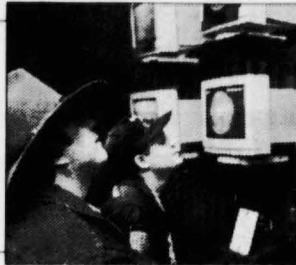




### IN ETC.

Experience the world of virtual reality  
See insert...



### INSIDE

Picasso quilt hangs in Engineering bldg.  
See page 4...



# SPARTAN DAILY

Volume 104, Number 67

Published for San Jose State University since 1934

Thursday, May 11, 1995

## A.S. issued \$2.2 million injunction

By Kevin Valine  
Spartan Daily City Editor

A changing of the guard Wednesday left its mark as the Associated Students was slapped with an injunction that may freeze its entire \$2.2 million budget beginning July 1.

Before the new board members could even get the seats of their chairs warm, the A.S. Judiciary handed them an injunction for a decision the previ-

ous A.S. Board had made.

The old Board decided Wednesday to reinstate \$19,000 in funding the judiciary said is in violation of a 1993 California Supreme Court decision, Smith vs. Regents.

That decision said student government fees cannot be used to finance the political or ideological activities of campus clubs or organizations.

The injunction gives the A.S. until

July 1 to abide by the A.S. Judiciary's interpretation of this decision. If the A.S. fails to do so, it will lose access to its entire budget.

One A.S. officer thinks the Judiciary's action is a power play instigated by outgoing A.S. President Andrea Wagner.

"I see the hand of Wagner operating," said A.S. Officer Glen Evan. "We totally knocked her down during board meetings. She was pissed at us."

Wagner denied Evan's allegation.

"I didn't even know the Judiciary was going to issue an injunction until the second board meeting," she said. "I feel it's very petty on Glen's part."

Even if it weren't a power play, Evan said the A.S. Judiciary has overstepped its authority and meddled with the workings of the A.S. Board.

"The Judiciary is supposed to look at internal (A.S.) matters," he said. "They

don't have the authority to look at Smith vs. Regents. They don't have the jurisdiction."

Wagner said, Evan "needs to take a political science class and realize that the A.S. Judiciary does have the authorization."

The \$19,000 the A.S. reinstated goes toward the salaries and travel expenses of the 13 SJSU organizations it funds.

See A.S. page 8

## Financial aid cuts affects many lives

By Roger R. Ramirez  
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

Delia Gomez gazed over the sleeping children in the SJSU Frances Gulland Child Development Center. She wondered about their futures, even though her immediate situation was in jeopardy.

If the passage of the upcoming GOP budget in Washington, D.C., which seeks to cut many forms of financial aid to college students, becomes a reality, Gomez must deal with a dire situation for her and her family.

A bubbly and caring mother of two, Gomez participates in programs for young people such as a community camps for children, the Georgia Travis Center for homeless teen-age mothers and the SJSU day care center. Her life revolves around children.

