



Published for San José State University since 1934

THURSDAY

Jazz-metal men from New York strike cash, chords.

In etc. inside

Middle-class loan bill's chances 'slim'

BY NASER IDEIS

Vol. 100, No. 57

As the result of an effort to ease the increasingly high cost of education in California, students may be deprived of yet another avenue to help achieve their academic dream come true.

California Treasurer Kathleen Brown and Senator Patrick Johnston (D-Stockton) are introducing student loan legislation for the second time after it was vetoed last year by Gov. Pete Wil-

The California Alternative Loan Program (Cal-Loans), which passed the legislature with only two dissenting votes, is designed for students from mid-

Although Brown and Johnston are hoping it will pass, Donald Ryan, SJSU's financial aid office director, said the chance for its passing is very slim.

As long as there are available funds through the federally financed programs, Ryan said, "I don't anticipate that that program

is going to get passed." Cal-Loans will help qualified students supplement existing financial aid and Stafford loans by providing fixed-rate loans to be applied to fees, tuition, board and other educational expenses, Brown said in a press release.

Cal-Loans, which offer a maximum of \$15,000 annually, will have fixed interest rates ranging

between 8 and 8.25 percent.
"Cal-Loans is about access, affordability and about making sure that college education is available to all who want it, not just to those who can afford it," Brown said in the press release.

Johnston said in the same press release that with Cal-Loans, students will have the choice to attend the college most suited to them and their parents - not simply the cheapest.

The loans would be funded by the California Student Loan Authority chaired by Brown. The CSLA would issue tax-exempt student loan revenue bonds up to

Many want to attend, few will be able to pay

BY NANCY FONG

If the governor, the legislature and Californians continue their anemic commitment to higher education, the promise of quality education and broad access held out by California's Master Plan will no longer apply to all state high school students, but only to a privileged few.

Increasingly, many lower- and middle-income students are discovering that they are being shut off from a college education because of rising fees or closed admissions.

The CSU chancellor's office has documented that diminished state revenues have led to a rejection of 22,000 students eligible for the CSU system since the fall of

Higher fees and the university's inability to accommodate more new students have served to price out or close off admissions to many eligible students.

Within the next 15 years, 700,000 new California students will be seeking admission to our state's higher education system, according to an Assembly Higher Education Committee draft report reassessing the state's high-er-educational Master Plan.

The burgeoning demand and the inability to meet it has led

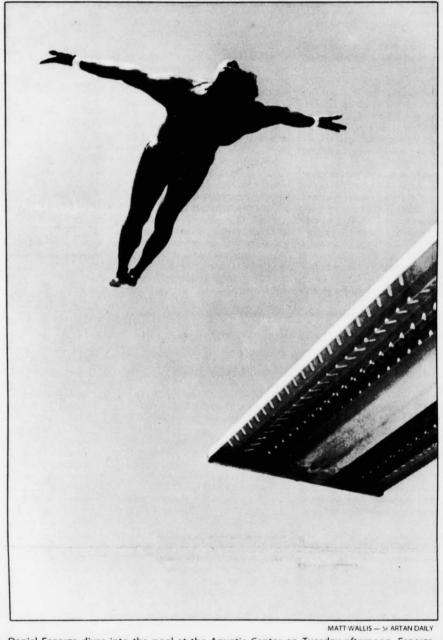
CSU Chancellor Barry Munitz to forecast a gloomy and dangerous social picture in California's future. During last month's Cali-fornia Intercollegiate Press Association conference held at SJSU, Munitz was quoted by the Spartan Daily as saying:

"The ethnic mix of this state is changing dramatically. If we raise the price without adequate financial aid, we will skew, dangerously, the types of people who can come. If you say to that con-stituency, just as they are coming to our doors, that you're raising the threshold or slamming the

See CSU, Page 3

'Scuse me while I kiss the sky

Thursday, April 29, 1993



Daniel Esparza dives into the pool at the Aquatic Center on Tuesday afternoon. Esparza spends six hours a day, six days a week, practicing in the pool and working out in the gym. He hopes to become a full-time amateur diver sometime soon.

Student's modesty isn't servile



Rhoda Regah, left, a junior majoring in English, and Jabeen Patel, a junior majoring in psychology, prepare to pray in front of the Industrial Studies Building on Monday afternoon. The women wear loose clothing and cover the hair with a scarf for the covenance of prayer. The dress code for Muslim women is to cover every body part except for the face and hands.

By MINERVA PANLILIO

When Rhoda Rageh walks around campus, she says some students glance and stare at her. Three months ago, Rageh said she wouldn't have gotten those same stares.

That was the time she decided to adhere to Islamic tradition and started wearing a Hijab — Islamic clothing for women that covers every-

The 35-year-old junior English major said she began wearing Hijab because she felt like she was the "worst contributor" to her religion, and she was tired of people asking if she was a Mus-

Now that she is wearing a Hijab, people have no doubts about her religion.

"Many people feel that we are forced to do this, that we are condemned to dress this way," Rageh said. "We are not condemned by anybody. It's our choice.

"(Other students) will ask me questions like 'as a Muslim woman, do you have to wear this?' and they feel that it's something that Islamic men force the women to do."

Siddeeqa Arebi, an anthropology professor at University of California at Berkeley, spoke about the status of women in Islam yesterday in the

Arebi said women wear a Hijab when they come to their own understanding about their role and position in Islam.

"It is not forced upon them," Arebi said. "The women wear Hijab on their own will.

According to Rageh, a Hijab can be any type of clothing as long as it covers the body and is On the day of the interview Rageh wore an

oversized sweater, baggy jeans and a white scarf to cover her head. "The basic idea is to hide your body," Rageh

said. "The whole point of it is to avoid tempta-

See MUSLIMS, Page 4

Counselor arrested for sexual battery of SJSU studení patient

BY LAURA KLEINMAN

Teketel Mulugeta of SJSU Counseling Services was arrested Friday by University Police Department officers after a female student in her early twenties complained she had been assaulted in his office in the Administration Building.

Pending investigation, Mulugeta has een placed on administrative leave by the university, said Public Affairs Officer

A preliminary hearing will be set after a one-week investigation, said UPD Lieutenant Bruce Lowe.

Lowe said Mulugeta was arrested by officers Amado Ramirez, Lieutenant Shannon Maloney and Investigator Gabe Escobedo in his office at 5:07 p.m. on a

warrant specifying three counts of sexual battery.

Lowe said the "ondling" incident is reported to have occurred during a counseling session Wednesday, April 21.

Mulugeta, 45, was booked into the county jail and later released, Lowe said. The conditions of his release were not known.

According to the Counselor's Procedure Manual, "psychologists do not engage in sexual intimacies with current patients or clients," Stahl said.

Kathleen Wall, director of counseling services, said the staff is both saddened and shocked, Stahl said.

Both Lowe and Stahl said this is the first time a counselor has been accused of assaulting a student.

Award-winning author Le Guin reading tonight

BY TRACY BLAKELY

Renowned author Ursula K. Le Guin ("The Lathe of Heaven" and "Dancing at the Edge of the World") arrives in San Jose today for a series of events, including a reading of her works in Morris Dailey Auditorium at 8 p.m.

