

**WEATHER**

Patchy low clouds, burning off to sunny skies. Highs in the 60s to 80s.

**OPINION**

Children of divorce benefit from support groups.

See page 2...

forum**INSIDE**

'Coming out' day is October 11th.

See etc...

ETC.

SPARTAN DAILY

Volume 103, Number 25

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Thursday, October 6, 1994

Graduating takes time

By A.J. Nomai
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

If you aren't going to graduate in four years, you're not alone.

Students at San Jose State University, and at California State Universities, take an average of five years to get their

degree, according to statistics from SJSU's Institutional Research and the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach.

According to SJSU's Institutional Research, the majority of students enrolled as first-time freshmen are graduating in five or more years. Of the 2,363 first

time freshmen who were enrolled at SJSU in 1989, only 85 of those students (3.6 percent) graduated in four years.

In fact, of the 1,829 first-time freshmen in 1983, 782 had graduated after eight years. Of that same group, 4.1 percent graduated in four years

and 43 percent in five years.

In a March issue of "Focus," a newsletter published at the Chancellor's Office, the division of analytic studies in Long Beach said a first-year freshman at CSU is taking 4.9 years

See **Graduation**, page 8

Advocacy group supports students

By Michelle Maitre
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

San Jose State University students have a friend in the California State University Chancellor's Office—the California State Student Association.

The CSSA is a professional lobbying group that represents students' interests to the board of trustees, chancellor's office and state legislature.

"Without the CSSA, (students) aren't going to have anyone else who wants to encourage (them)," said Denelle Fedor, SJSU's director of California State Affairs and elected student representative on the CSSA.

Fedor is one of 20 student representatives who comprise the CSSA. Representatives, one from each CSU campus, are either elected by student vote, like Fedor, or are appointed by individual student body presidents.

Representatives meet monthly to discuss issues facing the CSU system's 340,000 students. The representatives are then responsible for disseminating that information to the students.

"The board of trustees and people in higher positions of power don't want the students to have power," Fedor said. "The CSSA gives knowledge to students so that when they go

See **Lobbying**, page 8

Wilson vetoes pro-student bills

The CSSA lobbied for the passage of four "student friendly" bills in Sacramento this year:

■ Senate Bill 1931 would create a statewide student government unit that would represent student perspectives and concerns to state-wide officials.

■ Assembly Bill 2113 would remove the chancellor from the CSU Board of Trustees and replace the chancellor's seat with another student.

■ Assembly Bill 2714 would prohibit raises for CSU executive officers if student fees were raised above 10 percent in any given year.

■ Assembly Bill 3616 would require the CSU and California community colleges to distribute voter registration forms through class schedules, to furnish absentee ballot applications and provide for the establishment of polling places on campuses.

Gov. Wilson vetoed all four bills, said Denelle Fedor, SJSU's director of California State Affairs.

Amy Tan visits local bookstore

Alumna promotes new book

By Michelle Maitre
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

Almost 200 people mobbed Willow Glen's Hickleebee's Children's Books Wednesday for a book signing by best-selling author Amy Tan.

Tan, author of "The Joy Luck Club" and an SJSU alumna, was at the bookstore signing copies of her latest children's book, "The Chinese Siamese Cat."

"This is a crowd that's typical for a very popular author," Hickleebee's co-owner Valerie Lewis said of the people crammed shoulder to shoulder in the store on Lincoln Avenue.

The bookstore assigned numbers to each patron to expedite the signing process. By 5 p.m., 131 numbers had been assigned and the bookstore was not giving out more for fear that Tan, who would sign up to three books per person, would not have time to sign everyone's books.

"I'm disappointed and angry," said SJSU liberal studies senior Arlette Munoz, who showed up to get her copies of "The Joy Luck Club" and "The Kitchen God's Wife" signed. "It just seems like it's disorganized. I think they expected less people."

Most people did not seem to mind braving the crowds for Tan's autograph, however.

"Our only regret is not bringing a camera," said Esther Gamberutti. Gamberutti, who has not read any of Tan's bestsellers but saw the movie "The Joy Luck Club," said she read about Tan's visit in the newspaper and decided to buy the book and get it signed for granddaughter Jordan Carmack.

When asked if she was excited about getting her book signed, 5-year old Jordan said, "Uh-huh, because it's an interesting book."

Jordan said her favorite part of the book was when the kitten hero of the book "jumped into a pot of Chinese ink and rubs his nose on the paper because the king makes bad rules and makes the rules into little kinds of happiness."

Other Tan fans at the signing were not as coherent about "The Chinese Siamese Cat."

"I've never read this," said Maria Lacorte, a sophomore political science major at Santa Clara University. "I'm here because I like Amy Tan."

"My wife read her (Tan's) last couple of

See **Signing**, page 3



LEFT: Amy Tan made an appearance at Hickleebee's bookstore in Willow Glen Tuesday afternoon to promote her latest children's book "The Chinese Siamese Cat."

BELOW: More than 200 people came to get their books autographed, including many parents and a fifth grade class from Stipe Elementary.



FRANK CAVA—SPARTAN DAILY

UPD tickets bicyclists

First-time warning issued to offenders

By Cindy Trotter
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

Riding your bike on campus may be costly to cyclists.

Since 1990, San Jose State University has restricted bicycles, skateboards, roller skates and similar transportation devices on campus.

Many students are unaware of the law and others are continuing to break the rules, but according to University Police this is about to change.

"Technically you can't ride your bike anywhere on campus and there are signs that say that," UPD officer Brad Johnson said.

"I don't want a ticket, but it would be more convenient if there was a bike lane for people

to use so they could get from one building to the next," said occupational therapy major Thomas Diep.

Citations will be issued to bikers who continue to break the rules. The fine will cost violators \$15 for each citation and if cyclists continue to break the campus rules there are several other ways the UPD will handle them.

"One of the provisions in the law is that if the officer has a reasonable likelihood or cause to believe that the offense is likely to continue then they (individual) may be arrested," Lt. Bruce Lowe said.

Officers now have the discretion to either issue warnings or

See **Fines**, page 8

Contemporary poet Carolyn Forche to speak

By Lana M. Jang
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

Carolyn Forche, award-winning poet, journalist and professor is returning to San Jose State University to read from her new book-length poem, "The Angel of History" today at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Concert Hall.

As part of the Poets in Residence Series, Forche will be circulating with in the SJSU Community, starting with the free readings from her poem today and Friday's informal seminar at 12:30 p.m. in Washington Square Hall room 109.

"Carolyn Forche is one of the nation's most important contemporary poets. Her new work addresses the moral disasters of the 20th century; war, genocide, the Holocaust and the atomic bomb," said Adam Soldofsky, English professor and director of the Center for Literary Arts.

'Carolyn Forche is one of the most important contemporary poets. Her new work addresses the moral disasters of the 20th century.'

Adam Soldofsky
SJSU English professor

Soldofsky, who is also a close friend of Forche, invited her back for the third time to SJSU for the Poets in Residence Series.

Forche won the 1975 Yale Series of Younger Poets Award for her first collection of poems, "Gathering of the Tribes."

In 1977, Forche traveled to El Salvador where she was a freelance

writer and became a human rights activist.

Her experiences there led to "The Country Between Us," a second collection of poetry chosen as the Lamont Selection of the Academy of American Poets.

She has traveled all over the world, residing in Paris, Beirut and South Africa. She has taught at universities such as Columbia University, Vassar College, the University of Arkansas and is a permanent member of the writing faculty at George Mason University in Virginia. She is also a member of the Commission on U.S.-Central American Relations.

"The Poets in Residence Series creates an opportunity for everyone to meet professionals with established careers who are respected all over the country," Soldofsky said.

See **Poet**, page 3

A step in the right direction



JEREMY HOGAN — SPARTAN DAILY

Jessica Schatz, left, and Amy Chiang rehearse at the front of a line of dancers rehearsing "Choral Stance" choreographed by Kristin O'Shee.

Editorial

Campaign 'dirt' needs flushing

Political campaigns have always been vicious, but in the late 20th century, more and more have turned to attacking their opponents instead of promoting their position on issues.

If the time and energy used to degrade an opponent was used instead to promote a candidate's beliefs, the country would be in a better political state today.

Today, candidates use their platforms mainly as battle grounds, digging up the latest dirt on their opponent instead of using them as opportunities to inform the voting public of where they stand on important issues.

Since the founding of our country, some of the earliest campaigns have relied heavily on creating negative images of opponents to win elections.

In the campaign of 1800, Alexander Hamilton publicly bashed John Adams by stating that Adams had "great and intrinsic defects in his character which unfit him for the

office of Chief Magistrate."

The presidential campaign of 1884 between James G. Blaine and Grover Cleveland was reportedly one of the vilest ever waged.

Democrats charged Blaine with public corruption while Republicans accused Cleveland of having an illicit affair.

Today, political campaigns have become much worse.

In addition to personal attacks, voters must deal with the politicians' deliberate attempts at avoiding issues. Candidates continually turn elections into little more than smear campaigns.

From the 1988 Bush and Dukakis campaigns where Bush used ads implying Dukakis was soft on crime, to the 1992 Bush, Clinton and Perot campaigns to today's gubernatorial campaign of Kathleen Brown and Gov. Pete Wilson, voters are being forced to sift through negative, 30-second television ads and public name-calling in search of the real issues at stake.

"If it's Brown, flush it down" is the popular Republican phrase used by many to degrade Brown and promote Wilson.

Democrats, on the other hand, use the phrase "No Repete" to promote Brown's campaign.

It's difficult to imagine what happened to the idea of working to promote your candidate and their ideas, instead of cheering for the downfall of the opponent.

Political campaigns continue to deprive the public of vital, statistical information which they, as voters, need to make informed judgments before an election.

There seems to be no limit to the length candidates will go to secure their election, especially when the public doesn't even question their integrity.

If we are to ever elect another great political figure, political candidates must change. And they must start with changing their campaign strategies.

Writer's Forum

Children of divorce adjust with support



Cindy Trotter
staff reporter

About 7 years ago, my parents separated and divorced, which took a big toll on my life. I felt as though my whole life was falling apart.

My parents were married for 20 years, and I really believed we were the "all American" family.

As I adjusted to life without my parents together, I tried to continue with my everyday routine — going to school, working, going out with my friends and spending time with my family.

It was hard but I had to be strong for my parents, my sister and for myself. I also felt as though I had to protect my little sister from the separation.

I kept praying and hoping that my parents would eventually work things out and we would become a family again. But as days turned into months, I knew there wasn't a chance.

I never let my parents, family members or friends know how I felt about the separation or the divorce. I just went about my own business, all the time crying and beating myself up inside because I really felt I wanted to help.

I thought it was my fault that I couldn't help. As the months went on, my pain started to disappear but anger settled in.

It was actually hate for my parents and what they were doing to me, to us and our family. I didn't even want to talk to my parents or have anything to do with them.

I began to isolate myself from them, avoid their phone calls, their visits and even family events.

There was even a point in my life that I never wanted to get married or have children, questioning whether or not I could get married after what happened in my life.

I was too afraid of loving someone and one day having it thrown away with those four little words: I want a divorce.

I decided to get help. I joined a support group in my church that helped children of divorce.

Jubilee's support group helped me deal with my anger, hatred and how I felt about marriage as a whole.

It was a long process of healing, growing up and learning how to accept my parents divorce. We supported each other in the group and talked about the anger we felt.

We got into groups of about three to four people to talk and discuss the problems involved with our parents' relationship and why it was their problem and not ours.

I learned to forgive my parents and get on with my life. I know now that I couldn't help my parents; it was their problem. If they were going to work it out and get back together then it was their choice, not mine.

There are thousands of children with divorced parents, and if you are one of them, don't be ashamed to join a group at your local church or other local organizations in the area.

You'll feel better in the long run and so will the ones you love.

I was too afraid of loving someone...and having it thrown away with four little words.

Opinion page policies

The Spartan Daily provides a daily forum to promote a "marketplace of ideas." Contributions to the page are encouraged from students, staff, faculty and others who are interested in the university at large.

Any letter or column for the Opinion page must be in the Letters to the Editor's box in the Spartan Daily newsroom, Dwight Bentel Hall 209.

Articles may also be mailed to the Opinion Editor, the Spartan Daily, School of

Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192. Fax articles to (408) 924-3237.

Articles and letters MUST contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

Contributions must be typed or submitted on a 3.5-inch disk using Microsoft Word on the Macintosh. Always bring a printout of your submission.

Submissions become the property of the Spartan Daily

and will be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length.

Categories available to non-Daily staff members are:

■ Campus Viewpoint: 300 to 500 word essays on current campus, political or personal issues. Submissions should be well researched.

■ Letters to the Editor: Up to 200 words responding to a certain issue or point of view. If they are longer, they may be edited for length from the bottom up.



PRIMARY COLORS

Meandering Missive

An open letter to those in love



Shari Kaplan
columnist

This is an "open letter." Although I wrote it with a particular man in mind, as long as you're human and you have the need to be loved, it will probably apply to you.

It doesn't matter whether you're young or old, straight or gay, or how many relationships you've gained or lost over the years.

If you, the reader, see yourself anywhere in my letter, perhaps you can do something to lessen the pain you may be experiencing or inadvertently causing for others.

Having gone through much of this myself, I've decided to do something constructive rather than my usual: walking around with my heart on my sleeve, writing pensive poetry and listening to sad songs.

For once, I am going to tell it like it is, which I have wanted to do for a long time. The open letter format, though seemingly very personal through its use of personal pronouns such as "me" and "you," is the most effective way I can relate these feelings.

Dear <insert name here>.

If you are not interested in me anymore, just say the word and you will never hear from me again. I do know how to leave people alone, and I will respect your choice.

If, on the other hand, you'd like a relationship in the future but it's just not viable at the moment, let me know that too. I understand what it's like to be bombarded by expectations from work, school and family. I also have a lot of patience when there's something to wait for.

What frustrates me, however, is trying to solve a mystery when there are no clues. It's very confusing if you simply drop off the face of the earth.

If I said or did anything to hurt you, or even to annoy you, let me know. Everyone learns from their mistakes, and I know very well that I make plenty! But I'm doomed to repeat the same mistakes over and over again unless I know what's wrong.

If I somehow scared you away with my affection, or if you scared yourself at the thought of the relationship blossoming between us, share your fears and you will discover the same ones haunt me as well.

Sometimes the pain of the past and the uncertainty of the future are so overwhelming that I wonder if romance is still possible. I am no expert at relationships (who really is?), but I know that if nothing else, communication is a good start.

Do not hide behind your answering machine; I will not do so with mine. They're convenient social refuges, yes, but one-sided conversations are rarely conducive to the sharing of emotions.

If you cannot bring yourself to actually speak with me, there's always the mailbox. I've mulled over both of these options myself but have yet to decide which is the less intimidating.

What I have decided is that this stalemate can go on no longer. I need a sense of closure, or perhaps renewal, as the case may be. If you will not take the first step, I will.