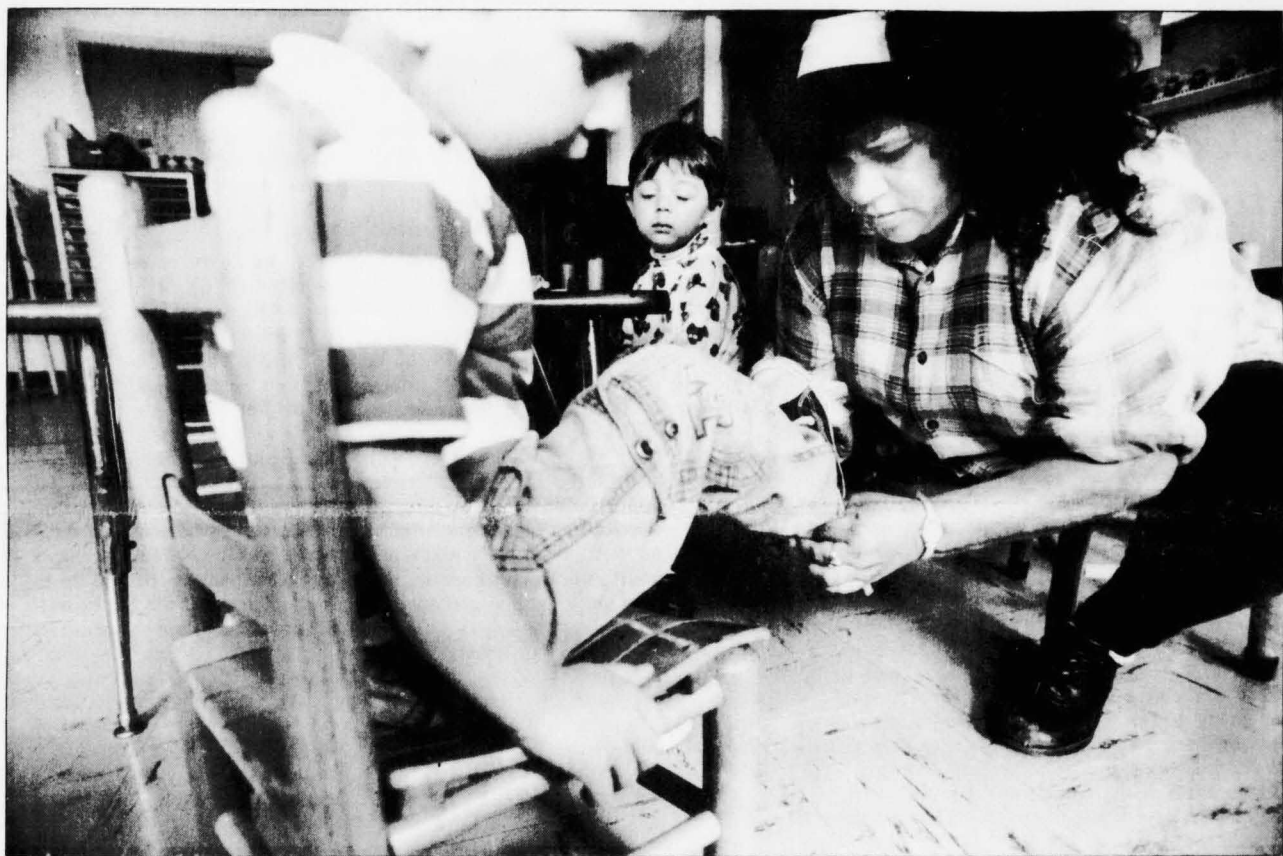
"I work with a lot of teenagers and children. What am I supposed to tell them? What do they have to look forward to if the only way for them to better themselves is being eliminated," Gomez said.

"I was led to believe throughout my life that those opportunities would be there," she said.

Gomez received her day care center job through a federally funded work study program. She also receives financial aid from a Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and a Stafford loan.

If the budget passes and the proposed cuts become a reality, this means Gomez would not graduate, would lose her job in the work study program and, most importantly to her, would make the future of her two

See Financial aid, page 8



Delia Gomez, who works at the Frances Gulland Child Development Center on campus, received her day care center job through a federally-funded work study program. Gomez helps a young student put on his shoes following an afternoon nap.

PHOTO BY COREY RICH — SPARTAN DAILY

## E. Palo Alto students visit campus Outreach program brings 7th graders to SJSU

By Linda Taaffe  
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

When Chemise Jones applied to San Jose State University, the seventh grader never expected to be admitted. But Jones and 30 of her classmates from Donald McNair Middle School in East Palo Alto came to SJSU Wednesday after receiving notices of admission.

The students actually received "mock" admission notices as part of the Harambee Scholars College Day, an event organized to prepare and encourage students to attend college.

Angel Cantrell, a member of SJSU's Student Outreach and Recruitment, began the Harambee program three years

ago after she noticed that few African-American students from the East Palo Alto area were prepared for college.

Cantrell said many of the students struggle with difficult situations at home and are worried about survival rather than applying for college.

"Most of these students don't

See Outreach, page 5

## Lively debate on 'Contract'

### Resident Advisor invites political candidates to discuss Republican's plan to reinvent government

By Kevin Valine  
Spartan Daily City Editor

It was a spirited debate that covered topics like welfare moms, midnight basketball leagues, student loans, and homemade chocolate chip cookies as three SJSU alumni, one professor and 20 students discussed the "Contract with America" Tuesday night in Markham Hall.