As part of the Center for Literary Arts' 1992-1993 Major Authors Series, Le Guin joins notables Allen Ginsberg and Peter Matthieson in the ranks of esteemed writers to visit the SJSU campus

Because of Le Guin's futuristic, Utopian ideas on culture, diversity and technology, Center for Literary Arts Director Alan Soldofsky feels Le Guin is an important writer to bring to the Silicon

"I don't read that much science fiction, but Le See AUTHOR, Page 3

Student composers offer up their pieces

BY JENNIFER KANE

To prepare for the Student Composers' Concert, which will be showing in the Music Building tonight at 7:30 pm, SJSU students say they compose at any moment on any given day.

They write from dreams, or a flash of music will come to them while walking across campus. In some cases, they spend hours on end in a

silent room composing. Only 60 to 70 percent of the students who submit their compositions are eligi-

See COMPOSERS, Page 3

EDITORIAL

Four-day workweek is good money-saving idea

Letters to the editor

Has oracle predicted lower fees?

Closing library limits exchange of ideas

mediated.

implement a four-day, 10-hour-a-day work week at SJSU next summer. So what? What will it do for the universi-

Save money, that's what. Evans said the change in work schedules could save anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in operations costs for the university during the summer. It's already saved that much for California State Polytechnic University at Pomona. And with a possible \$168 million being sucked out of our budget for next year, we need to save money anywhere we can.

Although the plan has received support from affected university employees, there are those who aren't too thrilled about it. Some say a 10hour day is just too long. For individ-uals with poor blood circulation, carpal tunnel syndrome or any of a hundred other ailments, sitting at a desk for an extra two hours is just

Another point of concern is that these corners.

Yesterday, while sitting in the Art

Quad reading The History of the Punic Wars for my humanities midterm, I came across the following

passage:
"And the oracle spake, 'When the notes of great Hera's full song have

faded, a white haired man from the north shall come. He will speak in a

voice not yet heard and at his side will

Editor, In this life it is easy to let little

things go. We humans are frighteningly

adaptable. Clean air, time spent with

friends, owning a house - I have

accepted the unlikeliness or rarity of

all these things, but I cannot stomach

the possibility of not being able to

browse the stacks of my school's

You see, I am a student. Books are

my sustenance and my inspiration.

Not call numbers, but actual books,

and not just one book, but whole col-

lections of them; whole stacks where

one book leads to another until the

boundaries of subjects are blurred

and a student becomes more than a

major, becomes a citizen of the

To come right down to it, to close

library.

President J. Handel Evans plans to transportation and child-care schedwould be compromised. Employees may not be able to work the longer days and may therefore have to take time off without pay.

But all these concerns were thought of beforehand and that's why Evans activated an anonymous suggestion recorder. Of the 1,200 staff working during the summer sessions, only 119 responded - and only 20 of them were opposed to the plan. It's just not rational to scrap an idea because less than two percent of those affected don't like it.

No matter what changes are proposed, there will always be those whose schedules don't exactly fit the new program, and that's unfortunate,

but this university is in trouble.

President Evans is doing the best he can in a lousy situation. For this university to continue providing the service of education for its students, corners need to be cut. This program is a viable means for cutting a few of

be a copper helmed dwarf riding in a

red chariot. Then will be the golden

time for Sparta and the showers will cover all."

of the Spartan had been painted yel-

low. Does this mean my fees will go

the stacks would be an act of censor-

ship. The information might still be there but our access to it would be

books, the easier it is to cut them off

altogether. Without being able to see

them we might even forget they were

At least, a certain organic approach to research would be lost.

On a whim you wouldn't be able to walk up to an unknown shelf and

pull down a book with a good-look-

ideas, to not be able to enter this place

would be a basic violation of our

rights as students and citizens.

The library is the marketplace of

Eran Williams

The further away we get from the

I looked up and noticed the statute

Wendy Sasaki



Columnist busted for momma's sweet tooth

bout a year ago my mother got this terrible sneez-ing fit every time she ate ice cream or had cheese. My mother, being the smart woman she is, thought it must be the sugar in these things that she is allergic to. Not eating the ice cream or the cheese was out of the question.

After talking to several friends, a therapist and some guy from C & H Sugar my mother decided to take a drastic step and visit the doctor. The doctor told her what I told her all along — it's the milk she is allergic to.

My mother, not one to be daunted by the medical professional, still insisted it was the sugar in the ice cream she was allergic to.

After months of looking through books she asked our next door neighbor who always seems to have some ailment or another whether she knew of anything that could help her. Gladys, our neighbor, convinced my mother that the most help she ever got was from a Tibetan monk in Chinatown who worked at a Mexirestaurant called Rochelle's. Using her AAA map and some cursory directions from the neighbor, my

mother was off to find the monk.

After three hours my mother came back with a possible cure for her problem and two beef enchiladas. The monk in the restaurant told her she needs to get "pure" sugar and that there is a health food store in Berkeley. Imagine that, a health food store in Berkeley.

Anyway, I was deemed the chosen one and was sent on my way to Berkeley to pick up the cargo. I went into Signas health food store on University Avenue and waited while a woman tried in vain to sell some kind of cosmetics to the clerk, who was a man.

My mother told me to buy a 20-pound bag of pure unadul-terated sugar. For my convenience, the store had sugar in big barrels which had small plastic bags hanging from them which only held two pounds each. I walked out of the store with 10 bags of the

whitest sugar I have ever seen.
I set down the bags in the back of the Jeep and drove off into the sunset of 880. One stop light before the highway on-ramp I heard a siren and red and blue lights on a blackand-white filled the rearview mirror. I signaled and then pulled over, thinking I couldn't have been speeding, unless Berkeley considers 25 mph to be speeding.

The officer sat in his car and waited for four other police cars to come up behind me. The officers got out of the cars and walked toward the back and the sides of the Jeep.

Two officers asked me to step out of the car and walk to the back with them. The officers asked me to open the tailgate and pull out one of the bags filled with white powder. It didn't dawn on me what was up until the I jokingly asked, "What do you think it is, cocaine?" The lack of a smile on their face told me cocaine is exactly what they thought it

I had been searched until everything in my pockets was on the hood of the black-andwhite. I happened to catch a glimpse of the seven police cars and one "Mobile Chemical Toxics Identification Unit" which was disguised as a van with a trailer.

After officers looked through the car, they finally decided to bring the white powder to the van to find out officially what it is. If someone had had a sweet tooth the van wouldn't have been necessary. After a few minutes a red-

John Perez

In the Mist

faced officer walked back to the car and said it is 99.3 percent pure sugar. I paid for 100 percent pure, but that is beside the point.

I collected my belongings from the hood of the car, reminding the officers that not everything white is cocaine. I was mad afterwards, but now that I look at it I'm glad they were at least courteous and keeping an eye out for drugs.

My mother finally came to the realization that milk was the problem and has since switched to non-dairy ice cream. As for the 20 pounds of sugar, my neighbor found out she had some illness which pure sugar supposedly helps

John Perez is a Daily staff columnist. His column appears every Thursday.