When I do, all I ask is that we talk, even if it's only to say "goodbye," though I hope it might be to say "hello."

Shari Kaplan is a Daily columnist. Her column appears every other Thursday.

Letter to the Editor

Helmet laws precede Orwellian society

Dear Editor:

It is a well known fact that to survive cold weather a warm coat must be worn. Without one the consequences include shivering, hypothermia, frostbite and eventual death.

Because wearing a coat is so crucial to survival in cold climates, following Tim Schwalbach's thinking in the article "Bike helmets serve as role model gear" (Spartan Daily, October 4), there would be a government-passed law mandating the use of coats.

The law would read something like this: "When the temperature dips below 32 degrees Fahrenheit and remains above minus 2 degrees Fahrenheit, a D.O.C. (Department of Coats) class three coat must be worn.

When the temp goes below minus 2 degrees Fahrenheit, a D.O.C. class four coat must be worn."

The last thing in the world this state needs is another frivolous law such as the recently passed bicycle helmet law.

I agree that wearing a helmet is a safe, wise thing to do, and it's great as a role model for children. However, not everybody wants to be safe, wise or a role model.

Most people are capable of self-induced thought, and consequently are capable of deciding if the risk factor of going sans helmet is worth the price.

With .0004 percent of adult bicycle riders dying annually due to head injuries, the odds are that you're more likely to be injured driving to school than

riding your bike.

So what ever happened to individual thought? As Tim would have you believe, we have turned into a nation of eggheads incapable of thought.

Do we really need overpaid, corrupt politicians to enact more laws, or is this the very basis over which the Civil War was fought?

With each new law, another freedom is removed.

With each new law, another life given for our freedom was given in vain.

With each new law we approach a society much like the one in George Orwell's horror novel "1984."

Is that what you want, Tim?

Eric S. Peterson
Aviation

News Room 924-3280

SPARTAN DAILY

Advertising 924-3270

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Sparta Guide

SJSU'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

today

AIESEC
World Forum: "Pacific Rim Marketplace." Call 924-3453 or 295-1355.

CAL MECA Project
Meeting, 6pm, Chicano Research Center, WLC. Call Patty, 279-6917.

Career Planning & Placement
Resume Critique, 2:30-4pm, SU Costanoan Room and Foreign Servicer Exam Applications available in BC 13 and On-Campus Interview Orientation, 12:30 pm, ENG 189. Call 924-6033.

Chicano Library Resource Center
"Do Something Meaningful-Teach," 4-5pm, WLN 307. Call Jeff, 924-2707 or 924-2815.

Child Development Club
Meeting, 11:30am-12:30pm, SH 335 and 3-4pm, SH 311. Call Janeth, 298-7521.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Student Alliance
Open Mike, Afternoon of the Arts, 2pm, SU Guadalupe Room. Call Hyde, 287-8351.

The Listening Hour
SJSU Concert Choir: Renaissance to Contemporary Music, 12:30-1:15pm, MUS Concert Hall. Call 924-4631.

Meteorology Department
Seminar: Snowpack-Enhancement, Research in the Sierra Nevada, Noon, DH 615. Call 924-5200.

Pre Dental Student Association
Meeting, 1:30-2:30pm, DH 344. Call Phuong, 227-2600.

Prevention Education Program (PEP)
SODAAA Meeting, 5pm, ADM 269. Call Kenneth, 924-5945.

Sigma Gamma Rho
Informational, 7pm, SU Music Listening Room. Call 294-2206.

SJSU Theatre Arts
New Visions Playhouse, 1pm, University Theatre. Call 924-4555.

friday

Alcoholics Anonymous
12 x 12 Study Meeting, Noon, ADM 269. Call Marlene, (415) 961-7380.

American Conference for Irish Studies
Western Regional Conference, 5:30pm, WSH 105 & 207. Call James, 924-5300.

Chinese Campus Fellowship
Picnic, 2-2:30pm, JWH. Call Joe, 286-9529.

Chinese Student Union
The Original Danza, 9am-2pm, San Francisco Fashion Center. Call Cham Lo, 924-8936.

Muslim Student Association
Juma-Prayer, 1-1:30pm, HGH 221. Call Nedeem, 985-7715.

M.E.Ch.A.
General Body Meeting, 2pm, Chicano Library Resource Center in WLS. Call Ernesto, 258-9385.

Radion Aztlan
Chicano Broadcast, 7pm-Midnight, 90.7 FM, KSIS.

Department of Recreation & Leisure Studies
Meet the "Heavenly" Bodies-Record Release Reception, 1:45-2:45pm, Art Quad. Call Tere, 993-1534.

SJSU Ice Hockey
SJSU vs. UOP, 8pm, Ice Centre of San Jose (10th & Alma). Call Brent, 924-8928.

SJSU Fencing Club
Meeting & Practice, 5:30-8pm, SPX 089. Call John, 280-6019.

San Jose State Folk Dance Club
International Folk Dance Class, 8-9pm, SPX 089. Call Mildred, 293-1302 or Ed, 287-6369.

SJSU Theatre Arts
New Visions Playhouse, 1pm, University Theatre. Call 924-4555.

Congress abandons Superfund reform

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration and congressional leaders gave up Wednesday trying to rewrite the much-troubled Superfund toxic waste law this year.

Superfund reform had been the top priority of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner, who had worked for months to garner support for the legislation from various industry, insurance and environmental groups.

The decision to abandon the bill came at a meeting between key House sponsors and various interest groups that had made up the fragile coalition supporting the bill as it advanced through various committees.

Rep. Al Swift, D-Wash., told the group that it was no longer practical to push for a floor vote because Republicans were prepared to press for a string of amendments that would either kill the bill or slow it so work on it could not be completed before Congress adjourns at the end of the week.

President Clinton apparently was taken by surprise by the development. At an afternoon news conference, he called the Superfund bill "an important piece of legislation. I can't imagine why it shouldn't pass."

Medfly infestation prompts calls for aerial spraying

Much of Ventura County has been placed under quarantine

CAMARILLO (AP) — A Mediterranean fruit fly infestation forced state agriculture officials Wednesday to quarantine 86 square miles of Ventura County where citrus and avocados are commercially grown.

Fifty-three wild Medflies, two of them pregnant females, have been found in the county's first-ever Medfly discovery. Ten more male flies were discovered Tuesday.

The quarantine covers about 40,000 acres of agricultural land, said Carla Agar of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in Sacramento.

Growers statewide urged the governor to immediately begin aerial spraying of the pesticide malathion to halt the infestation, which could be disastrous in a county where produce sales top \$848 million annually.

Alternatives include ground spraying and the release of sterile flies to disrupt the reproductive cycle, but officials said sterile flies are in short supply because of Medfly battles being waged in other areas.

Gov. Pete Wilson was expected to decide on a treatment strategy by the end of the week, Agar said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we can eradicate them," county Agricultural Commissioner Earl McPhail said earlier.

Sheriff Larry Carpenter declared the infestation a county emergency on Tuesday and the county Board of Supervisors will formally ratify that declaration at their next meeting Tuesday.

A state of emergency declaration by the governor, followed by a similar declaration by President Clinton, would clear the way for federal aid.

Court rules Iranian woman may be eligible for asylum

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A woman who was seized at gunpoint in her native Iran for having a few strands of hair outside her veil is entitled to have her political asylum case reopened, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday.

Saideh Fisher was also arrested in a separate incident in 1983 for attending a party in which a man wore a bathing suit. A U.S. immigration board ruled that those incidents were too trivial to amount to political or religious persecution, but the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the board to reconsider the case.

The board disregarded "significant evidence that severe sanctions can result from non-compliance with the Iranian ultraconservative laws," the court said in a 3-0 ruling.

The court quoted a 1987 U.S. State Department report on Iran that said women "have been harassed, detained or physically attacked if they appear in public in clothing which official or self-appointed guardians of public morality deemed insufficiently modest."

The court also cited a 1988 law review article by a law student, which said women who refuse to wear the veil in Iran are subject to a minimum penalty of 74 lashes, and to a newspaper article this January that referred to 3 million armed young Iranians roaming the streets looking for women who were not wearing traditional clothing.

Fisher may be able to prove that she would likely be physically abused or imprisoned if

returned to Iran, either by inadvertently violating the dress code or by being targeted for enforcement, the judges said. They said she also may be able to prove that she would face religious persecution by being punished for refusing to follow the regime's version of Islam.

Fisher now lives and works in the San Francisco Bay area with her son, who was 11 when they left Iran in February 1984, said her lawyer, Walter Pineda.

While the ruling helps her case, he said he was hoping for a more far-reaching decision that would declare the right to asylum for a woman who would face official sex discrimination in her native country. The court said it could not decide that issue because Fisher had not presented it to the immigration board.

Sparta Guide is free!!! and available to students, faculty & staff associations. Deadline is 5pm two days before publication. Forms available at DBH 209. Entries may be edited to allow for space restrictions.

SYLVESTER STALLONE
SHARON STONE

THE GOVERNMENT TAUGHT HIM TO KILL. NOW, HE'S USING HIS SKILLS TO HELP ONE WOMAN SEEK REVENGE AGAINST THE MIAMI UNDERWORLD.

THE SPECIALIST

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS
A JERRY WEINTRAUB PRODUCTION A FILM BY LUIS LLOSA SYLVESTER STALLONE SHARON STONE
JAMES WOODS "THE SPECIALIST" WITH ROD STEIGER AND ERIC ROBERTS
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JEFFREY L. KIMBALL, A.S.C. MUSIC BY JOHN BARRY PRODUCED BY R. J. LOUIS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVE BARRON & JEFF MOST AND CHUCK BINDER WRITTEN BY ALEXANDRA SEROS
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OPENS OCTOBER 7TH EVERYWHERE

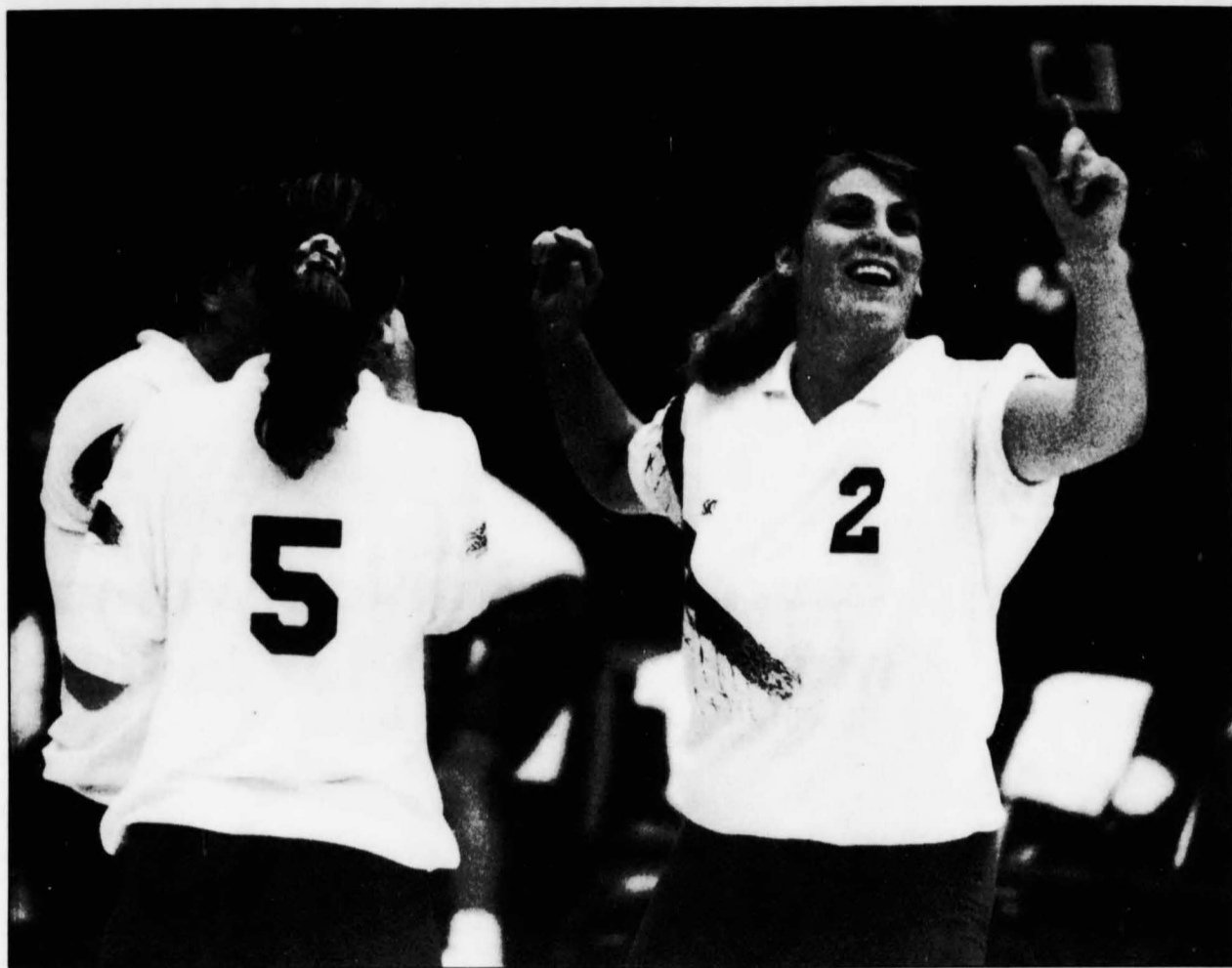
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PHOTOS BY FRANK CAVA—SPARTAN DAILY

Paola Paz-Soldan is ranked fifth in kills per game in the nation. Paz-Soldan transferred from Fresno State to attend SJSU because of the volleyball program. When she is not on the court as an outside hitter, she likes substitute teaching here and in Peru during the summer.

Paz-Soldan playing power

By Lana M. Jang
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

On the volleyball court, a spectator can see Paola Paz-Soldan's most intriguing traits. Paz-Soldan, the dominant SJSU junior volleyball outside hitter, is determined, outspoken, and ready for challenge.

Off the court, she becomes softer, easier to laugh, sympathetic and fun to be with. Her traits compliment each other and provide a pleasant picture of her on and off the court.

"There is so much of Paola's personality in the way she plays," said good friend, Shelley Goldman.

Goldman met Paz-Soldan's sister, Valerie, at Stanford University more than two years ago. When Valerie had back surgery one summer, Paz-Soldan traveled from Peru to stay with Goldman's family and her sister.

Goldman and her family saw Paz-Soldan play for the first time September 23 against Utah State University.

"She has a certain communion with the volleyball flying through the air," said Ray McDermott, a professor at Stanford and Goldman's husband. "When she jumped to make a kill, there was a silent anticipation from the crowd."

"I don't pay attention to the numbers, but they help," said Paz-Soldan, who is ranked fifth in kills per game in the country.

