



# The history of comics: Daily exercise in humor

Pow! Heroes, villains still fighting  
See page 3

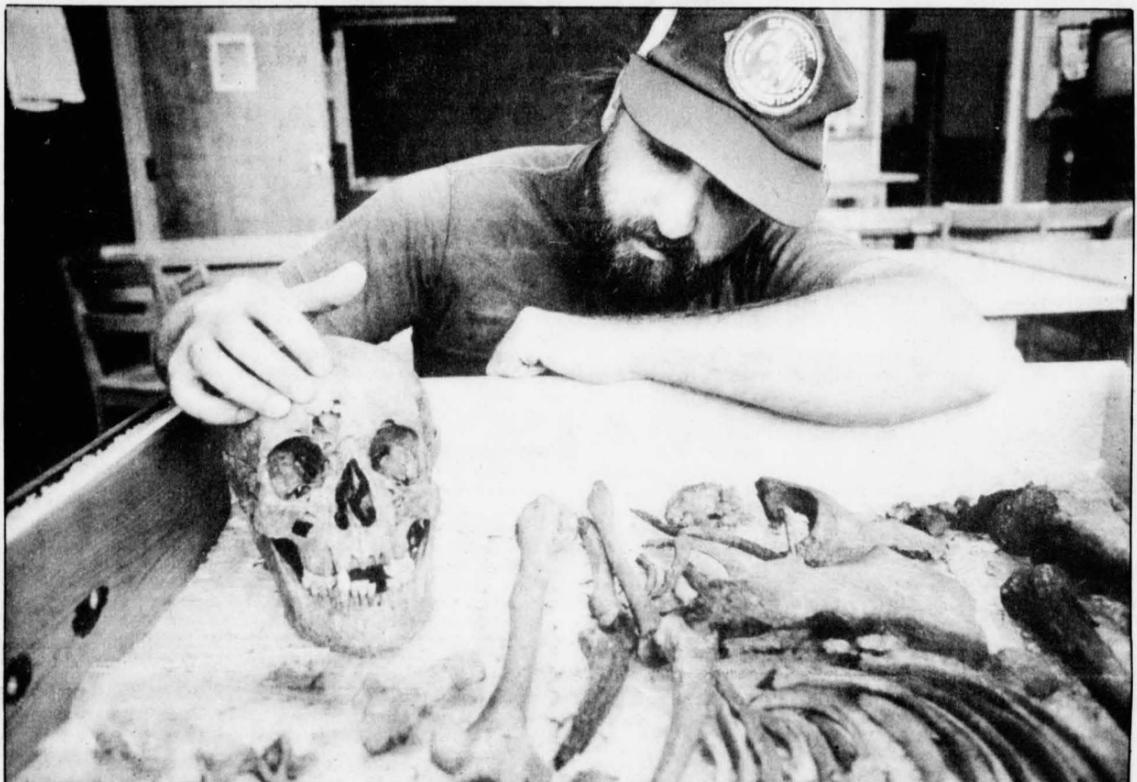
# SPARTAN DAILY

Serving the San Jose State University Community since 1934

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Wednesday, September 22, 1982

## Instructor consoles a shipwrecked sailor



Jon Williams

Where were you 117 years ago? Anthropology lab supervisor Al Leventhal goes over remains of a sailor who sank with the ship Sir John Franklin.

## SJSU team excavates 19th-century site

By Ken Carlson

Dead men tell no tales. This may seem an unshakable statement of the obvious, but a group of students and faculty in the Anthropology Department are out to disprove it.

With shovels, specimen bags and moral justification in hand, the team in June carefully collected the remains of four 19th-century sailors off stormy Point Franklin and now, through examination of the bones, is trying to determine how these men lived.

This osteological study, coupled with the historical research of graduate student Gail Smallwood, intends to complete a picture of the life and demise of the clipper ship the Sir John Franklin.

Although the ship, which ran aground on a hazardous promontory near Half Moon Bay in 1865, has limited historical significance, the attraction seems to be the intrigue that belongs only to the past.

"When you find these human skulls that have been lying here all these years, it puts you more in touch with their lives and fate," said Robert Jurmain, who co-directed the excavation with Alan Leventhal, anthropology lab supervisor. "There's a cultural continuity between these people and what's going on in our lives."

The team excavated the burial site at the request of officials at Ano Nuevo State Park. The redwood coffins, which were buried on the promontory shortly after the wreck, had been exposed by winds and time, their contents scattered and pilfered by fisherman and other passers-by.

For two days the team sifted through a 30-foot surface spread, finding one "fairly complete" skeleton, various bones of the other three men, some brass buttons, burial shrouds, pieces of clothing and two skulls.

The remains were cleaned and inventoried

in the SJSU anthropology lab where will be stored until reburial. Strict laws prohibit the disturbance of grave sites, so for anthropology student Carol Snider, who is doing the osteological analysis, it will be a rare chance at studying the remains of recent individuals.

"When graves are disturbed," Jurmain said, "it is a legal and highly moral thing to get the remains and rebury them somewhere safe."

Jurmain said that although acid from the decomposing coffins has deteriorated the bones, the biological history of the men still ought to be traceable.

"I would think they are the bodies of relatively young sailors," Jurmain said. "They should show the wear and tear of that kind of lifestyle."

He said the age, nutritional habits and any significant diseases of the men may be determinable.

Continued on page 6

## Lack of money endangers Greek sports programs

By Gerald Loeb

Fraternity sports could be threatened by the discovery that only about \$5,000 remains in the A.S. general fund, according to Mark Lewis, inter-fraternities councilman-treasurer.

"We want the money for sports, and since we are not open to all students to participate, we don't have a valid claim to the money; at least that's what the A.S. says," Lewis said. "We tried to sneak in a \$200 allocation request, but with not that much in the fund, I don't think we are going to get it."

The IFC sponsors football games between the fraternities. The IFC also pays for the referees with dues paid by the individual houses.

"So we have to do it ourselves," Lewis said. "There are other groups that are more deserving than us, and they've been turned down."

Lewis also reported the IFC fund is "under \$500."

Acting IFC sports chairman Ed Makiewicz has a special interest in the matter. As a member of the A.S. board of directors and a member of the IFC "in some form or another for the past four years," he said,

"I'm pretty sure we could get some money, but the problem is the money just isn't there."

Makiewicz also said the IFC has never needed the money before. "We've never applied before. The problem is, we spent so much on formal rush that we could use some money now."

IFC President Scott Cooley "wasn't sure" if the IFC had ever applied before.

"We do have an annual allocation for Greek Week," Cooley said.

Greek Week is an annual spring affair sponsored by the fraternities to promote themselves, community involvement and to raise money for charity.

In other IFC action, Cooley reported on the status of Community Services Day. "I've been working with the city (San Jose) on this, and so far we have a tentative schedule of Oct. 9 or 10."

Cooley also stressed cooperation between all the fraternities.

"This is something that's going to be really big," he said.

## Family remembers murdered daughter

### Lawsuit against SJSU appealed

By Pamela Steinriede

The family of a murdered SJSU student is still seeking justice from the courts nearly three years after the brutal slaying.