SPARTAN DAILY

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answers. I'm sure many reading Jim's article could relate to the feelings he expressed. I know there was a time in my life when I would have written the same things. Religion has ruined our society. How arrogant we are to think that we can fit God into a system. How

faith and guilt prove Christianity a farce."

I'm so glad that we have people today questioning what

they are taught. Too many

people today just believe what

they are told and walk in blind

faith. I am glad too that we

have people who are writing

honestly about what they feel.

It is only when we are honest

with ourselves and our beliefs

that we begin to find the real

terrible to limit God to a list of do's and don't's. Religion has I'm responding to the become like an aspirin to our writer's forum written by Jim society — a quick fix for our Batcho April 28, titled "Blind problems, and in many cases the root of our problems.

I'm glad that Jesus never preached about religion. I'm glad that Jesus didn't set up a religious system. I'm glad Jesus came down to clear the air about us and God. I'm glad He came to get rid of the guilt.

There is a terrible thing

happening when one compares Jesus and His teachings to that of David Koresh or religious institutes. Just because one claims to be a Christian doesn't make those principles Christian.

I think that Jim and many others are missing this point when they so quickly attack Christianity.

I don't doubt the negative "religious" experiences you have seen. Some of the worst

things done in this world have been done by religion.

Questioning teachings helps open mind to God

Jesus came to break that religious bondage we are in. tionship with God, not a religion. This is what the Bible speaks of. The Bible speaks of freedom, forgiveness, joy and

It is because people are not reading the Bible and not looking into these things that there is guilt and evil. It is because we listen to what our professors say or what our priests say or what our parents or friends say about the Bible that we are a people so deceived.

Answer this question: have you ever really studied the Bible? If, by the remote possibility that the Bible is true, you owe it to yourself to spend a small part of your life to see for yourself if it is. Take your own advice, Jim, and question

Kelly Liebengood

Campus Viewpoint

everything. But don't let your itchy ears find what they want to hear. Let the truth be found given all the evidence. I hope you too will find the joy and forgiveness that only Jesus can

Finally, on faith. Whether you realize it or not, you're putting your faith in some-thing. Whether it is your own goodness or ability I don't know. I put mine in an all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God who made Himself and His love known through Jesus of Nazareth. And His life is historical, not fictional.

> Kelly Liebengood Senior, Advertising

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page are encouraged from students, staff, faculty and others who are interested in the uni-

versity at large. Any letter or column for the forum page must be turned in

to Letters to the Editor's box in the Spartan Daily newsroom, Dwight Bentel Hall 209.

FORUM PAGE POLICIES

Articles may also be mailed to the Forum Editor, The Spartan Daily, Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192. Or articles may be faxed to (408) 924-

SpartaGuide

The San José State calendar

TODAY

A.S. LEISURE SERVICES: Intramural Sports Volleyball Tournament, May 8 & 9, 8a.m.-5p.m., Sou-th Campus, call Toby at 924-5962; Summer SpartAerobics Sign-ups, May 3- June 27, July 5-Aug. 22, Event Center, call Cheryl at 924-5960.

BAPTIST STUDENT MINIST-RIES: Bible studies, 11:30a.m.-12:30-p.m. and 12:30-1:30p.m., SU Montalvo Room, call Steve or Kim at 294-5767.

CAREER PLANNING & PLACE-MENT: Co-op orientation, 12:30p.m., SU Guadalupe Room, call 924-6033.

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL AL-LIANCE: Election & Planning Meeting, 4:30-6:30p.m., SU Guadalupe Room, call 236-2002.

MUSIC DEPT.: Student composers' concert, 7:30p.m., Music Building concert hall, call 924-

PHYSICS DEPT.: Seminar, 1:30p.m., SCI 251, call 924-5210.

SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN: Student Galleries art show, 10a.m.-4p.m., Art Building and Industrial Studies, call Marla at

SJSU GREEKS: Clothing & canned food drive, drop off at Student Activities Office or Delta Upsilon, call Heather at 279-

SJSU INTERNATIONAL CENT-ER: Cultural exchange night, 7:30p.m., International Center dining room, call Christi at 924-

STUDENT HEALTH ADVISORY **COMMITTEE**: Transcendental meditation, 12:30-1:30p.m., SU Almaden Room, call Tami at

THEATRE ARTS/DANCE: Jazz dance ensemble concert, 8p.m.,

SPX 219, call 924-5039. UNITED CAMPUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY: Fellowship dinner, 6-9p.m., Campus Ministry Center, call Penny at 298-0204.

FRIDAY

A.S. LEISURE SERVICES: Summer SpartAerobics Sign-ups, May 3-June 27, July 5-Aug. 22, Event Center, call Cheryl at 924-5960; Intramural Sports Volleyball Tournament, May 8 \$ 9, 8a.m.-5p.m., South Campus, call Toby at 924 5962

FRIDAY CAMPUS MINISTRY: Candlelight prayer, 7-8p.m., call Sr. Judy at 298-0204.

CHEMISTRY DEPT.: Symposium, 2-3:30p.m., DH 416, call Dr, Okuda at 924-2525.

INDIA STUDENTS ASSOCIAT-ION: Meeting, 1p.m., SU Council Chambers, call Sameer at 259-

FOLKDANCE CLUB: Dance class (no partner needed), 8-10:30p.m., SPX 89, call Mildred at 293-1302, Lisa at 280-5361 or Ed at 297-6369.

SJSU GREEKS: Clothing & canned food drive, drop off at Student Activities Office or Delta Upsilon, call Heather at 279-9031.

THEATRE ARTS/DANCE: Jazz dance ensemble concert, 8p.m., SPX 219, call 924-5039.

SATURDAY

DELTA LAMBDA PHI: "Triumph" Fundraising Dinner, 6p.m., 80 South Fifth St., call Gene at 729-

KSJS: DJ seminar, 10a.m., HGH 118, call 924-KSJS

THEATRE ARTS/DANCE: Jazz Dance Ensemble Concert, 8p.m., Dance Studio Theatre (SPX Room 219), call 924-5039.

SpartaGuide is available to SJSU students, faculty and staff organizations for free. Deadline is 5 p.m., two days before publication. Forms are available at the Spartan Daily, DBH 209. Limited space may force reducing the number of entries.

Soldofsky said, "She's certainly a fighter for the equal recognition News Room(408) 924-3280 Fax924-3282 Advertising.....924-3270 Classified924-3277

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CSU: More fees, fewer admissions may kill dreams

From page 1

doors, last April in Los Angeles will look like a picnic."

What the chancellor meant to impart in his speech was that "more educated people tend not to riot because they have more of a stake in the community. It is up to the CSU to provide access to that learning," said Colleen Bentley-Adler, spokeswoman for the chancellor's office.

She continued, the CSU "tends to get lower income students." Because the CSU is the first entry way to higher education for students of color and first-generation kids, denying them entrance can lead to frustration and the type of demonstrations that occurred last April.