Paz-Soldan, a native Peruvian, has a wide range of international experience in volleyball, traveling to many different world championships, including the 1990 Goodwill Games. She was also named one of the six best junior volleyball players in

the world in 1989.

"With all of her international experience, she is not at all vain," said Craig Choate, SJSU head volleyball coach.

She was on the Peruvian National Team from 1987 to 1990, traveling through Europe, Asia and Latin America most of her adolescent life.

"I didn't have a social life. We couldn't have boyfriends or dates or go to any dances. We could never miss practice. There was only enough room for school and volleyball," Paz-Soldan said.

Even school was questionable when the team went on the road. Paz-Soldan said she had to sneak to study her school books.

She left the national team in 1990 to start her college education at Fresno State University. Paz-Soldan joined the volleyball team and was unhappy with the program at Fresno State University.

"The coach and the program seemed very cold. I didn't even like to play volleyball most of the time," said Paz-Soldan.

Paz-Soldan said she is a better player when she has a special and healthy relationship with her coaches.

She developed a comfortable relationship with her Peruvian National Team Coach, Carlos Aparicio. He became her mentor, inspiration and friend.

"After nine years of coaching, we have become good friends," said Paz-Soldan. "He called me his masterpiece, which was the biggest praise in my life."

Paz-Soldan transferred after two years at Fresno State to attend SJSU because the coaching staff seemed to respect their players.

After John Corbelli left for other opportunities and Choate stepped in as head

coach, Paz-Soldan was not disappointed.

Paz-Soldan is able to go to Choate for not just volleyball problems but also advice.

"Craig asks, 'how I am doing' for my benefit and not his," she said.

"Paola doesn't have a mean bone in her body. She is the easiest person to get along with," Choate said.

She has recently been named American Volleyball Coaches Association Division I Player of the Week and Big West Conference Player of the Week after her performance against New Mexico State in which she had 26 kills and 28 more kills in the game against Nevada.

Paz-Soldan, a child development major who transferred from Fresno State to SJSU because of the volleyball program, was unaware of the respected child development program offered at SJSU.

"This is my fourth year in college. Things are getting harder and my classes are concentrating more on my major," Paz-Soldan said.

Paz-Soldan has a busy schedule carrying 15 units this semester and most weekends are spent traveling to volleyball games, but she believes she has it under control.

She has experience with children in Peru where she substitute teaches during the summer. She first substituted for her mother, a U.S. native and a respected teacher in an American school in Peru. Paz-Soldan continues to substitute when she is able to here and in Peru.

She one day would like to start her own nursery with her mother in Peru, but her biggest dream is to raise a family.

Although she grew up playing with the boys and being her father's helper, ideally she hopes she will be able to stay home and raise her own family.

Paz-Soldan has double citizenship in the United States and Peru but grew up in Peru and loves her country.

"I will always feel Peru is my country," Paz-Soldan said.

Paz-Soldan, the third of four children, was born December 31, 1971 in Lima, Peru. Her father, a German-born Peruvian, is a respected dentist and past Pan-American games rower.

Paz-Soldan tried numerous sports, growing up in an athletic family; basketball, judo, swimming, gymnastics, fencing, and track and field.

"I have that natural strength that made most sports easy. I also got bored with just one sport," Paz-Soldan said.

She finally found the one sport she loved, volleyball, during her eighth grade year at a volleyball summer camp. Six months later she was asked to the junior Peruvian National Team.

"I love volleyball and that is why I play," Paz-Soldan said.

SJSU men's golf team places ninth in tourney

Spartan Daily Staff Report

Seniors Steve Woods and Justin Wright each shot even par 71's as the San Jose State University men's golf team competed at the Roberston Homes Invitational Tournament in Stockton.

The Spartans finished with a team score of 886 strokes for 54 holes on the par 71, 6426-yard Stockton Country Club course. Pepperdine led from start to finish posting an 855 score, four shots better than second-place California's 859 total.

"We had a real good last round under cool, windy and rainy conditions. On a positive note, we got better with every

round. We've got to be mentally and physically ready the first 18 holes instead of playing catch up the rest of the way," said SJSU Coach Mike Ketcham.

"Steve Woods had a good tournament finishing fifth and Justin Wright is coming into his own. (Wright's) confidence is really high now."

Woods, the Spartans' number-one golfer, finished in a two-way tie for fifth place with a two under par 214. Wright, who shot his second consecutive round of even par 71, finished tied for 23rd at 219.

Kevin Marsh of Pepperdine was the medalist with a five under par 209 after recording a final round score of 69.

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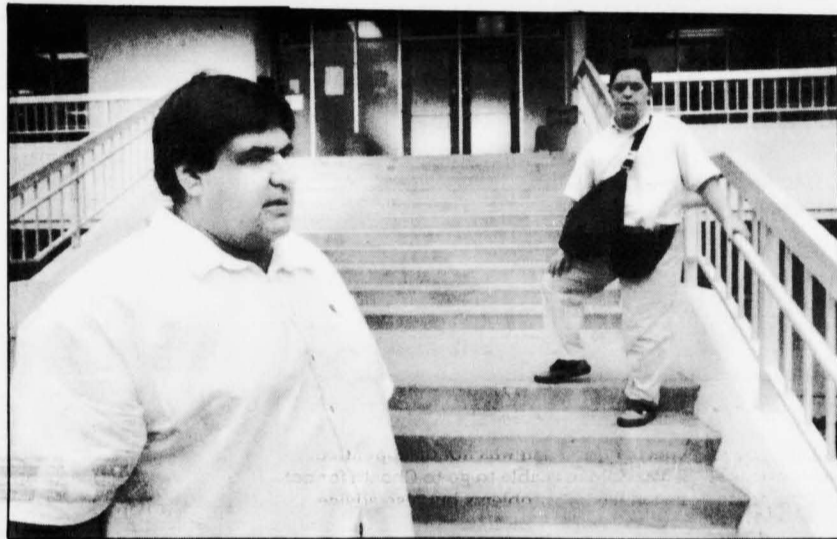


Paz-Soldan spends time with roommate Suzette Cevasco as she prepares a bowl of Spaghetti-O's. Paz-Soldan, a child development major, shares a house with six other roommates.



ABOVE: Gateway student Larry Harper, left, helps Richard Aquino place chunks of silicone rocks into a plastic box, which will be sold at The Tech Museum of Innovation in downtown San Jose.

RIGHT: Ray Ortiz, left, teacher at the SJSU Gateway Project, and a project student leave Joe West Hall to work out at the Event Center workout gym.



Overcoming SOCIAL OBSTACLES

The three year Gateway Program helps the developmentally-delayed

By Chris McCrellis-Mitchell
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

Photos by Frank Cava
Spartan Daily Staff Photographer

Like many San Jose State University students, teacher Ray Ortiz faces many challenges everyday. For Ortiz, however, they aren't his own challenges, but those of his students.

On one particular day, Ortiz's first challenge presents itself early.

While most of his 13 students are waiting patiently in the "Burger King" room, a cafeteria-like room tucked in the back of the first floor of Joe West Hall, one girl comes in crying. It ends up she has forgotten her lunch. With gentle reassurance, Ortiz tells her he will take care of it.

End of the tears, end of the problem.

The girl, who suffers from Prader-Willi Syndrome, which hampers a persons ability to control their emotions, has come a long way.

"Before, something like that would ruin her whole day, but now she has better control," says Ray Ortiz a program teacher for the Gateway Project here at SJSU.

The Gateway Project is designed

to give developmentally-delayed students a post-secondary education. The Project was partially created by SJSU professor Susan Meyers with cooperation of Santa Clara County Office of Education and the San Andreas Regional Center. Through an emphasis on vocational and community training, Gateway hopes to give its students skills in personal health, social interaction and job training.

The students, ages 18-22, are all labeled developmentally delayed although each student has a different medical diagnosis. The Gateway Project has limited access to a speech therapist, adaptive physical educator, and a vision therapist. By the time they've been through the program, usually three years, Ortiz and gateway hope the students will have shown some improvement.

Daily activities the average SJSU student takes for granted are learning experiences for these students. Walking to the Student Union, going to work, riding the bus and working out in a health club present different obstacles for them to overcome.

See Gateway, page 6

You are invited to a Once-In-A-Decade Event!!!

Please attend an accreditation meeting when SJSU is visited next week by the WASC Accreditation Team

WASC Accreditation Team Visit					Wednesday, October 12				
October 11-13, 1994									
	Support Services/ Campus Climate	Educational Quality	Mission/Planning/ Resources	Faculty Issues					
Tuesday, October 11									
8:00 am	Team reviews documents in team room				8:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am
9:00 am	VPSA, Dean Batt, Admin. 242; VPA, Don Kassing, WLS 268	BOGS CCB 222	Assoc. VP for Facilities-Mo Qayoumi CY 201	Academic Senate Chair, Kay Schwartz; Policy Committee Chairs Admin. 256A	9:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am
10:00 am	CP&P Director-Cheryl Alliman, BC13; Director, Public Safety, Ric Abeyta, Bruce Lowe, GG3	Mina Garman, Kay Schwartz, Mara Southern, Lee Dorosz, Assessment CCB 222	Barbara Green-Controller; WC 340 Pres.-Chair; TH 209 VPA Don Kassing WLS 268		10:00 am	11:00 am	11:00 am	11:00 am	11:00 am
11:00 am	Library Director-Jim Schmidt & Betty Benson, Director T.E.N.; CL 509 EEOP/Student Development Services Director-Lewis Bundy, WC206	Assoc. VP for Faculty Affairs, Lela Llorens; Associate Dean, Veril Phillips; Admin. 143 Multi-Cultural Component in Curriculum-Ken Peter, Randall Jimenez, Chris Joachim CCB 222	Deans Admin. 269	Department Chairs DH 249	11:00 am	1:30 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm	1:30 pm
1:30 pm	Mike Ego-Chair, Human Relations Board MH 431	AVP Maynard Robinson Admin. 174	Rose Lee-Director of Financial Planning and Analysis; Edd Burton-Associate Dean, Educational Planning and Resources Admin. 167	Assoc. VP for Faculty Affairs-Lela Llorens; Associate Dean, Veril Phillips Admin. 143	1:30 pm	2:30 pm	2:30 pm	2:30 pm	2:30 pm
2:30 pm	Student Club Leaders (VPSA) Admin. 167	Assoc. VP for Grad. Studies-Serena Stanford; WLN 125 Jim Schmidt-Library Director CL 509	John Morlan, Mary-Jo Gorney-Luceno, Mariana Island Program; HB 412 Stuart Sutton-Director, Library & Information Science Program, WLN 607	AVP Maynard Robinson Admin. 174	2:30 pm	3:30 pm	3:30 pm	3:30 pm	3:30 pm
3:30 pm	Open Meeting - Students Engineering Auditorium 189		AVP Maynard Robinson Admin. 174	Univ. RTP Comm. Members, Adm., 167	3:30 pm	4:30 pm	4:30 pm	4:30 pm	4:30 pm
4:30 pm	Open Meeting - Staff Engineering Auditorium 189		Open Meeting - Staff Engineering Auditorium 189		4:30 pm	Minority Student Leaders Admin. 167			4:30 pm
					Thursday, October 13				
					9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am	9:00 am
					9:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am	10:00 am
					10:00 am	Afternoon	Afternoon	Afternoon	Afternoon

To schedule a different time to meet with the team, call Professor Nancie Fimbel at 924-3421

Gateway

from page 5

"The focus right now is to get them involved in a natural setting both in the community, school and work," says Ortiz.

Everyday at nine a.m., Ortiz, his students and his two fellow teachers, Clel Reed and Patricia Hall meet at the SJSU Gateway site in the pool table area of Joe West Hall's first floor. Here, Ortiz splits his students into three groups. These groups will then work on a certain skill with their assigned teacher.

For instance, on this day, one group is going to the Rec Center, one is going to the Student Union, and one is staying to work on a volunteer project.

At the Rec Center, the one group of students, two male, two female, meet up with their physical education teacher Max Calehuff, and three students of SJSU's beginning adaptive human performance class, HuP 156.

Each Gateway student is then individually matched up and taken to the weight room. There they are taken through a series of exercise machines where they must meet goals set by Calehuff or the SJSU students. It also gives Ray Ortiz a chance to take a back seat and observe.

"I love to see something like a student prompting one of the kids (Gateway) to do things they don't want to do," Ortiz said. For instance, the girl who cried earlier, overcame her dislike of the exercise bike, and actually smiled while riding it.

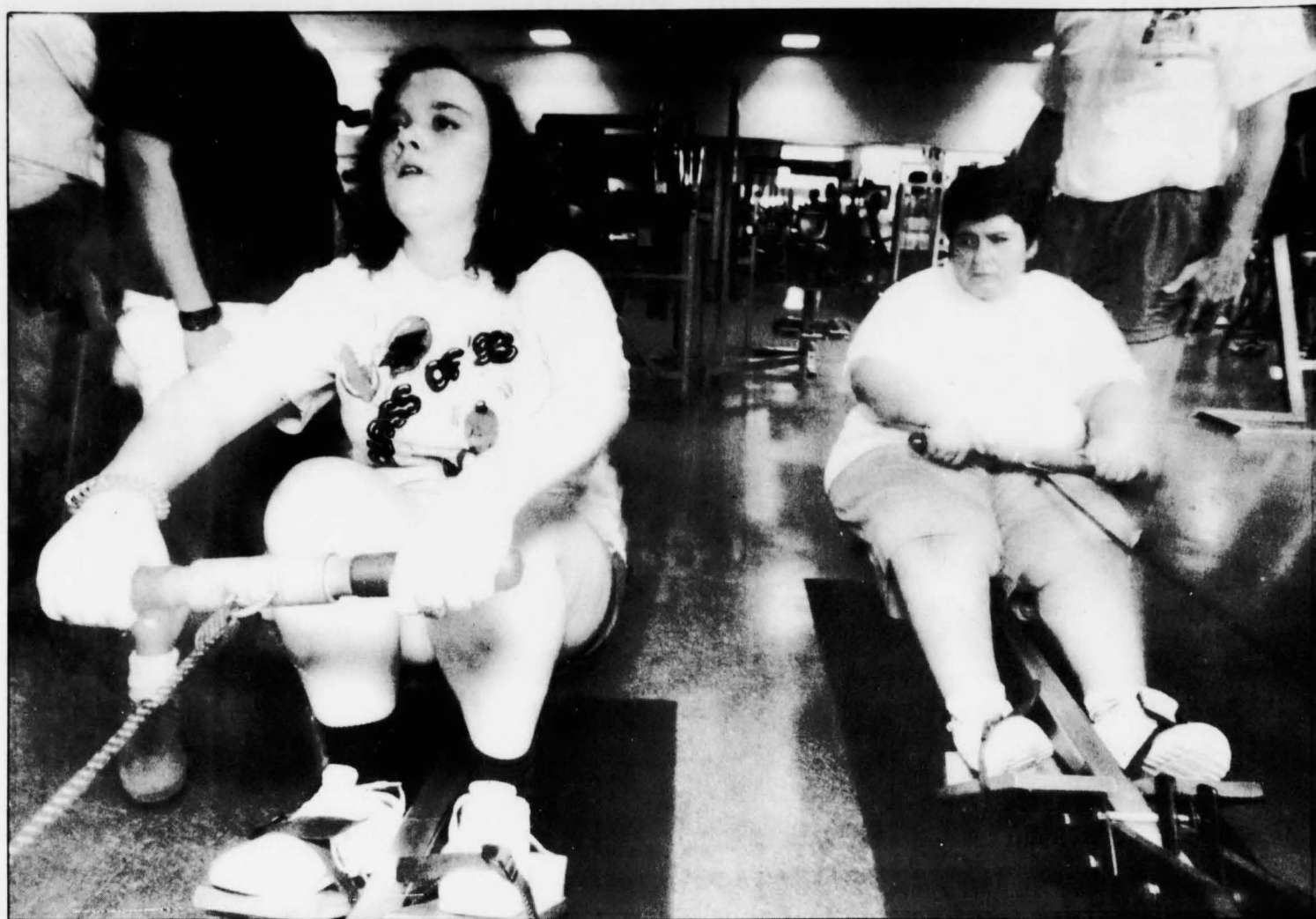
Jerry Marza, a Human Performance junior, and one of the student helpers enjoys helping the students get over their obstacles.