Amy Everton, a Resident Adviser in Markham Hall, invited San Jose State University graduates Frank Jewett, David Neighbors and Hal Plotkin to give students information about the Republican's plan to reinvent government.

As an R.A., Everton is required to produce educational

forums each semester for students living in Markham Hall.

All three alumni are active in local politics — Jewett and Neighbors as Republicans and Plotkin as a Democrat. Jewett and Plotkin have run unsuccessfully for state office; Neighbors is thinking about running for Congress in 1997.

Before the three spoke, political science professor James Brent — who served as moderator — gave a nonpartisan account of the "Contract," which was the Republican Party's campaign promise to voters during last November's elections.

Brent wasn't nonpartisan enough for four students who interrupted him several times,

claiming he was misrepresenting the "Contract."

"I see we have some Republicans in the audience," Brent laughed.

Brent said the "Contract" could be distilled into four themes: distrust of the federal government; balancing the federal budget; giving power back to the states; and emphasizing on economic rather than social issues.

Brent said the "Contract" has "engendered needed national debate on government's role in society," but it doesn't offer "any substantive answers."

There was plenty of debate Tuesday night during the two and one-half-hour discussion.

See Contract, page 4

## Making music the mariachi way



PHOTO BY ANDY BARRON — SPARTAN DAILY

Students enrolled in San Jose State University mariachi workshop receive some inspiration in time for their spring concert when Nati Cano, who is considered the most important man in mariachi music in the U.S., visited the class Tuesday night. The SJSU mariachi class will hold its concert May 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hal Todd Studio Theatre. Admission is free.

## Diving competition a big flop

### People of all ages participate in contest at Aquatic Center

By Joanne Griffith Domingue  
Spartan Daily Executive Editor

Even though they flopped, the nine competitors each made a big splash at the San Jose State University belly-flop contest Wednesday afternoon at the campus Aquatic Center.

Colin Follenweider, a 19-year-old sophomore math major,

won first place for his twists and shimmies off the 3-meter diving board.

"I do it because it's fun," he said.

Second place went to Angela Schmidt, a 24-year-old junior and one of the only two women in the contest. She strolled out on the 1-meter diving board to

the music of Tom Petty's "Free Fallin." The loud splat of her tummy hitting the water, drew applause from the 20 spectators.

She usually does belly flops only by accident. But she entered the contest anyway, she said, to get rid of stress.

See Belly flop, page 5

— *Writer's Forum* —

## Lessons of tragedy can steel the spirit

Life is but a tragedy. It is short and full of trouble.

Just turn on the television, pick up the newspaper or listen to the radio and you'll find senseless killing, crime and tragedies.

It seems anywhere you go you can't avoid the tragedies of life.

The Oklahoma City bombing, the Unabomber, the taking away of baby Richard from the only parents he's ever known, O.J.

Simpson, the nerve gas in Japan's subways ... all these are tragedies.

Even here at San Jose State we've experienced our share of tragedies throughout the semester. The suicide of a student, racism and shootings.

And for every one of these major stories the media covers, there are hundreds of tragic stories that go untold.

Throughout history authors have written about the human tragedy. Literature has shown that kings to low men experience tragedies in life.

But these tragedies do show us something good. Through tragedies, we are exposed to the triumphs of the human spirit. The ability to overcome problems and become stronger than before.

I recently read a story about one of the first people to enter the federal building in Oklahoma. He found the limp body of a young child sprawled out across the rubble of the bombed building.



**Dexter T. Manglicmot**

The man took the lifeless body of the child into his arms and sat in tears as he tried to understand the meaning of the disaster.

He continued to sit there even amidst possibilities another bomb might go off any minute. He stayed with this child, a child he never knew but loved with his whole life.

This made me realize that tragedies bring out the best in people. They break barriers of race, age, religion, gender and age. Tragedies show us that humans are basically the same.