When asked why Munitz would favor a fee hike that will make a college education unaffordable and therefore unattainable for this vital group of students, Bentley-Adler said, "at this point the chancellor favors raising fees because the state isn't funding us at the level that they should

Guin is in the same tradition as

Aldous Huxley and Kurt Von-

negut, although she's more opti-mistic," Soldofsky said. "In San

Jose we're trying to live with cul-

tural diversity and technology. She can really crystallize this point of view even though all of

her stories are set in other

ten more than 30 books ranging

from collected works of poetry,

short stories, and science fiction

to literature for children and

young adults. Such creative diver-

sity has earned the author five

Hugo awards, four Nebulas and a

ings," said Michelle Beatty, an

English education major. "I know

she's a role model for female sci-

ence fiction writers; there aren't

Now residing in Portland, Le

Guin will attend the Center for

Literary Arts' annual author's

dinner at the Fairmont as guest

of honor before her reading in Morris Dailey Auditorium. Fri-

day she will hold a public discussion on fiction at 12:30 p.m. in

the Spartan Memorial with a

book signing immediately fol-lowing in the Spartan Bookstore.

"She's a very powerful writer very strange with twisted end-

National Book Award.

that many of them."

women in any field."

The Berkeley native has writ-

Author

Bentley-Adler defended the chancellor's position by pointing out that one-third of monies from raised fees will go to helping lower-income students.

The students at the low end should not be priced out," she said; although she conceded that students from middle-income families would be priced out of college because of rising fees.

Liz Fenton, executive director of the California State Student Association, contends that Bentley-Adler's assurances that financial aid will cover those students priced-out by the fee hikes is

'Only one in five needy, eligible student gets a Cal Grant that's a major problem."

Fenton concurs with Munitz that, "when the state does not fund education, that creates an atmosphere that encourages social unrest and violence. More money goes to prisons than to higher education. This is not socially or economically sound.

"The chancellor and particularly the board of trustees need to

leading CSU out of this crisis. They need to be lobbying in Sacramento, working on legislation. They need to be looking at more creative alternatives for sources of money than raising

The draft report reassessing the Master Plan, prepared by Christopher Cabaldon, chief consultant to the Assembly's Higher Education Committee, states, 'Access to educational opportunity means nothing if the cost is prohibitive for low- and middleincome families ... most middleincome families are too wealthy to qualify for aid but too poor to afford skyrocketing educational costs.

Cabaldon writes, "An escalat-ing number of high school graduates, and Blacks and Latinos in particular, successfully meet the eligibility requirements of the University of California and California State University. Social and economic equity will be difficult to achieve unless the same postsecondary opportunities

take a much more active role in made available to these students, who worked hard and played by the rules, as were provided for the generation before?

> Did you read something you liked today? How about something you hated? Write a letter.







Composers

From page 1

ble to participate in the concert. SJSU music Professor Pablo Furman said the students are accepted based primarily on artistic

This means that skills, such experimentation, must be applied to the piece with consistency," he said. "We want to see that they have applied thought to the structure of their piece.'

Eight students have been selected this semester.

The mediums involved include everything from electric and computerized guitar and synthesizer to more traditional instrumentation, such as brass and woodwind

But these performances consist of more than just instruments. Composer Gary Singh, music major, said his piece, "My Name Is Not Ed," is closer to multimedia performance art, using visual and theatrical elements with musical composition.

He has incorporated live singers, actors and actresses, as well as a video presentation.

Singh and his fellow composers emphasize one attribute of modern composition in its spontaneous form and constant flux, even in the space of one perfor-

"Pieces are always a process and sometimes there are changes throughout performance,"composer Matthew

Brink said.

Brink's performance, "Five Cons," will be a "piece for ensemble playing found household objects," he said.

This involves the concept of taking everyday objects and mak-

Singh said this concert is good for SJSU students to see because, "it will expose them to a lot of art and music they were not aware of before."

"This gives them the chance to see live composers doing somea musical journey out of thing creative with sound," Brink

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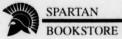
Following her seminar at Spartan Memorial

Author of: Sea Road

The Dispossessed The Left Hand of Darkness Dancing at the End of the World.

Book Signing

Friday, April 30 approx. 1:45 - 2:30 pm at following her seminar at **Spartan Memorial**



Reaching across boundaries



JENIFER LAPOLLA - SPARTAN DAILY

Elizabeth Price, front left, and Juliet Tandoc, front right, perform with the cast of nine from the University Dance Theater in "Los Angeles," part of Current Boundaries, which addresses destructive forces in life. The dancers all wore black clothing accessorized with chains and leather. The performance was part of Arts Week which ends

Muslims ·

tion and sexual attractions. The purpose is not to look attractive and not to look like a sex object."

Throughout her whole life, Rageh has practiced the Muslim religion except for wearing the

"I completed reading the Koran (the Holy Book for Muslims) when I was eight years old and have practiced my religion ever since," Rageh said.

"My family taught me the knowledge to decide on my own whether or not to wear a Hijab.

"I have chosen to wear a Hijab recently because I want to set an example for other Muslim women, so they know that they can make a choice."

Islamic women can begin wearing Hijab when they start their menstrual cycle because that is the time they are considered a woman, Rageh said

Ambara Abdi, a junior majoring in radio, television and film, said she began wearing Hijab

when she was in fifth grade. Although she had not had her menstrual cycle yet, she wanted

to practice wearing a Hijab. Abdi said that in high school, students verbally harassed her, calling her names such as "raghead," "scarfhead" and "Muzzi."

"I found the strength to keep wearing a Hijab because thought to myself that the kids at school won't be with me to face

Jabeen Paten, a junior majoring in psychology, started wearing a Hijab three years ago when she started living with her cousin who wore a Hijab.

"I started going to meetings with her," Paten said. "After listening to the meetings, I chose to wear a Hijab."

Rageh said that wearing a Hijab also makes it easier for her when she prays. Muslims pray five times a day: pre-dawn, noon, afternoon, after sunset and before they go to sleep, Rageh said.

"The Koran says that women should cover their bodies except for their hands and face when they pray," Rageh said. "When I'm in school all day, I don't have to carry around a Hijab in my bag anymore. I can just go and pray.

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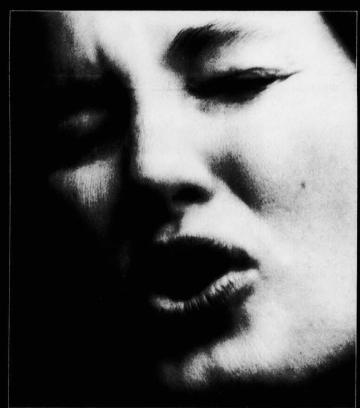
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Washington Watch

Clinton will consider air strikes against Bosnian Serbs

WASHINGTON (AP) Despite sharp divisions in Congress and qualms at the Pentagon, President Clinton said Wednesday he is determined to take tougher action to end the war in Bosnia.

Frustrated by the refusal of Bosnian Serbs to end a war that has left 134,000 people dead or missing, Clinton is considering air strikes against Serb artillery sites and exempting Bosnian Muslims from a United Nations arms embargo.