"It's great when they respond to me. I get gratification out of seeing them lift the weights and knowing I'm helping people who are not as fortunate as we are," Marza said.

Not only do the Gateway students learn from the interaction at the Rec Center, but the SJSU students do as well.

"They'll surprise you. You think they can't do one thing, but they can," said John Caparas, a junior Human Performance major who also helps the students with their workouts.

Back in the "Burger King" room, another group is working on a project for The Tech Museum of San Jose. It is one of many undertakings the Gateway students have done. Between the Tech Museum, the



FRANK CAVA—SPARTAN DAILY

Gateway Project students work out on a rowing machine in the Event Center gym. Each day at 9:00 a.m., project teacher Ray Ortiz and his students meet at the pool table area in Joe West Hall, where the students split up into three groups for various activities.

Volunteer Exchange Program of United Way and Parents Helping Parents there is always something to do.

"My students are usually stereotyped as food service people and I wanted to give them something different," Ortiz said.

The volunteer work provides cheap labor for the organizations, but more importantly, allows the students chances to learn valuable lessons in work experi-

ence. The students learn how to dress appropriately for work, keep focused on their work and how to act on the job.

Yes, everyday is a challenge for Ray Ortiz and his Gateway students. Hopefully, as the days pass, so will the obstacles.

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IF JOHN MADDEN WAS A COMMENTATOR ON C-SPAN...

"WHACK! THE BILL GETS OUTTA COMMITTEE! DOINK! ONTO THE HOUSE FLOOR! BOOM!!"

Switzerland calm shaken by cult mass suicide

CHEIRY, Switzerland (AP) — Twenty-one bodies made a neat circle on the floor of a red, mirror-lined chapel hidden beneath the burning farmhouse.

Some were dressed in red, black and white ceremonial robes. Ten had plastic garbage bags tied around their necks with cords, and some had their hands bound. Twenty had bullets in their heads.

In three ski chalets 90 miles away, police discovered more bodies, badly burned by fires apparently set by remote control.

Authorities found 48 bodies on Wednesday, and indications of a mass murder-suicide by a cult they hadn't known existed.

Clues led to Canada, where two bodies were found a day

earlier in the charred wreckage of an unexplained arson fire. Police said the owner of the burned duplex, Luc Jouret, led apocalyptic cults in both Canada and Switzerland and had rented one of the ski chalets where the bodies were found.

Investigators said the fires in both countries were set off by remote-controlled electrical devices triggered by a timer or a telephone call.

Officials said the Swiss cult was called the Order of the Solar Tradition, a group that draws on Roman Catholicism and predicts the end of the world.

Jouret represents "an occult tradition with strong apocalyptic elements," said Johannes

Aagaard, head of a European cult-monitoring organization based in Aarhus, Denmark. "He expects doomsday to be coming soon."

Jouret, who is Belgian, was believed to have fled to Switzerland last year after being charged with weapons possession and conspiracy in Canada. Police said they did not know if he was among the people found dead Wednesday.

Authorities were not ruling out the possibility that some of the victims were executed, investigating judge Andre Piller said.

"We are still reeling from what we found," he said after inspecting the underground chapel. "When we first walked in it looked a wax museum. The bod-

ies were lying in a circle with their heads outward."

On the wall of the chapel was a picture of long-haired, bearded man with a cape and a rose.

A cassette tape attached to the door of the chapel explained some of the group's spiritual beliefs, Piller said, but gave no reason for the killings.

Police said they also found literature referring to a sect called the Cross and Rose, believed to be an offshoot of the same group.

The bodies of 23 people, including a 10-year-old boy, were found at the farm. In addition to the 21 people found in the chapel, the body of the farm's owner, 70-year-old Albert Giacobini, was found in an adjoining house and another

body was found in the farmhouse kitchen.

It was not clear whether Giacobini had anything to do with the cult. No other victims were immediately identified.

Authorities said most of the victims were Swiss, French or Canadian. The bodies were taken to Lausanne for autopsies, and results would not be announced for several days, Piller said.

Twenty-five bodies, including several children lying next to each other, were found in three chalets in a ski area at Granges-sur-Salvan in Valais canton, about 45 miles southeast of Geneva.

Police said they found 15 bodies at one chalet and two at another. Later in the morning,

they found eight more bodies in a third chalet, which was destroyed by fire. Police called off the search of the third chalet late Wednesday, fearing the structure would collapse.

"Apparently they were somehow put to sleep," said a police spokesman. Police said the victims may have been given an overdose of some type of drug.

Police in Canada said the bodies found there Tuesday in a rural area outside Montreal had not yet been identified.

Const. Michel Brunet of the Quebec provincial police said the man and woman were wearing medallions engraved with double-headed eagles and Latin inscriptions invoking the fabled Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

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Certain advertisements in these columns may refer the reader to specific telephone numbers or addresses for additional information. Classified readers should be reminded that, when making these further contacts, they should require complete information before sending money for goods or services. In addition, readers should carefully investigate all firms offering employment listings or coupons for discount vacations or merchandise.

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Graduation: Most students take five years

From page 1

to receive their degree.

"This is on par with most universities," Steve MacCarthy, director of public affairs for the CSU system, said. But in the University of California system, the average time to obtain a degree is 4.3 years, almost a year's difference, according to analytic studies.

In most majors, students can graduate in four years if they take a full load of 15 units each semester. For example, a major requiring no more than 124 units, like anthropology, can be completed in four years by taking 15 units a semester, with one semester at 19 units.

"But not all programs can be completed in four years," Edd Barton, associate dean of educational planning and resources, said. "An example is engineering."

"There are a lot of reasons why students can't graduate in the shortest amount of time possible," Barton said.

One reason cited by Barton and MacCarthy was the average age of the student population. According to MacCarthy, 20 percent of CSU undergraduates are 25 years of age or older.

"And the average age is a little over 26, definitely not in the 18

to 22-year-old range," he said.

At SJSU, 37.6 percent of undergraduates are 25 or older, according to Institutional Research statistics.

Barton said the higher the age bracket, the more likely the students will have families or a full-time job, and in some cases both.

Another aspect of high average age is that the older a student is, the less likely they are to be dependent on parents. This means that they must work to support themselves.

"If you have older students, they tend to have a family and work full-time," MacCarthy said. "It's hard for them to take a full load, and that will drag down the average time to degree."

MacCarthy points out that unlike the University of California system, the CSU master plan directs the CSU to serve students who cannot take a full load.

According to information provided by the Chancellor's Office, 30 percent of CSU undergraduates take 15 units or more, compared to 90 percent of UC undergraduates.

"It's harder for our students to take the units to graduate in four years," MacCarthy said.

Lina Melkonian, assistant director of Career Planning and Placement, said she has learned from students there is a real balancing act between work and school.

"Most students work," she said. "And because they have to work, they do not take a heavy (class) load."

Another reason CSU undergraduates are not graduating in the traditional four years is because they take time off, the division of analytic studies in Long Beach said.

They pointed out that 68 percent of students took at least one term off.

"They (students) will take a semester or a year off to save up some money to finish school," MacCarthy said. "If you subtract the time taken off by students, you would see the time-to-degree come closer to four years."

A student would have to take 15 units a semester to graduate from a 124 unit major in four years. Melkonian said planning plays an important part in being able to do that.

"Students should get the proper academic advisement early. Then the students will know what classes are offered and when they are offered," she said.

Another option called the "four-year pledge plan" may be available in January. MacCarthy said the plan guarantees students who sign up will graduate in four years.

"The four-year pledge plan," Barton said, "is a plan that will allow a student to move through (the university) at a pace that they are comfortable with."

Barton explained the plan is basically an assurance that the student will get their degree in the time they want.

"It's a type of assurance plan," Barton said. "We would be able to assure anybody who would want to enter the plan that they will get the classes they need."

But whatever the circumstance a student is in, MacCarthy said the Chancellor's Office doesn't want to force students through in four years.

"The key from our end," MacCarthy said, "is that a student takes the time that makes sense for their personal situation."

Fines

From page 1

write a citation.

"It's really up to the individual," Johnson said.

One officer has gone as far as filling out a field interview card and entering the offender's name into the computer. If the person is stopped a second time, a citation will be issued.

"It's not something we want to spend our time doing. However, at the same time, we have to do it because if the community believes that we're not serious about enforcing the bicycle ban then they are not going to be serious about listening to it," Lowe said. "You can put something in writing, but if you don't enforce it, it has no effect."

Another common method the UPD uses for enforcement is impounding a bicycle that is locked where it shouldn't be.

"We set up a number of bike racks across campus strategically," Lowe said. "If bikes are locked or parked where they shouldn't be, we will go out and put one of our locks so it can't be removed. We will then place an impound notice on the bicycle and there will be \$5 fine to release the bike."

San Carlos Street will soon be off limits to bicycle riders also.

"We are trying to warn people and solicit their cooperation," Lt. Shannon Maloney said. "No date is set for issuing citations, but they could be issued at any time."

Once the San Carlos project is complete, there will be no room for both pedestrians and bicycle riders.

"My understanding is that when the work is done, it just won't be feasible," Lowe said. "There are going to be fountains, trees, benches and pathways. The pathways will not be large enough to allow for safe pedestrians and bicycle traffic."

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CSSA: Organization lobbies for student concerns, improved education

From page 1

out to vote they're knowledgeable about the issues."

As an organization, the CSSA is divided into two main bodies—university affairs and legislative affairs, said Larisa Tompkins, CSSA director of university affairs.

The university affairs division is housed in the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach and advocates student issues.

"As an example, we've worked with the CSU budget committee on putting students' input into the budget project," Tompkins said. "The university affairs division also includes a

CSSA member who sits on the board of trustees and is a full voting member."

The legislative affairs division, which works out of Sacramento, "is a statewide advocacy program," said Nicole Launder, CSSA's executive director.

Launder, a former SJSU associated students president and CSSA student representative, said, "the state has the ability to set laws that affect the CSU. The Sacramento office basically deals with statewide legislation."

In the past, the CSSA has been instrumental in passing legislation that provided funding for

campus child-care centers, increased availability of financial aid, and created a work study program. The CSSA also aggressively lobbied for a 10 percent cap on the amount the board of trustees could raise student fees without added legislation.

Fedor acknowledged that even a "10 percent increase hits hard," but called the cap a compromise. "They (the board) wanted much more—close to 30 percent," she said.

Although both Tompkins and Launder said the CSSA is a strong lobbying force in the capital, Joni Finney, associate direc-

tor of the California Higher Education Policy Center, a San Jose-based think tank dedicated to higher education issues in California, said the student organization "lacks muscle to mobilize students to get anything done."

"They could really be a significant power for change in California if they were organized and more forceful," Finney said. "There's a lot of potential there, but it's like a sleeping giant. If they (the CSSA) woke up and decided to do something, the

electors would begin to listen. I think they really underestimate their own sense of power."

Tompkins, who said she has heard that type of criticism before, said, "that's a discredit to the work that the students do, which is really incredible. No one is paid. They're doing it because they're advocating for other students."

"The students would notice the difference if there wasn't a CSSA to advocate for them," Tompkins said.

Movies were his passion.
 Women were his inspiration.
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Ed Wood

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INSIDE: How Safe Is SJSU

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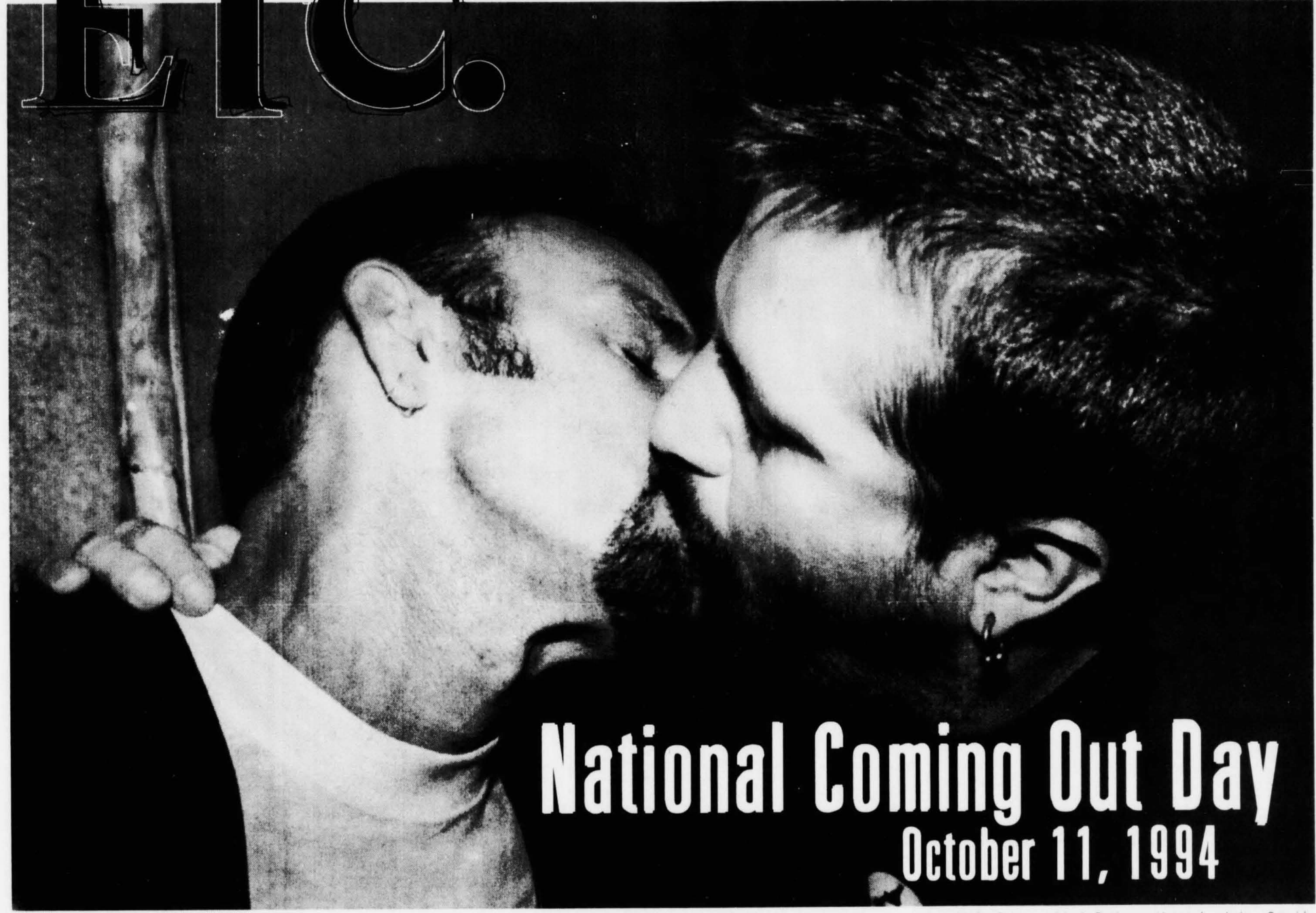
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Volume Four Issue Five October 6 - 12, 1994 FREE



National Coming Out Day October 11, 1994

INSIDE: How Safe Is SJSU For Gays + Lesbians? "Coming Out" To Your Parents Diagonally Speaking On KSJS DeFrank Community Center Sisterspirit Bookstore Movie Review Heavenly + Lois Rancid

PERSPECTIVE

EQUALITY

[for gays, lesbians + bisexuals]

text by **Matthew Tom**

I admit it — I look, I gawk. I can't help it. They're weird. They're flamboyant. Let's face it, they're different.

