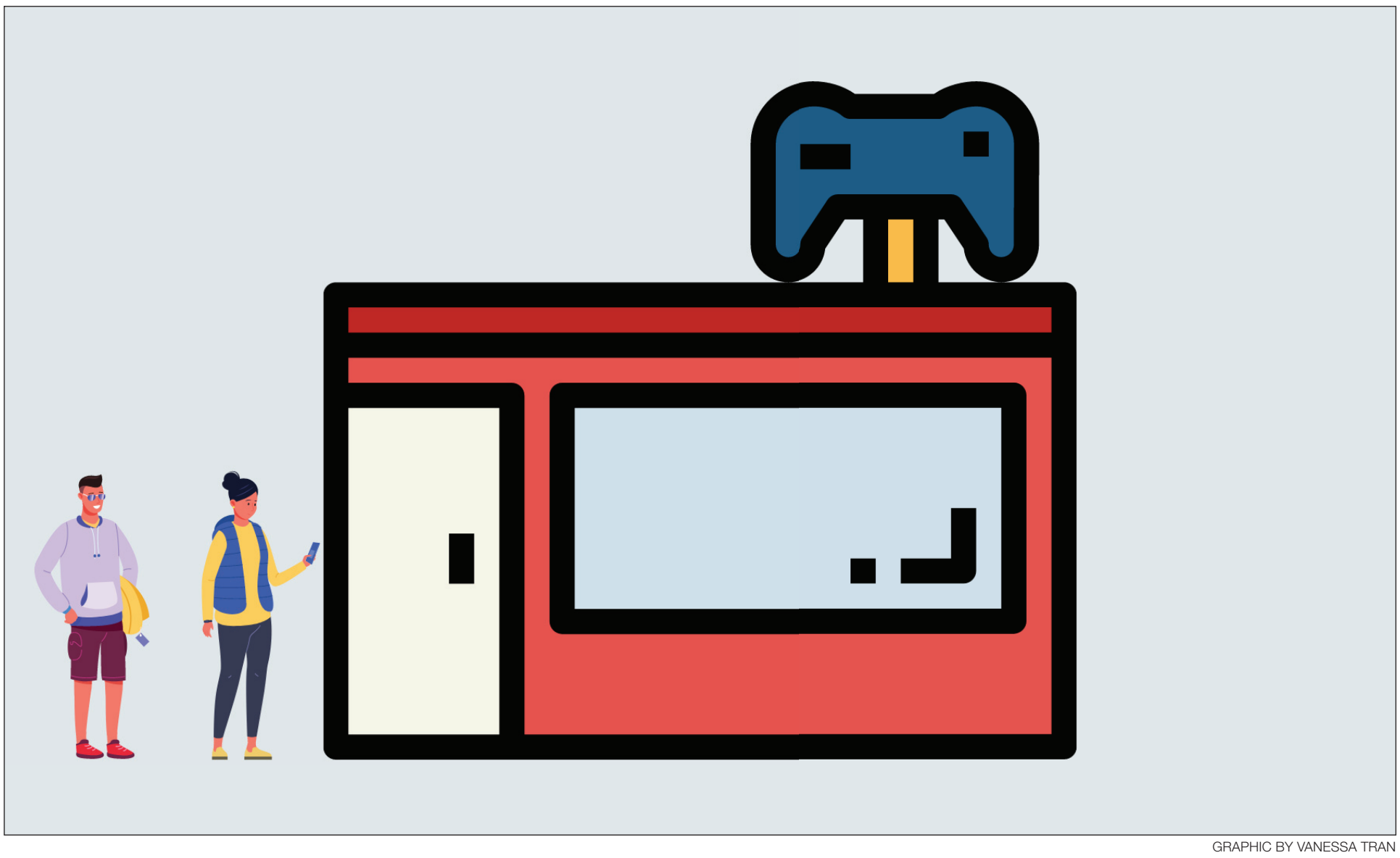
album review

"Love Sick"

Rating:
★★☆☆☆

Artist:
Don Toliver
Release Date:
Feb. 24, 2023
Genre:
Hip-hop/rap

COLUMN



GRAPHIC BY VANESSA TRAN

Jeremy's Campaign: best shops in the area

By Jeremy Martin
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It might seem like there aren't many places to go video game hunting around San Jose State, but there are a lot more hidden gems in the area than you might think.

Here are my top five favorite video game stores in San Jose and the surrounding Bay Area.