Blythe Nielsen's family is appealing the dismissal of a \$2 million lawsuit against SJSU, campus officials and CSU, claiming that students should have been warned that ex-offenders were on campus.

A trial date has not been set for Donald James Cummings, an ex-con and former SJSU student, accused of raping Nielsen and murdering her with a piece of firewood on Nov. 4, 1979 in her 12th Street apartment. She was 21.

Cummings, now 26, also is charged with the stabbing death of a 59-year-old woman on Jan. 3, 1981. Convicted of rape in 1974, Cummings

served his prison sentence and was released from Atascadero State Hospital in 1977.

He was participating in an SJSU alternative education program at the time of the Nielsen murder. The project, designed to educate ex-offenders, was dismantled in early 1981.

The family's attorney has argued a safe campus environment should have been provided for students.

The Niensens are appealing Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Bruce Allen's June 1, 1982 dismissal of the \$2 million suit.

Bart Nielsen, the victim's brother, said his family is unable to comment on the appeal because "we don't want to mess anything up."

Allen dismissed the Niensens' suit because Cummings had paid his debt to society and had a right to go to the university, according to court clerk Jack Clinch.

"As far as notifying other students, it's like trying to tell all parents that a child molester has been freed and is in the area," Clinch said.

Cummings will face trial for the two murders, three counts of burglary and three counts of assault with a deadly weapon.

The investigating officer, Sgt. Jim Smith of the San Jose Police Department, said the case is on the "trailing calendar." This means it may be called to court at any time.

"It's an unfair situation for the witnesses and victims," Smith said.

Cummings' attorney, Bryan Sechmeister, said he is concerned about whether his client can get a fair trial. His motion for a change of venue -- moving the trial proceedings outside Santa Clara County -- was denied. He has not appealed that denial.

Sechmeister said the case has been halted by the U.S. District Court of Appeals in San Francisco where his various pre-trial motions are under consideration.

The most important motion, according to Sechmeister, is that dealing with the numerous counts Cummings will face in one trial.

## Duncan Hall's deep secret

### SJSU's radioactive waste site 'no hazard' to student

By Bruce Barton

Deep within the bowels of SJSU's Nuclear Science Department at Duncan Hall, exists a facility that many call "the cave," a storage site for radioactive waste materials.

But before cries of fear and protest are made, it should be relieving to know that the cave, surrounded by three-foot concrete walls, poses no danger to students.

"There's no hazard here," said Roger J. Kloopping, radiation safety officer and "keeper" of the cave. "I'm exposed to more radiation hiking in the Sierra-Nevadas than I do working here."

The cave is an eight-year-old facility, initially designed to hold "larger sources (radioactive materials)," according to Kloopping.

But with the increase in student enrollment within the department, the cave became a "convenient, sensible place" to handle the increase in waste materials.

"Before, all materials students used went through the regular disposal system," Kloopping said, "but material use piled up."

Kloopping added a lot of the material stored in the cave is not even radioactive. "But," he said, "you're looking at the philosophy, 'you can check every glove, every piece of glass, every used material, but you can't definitely say you can be radiation-free.'"

With the advent of the cave however, the odds on radiation contamination have been reduced considerably, according to Kloopping. "We're better able to control the

radioactive material," he said.

The waste materials, usually consisting of rubber gloves, glassware and other material to which radioactive particles can cling, are put in a cement sack filled with diatomaceous earth (used as an absorbent), covered with multi-layered paper, sealed "air-tight" in a plastic bag and then stored in plastic-lined, 55-gallon barrels.

Once filled, the barrels are bolted down until the cave is filled to capacity. The cave can hold 20 to 24 barrels, according to Kloopping.

The 500-pound barrels are then shipped to a large waste-disposal site in Hanford, Wash., every few years, one of only two in the country. The other is located in Maryland.

Kloopping said that effective July 1, shipping the barrels to Hanford costs the Nuclear Science Department \$210 each compared to \$41 in 1976.

The cost of shipping the waste materials, via a commercial vendor, runs in the thousands of dollars, according to Kloopping. Last year, one-fourth of the Nuclear Science operating budget was spent on the shipment.

Security is tight to ensure the cave's safety. There are only 13 keys to Kloopping office, and Kloopping has the only key to the cave itself. "If I get locked in, that's it," he said.

## University Police arrest suspect in bomb threat

By Pamela Steinriede

University Police arrested a man outside the police station's front door about 30 minutes after receiving a bomb threat call early Tuesday morning.

Glenn Corey Eskeldson was arrested about 1 a.m. while purchasing a soft drink from a vending machine 10 feet away from the police office lobby. At 12:12 a.m., a dispatcher in that office received a threat to explode a bomb under an undisclosed building at SJSU.

Dispatcher Joel Yusim kept the male phone caller talking for about 12 minutes, said University Police Sgt. William Lane.

Eskeldson was arrested on the basis of statements made during the bomb threat phone conversation, Lane said.

Police personnel have had frequent prior contact with Eskeldson.

"He is a frequent visitor of

the University," Lane said. "He spends a lot of time at the Student Union, and about 75 percent of the time he stops by on his way home and buys a Coke at the machine downstairs."

Eskeldson, 23, is not a SJSU student, according to Lane.

Police said the bomb threat caller demanded \$500 and threatened to set off the bomb if he didn't receive the money.

"Every time he (the caller) started to hang up, Yusim would say something to keep him on the line," Lane said. "He even offered him a strawberry shake."

Police officials heard a coin drop into the vending machine about 1 a.m. Tuesday and discovered Eskeldson. Officer John Moffitt arrested Eskeldson and took him to Santa Clara County Jail in downtown San Jose.

## The in's and out's of parking

I realized just how desperate I'd become about finding a parking space recently when I found myself lining right up, along with others, to park in the Seventh street garage, even though I heard an alarm, shouts, and saw two University policemen parked outside on their motorcycles.

Obviously, it didn't matter if there was a war going on in there, there were parking spaces and I wanted one.

I usually avoid those long lines with 45-minute waits. I'd rather drive around until I find a place -- usually several miles away -- and then walk to class, cursing every step of the way.



By Carolyn Kennedy  
Staff Writer

I do get to see the town this way. I've seen 12th Street and 13th Street and on the other side, First Street and Second Street.

Of course I have to write down every day where I park, so I can get back to my car. It's either that or leave a trail of breadcrumbs. Instead of social engagements, my calendar is filled with cryptic notes like: 4B; Williams and Ninth; top fl nr elev.

I just hope some policeman doesn't mistake my quest for a parking space with cruising, which I think is defined as something like passing the same point within a half-hour. I've been known to pass the same point 10 times in 10

minutes looking for a space with no time limit and no broken beer bottles.

My mind is going though. Sometimes I find a space near my classes, with no time limit, but do I park in there? No, I don't trust it -- it's too good to be true. I torture myself by watching the car behind me pull into it.

A friend of mine sprained her ankle falling off her high heels and she had to use crutches. So, she rented an extra pair, left them prominently displayed in her car, and parked boldly in the permit-only area on Seventh Street. Apparently someone took pity on her because she never got a ticket. Maybe they figured she parked and crawled to her classes.