I never thought about it before, really. Different to me was good. It meant you were not afraid to show people who you are. To me it means confidence — confidence about yourself and your differences.

I don't mean to stare. It's just homosexuals are so different from me. I suppose it's curiosity.

I grew up in a suburban New England town where being outrageous meant wearing your 501s to school. Labeling my central-New Jersey town of 10,000 people conservative is an understatement.

Homosexuality was something you didn't talk about at the kitchen table over breakfast. It was simply a taboo.

My perception of love was kissing a girl behind the jungle gym and holding hands as we crossed the playground. Playing house was my way of learning about relationships.

I was taught about good-old traditional family values — a husband, wife, 2.3 kids, a dog, and a house with a two-car garage and a white picket fence.

Then when I was 12 years old, my family moved to the Bay Area. Imagine my shock as I visited San Francisco, the gay capital of the world, for the first time.

Men holding hands, kissing and hugging each other in public! What's going on here? What am I seeing?

They're openly displaying their sexuality. They should do that in the privacy of their own home. I don't

want to see this. Get them away from me. I mean, I don't care that they're homosexual, I just don't want them near me.

They make me uncomfortable. They must all be like that — flamboyant.

Stop a second, reality check for a moment, please. Stereotyping in this day and age is so easy. I shouldn't assume anything.

Being different is the natural state of things. We are all different, all of us. Homosexuals love, hate, feel, and live the same way "straight" people do.

Yes, many homosexuals are flamboyant. Many are open about their sexuality. And, yes, many are demonstrative.

But, can you honestly tell me that heterosexuals aren't as flamboyant and demonstrative? Have you ever seen a guy and girl go at it right there in front of you? Honestly, it's just as uncomfortable and disgusting.

But then again, many homosexuals are quiet, shy and private about their sexuality.

There are also homosexuals whose personalities lie between those two extremes.

Coming to San Francisco gave me a realistic and clear picture of homosexuals.

They're just like everyone else.

They can be just as rude, polite, flamboyant, or submissive.

I know a few gay people and their personalities span a very broad spectrum.

So wake up and smell the coffee, people. Judge people for what they do, not whom they do.

Being different is the natural state of things. We are all different, all of us. Homosexuals love, hate, feel, and live the same way "straight" people do.

etc

[people]

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[ON THE COVER]

photo by Christina Macias — Mark Partal, left, of Chico, kisses Dave Carranza of San Jose outside Greg's Ball Room. Greg's Ball Room is a gay dance bar located on Julian Street across from the San Jose Arena. Carranza is the owner of Leather Masters in San Jose.

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PERSPECTIVE TOO Secrets Revealed

a letter from **Jane Montes**

Dear Mom (a letter from your youngest daughter),

Sure, unsure. Black, white, green, red, blue, where do I go and who do I tell?

By the year 2000 AIDS ... mom, I'm ... using condoms and practicing safe sex. That's a gorgeous pink triangle.

Steve killed himself almost 10 years ago. He jumped out of a window. Steve was Wendy's (my sister) best friend. He was gay. He never had to deal with the pain of AIDS or watch his friends die from it.

He was like my brother and I loved him. He's gone now. His friends abandoned him when he came out — not my sister, not us — ...mom, I'm ... doing well in school and learning about political empowerment in the gay community.

The questionnaire for jury members on the O.J. Simpson trial contains 300 questions. People are dying of AIDS in San Francisco at Davies Medical Center in the HIV ward.

What do I mean?

Aunt Dina and Auntie Conchita were WACs (Women's Army Corps) during World War II. They lived together for 30 years until Auntie Conchita died of cancer in 1984.

(Cigarettes will kill you every time. I stopped smoking last month.) Aunt Dina retired from the army last year with an HONORABLE discharge ... mom, I'm ... glad you taught me to appreciate the colors of the rainbow.

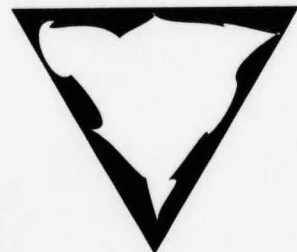
With people, I see no color or sex.

He's handsome and she's beautiful. Did you know Virginia Woolf was a lesbian? In Marlin Brando's biography he's bisexual ... mom, I'm ... deeply in your debt for the education you have given me.

I'm at a university learning wonderful facts about the world. In all my education I've never learned about exploring my own sexuality. This lesson was self-taught.

Mom, I'm bisexual. Don't worry, I'm not getting a crew cut, and I'm not throwing out my make-up. After today, I can never go back. I'm scared and empowered at the same time. The hate, the pain, the tears are waiting. The joy, the pleasure, the love will always be there. These emotions can never be taken away. They are deep within my heart.

Mom, this is not a phase like when I wanted to learn the piano or when I wanted to be a dancer on Broadway. I don't know what else to say except that my birthday is coming soon and if you want to get me a gift, I already own a pair of cowboy boots but a Harley doesn't sound bad.



*Love
always,
Jane*

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HEAVENLY & LOIS

text by Chris McCrellis-Mitchell

It's two for the price of one Friday at noon in the Student Union Amphitheater. The two bands are Heavenly and Lois. The price is free. And, as they say, "The best things in life are free."

Well neither of these bands is the best, but they are definitely worth seeing.

Heavenly, formed in Oxford, England in 1989, is the brainchild of Amelia Fletcher. She not only writes all the music and lyrics, but sings and plays guitar.

She is not alone however. Her support includes brother Matt on drums, boyfriend Peter Momtchiloff on guitar, friend Rob Pursey on bass and Cathy Rogers on keyboards and backup vocals.

I haven't had a chance to hear their new album, "The Decline and Fall of Heavenly," but if it's anything like their album, "Le Jardin de Heavenly," or their EP, "P.U.N.K. Girl," it's worth lending an ear to.

Amelia and Cathy's voices blend beautifully like cookies and cream on songs like "Starshy," "Different Day" and "So Little Deserve" from "Le Jardin." The music goes from sugary Cranberries pop, "Starshy," to the flash



"P.U.N.K. Girl" EP

fluff of "Sort of Mine," to the flowery sway of "And the Birds Aren't Singing."

On the five-song EP, Heavenly presents a more pop-oriented tone a la '60s girl groups. The title track and "Hearts and Crosses" have somewhat the same drumbeat but venture different in musical approach. While "P.U.N.K. Girl" stays bubblegummish, "Hearts," despite being a song about rape, makes you want to let your hair down and shake it all around. "Atta Girl" throws the buzz of the Manchester sound (Stone Roses) into the mixture. "Dig Your Own Grave" is sans drums but it maintains the la-la of the first two tracks. The final song,

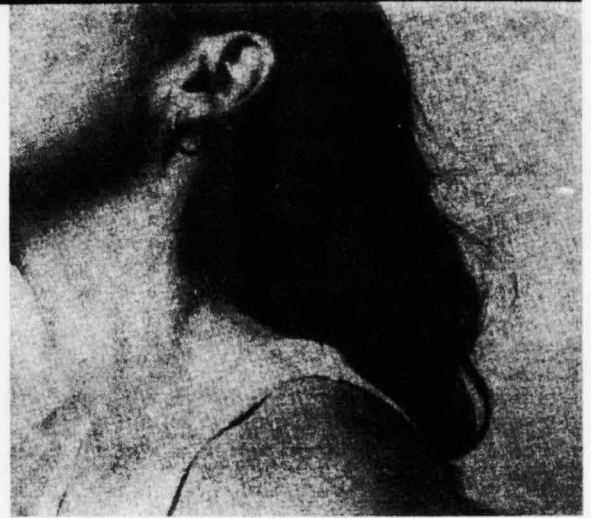
"So P," is an a cappella song that sounds like a break-up letter itching for acoustic accompaniment.

Heavenly is one of the most appropriately named groups ever. You will find yourself tappin' your feet even after the music dies.

Since the break up of her last band, Courtney Love (not Kurt Cobain's wife) in 1991, Lois Maffeo has been writing sparse, short, sweet and to the point music as Lois. Although Lois is a band, she is the all-important ingredient.

On their first album, 1992's "Butterfly Kiss," Lois shows that non-complex music can be an onslaught of minimal ecstasy. All 11 tracks from this Olympia, Wash. native are palatable. Nothing tricky on the first three songs, just a beautiful voice over rockin' acoustic guitar and thumping drums. Then comes "Staring at the Sun" a smooth, jazzy offering. And that's how the rest of the album goes: marshmallow, fire, marshmallow, fire. Either way, it's good.

On 1993's "Strumpet," there are more members in the band, including two bassists, Donna Dresch and Stuart Moxham, a guitarist, Steve Peters, and the same drummer as before, Molly Neuman. Although it loses some of the quiet personal atmosphere of "Butterfly Kiss," there is a full texture to the music. It sounds more like a band. The two songs that stand out the most are "Evening in Paris," an ethereal ballad, and "The Trouble with Me," a song which has both the marshmallow and



the fire. Their sound should do fine in the Amphitheater.

After both bands finish performing, there will be a reception held in a large tent in the Art Quad. Celebrating the release of Heavenly's new album, the reception will feature food, games and allow students a chance to mingle with members of both bands. The event is free and open to all students and faculty.

Since the members of Heavenly are vegetarians, the food will consist of vegetable trays, cheese and crackers. Games include a wheel of fortune and a lollipop board, where prizes are decided depending on which piece of candy is picked. Prizes include discount coupons on restaurants, movie passes, video

rental coupons, tapes and/or CDs, autographed posters and more. All prizes and food are being donated by local businesses.

"Everyone who walks in will have a chance to walk out with something," says Tere Mayo, spokeswoman for the six members of the Recreation 97 class who are responsible for the event.

The class is designed to teach students the principles of program planning. The classmates are receiving help in promoting the event from the A.S. Program Board and KSJS. The reception is from 1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Even if you don't go to the reception, you should walk away feeling uh ... heavenly.

RANCID

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text by Paul Wotel

The "alternative music" feeding frenzy has brought with it one inescapable truth: exchange value, not truth value, counts. With its reductionist tendencies, the media consistently cuts music down to its lowest common denominator—the commodity form.

Radio stations and magazines sanitize, sanction and sell the "next big thing" to an audience that takes its culture like a multivitamin—encapsulated and easy to swallow. In this environment, music is beside the point.

And that's what makes punk rock so great. It refuses to acknowledge the commodification of music and lurches ever forward. With a 7" on Lookout! and two full-length albums for Epitaph, Rancid makes music the old-fashioned way: with a snarl and a big middle finger to the industry status quo.

"I could give a f— what anybody thinks about us. We do what we want to do—it's what makes us happy," laments Brett Reed, drummer for the East Bay's loudest group of nihilists, Rancid. "We don't try to please anybody but ourselves. Don't listen to the s— talkers 'cause they don't go to shows more than once a year anyway."

Formed in 1991 from the ashes of Operation Ivy, the quartet did what any self-respecting punk band would do: played all-ages shows in warehouses and halls where a "capacity crowd" was somewhere around the 200-person mark and the decor was...well...do trampled Xerox-zines and cigarette butts really constitute "decor?"

Singer and guitarist Tim Armstrong's jangly distortion and Lydon-esque vocals belted out over Matt Freeman's frantic basslines, Lars Frederiksen's riffing and Reed's pounding can only make one wonder why that other Berkeley band has become the flagship of Bay Area punk. Suffice it to say, Rancid has paid their dues and a certain amount of recognition is inevitable and well-deserved.

But with growing popularity comes the unavoidable argument of integrity and the politics of door prices. Adhering to the Fugazi philosophy of keeping door



This is a publicity photo of Rancid by Jesse Fischer courtesy of Epitaph Records

prices low, however admirable, can cost a band dearly.

"We do what we can do but there is a point where it starts making us suffer," Reed says. "Every Fugazi show I've ever seen, (Ian MacKaye) has never been in a good mood. He's always f—in' miserable.

"Do you know how hard it is to get an all-ages show in a 4000-seat arena at \$5 a pop?" Reed continues. "Nobody will insure it, nobody will promote it—nobody wants to put it on. It's almost impossible but the guy is out there killing himself trying to keep his integrity or what not. Sure, it would be great if every show was \$5 and all ages, but I don't see the difference between \$2 or \$3."

But while some cry, "semantics" and others, "sell-out" in the war of the almighty dollar sign, Rancid refuses to be a commodity judged in \$2 and \$3 increments.

"The music is punk rock. Maybe playing with Green Day and Hole in Seattle is not 'punk rock' at all, but we aren't claiming to be Fugazi," Reed says. "We are not

a politics band. We just like playing music and people want to label us 'punk.'"

The drummer then rattles off some additional expletives to punctuate his point almost seeming to echo the words of another punk luminary: "Punks in their silly leather jackets are a cliché. I have never liked the term and have never discussed it. I just got on with it and got out of it when it became a competition."