#5 SpaceCat

Located at 1415 W San Carlos St. in San Jose, SpaceCat is a store that primarily sells comic books and collectibles, but it also has a solid selection of video games.

The store carries a variety of video games and consoles such as the Nintendo Entertainment System, Super Nintendo, Sega Genesis, PlayStation and Xbox consoles.

SpaceCat also had extremely rare video games into the shop, including Lickle, a Japanese video game for the Nintendo Famicom.

The Famicom, a gaming console, is the Japanese equivalent to the Nintendo Entertainment System, commonly known as NES.

Lickle, known as Little Samson in America, goes for $2,308.66 for just the loose American cartridge alone, according to Price Charting, a website used to help gauge the value of video games.

The Japanese counterpart only goes for $299.79 for the loose cartridge, according to Price Charting.

While other stores have rare titles as well, SpaceCat is one store that I've seen consistently get some of the most notable and rare titles in the local retro gaming community.

The shop has a variety of items for every gamers needs, not only for rare and expensive video games, but also as a cheaper alternative for those who want to obtain
old nostalgic titles.

They even have one of the biggest selections for replacement cables and chargers for multiple video game systems that I've ever seen across any store.

Whatever the case may be, SpaceCat serves as an amazing place for anyone who wants to go video game hunting in the area. I would highly recommend this fun stop to anyone who wants to see some amazing items in retro gaming.

#4 Retro Rewind

Retro Rewind, located at 1343 Jacklin Rd, Milpitas, has a great selection of video games from all different consoles.

However, where this store really shines is in their customer service and repair.

As with many other video game shops, customers can have their disc-based video games repaired.

Retro Rewind will put your discs in their own resurfacer machine for a small fee of $4.00 a disc.

The machine works by shaving a small portion of the underside of the disc, but not enough to hurt the disc, according to Venmill Industries, a website for a major professional disc repair equipment manufacturer.

After the disc goes into the machine, it comes out looking all shiny and new again, almost as if you had just bought it.

On top of these services, Retro Rewind makes sure their customers are taken care of, offering as much as they can for trade-ins and providing discounts for those who buy multiple items.

Retro Rewind offers not only a good selection of video games, but it also strives to help the retro gaming community in the area. They work with Cartridge Cartel in Fremont and The Retro Fix in Campbell to unite the retro gaming community through video game swap meets.

#3 Gameshop Downstairs

This place is higher up on the list, as it is extremely close to San Jose State.

Located at 124 E Santa Clara St. in San Jose, Gameshop Downstairs is commonly missed for those who don't have the eyes of a hawk.

Situated underneath a phone and laptop repair store, Gameshop Downstairs has an array of video games and consoles from all different years.

This place really shines with its customer service and wide selection of imported video games from Japan and Europe that we may not have gotten here in the U.S.

Afterall, Japan and other countries seem to consistently get better box art, cartridge labels, or in some cases, better video games than in the U.S.

This is actually a running theme, which is constantly discussed in the video game community, as it always seems to be true, according to GamesRadar+, a popular media news site.

The store can also double as a one-stop shop, serving the local retro gaming community a wide variety of video games, trading cards and collectibles.

Gameshop Downstairs even carries a variety of other media, including DVDs and VHS tapes for anyone who collects old movies and TV shows.

#2 Cartridge Cartel

Cartridge Cartel is farther from SJSU, but owner John Flores works with both The Retro Fix in Campbell and Retro Rewind in Milpitas.

Located at 43134 Christy St. in Fremont, Cartridge Cartel is a small but powerful retro video game shop that strives on bringing gamers together.

They run tournaments for video games like Street Fighter, according to their Instagram page.

Upon entering the shop, any hardcore gamer would immediately notice the plethora of video game memorabilia and wide selection of Nintendo Power Magazines that flood the store.

I say this because the shop actually moved to its current location from Fremont Boulevard and is now bigger.

The additional space made room for more wall decor and other promotional items, immersing customers into the video game golden era of the 80s, 90s and early 2000s.

Aside from just a solid selection of video games and impressive decor, I put the shop at number two on my list simply for its community outreach.

Cartridge Cartel works with two other stores to bring more people in the local retro gaming community together, bringing more attention to the other shops in other areas and the immediate area of Fremont, a city that hasn't really had anything worth going to as far as retro video game stores for a while.

Speaking from experience, other than Half Price Books in the Fremont Hub, there wasn't a solid way to get retro video games in the immediate area of Fremont before Cartridge Cartel.