Looking for a parking space has given me a nervous tic. I notice wherever I am now -- in the supermarket, walking down the street or driving on the freeways, my eyes constantly dart back and forth, looking for a place to park.

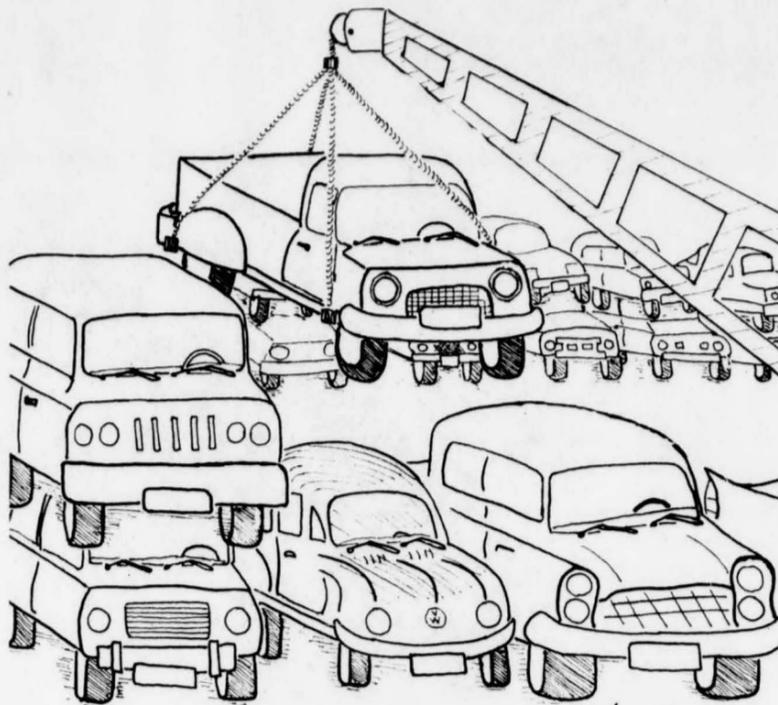
Every once in a while someone will ask me, "Hey, whose winning the match?"

At most schools, a bachelor's degree takes four years. Here, an extra year is tacked on for the parking requirement.

Anyone who receives a degree from SJSU should have a special commendation attached to his or her degree certifying that the holder did exhibit persistence above and beyond the normal requirements for a degree, by finding a parking space every day for four years. Sort of a parking cum laude honor.

It's rumored that there are 75-year-old students still circling the campus in their cars, looking for a place to park.

So if you see any people in Packards or Model-T's driving around, wave and say hi, and pray it doesn't happen to you.



PROPOSED SOLUTION TO SJSU PARKING PROBLEM  
Kevin Yeager '82

### Editor's Notebook

## Often the press hears only what it wants to hear, even the Daily

"They had assumed too much. Persuaded by their sources, and by their own deductions . . . they had grasped a slim reed . . . But they had heard what they wanted to hear."  
-- from "All the President's Men"

Journalists are strange people. They compete to see who is the most cynical. Yet, most are idealists at heart. Looking for the big



By Scott Shifrel  
Editor

story, they must be cynical, always doubting, yet always deducing.

Last week I ran into a story I will never forget. Or maybe I should say the story ran into me. In any case, we both got banged up a bit.

It was around 5 p.m. on a Monday. Our final deadline for having the last headline and the last cutline written is 4:30 and we had finally met it.

In the *Spartan Daily* newsroom, only a few bodies were left, waiting for the typesetters to provide enough material for the evening's proofing to start.

The phone rang; I was told it was for me. Maureen Pastine, library director, was on the line. She asked if we could put a small story in the next day's paper saying the library would be closed all morning.

I told her the paper was substantially set down for tomorrow, but I would see what I could do. Then I asked why the library would be closed.

It seemed that there had been construction going on in the Clark Library that day which caused fumes to seep from the basement, where solar cooling equipment was being repaired, to the first floor.

I asked Pastine to hold. I hit the red button on the phone, surveyed the room and ran for a pad and pen. When I returned to the phone I saw Dan Nakaso, our A.S. reporter, sitting on a nearby desk.

"Dan, could you do me a favor?" Later he might wish I had never asked. But like a good reporter Dan obliged and went to the library to interview workers and staff about the "blueish fumes" Pastine had told me about.

I readied my pen and pad. Pausing a moment before picking up the phone, I reflected on the fact that the decision had just been made to change page one -- already being laid out as I talked with the librarian.

To this day, Pastine and I disagree on exactly what she told me during that first conversation, that first inkling that we might have a "big" story.

I still say she told me she thought the fumes were vinyl chloride; she maintains she told me that is what she "heard somebody say" and had asked me to check with Ron Montgomery, director of environmental health and occupational safety at SJSU.

I agreed to call Montgomery, whom she had had a hard time reaching that very morning, and confirm the nature of the fumes.

But Montgomery could not be reached. He has two offices on campus but was not in either and his secretary would not give out his home number.

While I was pondering the situation, Dan returned with some quotes from library workers who had seen the "hazy fumes" and said they could feel it in their breath.

By this time the question utmost in our minds was "What is vinyl chloride?" It was right then that Richard Staley, SJSU public information manager came swinging through the Daily's door announcing "I've got the information you need."

Unfortunately Staley did not know what vinyl chloride was, although he was certain it was not toxic. I asked Dan to talk to him while I went to another phone to call J. Handel Evans, SJSU executive vice president.

Evans was not certain about the fumes either but said he was "pretty sure" they were not toxic.

We were running into dead ends, it was after 6 p.m. and I was getting impatient. I knew Dan and I had to get the story down, and soon, in order to have enough time to rearrange the front page and insert this "late breaker."

Evans had told me the firm that had built the library, Dickman Construction, was the one doing the repair work. So I called information and got their telephone number.

The secretary said that the firm had finished the SJSU project and now had nothing more to do with it. I insisted and she put me on hold. "The man in charge is out now, can I take a message?" she said when she returned to the phone.

I told her I had to speak to him, but again could not obtain a home phone number. Time was moving. Before hanging up I did get her to spell out the man's name.

Fortunately it was an odd spelling and information had a number. But there was no answer.

Meanwhile Dan had obtained Pastine's home number. But she was not to be reached either.

A former Daily reporter, who now works for Radio/TV news at SJSU had stopped by and I mentioned the story to him, asking, of course, if he might know what vinyl chloride was. He didn't but said he had a book from the California Department of Consumer Affairs that had the information.

He left to get it and Dan and I compared notes. We knew we had a story, but decided we needed more information. Another reporter called up Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. He had to leave but left us the information that Polyvinyl chloride (PVC), closely related to vinyl chloride, gave off hydrogen gas when heated.

My friend in Radio/TV came back with the book and we thought we finally had something. Under PVC, the 1982 report listed an assortment of health hazards ranging from stomach pains to possibly a rare form of liver cancer known as angiosarcoma.

Dan and I were worried. We had talked to all our sources without knowing anything about PVC, or its primary component, vinyl chloride. It was late, we could not reach anyone else on campus. If the story was to go in the next day's paper it had to be written now.