Pentagon leaders doubt that air strikes would stop Serb aggression. One problem for the White

House is that polls show a majority of Americans are opposed to U.S. bombing of Serb positions.

It's believed likely that Secretary of State Warren Christopher will go to Western Europe and Russia to brief leaders.

• Britain's premier may back air strike against Bosnia

LONDON (AP) - Prime Minister John Major is pressing the Clinton administration to abandon the idea of arming Bosnian Muslims and in return may back air strikes against Serbs, a senior aide said Wednesday.

British sources said Major is still hesi-tant about air strikes, although Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind indicated on Wednesday that the government was giving that option serious consideration.

Major is opposed to lifting the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims heavily outgunned by Serbs - on grounds this would open a rush of arms into Bosnia, including shipments from Islamic countries such as Iran.

Gunmen release two hostages in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) - Gunmen temporarily freed two of the 18 justices held hostage in the Supreme Court building Wednesday, so that they could meet with government officials.

Security Minister Luis Fishman told a

news conference Supreme Court Justices Eduardo Sancho and Alfonso Chavez were freed for three hours to "inform us on the situation there concerning the hostages."

He said the two justices would later rejoin the 16 other justices and five court workers held hostage since Monday by the gunman.

Fishman said the kidnappers are demanding \$8 million, the release of some prisoners and safe passage to Brazil, which does not have an extradition treaty with Costa Rica.

3 European airlines are discussing possible merger

GENEVA (AP) - Four European airlines are exploring a merger, but one of them, Swissair, stressed Wednesday combining their operations would be complicated and said any merger likely is a long

Scandinavia Airlines Systems, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Swissair and Austrian Airlines announced Tuesday they are negotiating to form a joint company as the best way to compete in the world's struggling air travel business.

All four companies have been looking for a way to compete more effectively in a

period when air travel has fallen off, first

because of the Gulf War and then during

the worldwide recession.

Saddam Hussein celebrates birthday, mother of all parades

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Saddam Hussein's hometown held the "Mother of all Battles Parade" Wednesday to celebrate the Iraqi leader's 56th birthday, Iraq's official news agency reported.

The parade featured tanks, troop car-

riers, artillery pieces and other military hardware, the Iraqi News Agency said. Saddam predicted the allied effort to oust his troops from Kuwait in 1991 would be the "Mother of All Battles."

Saddam apparently did not attend the celebration in Tikrit, 75 miles northeast of Baghdad. The news agency said the president instead went to a party given annually for him by Iraqi children.

The report did not disclose the party's location, but it is usually held at one of Saddam's presidential palaces.

The U.S.-led allied coalition pushed the Iraqi troops back into Iraq while taking tens of thousands of prisoners and suffering few casualties.

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MATT WALLIS—SPARTAN DAILY

SJSU pitcher Dave Sick throws back to first base too late to pick off a Santa Clara base runner in the first inning of Tuesday's game

Spartans edge Santa Clara, 6-5

SPARTAN DAILY STAFF REPORT

Gerad Cawhorn walked to force in the winning run with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 11th inning to post a 6-5 victory over Santa Clara.

Senior Dean Madsen's clutch hitting and strong offense gave the Spartans a boost late in the game. Madsen went 3-for-5 with four RBI and two runs scored, including scoring the game-winning run.

Madsen's heroics in the bottom of the eighth kept the game alive with a three-run blast to tie the contest at 5-5.

Madsen also ignited the winning rally in the bottom of with a double and scored two batters

later with Cawhorn's walk. "I think we got off to a slow start at first but by the end we

rolled back in the game," Madsen Pitcher Dave Sick started for SJSU going five innings giving up three runs and six hits while

striking out two, but he didn't earn the win. Richard Smith pitched the final four innings giving up a single run and three hits to to earn

Currently the Spartans are behind Cal State Fullerton and Long Beach State in the Big West with a 10-8 record. The Spartans play St. Mary's at Municipal Stadium on Monday at 5 p.m.

the victory.

Valvano dies at 47

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Jim Valvano, the wise-cracking New Yorker who coached North Carolina State to a magical national basketball championship before scandal forced him out, died today of cancer. He was 47.

Valvano died around 10:30 a.m. with his family by his side at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, according to his attorney Woody Webb.

'Valvano waged a valiant fight against cancer over the past year," Webb said. "Jimmy V never gave

Valvano pulled off one of the great upsets in college basketball history in 1983 when the Wolfpack, a team with 10 regular-season losses, beat heavily favored Houston in the NCAA tourna-

ment final on Lorenzo Charles' buzzer-beating dunk. Seven years later, he was forced out after an NCAA investigation found his players had sold their shoes and complimentary tickets. An investigation into point-shaving allegations continues.

He then became a successful broadcaster, and continued to work after his cancer was diagnosed in 1992. Indeed, he opened the 1992-93 season in the studio for ESPN and at courtside.

"The loss of Jim Valvano is profound," ESPN President Steve Bornstein said in a statement. "His personal philosophy was to laugh, to think and to be moved to tears every day... We shed tears because we will miss our friend and colleague."

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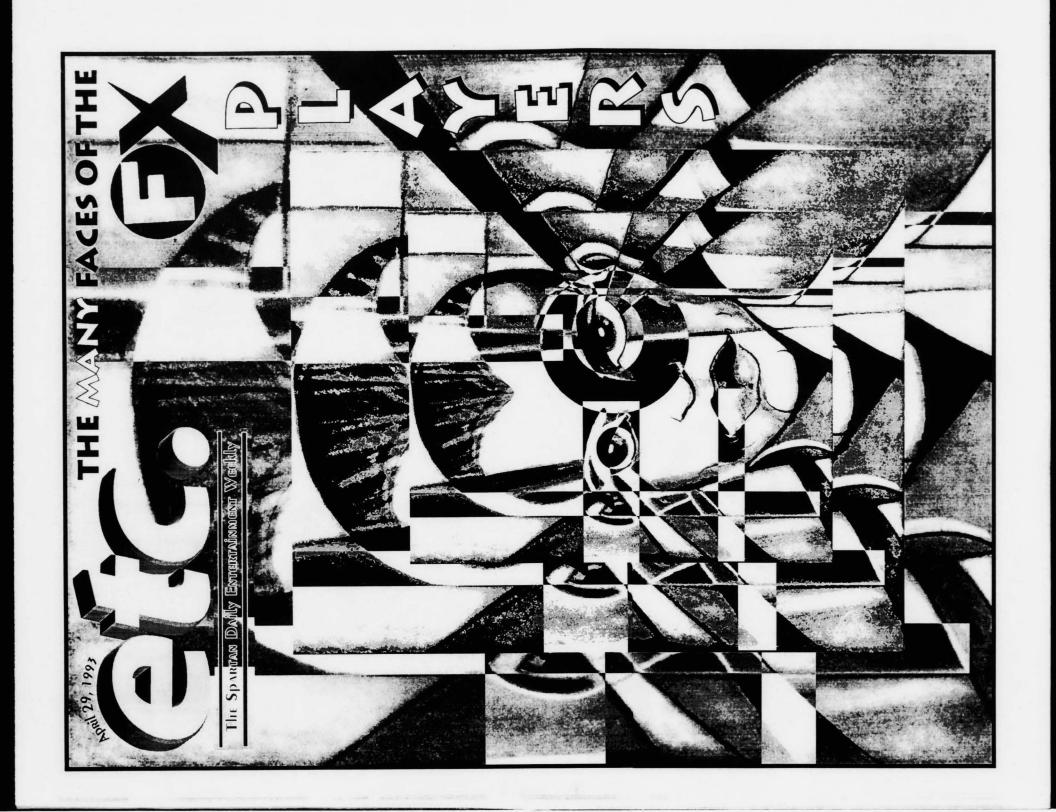
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Shut up with that already

Do you know what I find disturbing about American relationships? The fact that even between close couples, there's a need to preface all requests with the word *please* and observe nice deeds with *thank you*.