Ahh, Johnny Rotten always had a certain eloquence. Reed has increased his volume as if sensing the distraction on the other end of the line, "It's so hard now because this is like the fourth incarnation of punk. I don't even contemplate (whether or not Rancid is 'punk')...ever." But for those who insist on classification, Rancid is punk—punk as f—. The quartet puts a new twist on the old school and throws it right back in your face.

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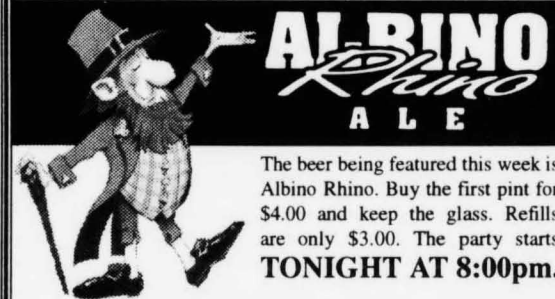
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'Where else can you go and be who you really are and feel like you are part of the family?'

—Lee Anthony, "Renegades" patron



"Danielle" Greene, a 6-foot-6-inch drag queen in 4-inch heels, plays a round of pool at "Renegades," a gay bar located on Stockton Street in San Jose.

Uncovering 'The Stockton Strip'

text by Bill Erb

photos by Christina Macias

Philip LaMantia and John Vassil fell in love at "Renegades" bar about eight months ago, and have been together since. Vassil and LaMantia joined about 150 members of their "family" last Saturday at "Renegades" to salute Gail Chandler and her husband John Croll, the owners of the bar. The event was held to raise money for the 1995 Gay Pride Parade.

"Renegades" has been a gay institution for 25 years," says Vassil, an SJSU marketing senior who served six years on the San Jose Gay Pride Celebration Committee. "We come here to cry after someone we know has died, and we come here to celebrate life and to laugh. It's the gay people's town hall," Vassil says. "Renegades" is one of four bars in the area of Stockton and Julian that cater to a primarily gay clientele. It's a place to play pool, and customers don't have to worry about their hair being out of place.

The decor is a cross between trendy primitive and Russian cell block. The bartenders usually wear leather and Levis, and call their customers "honey." The crowd seems to love it.

Family is a big word in the world of lesbians and

gays. Many live their lives estranged from their own families, and turn to their "brothers and sisters" for support, guidance and most of all love, says "Tiny" the bartender. Tiny and a friend "Vodka" Steve threw the party to start a fund for the parade. They footed the bill for the event because they wanted to ensure there is no repeat of last year when there was no "Gay Day" parade. They turned to Chandler who offered her bar for the effort.

"She treats us well," Tiny says. Chandler feigned frustration as she talked about her staff like they were her children.

"They bleed me dry," Chandler says. "They drive new cars while I pay their medical and dental insurance. But I have a new rule. No one gets a new car until I do."

Chandler and Croll also own "Mac's" on First Street, the oldest gay bar in San Jose, which they purchased 17 years ago. Chandler says she bought "Renegades" three years ago because she is part of the gay family, and everyone around her agreed. She says she considers herself more of a caretaker of the place,

and lets the staff run it as they see fit. "I am the silent partner," Chandler says.

At the party, Chandler blended into the crowd and seemed to know everyone. She is an "old-timer" now. She became involved in the community about 15 years ago when her staff at "Mac's" held an AIDS auction. The staff raised \$1,500 dollars that evening, and have continued to raise money for community efforts since, Chandler says.

"I was shocked," the 52-year-old Chandler says. "They were like a family. They knew they had to help each other because no one else would."

By 11 p.m., "Renegades" was jamming. Manny Mandrix and the Open Minds proffered live blues on the patio. When Tiny, who is also a Jazz musician and singer, grabbed the mike, the crowd went wild. When he finished his rendition of "Kansas City," listeners chanted "Tiny-Tiny" for almost five minutes before allowing the band to continue.

Inside, four or five people worked furiously through the crowd keeping the free buffet looking almost untouched as patrons ate huge amounts of fresh

deli treats.

"This is what we mean when we say gay family," Marilyn Gay Middleton says. "There are people here I haven't seen in years."

"I love this place," says Lee Anthony, a 32-year-old single gay male. "The bartenders get to know you. It's a safe place to meet and get to know other people, and a good outlet to release stress."

Anthony pointed to "Danielle" Greene, a 6-foot 6-inch tall "drag queen" who plays pool in four-inch metal-tipped heels. Greene was sporting a tasteful black party dress and matching gloves, "as any proper lady would."

"Where else can you go and be who you really are, and feel like you are part of the family?" Anthony says.

Anthony parties at both "Renegades" and Greg's Ball Room, a dance bar located across the street from the Arena on Julian.

"Greg's" is owned by Greg McDowell, who got his start at "Renegades" working as a bartender.

"Greg's" is a place where a man can feel comfortable dressed in full leather, jeans or a mini-skirt — as long as he has the legs to carry it off. The crowd is the one your mother warned you about.

"We are casual," says McDowell, who has owned the bar for five years. "We are an open sanctuary. We don't judge people here."

The bartenders range from a muscle-bound, surfer-type named Kevin, who keeps half the bar drooling, to a heterosexual woman named Tracy "MTF."

"We joke that Tracy is a male-to-female transsexual," says Graylin Thornton, "Greg's" manager.

"I think one of the reasons we are so successful is because we have the best looking bartenders in town."

Thornton, a green-eyed African-American,

has been known to turn a few heads himself. He holds the title International Mr. Drummer '93-'94, and spends a great deal of his time appearing in fund-raisers for the lesbian and gay community.

The patio at "Greg's" is a quiet place where people sit and gossip about everything from politics to ex-lovers, while others are pairing off or cooling down from a twirl on the dance floor.

Inside the bar, the music is hot and the dancing is hotter. By 11 p.m. during the weekends, the dance floor is packed and the bar is so busy, it can take five minutes to get a drink.

Meanwhile, the 641 Bar on Stockton, is catering to a mostly Latino crowd, says bartender Kriss Newby.

Newby takes great pride in being "the only white-boy" working there.

People play pool and socialize at the "641," which is about the size of a large matchbox. Most of the clientele are regulars, Newby says.

"We have a lot of fun here. We are the Stockton Street Stepchild," says "Tony," a 31-year-old gay male who doesn't want his mother to know he frequents the bars in the area.

Like many of the people who party on the "Stockton Strip," Tony usually stops in all the bars when he goes out.

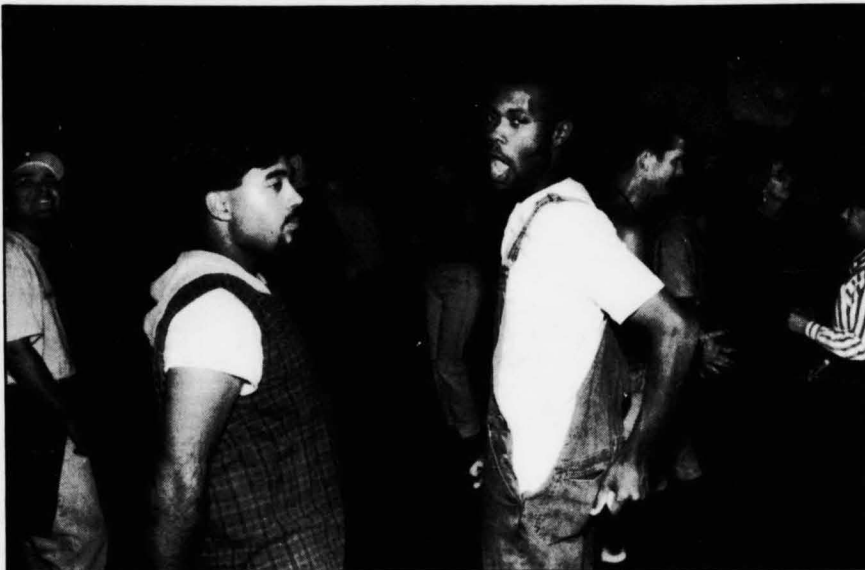
"My sisters are everywhere," says Tony, who was on his way to Bucks Bar at Stockton and Julian.

"Bucks" is more of an old-timers hangout than the others on the strip. A representative of the bar asked that no one from the establishment be identified for this article. "Bucks" is also the place to go after 2 p.m., when it turns into an after-hours spot to get a cup of coffee and sober up after a long night of partying at the bars.

"The bars are a vital part of the gay network," David Maes says. "They give us a place to escape from the dismay of society."

'We come here to cry after someone we know has died, and we come here to celebrate life and to laugh. It's the gay people's town hall.'

**John Vassil
"Renegades"
patron**



Steve Kelly, right, dances with an unidentified dance partner Friday night at Greg's Ball Room located on Julian Street.

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Out The Closet:

ARE GAYS AND LESBIANS SAFE AT SJSU?

text by Michelle Maitre
photos by Jeanette L. Hanna

With National Coming Out Day right around the corner, many San Jose State University students may be getting ready to take that first monumental step out of the closet — stating openly to family, friends and co-workers their identification with the gay, lesbian and bisexual community.

One of the foremost questions each of them faces is, "If I come out, what will I find is the attitude at SJSU?"

"People are so 'out' here," says

Chris Lien, a graduate student in interpersonal communication who heads Sappho, a lesbian support group on campus. Lien came to SJSU from Trenton State College in New Jersey.

"Over there, they treated me like I'm the plague. You can feel that the atmosphere is different here," she says.

Lien heard good things from her thesis advisor that influenced her decision to pursue graduate work here — that SJSU is ethnically diverse and has a

university policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"I came here because I always heard about how open it is," Lien says. "I didn't realize they have so many restrictions. There are a lot of little signs that gays and lesbians aren't welcome. It looks good on paper but in reality it's different."

Lien's sentiments are echoed by other members of SJSU's gay and lesbian community, many of whom feel comfortable being "out" at SJSU, but, like Lien, can point to little signs of discrimination.

"The ROTC thing tells it all about what the feeling is toward gays and lesbians," says Wiggys Sivertsen, a counselor and faculty member who is thought by many to be the most vocal campus advocate for gay, lesbian and bisexual rights.

The Academic Senate voted this fall to remove ROTC from campus because the program discriminates against gays and lesbians. As stated in the university catalog, "The California State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, pregnancy or Vietnam veteran status."

Sivertsen has mixed feelings about the senate's recent decision — she had been fighting for 14 years to have the ROTC removed from campus.

"The fact that we had to have the debate in the first place tells you a lot," Sivertsen says.

"Here we had an institution that acknowledged discrimination against gays and lesbians. When you have

a vice president of the Academic Senate who is unable to stand up and say, 'Absolutely, we can not have a program on campus that discriminates' and argues to keep the program without addressing issues of policy, that tells you about the campus commitment to gays and lesbians."

Sivertsen points out that if ROTC discriminated against other groups based on race or religion, it would have been booted from campus long ago. "The bottom line," Sivertsen says, "is that this campus does not recognize that discrimination against gays and lesbians is as onerous as discrimination against African-Americans or Japanese."

"The university does not openly discriminate



Christian Shiloh Batty, a hospitality major, is seen in a room with his favorite stuffed bear

(against homosexuals)," says Ken Yeager, "does it extend an open hand."

Yeager, a Santa Clara University professor, says Stanford University doesn't do it in support of gay students. Yeager

and says Stanford students. "They provide for same-sex partners to the gay student organization," Sivertsen agrees with Yeager. "In some universities, it's different," she says. Stanford, for instance, "are more enlightened about homosexuality than SJSU, Siver gay and lesbian students."

English professor Ricardo told both Stanford and UCLA, cautioning against generalizations about atmosphere because each university has its own character. "But he is especially open to gay and lesbian students."

"Gay students at UCLA are much more than they are here," he says. "They kept the way — making it (homosexuality) a

"At least, this university is indifferent. Indifference becomes almost negative."



Wiggys Sivertsen, an SJSU counselor and faculty member, is well-known in the campus community for being an advocate for gay, lesbian and bisexual rights.

'The university does not openly discriminate (against homosexuals), but neither does it extend an open hand.'
Ken Yeager
SJSU political science professor



agement senior, reclines in his Residence "Petey."

professor of political science, "but neither
 r, the first publicly elected gay official in
 a County, says he has always felt "very
 le being out here" and has received sup-
 e political science department, but says
 ink the university is proactive enough
 ay students."
 eived his doctorate from Stanford
 s more open to gay and lesbian
 ide domestic partners housing
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 ization," he says.
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 to gays and lesbians," Ortiz says, "and that

Ortiz says, "SJSU suffers in that it is so close to San Francisco" — the city of choice for most gays and lesbians. Ortiz, who lives in San Francisco himself, says most gays will choose to live in San Francisco rather than San Jose, thus keeping San Jose's gay community relatively small.

"We're easier to ignore here," Ortiz says. "There's a real sense of invisibility."

Student Debbie Nishihara agrees that the gay, lesbian and bisexual community at SJSU is invisible, but says that invisibility is a result of SJSU's commuter school status.

"Everyone's so satellite here," says Nishihara, a senior with a double major in English and fine arts. "Everyone has their own groups of friends they hang out with, then they get on the freeway and go home. I don't know one African-American student, or one disabled student — or even a biology student for that matter."

"I don't think it's good," she says, "because most people are missing out on a well-rounded social experience."

Nishihara says she's always "felt pretty comfortable" being out on campus. "I don't think there's people out there who want to single us out," she says. "People around here don't care one way or another."

Sivertsen has another take on the campus' attitude towards gays and lesbians. "The gay community at SJSU is so quiet because the atmosphere here is so poisonous," she says. "The gay community on this campus does not feel safe. People are frightened to be targeted as an acknowledged gay or lesbian person."

Sivertsen says the threat of retribution in the form of jokes and derogatory comments keeps many gays and lesbians closeted and keeps community visibility low — a detriment to the gay community Sivertsen says keeps gays from being an active force for change.

One student has firsthand experience of the retribution that can accompany being openly gay at SJSU.

Hospitality management senior Christian Shiloh Batty says catcalls and derogatory comments have been directed at him on campus. "A lot of people perceive me as feminine," Batty says, "and sometimes I catch a lot of flak. I just ignore it and move on."

Batty, a Resident Adviser in Royce Hall, says he has also had "confrontations" with people in the Residence Halls.

"Some people are uncomfortable with who I am," he says, "and they say things to me. But I'd rather have someone say something to my face instead of behind my back. I'm very proud of who I am."

Batty remembers an incident in one of the Residence Halls where a group of students had rigged up a microphone to a speaker and were shouting anti-gay slogans out an upstairs window. "I think we're (gays) singled out, I really do," he says.

But Batty does say, "some halls are a lot more gay friendly" than others and points to support groups in the Residence Halls as signs that gay, lesbian and bisexual students are being acknowledged.

There are other indications as well that the campus atmosphere toward gays is improving. Yeager, who attend SJSU for undergraduate work in the '70s, remembers a Residence Hall atmosphere that was so hostile toward gays, he had to move. And Sivertsen, who has worked at SJSU since 1967, says, "There's a very different atmosphere than there was five years ago in the Residence Halls."