I went into the back shop while Dan started. The layout was pretty simple to rearrange but I was warned, as if it was necessary, that it was late.

When I returned to the newsroom, someone had brought sandwiches and Dan had pounded out a lead. We spent more than an hour on the story, wishing we had more sources, or ones who knew more about what had happened.

I didn't get much sleep that night. Not having the health information on PVC when we talked with our sources really bugged me. It was a problem; but not the only one.

When I walked into the newsroom the next morning, Daily Adviser Bill Tillinghast approached me with an ominous look on his usually inscrutable face. "About that lead story," he said.

All our doubts were realized. The fumes were not PVC. No one was exposed to a carcinogen or suspected carcinogen. In fact, the gas had come from a PVC substance and was actually hydrogen chloride.

While writing the story, Dan and I insisted on putting in attribution from Pastine that the fumes were vinyl chloride. A chemical analysis from a librarian, and not a chemist, was a slim reed, indeed.

When our adviser quizzed us during our daily critique, he asked Dan "what went wrong." By that time Dan and two other reporters had written another story -- substantially negating the carcinogen angle.

"I guess we saw what we wanted to see," Dan answered. There was not much I could add.

### LETTERS

#### Iranian student shares thoughts

I feel responsible, as an Iranian student here in the U.S., to share my thoughts and feelings with the American public concerned with preserving human rights.

Mr. Mansour Farhang, former

Iranian representative to the United Nations spoke of the 20,000 Iranian citizens who have been executed since June 1981, as well as the 50,000 political prisoners who are tortured daily in the infamous prisons left by the Shah.

To'y, 90 percent of the Iranian people are opposed to Khomeini's

rule. It became obvious that the killings were against Islam and humanity when Khomeini ordered his guards to fire upon a demonstration of 500,000 unarmed men, women, and children.

My 18-year-old sister was among those who were shot down in

the street during the demonstration. That night, June 20, 1981, 14 young women were executed, their crime being participation in the anti-regime demonstration. The next morning their pictures were printed in the government publication, Ete'lat, asking their families to collect the bodies, as they were

executed without being identified.

Now I am asking my American friends to consider whether there is any other way to oppose Khomeini and his army than through armed resistance? For those concerned, we are urging that letters be written to Amnesty International requesting that a mission be sent to observe and

publicize the horrible, inhumane condition of the 50,000 political prisoners.

Ali Azadeh  
Electrical Engineering  
graduate student

### TALKMAN

"Have you had any problems obtaining your textbooks?"  
Asked in front of the Spartan Bookstore.



"Yes, I've got a class right now where they ran out of textbooks, and it's also the last edition. They're not going to have any come in. We've got case studies due, we're dittoing off everything and we've got a test next week and the book's not there. It's a problem."  
Michelle Alberry  
Marketing  
senior



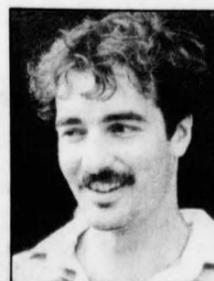
"I had one class where I couldn't get the book until a couple of weeks after the class had started. It wasn't here and it wasn't at Roberts either. It made it hard to catch up in the class."  
Lauri Larson  
Finance  
senior



"No not this semester. In the past I haven't had the money for the finance. And secondly, sometimes the class had too many people, so they just ran out of books. But most problems are because we just can't get the money right at the beginning of the semester."  
Chien Tran  
Electrical Engineering  
senior



"This semester my Shakespeare book didn't come in until about two weeks into the semester. I would have liked to start the reading earlier. And when I was in the Humanities Program the books always got sold out."  
Lois Fisher  
English  
junior



"No, they're always in the library. If I need a book they're always here. You can go to a lot of places to get them. The used bookstores have them, and if not, I just find somebody else who has the book."  
Kirby Patrick  
English  
senior

# 'It's a bird . . . it's a plane

# . . . thrills!'



characters copyrighted respective owners

Mister Miracle was trapped! Hundreds of feet above the ground, his hands chained, his legs bound and his body lying unconscious in a cramped metal box, the super escape artist was oblivious to the fact that he was falling. . . to his. . . DEATH!

What would Mister Miracle do? What amazing trick could Scott Free, the super escape artist, perform to save his life? What? What? WHAT?



By Scott Saavedra  
Comic Book Correspondent

Well, if you've ever read a comic book you could probably guess how he saves his keister. You know the bit. . . the hero wakes up at the last minute and uses a hidden Super-Atomic-Laser-Popsicle or some such gimmick, lands safely, pounds a nearby bad guy in the head, shakes his girlfriend's hand and then flies off into the sunset with a hearty "Hi-ho, Silver!" The End.

Comic Books. Predictable, repetitive, sophomoric and quite often a heck of a lot of fun.

"What the -- ?" The words begin to form in a thought balloon above your head.

"Holy Contradiction! What evil plot this?" The yellow caption box indicates that an explanation is forthcoming.

Comic books are, and always have been, an inexpensive form of escapism (no pun intended) literature. The primary audience was, and still is, children.

Marvel Comics, currently the largest publisher of color comics in the U.S. today, claims to reach 77 percent of all children in America between the ages of six and 17. Consequently, their material is produced to fit that particular market.

While the other comic book companies also aim for the same market, there is little wonder that adults can find so few comic books worth reading. After all, how many times can a truly intelligent, mature person read about Mister Miracle falling to his "death" and wonder whether or not he will survive? C'mon folks, the star of a comic book almost never goes to Hero Heaven.

## Mister Miracle was trapped! His hands chained, legs bound

Nonetheless, comic books are fun to read. Yet certain questions arise.

What do you do if you're not interested in web-slingers, friendly ghosts or men of steel? What DO you do?

The yellow caption box points out that you look confused. As before, an explanation is forthcoming.

Well, little chum, Superman, Batman and even Mister Miracle are no longer the only game in town.

A large white oval with a small tail appears above your head and is filled with the words, "Saints Preserve Us!! Whatta ya talkin' 'bout, man?"

The yellow caption box points out that these constant interruptions are screwing up the flow of narration and that, as before, an explanation is forthcoming.

Comic book publishing is no longer limited to the four-color superhero/adventure variety. Underground comic book companies, Marvel Comics and D.C., Inc., have made efforts to produce more interesting and varied material in recent years.

Underground comix were the first publications to feature stories and art that made a significant departure from the contents of a standard four-color comic book. The first modern American "ug" (as underground comix are referred to by those "in the know") is generally recognized as being Zap Comics No. 1.

Zap Comics (Zap Comics Are Squinky comics!! the cover proudly proclaimed) were the creation of Bay Area artist Robert Crumb in 1967. Featured in the first issue were the neurotic Whiteman, the obtusely relevant Shuman the Human and the cosmically aware guru, Mr. Natural. The primary themes of sex, drugs and freedom of expression were not only prevalent in the early issues of Zap, but in other ug's of the time as well.

Undergrounds such as The Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers, Arcade -- the Comics Revue, Wonder Warthog and artists like Gilbert Sheldon, Spain Rodriguez, Justin Green and the late Dave Sheridan explored ug's prominent themes throughout the late '60s into the mid-'70s.