Just during the course of one meal, approximately how many please's and thank you's are exchanged, do you think?

"Pass the salt please, honey?"

"Thanks. These slugs are yummy."
"Could you please hand me the ketchup, darling? I've heard it goes great with alligator meat."

And on, and on, and on . . . What is the purpose of this gratuitous politeness? When

did they teach you this ceremonial etiquette?

Coming from a very close family where pleasantries were unheard of—literally—said perfunctory remarks seem to keep people, no matter how intimate, at a level of cordiality that has a distancing effect.

Were I to thank a Vietnamese man for taking me out to dinner, my gentleman caller would certainly be offended, considering it my way of keeping him at a distance

by being overly polite.

In my culture, when you treat someone with excessive politeness; A) you truly, profoundly respect the person, B) he's a highranking official and you don't want to go to jail, or C) you are showing, in no uncertain terms, that you have no wish to make your acquaintance any more personal.

Next time you ask your beloved to per-

form some task, omit the word *please* and see where that gets you—walking to the nearest 7-11 at midnight for a Snickers bar by your lonesome is my guess.

Perchance you are blessed with the baddest boyfriend on earth and he actually tolerated your improperly-posed request. Let's continue with our scenario: He barely makes it back from the convenience store because there was a hold up so he didn't bother to pay for it and hurried five blocks back to your lovenest.

What do you do? Forget the thank you and grab the candy bar. Then you thoughtfully ask why his

head is bleeding.

He tells you it's nothing—

just a stray bullet.

My God, if you don't think to say thank you, he's gonna leave you as if the last 72 hours didn't mean a thing.

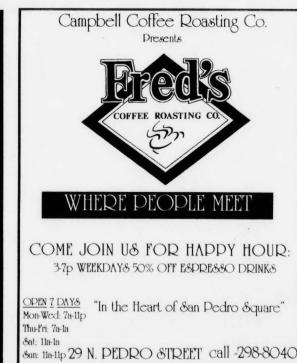
In close Vietnamese relationships, phrases like "thank you," "please," and "I'm sorry"

don't enter into daily dialogue with nearly the same frequency as they do here. One asks a favor and it is done. No need to adorn the request with pleasant-sounding formalities. Thank you's are just as unnecessary. One thanks the waiter for good service; thanking a lady friend for preparing a fine meal would be cold courtesy.

And friends and lovers don't need to say they're sorry. Sincere regret manifests itself in not repeating the mistake.

Truong Phuoc Khánh





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Cullture Clash

Views of representation divide Bound by Honor

With a bad taste still left in their mouths from last year's Universal Pictures release of American Me, local community activists, teachers and gang counselors expressed their frustration with Hollywood's latest Hispanic tale, Bound by Honor.

The film was previewed at San Jose's Pruneyard Theaters April 18 as part of a 10-city tour, and attracted several hundred people from the Hispanic community.

Bound by Honor, is a two-hour and 50minute epic that traces

the different paths taken by three Chicanos growing up in

Much like last year's preview of American Me, a brutal tale and bleak assessment of urban-America's culture of killing, Bound by Honor was met equally with bitter outrage over its depiction of violence and a desperate cry for more positive images of Hispanics on the big screen.

"We need to get away from the prison aspect," yelled one audience member, "to show Chicanos killing each other is

wrong."

Another impassioned activist shouted, "Depicting Hispanics as murderers and drug users is sending the wrong message. Your film is a travesty to our community."

In attendance were director-producer Taylor Hackford (An Officer and a Gentleman, La Bamba), screenwriter Jimmy Santiago Baca and the three stars — Benjamin Bratt, Jesse Borrego and Damian Chapa. Baca, a Chicano writer who has experienced prison life first hand, defended his

picture against the opposition. "When Taylor (Hackford) asked me to do this film, I said no at first. It was so painful to relive all those dark experiences," Baca says. "Everything you saw in the film, I lived it, experienced it and have been through it. I stand on not denying or censoring what I have experienced."

According to Hackford, certain audience members failed tries to bring across.

This film is about the love of family and Latino culture, and there are great messages throughout the movie," Hackford says. "Two of the characters don't even end up in jail, and in the end, they take the

to see the real message the film audience member. "When you showed the guy at the end not forgetting where his roots are, it was real emotional for me."

In a conversation the day after the screening, Baca described the project as a way for him to work through his past experiences - like saw-

ing away at a barrier that had been in front of his eyes for many years.

"It opened my mind, so now I have a whole new perspective, and I can go on to write more books and poems," Baca

Baca expressed his understanding of the frustration vented by some of the people but said their fanaticism was based on desperation rather than a clear-cut analysis of the

See Honor, Page 6

'I don't advocate violence, I don't create violence — I bear witness to it.'

> Jimmy Santiago Baca screenwriter, Bound by Honor

right paths in their lives."

Although there was a handful of people who opposed the film, others expressed their approval of the depiction of Latino culture.

"You really hit on the emotion of being a Chicano family and culture," says one

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John Cottrell performs as the character "Judas" in the F/X production of Jesus Christ Superstar. Cottrell has performed as an F/X player and choreographed numbers for the nightclub over the past few years.

PHOTOS AND TEXT KAREN T. SCHMIDT

Creative director Gary Walker uses a microphone to keep from losing his voice during late-night rehearsals.





Before the curtain rises

The music cuts midway through the routine, control of the theatrical productions. and the performers stop with frustration on their faces. It is 1 a.m. and the performers, also known as The F/X players, have been rehearsing for six hours. It is the last dress rehearsal before opening night, and the players fight their fatigue from a combination of work, school and rehearsals.

"This number is a mess," says F/X The Club's creative director Gary Walker in an impatient voice over the microphone. "I know you're tired but can we just concentrate and get through this number so we can go home?"

The music begins again, and the dancers try to perform with the same energy and presence as the first run-through of that evening's rehearsal. They make it all the way through the routine without any interruptions, and finally, they hear what they have been waiting for — "yes,that's better — now a heavy religious theme and paralleled the scanyou can go home," Walker says.

When F/X The Club began, the idea was to have a nightclub with theater as entertainment for the crowd. Walker was brought in as the creative director for that purpose.