Like Batty, Sivertsen cites an improved support network among gay students as a sign that change is occurring.

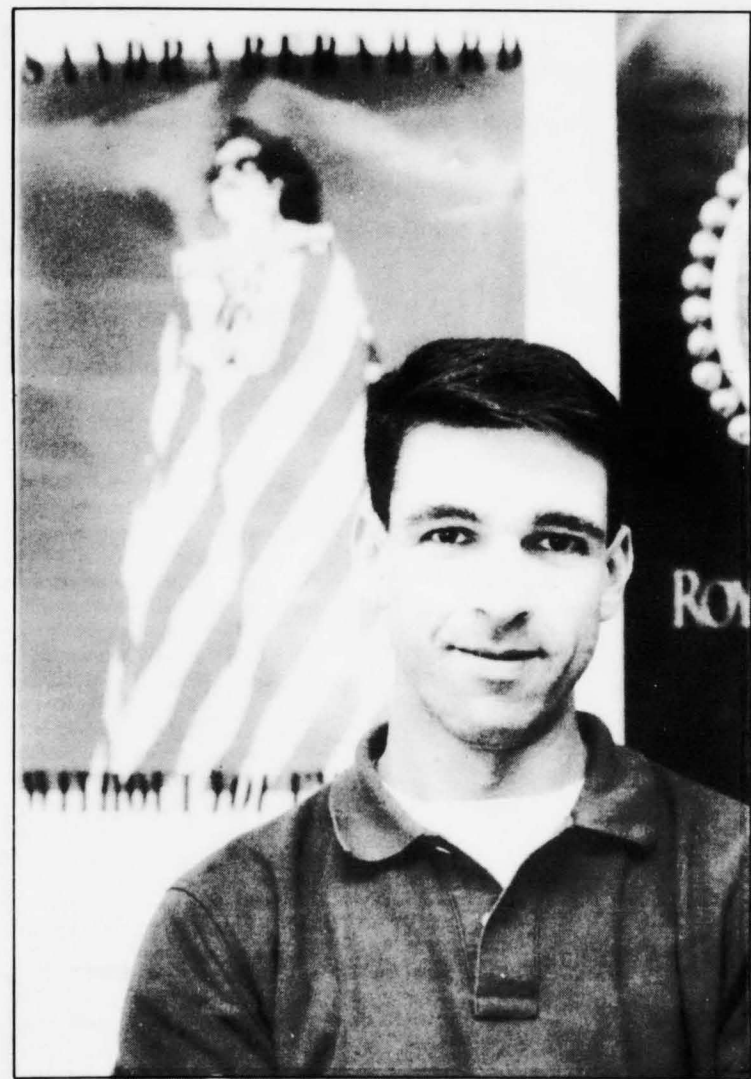
"But," says Batty, "we still have a long, long way to go."

National Coming Out Day Oct. 11, 1994

National Coming Out Day (NCOD) is celebrated every year on Oct. 11. NCOD encourages gays, lesbians and bisexuals to "come out" to friends, family and co-workers. "Coming out" or "coming out of the closet" is the act of honestly revealing one's sexual orientation to others.

The goal of NCOD, a nonprofit educational project of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, is to increase the visibility of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community to create a positive dialogue with non-gay people.

"By being honest about who they are, gays, lesbians and bisexuals can begin to erase the misunderstanding and bigotry," says an article in Valley Views magazine.



Ricardo Ortiz, an SJSU English professor, has been "out" so long that he doesn't even think to tell anyone that he is gay.

mom, mom,
i'm telling you,
stop worrying.
i do have
friends and i
do go out...
what do you
mean with
who? mom,
will you just
stop? no i
don't want to
go out with the
nice girl next
door... mom...
please...
please... don't
cry... you have
to understand
that

i'm
gay.

text by Nancy J. Zamani

Coming out of the closet and announcing your homosexuality to your family can be stressful, but it doesn't have to be as hard as you think. Three students at San Jose State University share their experiences.

Bill Maples: 22, senior in English literature, co-president of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance (GALA)

When Maples came out three years ago, he admits his timing wasn't the best. It was the day before Thanksgiving when his mother finally asked him the question he had been both avoiding and anticipating.

"Are you gay?" she asked.

When Maples answered that he was, his mother began to cry. Her Southern Baptist religion had taught her homosexuality was a sin. According to Maples, the holiday was "dismal." But his mother has

made peace between her religion and her son's homosexuality.

"My mother sees it as someone being challenged and bettering their soul," Maples says.

Coming out to his sister and brother was easier, he says, because they either knew already or suspected the truth. But his father lives in Georgia and hasn't been told.

When Maples was 8- or 9-years-old, his father drove around San Francisco pointing out apparently gay men for ridicule. This action, and the appearance of leather-clad men, scared Maples. When he realized as a young teen-ager that he was gay, he worried about belonging to a group his

father disapproved of.

"I felt very isolated," he says.

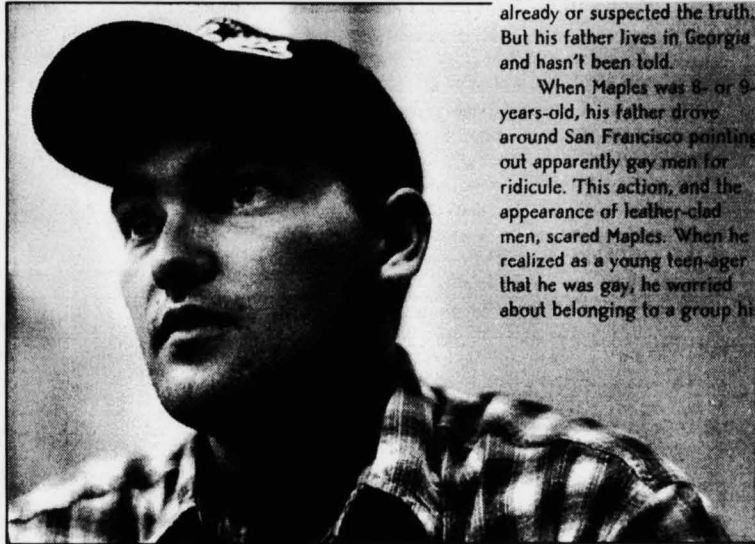
Now Maples would like to tell his father, but says he probably will wait until after graduation because he fears the loss of his father's financial support. Maples blames our culture, not his father, for his father's attitude.

After coming out, Maples says it's been "a good thing in a good way. I've met a lot of people and gone to interesting places." Still, Maples, who is currently in a relationship, says he resents being put into a stereotyped image of what society says gay men are supposed to be.

"The thing that pisses me off is the culture that says you must act a certain way," he says. "If you look totally normal, they don't want to accept you."

Bill Maples, co-president of GALA, announced his homosexuality three years ago.

photo by Deanna Horvath



Kim Johnson: 23, junior in computer science, treasurer of GALA

Before telling her parents that she was a lesbian, Johnson worried more about her mother's reaction than her father's. Her mother immigrated here from Vietnam, but her father, who is white, grew up in this country and Johnson expected him to have a tolerant attitude toward homosexuality. She was wrong.

"He'd rather me be unhappy with a man than happy with a woman," Johnson says.

Her father called her demeaning names, she says. Finally, her brother, who already knew the truth, stood up to their father and defended her choice.

Johnson says part of the problem for her parents was accepting that she would never marry and have children with a man.

"Your parents have certain dreams for you," she says. "They expect the perfect marriage, house, kids, car, and they have to let go of their dreams."

Johnson kept the lines of communication open with both parents, especially her mother, who didn't understand what homosexuality was. Gradually, she says, things have improved — up to a point. Her father is still uncomfortable if she brings her sometime lover to the house. But the love shared in the family keeps them together.

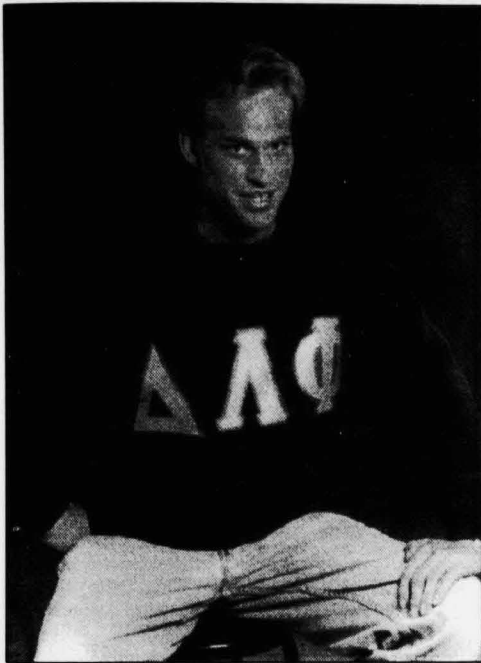
"Just because I'm out, I'm still the child they raised," she says.



Kim Johnson, treasurer of GALA, came out four years ago and says her father is still uncomfortable when she brings her sometime lover over.

photo by Chris Gonzales

Andrew Willyoung: 28, a graduate student in cinematic studies. Former president and now the national leadership chairman of Delta Lambda Phi, the gay fraternity at SJSU



Andrew Willyoung, who realized he was gay when he was 5 years old, came out of the closet 12 years ago.

Sometimes Willyoung walks on campus wearing T-shirts reading, "My boyfriend is gay." If someone calls him "faggot," his usual response is: "That's Mr. Faggot to you."

Willyoung's sense of humor is a way of coping as a gay man in a largely heterosexual society. He has dealt with society, friends and family since he came out of the closet and announced his homosexuality 12 years ago.

He came from a devout Roman Catholic family of seven boys and one girl. His Russian-born mother and Scottish-born father both immigrated to this country to escape religious persecution. Although born in Ohio, Willyoung spent his first 16 years in Guam, where he says at 5 years old he realized he was gay and accepted it.

Shortly before leaving Guam for California, Willyoung told his family of his sexual orientation. He described it as a liberating experience.

"I thought, 'My God, I'm free,'" Willyoung says. But there was fear too. "Coming out of the closet was a scary thing because you're admitting that you fall amongst the category of the misunderstood," Willyoung says. "You know you're opening up to hardship."

His mother and brother took it harder than his father and sister did, he says. Willyoung's mother wouldn't speak to him

for two days, and "to this day, she hopes I'll connect with a woman."

"She's a traditionalist," he says. "She knows deep down in her heart it's not going to change. She urges me to keep quiet (about his sexual preference) but I tell her 'Silence is like death.'"

Willyoung has resolved the conflict between homosexuality and some religions.

"The God I believe in and was raised to believe in is a God who loves, not hates," he says.

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Advice: How To Approach Parents When Telling Them You Are Gay, Lesbian Or Bisexual

If you are thinking about coming out, Joyce Miller, a vice president of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), offers some advice. Getting to know yourself is the first step.

"What we recommend to people in the early stages is to educate themselves," she says. "Most Americans have a negative set on homosexuality."

"Getting up the courage to come out and be who you are is the hardest part," Miller says. "Once out, there are support groups, you start to relax and the tension is diminished."

Miller says timing is important too. Try not to make the announcement before important family events such as weddings or holidays, she says.

She also advises it is usually better to come out to a few family members at a time, rather than at a large gathering. Kim Johnson says she

found it easier to come out to her parents separately. She believes it can be helpful to tell your siblings, if they don't already know, before telling your parents.

According to Miller, gays or lesbians often find it easier to write a letter to the family so thoughts can be expressed without interruption.

"Don't do it alone," Bill Maples says. "Find a safe space and get involved in the gay community on some level." Maples recommends groups such as P-FLAG, GALA or the DeFrank Community Center.

Miller says the person coming out must realize that his or her parents will be forced to confront their feelings about homosexuality, and deal with the attitudes of their friends. Miller says parents must be given time to adjust to the new situation. P-FLAG has books available for parents to read.

"Early on, there is a tendency to hope this is a passing phase, especially if the person coming out is a teen-ager," Miller says.

Parents also worry about AIDS, she says. It helps to reassure them that you are using good sense. Be around to answer questions.

Miller says the most religious parents have the most conflict with homosexuality. If your parents can't accept it, help is available. She says that often gays and lesbians come to P-FLAG to find a family atmosphere. "You will be constantly coming out, always wondering and weighing who to tell," Miller says. "It is a private issue and there is no obligation to tell everyone."

"Once you've found out what it's like to come out and just be yourself," Maples says. "There's no stopping you."

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A Place of Acceptance

text by **Stacey Hewitt**

photos by **Jeremy Hogan**

The room is filled with tables of excited people, eyes shining with anticipation. They stare at the woman in the front of the room as if she was Vanna White, anxiously waiting for the next letter to utter from her lips. The small plastic ball she

holds in her hand could make the difference between them leaving with empty pockets or ones filled with cold, hard cash.

This is a scene that occurs every Wednesday night at the DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Center, when members gather for

their weekly game of bingo. The center, which is the fourth-largest of its kind in the country, is a place where gays and lesbians can meet and enjoy a wide variety of activities.

"I came here because I was new to the area and I wanted to meet people," says Bonnie Preston, a volunteer at the center's bookstore, Sisterspirit. "I don't like the bar scene."

Preston is involved in a variety of activities, including a feminist reader's theater group that meets at the center.

The center was founded in 1990, after a ban on non-discrimination laws for homosexuals was overruled, says Scott McKee, who has been a volunteer at the center for 10 years.

The center was named after Billy De Frank, a female impersonator and entertainer who died of AIDS before the center could be built.

Alex Campo, the president of Pro-Latino, a group for homosexual Latinos

that meets at the center, first started the Pro-Latino group to make people more aware of AIDS.

"My friends would only talk about AIDS in the gay bars. What kind of serious conversation can you have at the bar?" he says.

Campo says the Latino community is still in a state of denial when it comes to homosexuality.

"It is difficult for me to talk with my family about certain issues. They would rather ignore the fact that I am gay," he says.

Campo says the group has given him a sense of belonging.

"This group has helped me to grow tremendously and

bring out the more human side of me. I'm growing together with the group," he says.

The Pro-Latinos have a variety of activities that they do together, including marching in parades such as Cinco De Mayo, putting on workshops on self-esteem, having picnics, and going on

'I think straight people will get a much warmer reception here than a gay person would going to a straight place. We're very accepting here.'

Scott McKee
DeFrank volunteer



ABOVE: Doug Bellairs uses a paint blotter to mark his bingo card during Wednesday night bingo at the Billy DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Center.

TOP: Pat Miller announces the numbers during a bingo game.

continued on page 13

Sisterspirit Reading, Writing & Feminism

text by **Kevin Valine**

photo by **Christina Macias**

Stockton Avenue is a stone's throw from the ultramodern San Jose Arena. But with its grit and grime, Stockton Avenue is a throwback to a meaner San Jose.

During the day, cement trucks from Central Concrete Supply rumble down the avenue past auto body shops, run-down bars, and the disheveled men who congregate in front of the Salvation Army.