The themes of today's ug's are more diverse than their predecessor's of a decade ago. Some ug's feature ecological awareness, sociological aberrations and feminist causes ( Slow Death, Gay Comix and Anarchy Comics and Wimmen's Comics respectively).

Others, like Star Weevils, Commies from Mars and Zippy the Pinhead defy description. Sex and drugs, the old ug standbys, are represented by the likes of Bizarre Sex, Dopin' Dan and Young Lust.

Small independent comic publishers, or the Alternate Press as they are sometimes called, publish material somewhere between the ug's and the major companies in taste.

Early alternate press efforts attracted a number of professional artists and writers already working for the major companies. Comics such as StarReach and Hot Stuff featured creators doing the type of stories the major publishers weren't interested in. Science Fiction and Fantasy were the most prevalent genres featured in these primarily black and white comic books.

Currently, only one regularly published anthology title exists: Eclipse Enterprises' Eclipse the Magazine. Like the alternate press anthology titles before it, Eclipse features professional comic book artists and writers. The themes cover feature mystery/horror stories and detective stories, as well as sci-fi and fantasy.

By far the most successful of the Alternate Press publications are The First Kingdom, Elfquest and Cerebus the Aardvark. These comics all feature highly imaginative characters in fantasy settings. While these elements certainly contribute to the popularity of the aforementioned comics, it is the high level of writing that help these publications rise above the mediocrity of the major publishers.

While most alternative publishers deal almost exclusively in black and white stories, Pacific Comics is one of the first to produce only full-color comic books. While most of their line features heroes similar to the ones in mainstream comics, Pacific will soon be debuting a humor title (Groo the Barbarian by Mad artist Sergio Aragones) and a black and white horror magazine (Scary Tales).

The major comic book companies have also made some attempts at producing varied material. Marvel Comics publishes Epic magazine (a bi-monthly 'Time' sized slick comic magazine featuring humor, sci-fi, fantasy and other topics) and most recently a comic chronicling the life of John Paul II.

## Underground comix were first to feature ground-breaking work

D.C., Inc. is now issuing a maxi-series (limited to 12 issues as opposed to a standard comic that will run until it drops) comic book size printed on baxter paper (which is much better than the toilet paper standard comics are printed on) featuring a fantasy story entitled Camelot 3000.

Oddly enough, however, some of the most off-beat comic stories published in America today have been created abroad and are featured in formats unlike that of the standard comic book.

Printed in a magazine-sized, square-bound paperback format, these comics come from France, Italy, England and Japan. Among the subjects are westerns (Lt. Blueberry), humor (Smurfs and Asterix), science fiction (Urm the Fool) and biography (Gen. of Hiroshima). An inexpensive source of foreign-produced comics is Heavy Metal magazine. Heavy Metal also features American art on a variety of subjects.

There have been a handful of American-produced square bound volumes, including Richard Corben's Bloodstar and Neverwhere, Alien the Illustrated story, Michael Moorcock's Elric: the Dreaming City and Jim Starlin's Dreadstar. The later two books are part of Marvel Comics Graphic Novel series.

Eclipse has also had some success with a larger paperback format. One such project was about a talking rat (Stewart the Rat) while another featured a man trying to survive in a post-nuclear holocaust world (Sabre).

## Now only one regularly published anthology title exists: Eclipse

Underground publisher Dennis Kitchen of Kitchen Sink Enterprises has also ventured into a more sophisticated format with a collection of stories starring Will Eisner's vintage comics character, The Spirit.

A small white oval again forms above your head. It is filled with a group of squiggly lines that resemble a black ball of yarn. Great Caesar's Ghost! A slow burn!

The yarn is replaced by words, "Dope fiends, naked women, ray guns, little blue cute things and. . . and TALKING RATS! These are comics for adults? This is great comic book literature for adults? Good Lord! (choke)."

The yellow caption box explains that he never claimed that comics were full of uplifting characters or great literature. Comic books are simply meant to entertain. The comics listed above are merely alternatives to the standard comic book fare. It's as simple as that -- No explanation is forthcoming.

And so the sun sinks slowly into the West while up in the sky we see a bird or a plane or. . . and maybe, just maybe we even hear a "Hi-ho Silver." The End.

## Comic Books

It's been said that comic books have encouraged violent behavior especially among young children. It's also been said that they contain homosexual implications and that certain element. . . are overtly fascist.

But what seemed harmful to the late Dr. Fredric Wertham, a psychiatrist, has proved to be a popular form of literature to many. Presumably the youth market.

Yet, are comic books the sole reading property of youngsters who are easily impressed to the state of stupified delirium? Are Batman and Robin, Spider-Man and Casper, the friendly ghost, just kid stuff?

According to Bob Sidebottom, owner of the Comic Collector Shop in San Jose, he sees comics as becoming more adult.



By Gary Linan  
Daily Planet Correspondent

"In the sense that they are more mature, not with sex and violence," Sidebottom said. "A comic doesn't need superheroes to contain interest."

But superheroes have always been the mainstay of the comic business. The first hero appeared in 1938 and was soon to become a fixture in the comic book industry. His name was Superman. Before then, most comic books contained reprints from comic strips in newspapers.

Soon after Superman, many other heroes began to pop up. Batman first appeared in 1939 in Detective Comics (he's still there). Wonder Woman, The Flash, Green Lantern and others followed. And they all belonged to the same company, National (otherwise known as DC Comics).

DC was the leader of comic publishing in the '40s. Another group called Timely (to come to prominence in the sixties) featured such heroes as Captain America, the Human Torch and the Sub-Mariner. Fawcett comic publishing had Captain Marvel and Quality publishing had Plastic Man.

In the fifties, there came a new group of comics published by a company called EC. These weren't your normal superheroes, but very shocking and graphic horror comics with titles such as "Tales From the Crypt," "The Vault of Horror" and "Two-Fisted Tales."

It was at this time that Wertham attacked the industry and accused EC and such comics as Superman and Batman as threats to young people.

The heroes, however, survived one of their greatest battles, a Comic Code Authority was later spawned, and EC folded. With the exception of Mad Magazine, EC was comic book history.



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During the '60s, another comic group company rose to prominence after more than two decades of being a second-string contender to DC.

Under the penmanship of Stan Lee and with such artists as Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, the Marvel (formerly Timely) Comics Group was formed.

Marvel's first creation, The Fantastic Four, were unlike anything seen before. Despite their fancy powers, they had problems and fought one another. Soon, heroes sprang up like The Hulk, Spider Man, Thor, Dr. Strange, Ant-Man and others. They became known as superheroes with super problems.

Marvel was known as doing the "revelant" stories; plot lines that related to today's headlines. One Spider-Man story dealt with a friend of Peter Parker (aka Spider-Man) tripping out on LSD. Yet the Comic Code felt that the story should be scrapped. Lee resisted however, and published the story nevertheless. So for the first time in modern comic book history, there wasn't an approval stamp on the comic's cover.

DC also had their quota of "revelant" stories. The most famous of these appeared in the Green Lantern series beginning with the famous "No Evil Shall Escape My Sight." One cover went so far as to have Spiro Agnew ordering some unseen creature to destroy Green Lantern and his cohort with Green Arrow.