"I have been doing theater all my life, and I thought it would be dreamy to do theater in a nightclub," Walker says. Walker worked with Beach Blanket Babylon in San Francisco and various projects in Los Angeles before he came to F/X. He

Walker then met a young dancer named Roger Fojas and through him he met many members of the Ariel Dance Company — the original F/X players — some of whom still remain with the club for productions.

"The shows began as little vignettes and have evolved into full productions since then," Walker says. "Nightclub crowds really don't go to the theater, but some people have told me that it inspired them to go to an outside theater production."

In the avenue of entertaining people, "most of my productions have been about an issue — I'm not going to say political, but they definitely have a message," Walker says.

During the 1992 Easter weekend, Walker creatdalous video of Madonna's "Like A Prayer."

"The main thing that must be mentioned about these shows is the people who perform in them,"

The F/X players audition for their parts and are not paid for their time. The performers are there because of their love for the theater. "They endure the long hours and me yelling at them because at all. they love to be on stage," he says.

Walker has always allowed input from the playcame back when he heard F/X was going to ers for their dance experience and ideas for the become a reality and he would have total creative productions. Kelly Somerville, Michelle Costanza, but wanted to be in an F/X show after seeing Then the curtain goes up.

Somerville puts on her theatrical make up before the performance. The makeup is applied very heavily so that it can be seen underneath the high powered theater lights.

John Cottrell and Billy Forman are choreogra- many of the performances. phers, as well as performers, in the shows. Each show often has a different choreographer for each number, which gives the overall performance because they miss the thrill.

The people who become involved with these productions come from various backgrounds. Some are trained in theater, some are trained in dance and some have no experience on the stage

Tami Plescher, an SJSU student studying opera, sang in the performance of Jesus Christ Superstar. Lisa Marusic has had no experience with the stage

The players come and go, but many perform in every show and many come back to perform

It is now minutes before curtain time and Walker comes up to the dressing room.

"Five minutes, people," he pauses, "I want to thank all of you for working so hard and pulling it together - good luck and have fun." Backstage, the dancers form an "energy circle."

"We've all worked very hard for this night, and we are here because we love to perform, so let's have some fun out there," dancer Dave Dixon says.



Michelle Costanza, left, helps Kelly Somerville put on her wig in the dressing room while Robin Carel, background, looks on. Costanza and Somerville have been choreographers and featured performers for most of the shows produced by the club since their beginning.

At right, the dancers rehearse a number at the last dress rehearsal before the performance of Jesus Christ Superstar.





From left to right: Claire Umeda, Nathan Beason (back), Robin Carel, Michelle Costanza, Lisa Marusic, and Tami Plescher watch their fellow F/X players rehearse for one of the numbers in the production of Jesus Christ Superstar.

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Advice Sound

Leave it to Primus to create an album that makes one even more confused about not feeling quite right in the head.

Continuing in their quirky quest for the extremes of oddity, Primus' latest release Pork Soda is, well, frightening. Still, despite it's subconscioustugging tone, it's worth the wait - if for no other reason than to satisfy curiosity.

Pork Soda, the follow up to the Berkeley trio's immensely successful 1991 release Sailing the Seas of Cheese, was actually never intended to be an album. Made up mostly of

practice sessions and jamming outtakes, Pork Soda just sort of came together (a telling return to a familiar format). But make no mistake - Pork Soda is easily their most intricate, advanced effort to date.

"Nature Boy" is typical Les Claypool humor about a guy who gets naked behind

closed doors and does odd things. But his murmuring voice, combined with the droning, unsettling music is almost scary.

Conversely, "The Ol' Diamondback Sturgeon," a very Residents-ish ditty, is a little

happier and shows off Tim "Herb" Alexander's Stewert-Copeland-in-a-frenzy-meets-Neil-Peart-with-soul drum

What's most admirable about Pork Soda is Primus' ability to sound as disturbed as third album-era Peter Gabriel and still make it goofy.

I'm not sure I'm laughing, though. It's not as carefree as Suck on This, doesn't groove like Frizzle Fry and isn't nearly as bubbly as Sailing the Seas of Cheese.

I want to laugh when I listen to Primus -I don't want to think.

Jim Batcho

"I'm not the sounding board for them," Baca says. "The film has wonderful messages in it. I wrote the film. I know what I did, and I'm very proud of it. I don't advocate violence, I don't create vio-lence — I bear witness to it."

The film is well-written and well-acted, but at a drawn-out two-hours and 50-minutes, it cries for more editing, especially in the prison scenes, which lack the gut-wrenching effect of American Me.

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opportunity to emulate your hero Wayne Newton?

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spontaneous stand up comedy?

Nor can the film escape the comparisons to American Me, since there are many similarities in the story line and specific events. Though Bound by Honor is not as dark as American Me, the similarities are hard not to notice, and take away from its dramatic effect.

Hackford says he did not see American Me but did notice resemblances in certain events when reading the script.

"There are similarities, just like there are in a lot of love stories and suspense stories," Hackford says. "Certainly the timing of these two films and the closeness is not exactly our desire, but we have taken the time with this film to get it

"Universal Pictures decided they were in a race with us and they rushed American Me out there. They wanted to jump the gun on us, and that's perfectly fine."

Bratt defended both films by expressing a fact he felt too many people ignore.

"The great thing about both of these films is that they put a lot of Latinos to work front of the camera and behind the camera," Bratt says.

According to Hackford, Hollywood is slowly coming around in its willingness to produce more films about Latino culture, but it's not enough. He feels that his film is being burdened with everything that everyone in the Hispanic community wants, and that it is impossible to satisfy everyone.

"There needs to be a lot more films, but this film addresses one story," Hackford says, "and I hope that there are a lot more films made in the future to tell the many different stories that need to be told good or bad."

Hector Flores

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"anything within reason. Management reserves the right to stop any act.

Bound by Honor opens Friday at the Century Berryessa, 1155 North Capitol Ave., San Jose; 408/926-7091.

HAMMANAMAMAMAMANAMANAMANA

→OK, as promised, here's the skinny on Fugazi: Friday, April 30 at Lower Sproul Plaza, UC Berkeley (noon; free); Saturday, May 1 at Pier 3, Fort Mason, San Francisco (7 p.m.; \$5); and for you fleet of gas-money, toomuch-time-onyour-hands types, the military explitives will be appearing at The Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., Sacramento, on Sunday, May 2 (9 p.m.; \$5). Sadly, Fugazi won't be able to appear at SJSU, so let your time and economic constraints be your guide and definitely catch one of these shows - Ian doesn't stoop from his high horse too often..

→It's the classic irony. A great band bathes in the creative wellspring of their own obscurity, composing, at their own pace, some of the finest local music around. Then along comes the spotlight, and the creative pool dries up. It's happened a million times, and it happened to SF's Jawbreaker. Unfun, the band's debut of a couple years back, remains one of the finest moments of post-punk rock, then or now. But the band's follow-up, Bivouac, was almost a wasted effort. Chalk it up to nerves or insecurity, but Jawbreaker is certainly capable of better. Which brings me to their live show, which, unlike the above described scenario, remains charged with the kind of intensity that Bivouac lacked. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley; Sun. May 2; 9 p.m.; \$5; 510/525-9926.