But Stockton Avenue is also the home of Sisterspirit Bookstore — the only South Bay bookstore for women and lesbians.

As soon as you enter, you immediately sense the contrast between store and avenue. With its soft lights and music, Sisterspirit has the warm, snug feeling of a book lover's living room. Books are crammed in shelves that hug the walls.

Rebecca Tavish has been shopping at Sisterspirit for the past four years because of the sense of community she feels.

She says even though the big chain booksellers also sell gay and lesbian books, they don't have the community she experiences at Sisterspirit.

"If you go to Barnes and Noble, they have a good gay and lesbian selection, but it's only one percent of their total selection," she says.

"But you come here and it's all gay and lesbian," Tavish says. "When you live in an environment where you're the minority,

then you're in a place where you're the majority — it's like coming home to family, to your roots."

Gloria Collins, a part-time English lecturer at San Jose State University and a volunteer at Sisterspirit — the bookstore is a nonprofit cooperative and is run by volunteers — says community is the main strength of the bookstore.

"You'll find our books almost everywhere," she says.

"But we provide an atmosphere where women can hang out. We're a women's bookstore and our primary focus is women's issues."

As you browse the shelves, you'll see sections devoted to fiction, poetry, science fiction, erotica, self-help, and gay and lesbian issues.

Biographies of Eleanor Roosevelt, Janis Joplin and country music entertainer Barbara Mandrell are on the shelves.

You'll also see novels by authors Alice Walker and Ann Rice.

But you'll also see nonfiction

titles like "Seeing myself, seeing the world: A woman's journey around the world on a bicycle," and fiction titles like "Lady Lobo," which chronicles the adventures of "Casey Ellison," a "brash, young jock dyke."

Sisterspirit volunteer Carol Gunby says the difference between gay and lesbian books and more mainstream books can be simple or complex.

"It can be real simple," she says. "You can read a mystery novel and it

can be a straight substitution. The detective will be a lesbian."

"But other times," she says, "the differences can be complex. The book will deal with political issues like AIDS and homophobia."

Collins says Sisterspirit also fosters community by offering enter-

tainment every other Thursday evening. She says the lesbian entertainers range from musicians and comedians to poets.

Collins isn't the only SJSU connection to the bookstore, which rents space from the Billy Defrank Lesbian and Gay

Community Center.

Jane Boyd, an SJSU professor in the women's studies program, says Sisterspirit was founded 10 years ago by two graduate students in women's studies.

But there is also a financial connection between Sisterspirit and SJSU.

Boyd says women's studies professors have the option of ordering their textbooks through Sisterspirit. She says textbook sales are the backbone of the bookstore's success.

Boyd says it's important for people interested in women's issues to support Sisterspirit because some of the books it sells aren't stocked by the chain bookstores.

She says the chain is motivated by money, and they make the most money by selling books printed by big publishing houses and not women's books, which tend to be printed by small publishing houses.

"Freedom of the press belongs to whoever owns the press," she says. "Historically, women's issues are not big sellers. We have consumer power. We can spend our money in ways we believe. It's our choice."

Sisterspirit is located on 175 Stockton Ave. Monday through Friday 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Wednesday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.) Saturday noon to 6 p.m. Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

continued from page 12

retreats.

The DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Center is like a small bustling community. Inside, one can find telephone operators at work, vendors that sell hot dogs and cafe mocha and an outdoor patio area for visitors to relax. There are over 40 groups that meet there ranging from a gay/lesbian chorus group to a group for homosexual Republicans.

"We have a group for everyone to fit in," McKee says.

The DeFrank Center is funded by United Way. The center's staff consists of volunteers. Money is also raised through events such as bingo and the annual "Incognito" fund-raiser ball, McKee says.

The center is not solely for gays and lesbians though.

"There are a lot of straight people, parents of gay people, and friends of gays that come here," McKee says.

McKee says the reception at the DeFrank Center is friendly to gays and non-gays.

"I think straight people will get a much warmer reception here than a gay person would going into a straight place," he says. "We're very accepting here."

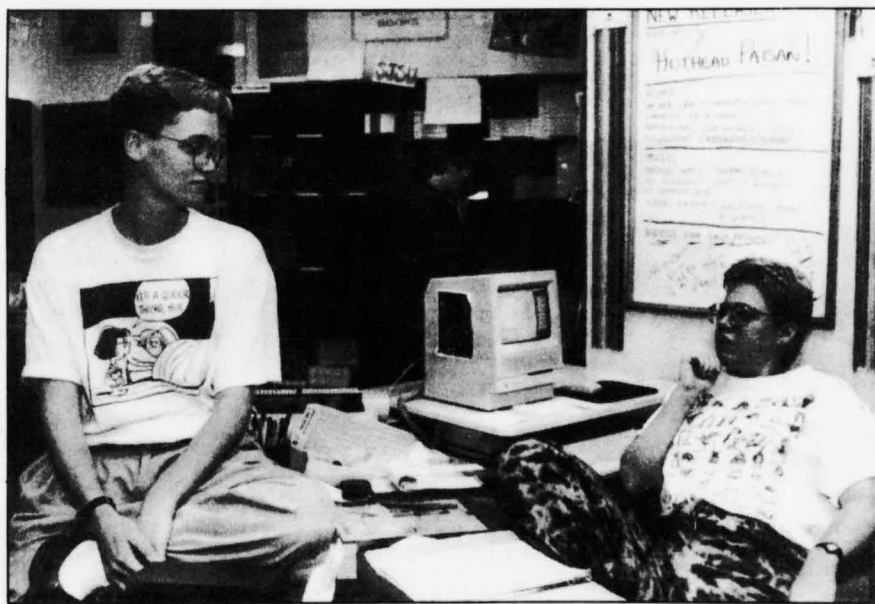
Phone operators at the center answer a variety of calls from people wondering what time an event will occur to others of a more personal nature.

"Sometimes we get calls from young teen-agers who are wondering if they are gay or not," McKee says.

McKee encourages both gays and non-gays to come to the center and see what it has to offer. It is open Monday through Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with extended hours on Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

'You'll find our books almost everywhere. But we provide an atmosphere where women can hang out. We're a women's bookstore and our primary focus is women's issues.'

**Gloria Collins
Sisterspirit
volunteer**



Pam Remy, left, and Carol Gunby are both volunteers at the Sisterspirit Bookstore located in the DeFrank Center. The store sells books, magazines, cards, mugs and gifts with feminist and lesbian slogans.

'The Scout' Strikes Out


a review by A.J. Nomai

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The best thing about "The Scout" was that it introduced me to the Alhambra theater.

I had never been to the Alhambra theater in San Francisco until I went to review this movie. The theater was reminiscent of a cathedral; a magnificent house built to worship film. There was a balcony and a sculptured ceiling with the faces of gargoyles starting down from the center. The ambience was overwhelming.

"The Scout," projected across the span of this awe-inspiring theater, seemed an ironic waste.

Perhaps that can be the operative word to describe this movie — a waste. A waste of my time, a waste of the producers' money, a waste of film stock and a waste of energy to project the picture. I could go on, but it would be a waste of breath.

Nothing about "The Scout" made it worth watching. The story about a scout for the New York Yankees who needs to find a gem of a player to save his career goes neither here nor there.

After signing a lemon for a pitcher, Al Percolo (Albert

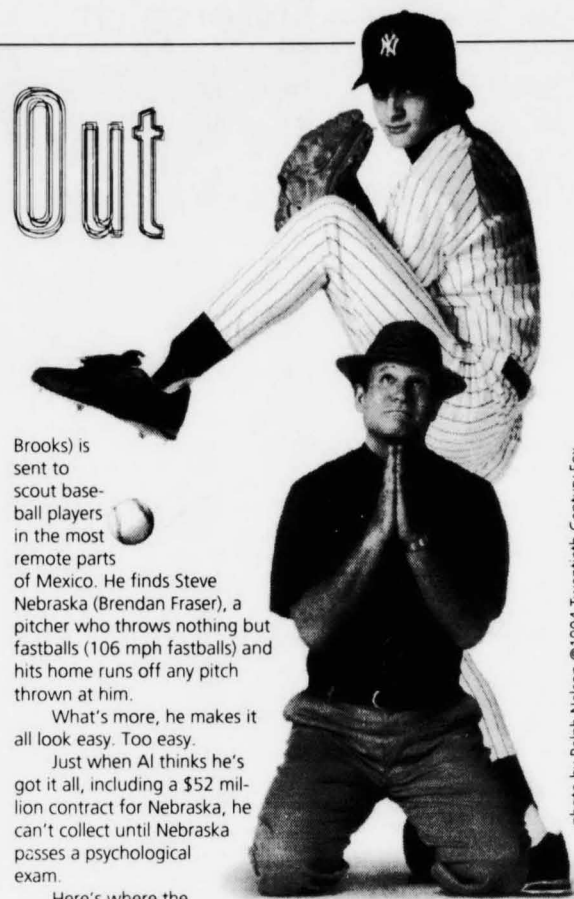


photo by Ralph Nelson © 1994 Twentieth Century Fox

Brooks) is sent to scout baseball players in the most remote parts of Mexico. He finds Steve Nebraska (Brendan Fraser), a pitcher who throws nothing but fastballs (106 mph fastballs) and hits home runs off any pitch thrown at him.

What's more, he makes it all look easy. Too easy.

Just when Al thinks he's got it all, including a \$52 million contract for Nebraska, he can't collect until Nebraska passes a psychological exam.

Here's where the film starts to wobble a little.

Psychiatrist Dr. H. Aaron (Diane Wiest) gleans from a very brief interview that Nebraska has a serious problem. According to Dr. Aaron, Nebraska was abused by his father when he was a child and is in major denial.

Al doesn't get a letter of recommendation from Dr. Aaron and grudgingly accepts to put Nebraska in therapy. Al doesn't seem to care about Nebraska, he just wants his money, so he looks at this situation as a kind of mild inconvenience.

The characters in "The Scout" weren't given any time to develop, and it's at this point where that becomes apparent.

Al comes off with more character simply because he talks more. As a result, Nebraska comes off flat. There's just too much left unknown about him, and his character resembles a cardboard cutout. Actually, Fraser kind of acted like one too.

But Al isn't without his own problems, which include excessive egoism and greed (bordering on gluttony). His apparent blindness to Nebraska's problem is somewhat disturbing.

The film could have built upon Nebraska's past history and his relationship with Al, but it didn't. There was no connection between Al and Nebraska and the story fell flat.

Albert Brooks, once master

of his own domain in such films as "Broadcast News" and "Defending Your Life," spits out one-liner after one-liner. The problem is that his jokes have no punch. Brooks is the victim of a poorly written script.

Hoping to see some baseball? Just like the 1994 baseball season, "The Scout" will leave you hanging. Don't let the commercials fool you. There's about as much baseball in "The Scout" as there was at Candlestick Park last month.

By all means, see the Alhambra theater, it's beautiful. Just wait until "The Scout" isn't playing there.

review:

☆ [out of four solid stars]

The Scout

Starring: Albert Brooks, Brendan Fraser, Dianne Wiest

Director: Michael Ritchie

Screenplay by: Andrew Bergman, Albert Brooks and Monica Johnson

Rated: PG-13

The reviews are the opinions of the writers, kinda like the Opinion page, and does not necessarily reflect those of the Spartan Daily management and staff.

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On The Air With Flair

text by **Lana M. Jang**

photos by **Jeanette L. Hanna**



Hyde Revilla, right, co-host of KSJS's "Diagonally Speaking," asks guests Robert Serpe, left, and Jerimie Monahan questions Monday night. Serpe is a representative from the DeFrank Center and Monahan is a regular guest and activist for gay rights.

"Hyde the Happy Homo" Revilla and "Brett Matthew Salem Winston" Larson, and gay activist guest Jerimie Monahan, otherwise known as the show's "fag about the town," were excited about the night's guests.

The commotion was on the green and yellow couches, where the three hosts were discussing plans for the next hour on the KSJS radio talk show "Diagonally Speaking."

By the way, the program is a homosexual talk show which airs on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m and those names are their own aliases.

Upon the entrance of their guests, Robert Serpe and John Johnson, representatives from the

Billy DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Revilla and Larson led the pack to the door of the studio where the lighted sign "On the Air" kept the group out of the room until the "Stand By" sign lit.

The "Stand By" sign lit and the door opened. While Larson began to set up the equipment, Revilla settled into her seat between their guests. She was lucky enough to have a set of headphones to wear during this show.

"They're gonna mess up my 'do'," quipped Revilla about the headphones affecting her spiked hair.

The program began with the

regular disclaimer about the show's content not being a representation of KSJS or its staff.

The show continued with some music and the introduction of Serpe and Johnson. Serpe began to talk about the importance of the Billy DeFrank Center and the various youth groups that meet there. The Center is the fourth largest homosexual community center in the United States.

Guests like Serpe and Johnson are welcomed with open arms to the show, which focuses on current events and issues happening in the gay community.

The show has guests lined up for the whole month, including Kevin Kinney of Gay and Lesbian Affairs in the Residence Halls and Marty Grimes, a representative from the Aris Project, the San Jose AIDS awareness program.

"Guests are great when they have something to say and a lot of it," says Larson, an Ohlone Community College student.

"Guests make the difference. A show can be really strong because the guests are making the show strong," says Jeannine Parshall, Program Director of KSJS.

"Diagonally Speaking" was started in 1990 by the late Jim Walters, a SJSU student who died of AIDS.

The prerecorded show's focus was a discussion of gay and lesbian events and issues.

"I have been told that people didn't like it because it was boring. The hosts just sat there and talked the entire hour," Larson says.

The show still focuses on gay and lesbian issues, but has evolved

with music, guests, and a live, informal format.

"We have been told that we have a hang out and chat format. The person listens to our show and sees us as people he'd like to hang out with," Revilla says.

Larson started "Diagonally Speaking" about a year ago. He also has two other DJ jobs with KEZR and Ohlone College.

"I have more control and put more music on the show. The talks are less serious and we've cut up the important stuff in between jokes," Larson says.

Revilla was invited as a guest speaker last semester and was asked to stay as co-host. Revilla is also co-president of GALA and a gay activist.

"I like the idea of reaching people in your own way. It gives me a medium to express my activism," Revilla says.

KSJS is a public radio station offered for credit, but both Revilla and Larson are not affiliated with the class.

As long as a licensed DJ is there to run the control board and make sure the content stays within the limits of FCC standards, then students or off-campus individuals can have their show, Parshall says.

"Diagonally Speaking" has been a learning experience as improvements have been made on the content of the program with more guests and proper FCC rules through KSJS DJ training.

"This is the most entertaining and fun version of 'Diagonally Speaking' I've listened to," says Paul van Rhee, general manager of KSJS.



Brent Larson, co-host of KSJS's "Diagonally Speaking" talk show, laughs during the taping of the weekly show which airs every Monday night from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