With advent of the '70s, the emphasis of comic books shifted to sword and sorcery. The most famous of these

was Marvel's Conan the Barbarian based on the Robert E. Howard character. Twelve years later, he's still going strong.

Another big seller in the seventies were horror comics. One of the most popular along this line was DC's Swamp Thing, even though the title was canceled after 20 some issues. The creature recently came back in his won book and was also the subject of a movie released last spring.

Not only do some comics become movies, some movies become comics. The most successful of these has been Marvel's adaption of "Star Wars." After doing the original movie for six issues, Marvel continued the adventures of Luke Skywalker and friends with George Lucas' company keeping a watchful eye, making sure stories and movies didn't clash.

Coming soon from Marvel are The Further Adventures of Indiana Jones picking up were "Raiders of the Lost Ark" left off.

In the '80s the trend seems to be heading back to the superhero with Moon Knight, Firestorm, Dazzler, The New Teen Titan, The Micronauts and Captain Carrot and his Amazing Zoo Crew.

John Americano who works at Comic and Fantasies in San Jose says the trend with stay with the groups. The store's biggest sellers include The New Teen, The X-Men and the Fantastic Four.

"The groups are going strong. We'll see better paper and better prices," Americano said.

Dennis Daggs, owner of Comicscene in Santa Clara, also has the same groups as Americano does for the stories best sellers. Both men also said that Daredevil is their best-selling single hero comic.

Daggs sees the '80's trend as going away from selling comic books at newstands.

"Comics are getting better art and better stories," he said. "Sales have picked up over the last year. I think with that they will go through direct sales only."

While Marvel and DC are the two main companies, other companies like Pacific and First have started publishing comics.

"I see them doing pretty well," Americano said. "They have less ads, easy reading and they have special artists getting big bucks."

Daggs commented that it was hard to say. "The big thing is the royalties. Money talks. It depends on who they get to draw and write, otherwise they'll keep turning out garbage. If it's not carried out right, it will be another Atlas disaster."

(Atlas was a company that published comics for about a year in the mid-'70s.)

The comics industry has seen many ups and downs, from scaling prices to Dr. Wertham's attack. There'll probably be many more battles the heroes will have to fight.

But as Sidebottom puts it, "Comics are the cheapest form of entertainment. They'll be around."



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# McClung zeroes in on field hockey success

## Goalie excels in school as well

By Ronald Reeves

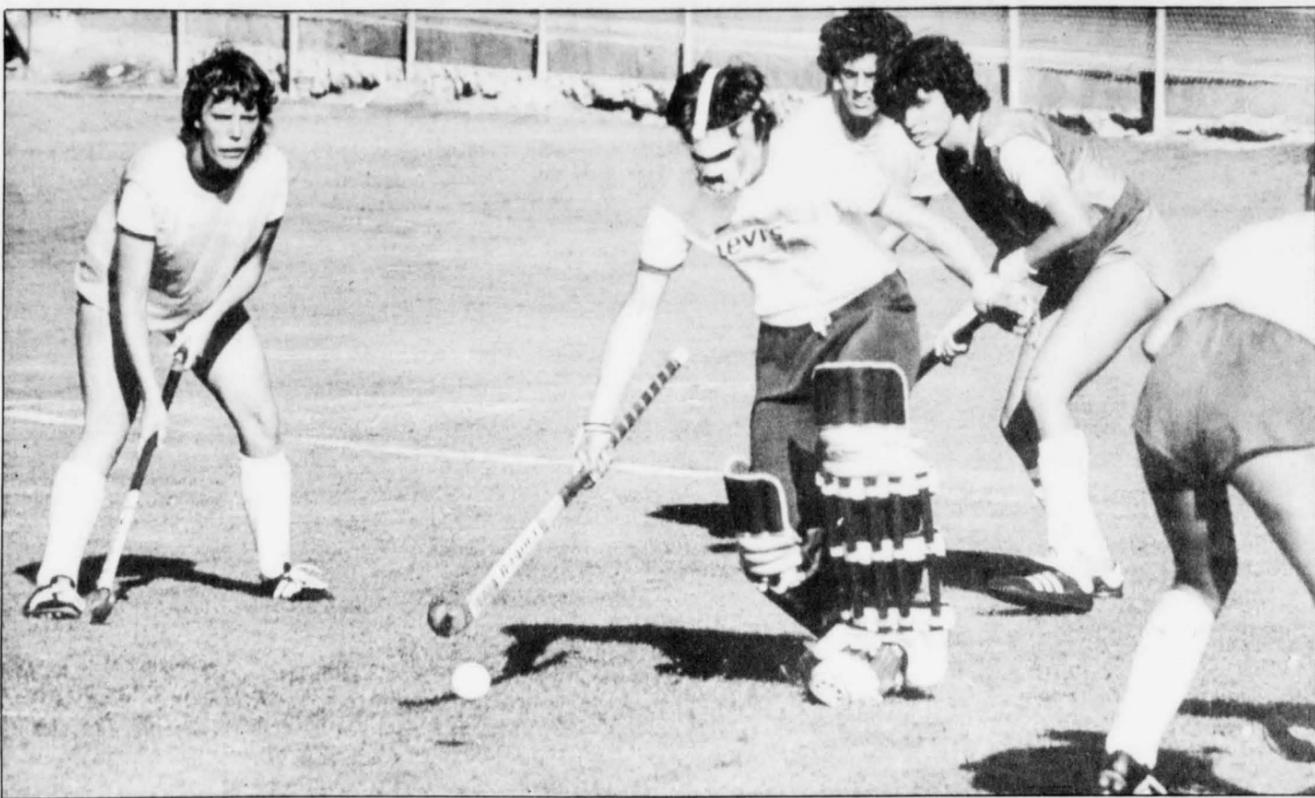
Trying to score on senior goalkeeper Casey McClung can be a little like shooting pool with Minnesota Fats for \$20 a ball or challenging Paul Bunyan to a wood chopping contest. In other words, it's something to be avoided if at all possible.

"Casey is one of the top 12 goalies in the country," SJSU head field hockey coach Carolyn Lewis said. "She's quick and aggressive which is a must for any collegiate goalkeeper."

McClung, 20, allowed only 13 goals last year and was awarded all-conference honors at season's end for her effort.

"Ideally, the goalie is supposed to be perfect every time that she plays the ball," McClung said. "That's a challenge to me because I want to see how often I can be perfect."

A human performance major with emphasis in athletic training, McClung has also excelled in the classroom. She presently a 3.87 grade point average



Photos by Wake Stanton

SJSU field hockey goalie Casey McClung is, according to coach Carolyn Lewis, one of the top 12 goalies in the country. Here, McClung attempts to stop a shot during a recent practice at the South Campus field. Surrounding McClung from left are Amy Kinney, Theresa Ostrander and

Debbie Stevens. McClung also participated in the 1982 National Sports Festival and had a remarkable .876 save percentage in 1981.



Casey McClung

A 1982 National Sports Festival participant, McClung had a remarkable .876 save percentage in 1981. She also recorded four shutouts and 92 saves in her first full season in the Lady Spartan goal.

and has made either the President's or the Dean's List the past three years.