SURROGATE CARTOONS

Dashing ideas that her title has anything its acronym, Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Signe Wilkinson has been described as "worthy of Hustler Magazine...," and as having an "appalling lack of sensitivity." Wilkinson, a former Merc cartoonist, will be in Cupertino Thursday to (we hope) fan the flames of political incorrectness. A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books, 21271 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino; 7:30 p.m.; 408/255-7600.



BABY'S FIRST RAP SHEET As Foucault pointed out so long ago, one of the most pressing of childrearing dilemmas involves the question of modes of molar organization. Just what normalizing technologies should be employed? Which lines of flight should be blocked? Should it be coupled to an apparatus of capture? The mind boggles. One of the more popular techniques these days is the fingerprint. Hell, junior'll never get away with anything so long as the grid of surveillance is extended to his fingertips. The power structure will do it for FREE Saturday in honor of "law day." Yeah, like every day isn't. Plaza Park, Downtown San Jose; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 408/867-9239.

GANGSTAS ON VESPAS?

The Untouchables, the original agents of American ska, have been touring constantly for the past decade, putting a different spin on the music of their

U.K. counterparts the Specials and the Selecter. Outside of launching an entire counterculture based on parkas and creepers, the LA-based groovesters have paved the way for bands like Fishbone and the Red Hots. The Catalyst, 1011 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz; 9:30 p.m.; \$7.50; 408/423-1336.

SATUR TOAY

STARVING FOR THE ARTIST While art is said to reflect life, probably closer to the truth is art reflecting economics. San Jose Stage Company's presentation of Sam Shepard's 1976 play Curse of the Starving Class is a well-trimmed example of such Keynesian tendencies. Curse is a deconstruction of

the American dream as performed through the oppositional moments of a severely dysfunctional family (sound familiar?). The Stage, 490 South First St., San Jose; through May 23; for date and time information call

ALL THAT JAZZ DANCE

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Can't afford to go to Broadway? Check out the dance department's Jazz Dance Ensemble give their rendition of the best of broadway. Taking steps and songs from A Chorus Line, Cats, and My One and Only, the company shows some fancy footwork in tap, jazz and contemporary dance. SPX 219, SJSU; 8 p.m.; students \$5, general \$7; 408/924-5039.



AJAX TURNS TWO

What began as a closet-sized watering hole with funky couches and a lone pool table has pretty much, and I'm sure we're in agreement here, become the centerpiece of nightlife in the greater Bay Area. Alright, maybe not. But thinking big got 'em this far. And with some of the jazz, big band and improv acts they've introduced to San Jose,

including the Broun Fellinis, Groove Shop and 10-Bass T, the 'jax is bound to continue going forward - cheesy wall art or no. Celebrate the club's terrible twos Sunday with complementary drinks, gambling tables and a "lavish banquet." How...upper. Ajax Lounge, 374 South First St., San Jose; 8 p.m.; invitation only; 408/298-2529.

THEY GOT SIGNED FOR

LESS Helmet isn't the only cool band in the world, ya' know. And while seeing them anywhere but the Warfield would make their show Sunday at the Catalyst well worth catching anyway, openers The Jesus Lizard and Therapy? (sic) only make it more so. Not quite as rich as the NY quartet is Austin's Jesus Lizard — the ultimate drunk, sexually repressed, career criminal outfit.Belfast's Therapy? are a plastique-and-letter-bomb version of housecore. Add Helmet and you have an extremely confusing night on your hands. Leave your earplugs at home — you won't wanna hear after this one. The Catalyst, 1011 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz; 8 p.m.; tickets \$12; 408/423-1336.

LADIES SING THE BLUES

Some of the most profound women in blues will be showcased at the 13th Annual Fountain Blues Festival Sunday at SISU. La Vern Baker, one of the two women in the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, headlines the day-long fest. Debbie Davies, who used to be in Albert Collins' famous Icebreakers, is playing her fiery guitar licks with her own band these days. Then there's Vala Cupp, who was discovered by John Lee Hooker, and is hailed as the next Bonnie Raitt. Also on the bill is Lady Bianca, Taylor P. Collins, Nitecry, Nancy Wright and others. Veterans know what a party this is, and newcomers will learn to inhale. SJSU Tower Lawn, noon; free; 408/924-6261.

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mainstream meantime

It's the classic punk paradox. A hardcore band gets a big record deal, gets success and major media attention, and all of a sudden it's not alternative anymore. The music hasn't changed, but somehow it isn't perceived as the same band.

Henry Bogdan of Helmet knows this dichotomy well. He also knows how to deal with

"There's a lot of elitism in punk," Bogdan says. "Once the asshole down the street has your record, it's no longer cool. But we never got caught up in that. We just want to make decent songs and play well."

That's one of the things that got lost in all the hype over Helmet's \$1 millionplus deal with Interscope Records. People were talking about the huge contract and ignoring the music.

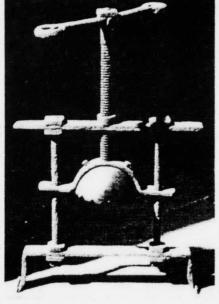
'It's a lot of money, but it's sort of a drag because it seemed like our record deal got more publicity than our music did," the soft-spoken bassist says.

But as is apparent on Helmet's most recent album Meantime, as well as on their debut, Strap It On, defining Helmet's sound is no easy task. It's too brash to be metal, too intricate and clean to be punk and too groove-based to be hardcore. In a word, it could simply be called aggressive.

"I guess we identify more with bands like Sonic Youth and some of the stuff that's going on in New York - the noise scene if you want to call it that," Bogdan says.

"But we try to bring our own slant to all that. It's kind of cool because (the music) does cross over to that metal, hardcore thing."

One affinity it does share with metal is the parallel riffing most evident on Meantime, with guitarists Page Hamilton and Peter Mengede playing the same notes in unison while drummer John Stanier plays around with the groove.



"The unity thing, that's a real metal thing," Bogdan says. "We'll sort of drop a beat or throw in a little shuffle in the rhythm, but that's more to keep ourselves entertained."

Helmet met in New York four years ago to, as Bogdan simply puts it, "play in bands and make records."

They put out a single, Annoying" Amphetamine Reptile, a Minneapolis-based indie label. But by the time Helmet released their first full-length, the label's distribution company, Rough Trade, was in the process of folding.

While Helmet was on tour in support of Strap it On, Bogdan says fans would complain about not being able to find the record.

"You put so much effort into being a band and recording and writing decent songs, and then some little whatever business thing goes wrong, and no one can get it, Bogdan says ironically.

Distribution problems led Helmet to seek out other labels.

'Relativity called us up and asked us to go to coffee, and Atco wanted to talk to us, and all of a sudden everybody wanted us," Bogdan says. "We met a lot of people and had a lot of poached salmon lunches. It was a lot of fun.'

The band narrowed its choices down and eventually decided on Interscope.

"I tried not to take it too seriously. As long as we're making songs and sort of halfway like what we're doing, it's fine?

Jim Batcho

Helmet will play the Catalyst, 1011 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz on Sunday, May 2.



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