Half Price Books itself isn't really feasible anymore either, as retro video games and accessories have been increasingly harder to find without going to
multiple places.

Because of the retro gaming popularity increasing in recent years, it's hard to compete and find anything in Half Priced Books or places like that anymore, according to MetalJesusRocks and Kesley Lewin in a Feb. 9, 2016 YouTube Video.

MetalJesusRocks and Kelsey Lewin are two respected YouTube personalities within the retro gaming community. A "lack of inventory" was especially felt in Fremont, where local brick and mortar support for the retro gaming community previously may have felt more dormant for a while, before Cartridge Cartel.

#1 The Retro Fix

My favorite place to go video game hunting in the Bay Area is The Retro Fix. Located at 400 E Campbell Ave. Suite 200, it's a retro video game store located above an arcade bar.

The shop has a wide variety of video games and systems from all different eras of time. From my own experience, this is the biggest stop for any gamer who is into Limited Run Games.

Limited Run Games is a video game publishing company that specializes in premium physical releases of digital and indie video games that are more niche onto today's newest consoles.

The company has collaborated with big companies such as Konami and LucasArts to bring more physical copies of video games to today's collectors, according to the Limited Run Games website.

The company works to help video games remain physical with their own slogan being that the industry should stay "Forever Physical."

Limited Run Games tends to release its video games in small, single print run, with the only exceptions being for damages and possible event inventory, according to their website.

The Retro Fix often has an assortment of these video games and many other rare titles that you will very likely only see there.

Anything running from custom Game Boy consoles to video games that are worth as much as a few thousand dollars.

The Retro Fix has one of the best selections I've ever seen in a retro game store.

The only two places I've ever seen that rivals The Retro Fix in its selection would have to be Retro Game Trader in Beaverton, Oregon and Wii Play Games, all the way in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Aside from just having an outstanding retro video game selection, The Retro Fix is run by a man known to customers as Mr. Rudy, who'll often work with customers to help with any questions involving video games and systems.

The employees, who are present when he's not there, are very friendly as well, being extremely polite and willing to help any customer who walks into the store.

For anyone who doesn't have a direct interest in hunting for retro video games, you can still have loads of fun down in the LVL Up bar, playing a wide array of arcade games like Street Fighter, Pac-Man and even a few Pinball machines as well.

Guests can enjoy these games while watching local sports and drinking beverages like a Thai-Fighter, the bar's own version of a Mai Tai.

For anyone who really loves to party, you can level up your drink and request for more alcohol.

The shop's customer service, the quality of the store's selection and this wide appeal makes me put The Retro Fix as number one for my favorite place to hunt for retro video games.

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ILLUSTRATION BY SAM DIETZ



ALINA TA | SPARTAN DAILY

Top Trumps USA Representative Aaron Green announces there will be a San Jose-based Monopoly board game at Monopoly In the Park Wednesday morning.

SJ gets picked for Monopoly game

By Matthew Gonzalez
STAFF WRITER

Top Trumps USA representative Aaron Green said the company will be launching a new San Jose-themed Monopoly board game.

Top Trumps USA is a company that makes an assortment of world-famous educational card and board games, according to their website.

Green made the announcement at the Monopoly in the Park attraction near the Children's Discovery Museum a mile away from San Jose State on Wednesday.

Green said he wanted the game to highlight places San Jose residents are fond of or find nostalgic.

"This [board] is going to feature the best of San Jose," Green said. "From great local businesses, all the landmarks, the statues, the places you hang out, the places you went to as a kid, the places you go as an adult, please send in your ideas."

He said it was important the board focuses on the city of San Jose and how it was a nice fit largely because of the Monopoly in the Park attraction.

"No other place has the Guinness world record for the largest Monopoly installation anywhere, so what a natural fit," Green said. "Here it is, your city already celebrates Monopoly."

Jennifer Metzger, Sales and Business Development Manager for Top Trumps USA, said gathering ideas of what places are popular or noteworthy is key in developing the game itself.

Green said keeping excitement for the game is important and he won't reveal what areas of San Jose will be included in the board until its release.

He also said he wants every university to have a themed board game, including SJSU.

Metzger said the geography of San Jose has given them trouble with what areas to include or leave out.

"Everyone will know Silicon Valley, but when you say San Jose they're going to be like, 'What?' So we're trying to figure out the name and what to call it," Metzger said. "Right now we just want to make the announcement so people know we're doing it."

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The Spartan Daily prides itself on being the San Jose State community's top news source. New issues are published every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the academic year and online content updated daily.
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