



GLOBAL HOLIDAYS

A peek into the holiday traditions of international students

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KNOCK ON WOOD

Find out which Bronco team is very superstitious

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The Santa Clara

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A DAY AT THE POOL



BY WILL DANSE—THE SANTA CLARA

Water polo alums took on the No. 15 Santa Clara men's team on Sunday following the Sullivan Aquatic Center's dedication ceremony. Jack and Joan Sullivan and Paul Locatelli, S.J., led the ceremony.

Cases of theft near campus increasing

Santa Clara Police Department seeks to educate students about protecting themselves from burglary and theft

STAFF REPORTS

With more than 30 thefts occurring near campus in the past two months, the Santa Clara Police Department is encouraging students to exercise caution.

"It's been crazy," said Lt. Mike Sellers, spokesperson for the SCPD. "Lock your doors. If you have a hideaway key, hide it."

Sellers said the majority of these thefts won't be solved because they weren't break-ins.

"It's been frustrating for the detectives because there's nothing to go on," he said. "You throw a party and I come on over. I take your laptop, but there's 30 to 40 people in the place."

The thieves have taken small objects, like iPods and cell phones, so they can be easily hidden, Sellers said.

"It seems like the method is, they're walking in because the house is unlocked," he said.

Junior Meg Howe found her house broken into when she returned the afternoon after Halloween.

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McCarthy first in Last Lectures

Prospect of death provides new perspective in Last Lecture series

By Winston Yu
THE SANTA CLARA

Mick McCarthy, S.J., will impart his wisdom about what's important in life onto the student body in the first presentation of the Last Lecture series.

Santa Clara's series is loosely based on the Last Lecture series from other schools, where professors are asked to reflect on their lives and what really matters to them. Essentially, professors are asked to give advice to the world if they

knew that it would be their last opportunity to do so.

According to Student Senate Chair Chris Freeburg, the idea of having the series had been contemplated for a while.

"Last year, on the Current University Issues Committee, we discussed having a Last Lecture series at Santa Clara and having notable professors give a lecture, because we feel that we have really great faculty and staff here who not all students get to hear from," he said. "It didn't really happen last spring, but this year we wanted to make it happen."

Through considerable help from sophomore Meghan Skarzynski, a member of the Community Development Board, Freeburg was able to

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Site audits assault protocol

SAFER calls for updates to university's sexual assault policy

By Lauren Busto
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The sexual assault policy at Santa Clara needs to be improved in order to better cater to the needs of victims, according to a nonprofit organization that evaluates universities' sexual assault policies.

Margaret Mikkelsen, executive director of Students Active for End Rape, said the policy is confusing, "not victim-centered" and aimed toward risk reduction instead of prevention.

SAFER was founded in 2000 by a group of students at Columbia University. It helps students organize to change their university's policies regarding sexual assault. They provide a database that evaluates the policies of various universities toward sexual assault.

Safercampus.org, the SAFER

Web site asserts that 20 to 25 percent of women will be assaulted during their college years, and a majority of those attacks will be performed by a fellow student.

One of the main issues Mikkelsen found with the policy was its lack of clarity. She said there were not enough specifics about the reporting process, such as details concerning confidentiality and anonymity, to really cater to a person in crisis.

"Victims need more than a vague, abstract process that can be really scary," she said.

According to Matthew Duncan, associate dean for student life, Santa Clara's approach is proactive and aimed at educating students about the issue, especially bystander intervention.

"I feel very good about where we are as an institution," he said.

Santa Clara's sexual assault protocol is not available online, but students can find copies of the protocol as well as assistance in the Office of Student Life, according to the university's Web site.

Mikkelsen said the policy falls

short of dealing with the situation that facilitates this kind of behavior by focusing too much on telling women what not to do.

"Safety tips put the burden on women as potential victims to protect themselves," she said, "It doesn't put the burden on the community to hold everyone responsible."

The SAFER Web site said this is a common problem.

"Most current prevention programs do little more than provide women with a few cautionary words," the site says. "Men are rarely addressed, and if they are it is assumed that they could never experience assault themselves."

The protocol recommends that victims file a report through Campus Safety Services, the Office of Student Life, or if the assailant is a member of the faculty or staff, the Office of Affirmative Action. Recommendations on how to preserve evidence and information on contacting the YWCA Rape Crisis Hotline are also included in the protocol.

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