"My education, and the furthering of it is first and foremost in my life," McClung said. "Hockey has allowed me to further

my education, but academics is also very important to me."

McClung made it all the way to USFHA "A" Camp this past summer. As a result, she was one of six goalies selected to compete in the National Sports Festival in Indianapolis, Ind.

"The Sports Festival was a fantastic experience for me because it matured

me as a player," McClung said. "I gained a lot of needed experience and also got to see a lot of different styles of play."

McClung, who has never suffered a serious injury, said she would decide whether or not she was going to tryout for the 1984 Olympic Team after

next summer.

"I'll tryout for the 1984 Olympic Team if I get invited back to the Sports Festival and see if there is a chance of me making the National 21-and-under Team," McClung said.

Unlike teammate Jeannie Gilbert, McClung does not think she will

tryout for the 1988 Olympic Games if she does not make the 1984 team.

"It's real doubtful that I'll try out for the 1988 team," McClung said. "I'd like to get a master's in athletic training while I'm applying to physical therapy school instead."

The 5-foot-6 goalie has

been playing field hockey for a little over seven years. She has always been a goalie and prepped at Yuba City High School where she garnered All-Delta League honors in 1979.

According to Lewis, McClung is the leader of the defense. She also said

that 1982 should be McClung's best year at SJSU.

"Goalie is a position where you get better with experience," Lewis said. "Casey got a lot of good experience this summer by playing in the Sports Festival and participating in Olympic Development Camps."

# Kearse and Elway honored

By Michael McIntyre

Two members of the undefeated SJSU football team received national recognition today. Spartan head coach Jack Elway was selected by UPI's executive sports editor Rich Rosenblatt as the UPI "Coach of the Week." Wide receiver Tim Kearse will be named in today's issue of Sports Illustrated as that publication's "Offensive Player of the Week" in the college ranks, as well as

AP "Back of the Week."

Elway was selected by Rosenblatt for being "the coach whose team had the best performance against a quality opponent." The award, which UPI has been giving out on a regular basis for over a decade, was presented to Elway for directing the Spartans past Stanford 35-31 last Saturday.

Elway was unavailable

for comment yesterday.

Kearse was recognized by Sports Illustrated for his performance in the Cardinal game as well. He caught six passes for 163 yards and three touchdowns as well as throwing an 84 yard touchdown strike.

The SJSU wide receiver was nominated for the award by the school's sports information

director, Lawrence Fan, and was chosen by SI researchers from dozens of other players.

Kearse was also unavailable for comment.

The SI award, which is a sidebar of the publication's college football section each week, has been presented for over 20 years, according to Keith Morris of the SI office.

Though neither source could positively verify it, both believe the selections to be the first of their kind for SJSU individuals.

Earlier this week, Kearse was named the PCAA-AirCal "Offensive Player of the Week" by the conference office in Santa Ana, Calif. It marked the third time in his Spartan career that Kearse had been so honored.

# Bowling Green, Toledo tied in Mid American

By Michael McIntyre

Only two games pertinent to the race for the 1982 California Bowl (to be played in Fresno on Dec. 18 between the champions of the Mid-American and

PCAA conferences) were played Saturday afternoon.

Both games involve Mid-American Conference opponents. Bowling Green squeaked by Central

Michigan 34-30 to tie Toledo for the league's top spot at 2-0. Toledo beat Marshall University 17-9 in a non-conference contest.

The other match-up saw the Northern Illinois Huskies beat the Kent State Golden Flashes 23-15. The loss was Kent State's first Mid-American game of 1982, while the Huskies evened their league mark at 1-1.

Two contests are scheduled in Mid-American play for this Saturday. Kent State hosts the Western Michigan

Broncos and the Miami (of Ohio) Redskins travel to Eastern Michigan to play the Hurons.

In non-conference games involving Mid-American squads, Ball State plays at Indiana State and Central Michigan hosts East Carolina.

PCAA action begins this Saturday as Utah State travels to Southern California to meet the Fullerton State Titans. The Aggies carry a 1-1 record, having lost their opener to Texas Christian University before winning last week

against Weber State. Fullerton State boasts a 2-1 mark, beating Northern Arizona and Cal-Poly SLO, while losing to Boise State.

SJSU travels to Corvallis, Ore. to face its third consecutive Pac-10 school on the road, the Oregon State Beavers. The Spartans will be looking to accomplish a feat that no previous SJSU squad has done: beat three Pac-10 teams in a row. On four occasions, the Spartans have won back-to-back contests, but never the third.

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Aviation Fraternity Alpha Eta Rho will have a general meeting at 5 p.m. today at MacQuarrie Hall room 112.

The Career Planning and Placement Center will have Career Exploration Days from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Student Union Ballroom. For more information call Cheryl Allmen at 277-2272.

The Overcomers will have their weekly meeting at 7:30 tonight in the S.U. Constanon Room. "Victorious Christian Living" will be discussed. For more information call John Miller at 279-2133.

The Woman's Center will have a bag lunch at noon today at the barbecue pits behind the women's gym. Guest speakers will talk about the nuclear freeze and jobs with the peace initiative. For more information call Mitch Ghardirir at 277-2047.

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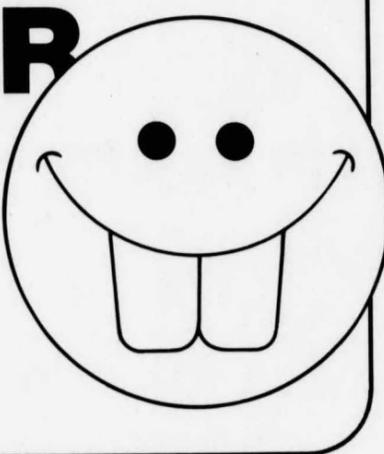
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# History expert predicts USSR's downfall

By Patrick Hayes

The Soviet Union may collapse within the next 20 or 30 years and become many smaller states, according to Michael Boll, an expert on Russian history who teaches at SJSU.

The long-term collapse of the Soviet Union would be the result of problems it faces now, said Boll, who has a master's degree and a doctorate in Russian history. He teaches a course (Poli Sci 139) which examines the Soviet Union's problems. The course is offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

The class is an attempt to understand the situation in which the U.S.S.R. finds itself, Boll said.

The situation the Soviets find themselves in is one of political, economic and technological inferiority to the United States, according to Boll.

The Soviets are politically inferior to the U.S. because they have no constitutional means of replacing their leaders, who are growing old, Boll said. The leadership is the politburo, the 14-member elite that heads the Communist Party in the Soviet Union, he said. Leonid Brezhnev is the leader of the elite and secretary-general of the party.

The elections held are for state officials, who tend always to agree with the politburo, Boll said. Politburo members are not chosen by election, but must work their way up through the party, he said.

"A little brown-nosing helps sometimes," Boll said.

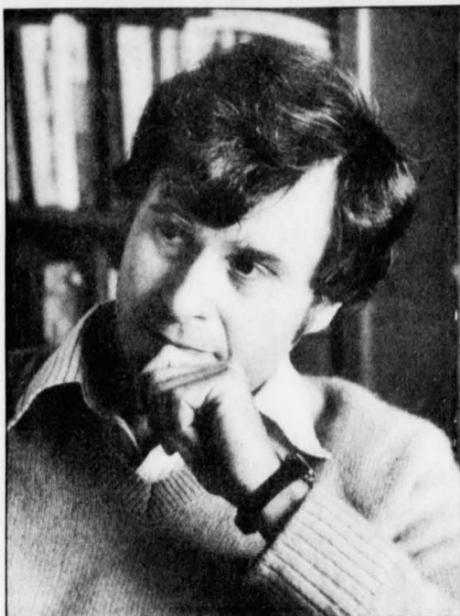
Because the country's leadership is chosen in this informal manner, without a constitutional framework, there is potential for political infighting, Boll said.

"Conceivably, there could be another power struggle like the one that replaced Khrushchev," Boll said.

On the economic front, the Soviets have had their fourth successive bad grain harvest, according to Boll. Their industrial output is growing, but not as fast as the Soviet leadership wants it to.

The low grain harvest does not mean that the Soviets will not have enough to feed their populace, Boll said. It does mean that they will not be able to expand their meat industry to increase the average meat consumption in their country, which is low for an industrialized nation, Boll added.

The declining economic growth rate in the Soviet Union is the best measure of the decreasing efficiency of



Michael Boll

their five-year-plans, Boll said. Under these plans, the Soviets plan every detail of their economy, he added. Soviet economic growth, which was once very high, is now about the same as that of the United States, Boll said.

Boll thinks that the socialist nature of the Soviets' and their allies' economies has hampered them in their attempts to trade with one another. Their version of the Common Market, the Council of Mutual Economic Cooperation, does not work well because each country can artificially set the value of its currency, he said.

"Nobody knows what the money is worth," Boll said. "That makes it difficult to conduct trade."

It was economics that led to the labor uprising in Poland, Boll believes. The Poles borrowed heavily to build their export industries, like coal, failing to see that the Western recession would prevent Westerners from buying their exports, he said. They also failed to expand the productivity of their primitive agricultural system, which resulted in food shortages and long food lines, Boll said.

"What happened was you had factory workers with fat salaries, and no food to buy."

These food shortages were what the workers who formed the Solidarity union were really upset about, Boll said. Solidarity wanted to have a say in the investment policy of the nation, he said.

Another potential trouble spot for the Soviets in Eastern Europe is Romania, Boll said. Because they have their own oil fields, the Romanians don't need Soviet oil, and they are therefore more independent of the Soviet line than are other Eastern-bloc nations, according to Boll. They will not allow Warsaw Pact maneuvers in their country, he said.

Boll said the Soviets see detente as a method to prevent total war between the superpowers as the two compete around the world. He believes problems arise because Americans think that detente is a way to become friendly with the Russians.

Boll believes the superpowers are about equal militarily. Although the Soviet's military expenditures are a bigger strain on their economy than are those of the United States on its economy, Boll said it would be a mistake to try to force them into negotiating arms reductions by outspending them militarily.

"They're willing to eat bread and water to remain militarily strong," Boll said.

Boll said he favors the nuclear freeze initiative, although he sees the nuclear arms issue as complex. He said nuclear weapons are a deterrent, not true weapons.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is comparable to the U.S. situation in Vietnam, Boll said. With the prestige of their military at stake, they responded to



Community Relations photos by Tom Surges

actions of rebels in an escalating war, he explained.

The Russians are afraid of China, because of what they see as that nation's erratic domestic and foreign policies, Boll said.

"The Soviets I talk to see the Chinese as crazy people who might fire an atomic weapon at them," Boll said.

The Russians are also behind the United States in many areas of technology, especially computer technology," Boll said. He said they are behind in most areas of the space race that involve computer technology.

"Their pure science is great," Boll said, "but their applied science is lousy."

Boll doesn't believe the Soviets will collapse as soon as the subtitle of his course (Will the Soviet Union survive until 1984?) suggests, but he does think that its problems eventually could bring them down.

"It's the last of the European empires," he said. "All the others broke up after World War I."

## Archaeological students got dem bones

Continued from page 1

He expects to find arthritis in the shoulders and spine, and a fair amount of trauma, as sailors historically were subjected to long, arduous periods at sea.

Such presuppositions are being supported by Smallwood, who is doing the historical research. From old newspaper articles and journals, Smallwood has chronicled the clipper's fateful voyage. Bound from Baltimore near the end of 1864, the Sir John Franklin stopped in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and took on the cargo of the Charles Pennell, which had been condemned. The cargo included pianos, lumber, coal oil and some 300 barrels of hard liquor.

The ship continued around Cape Horn for San Francisco on schedule. However, as they neared their destination, along the California coast they ran into thick fog and were lost for 24 hours. Thinking the ship was farther out to sea on Jan. 17, Captain John Despeaux of Baltimore was surprised when the skies suddenly cleared and he found his ship perilously close to the rocks.

According to Smallwood, vicious waves tossed the ship against the rocks. The ship reportedly broke in half and threw the crew of 20 to 21 overboard.

Smallwood said the men tried to waid ashore, but 13 drowned as the surf pounded them against the rocks.

"Anyone in that water would have a better chance of being beaten to death (than drowned)," Jurmain commented on the surf that apparently hasn't changed much over the years.

According to the Alta Californian, a San Francisco daily of that period, six bodies were recovered. Dead were Captain Despeaux, boatsman Robert Dawson, and sailors John Devine of Liverpool, England, Charles Martin of Norway and John Sooline and Jacob Stanton of Finland.

Despeaux and Dawson were later buried in San Francisco, while the other four were apparently the men buried at the site of the wreck.

Five sailors and the first, second and third mates were listed as survivors.

News of the mishap did not reach San Francisco until Jan. 19. The survivors forged ashore and sought help at a farm house while the first mate reported to San Francisco.

Three schooners were dispatched under the direction of a Captain Fischer to salvage the cargo. Smallwood said the cargo was assessed at \$300,000. Oddly enough, Smallwood added, 100 barrels of liquor were later reported as missing and were never recovered.

Smallwood also found that the Sir John Franklin was one of three ships that went down in the area within five years. In an earlier disaster, the Carrier Pigeon went aground at what is now Pigeon Point, where a lighthouse was finally built and still remains.

## Decreasing sales, declining economy prompt new class

The problem of increasing sales in the declining economy of the 1980s will be the subject of a new class to begin tonight.

The instructor, Kenneth Schock, a Bay Area consultant and college instructor, insists that the '80s do not have to mean declining sales. Few of today's sales problems, Schock said, are insurmountable for one who learns new, more effective sales skills.

The class will be offered tonight from 6:45-10:15 in Business Classroom 114.

Schock said he intends to show students successful ways to close sales and make effective sales presentations.

Anyone may register at the beginning of class. The fee is \$39.

Schock, who founded a company called Schock Seminars, has conducted sales and personal growth seminars for such companies as General Electric,

Brockway Investments and for Santa Clara County.

For more information call the Office of Continuing Education at 277-2182.

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