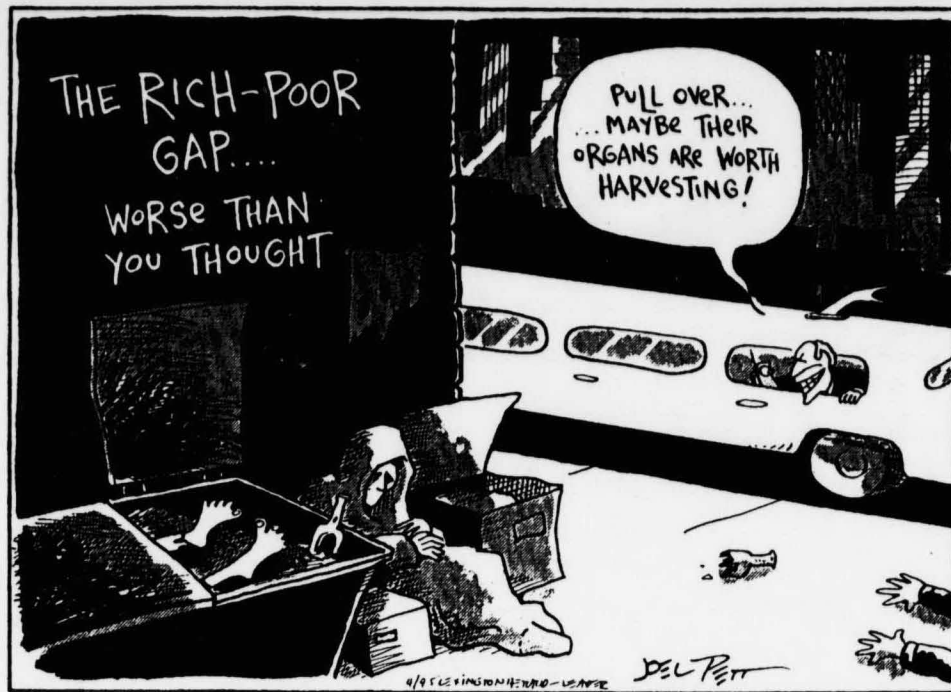
We bleed the same color blood, we cry the same bitter tears and we all strive to survive.

During disasters, the sense of community and cooperation becomes stronger. We work with people who we don't know to accomplish a goal.

It's sad that it takes a tragedy to bring people closer together.

We should not have to wait for a tragedy to happen before we try to help a person. But instead, we should take advantage of every opportunity to make a positive influence in someone's life.

*Dexter T. Manglicmot is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer*



— *Campus Viewpoint* —

## Counseling at SJSU is not recommended

Let us all give a round of applause to the counseling department.

The needy seek to find comfort in the bosom of this flophouse filled with clowns. Sexual harassment is only the beginning in this warehouse of nitwits and intellectual black holes.

I went to the counseling department to seek advice. A woman friend of mine had recently confided in me that her boyfriend abuse her physically. She also volunteered an account of a delusional story he had told her.

Needless to say I became concerned for her safety. That is when I decided I should consult a professional on what to do to help my friend. I did not know if I should interfere or leave it alone. This is where the counseling department comes in.

I asked what action I should take. The counselor refused to answer. She condescendingly asked me if I was prone to violence. She asked, "Do you own a gun?" "Do you have any suicidal

thoughts?" The list goes on.

When I became agitated by her sidestepping she said, "You have some real anger issues." She was so preoccupied with the assumption that I was either the abuser or was set out on seeking revenge that she ignored the whole reason I came to her.

trying to help?

Should I become apathetic? NO. But more importantly, I shall not seek the advice of the corrupt and/or uncaring at the home of the inane, quasi-intellectual, block headed San Jose State University counseling staff.

I still have the need for sound advice on the original matter. The counseling department failed miserably as well as dishing out a huge helping of disrespect.

If trust is an important element of the counseling process, our counselors have in recent times shown themselves seemingly incapable of handling that responsibility.

I also ask myself, "Should I suggest counseling to my friend if the SJSU counselors represent the counseling profession in general?" That might be like going from the frying pan into the fire.

**Charles Taylor**  
Music Composition

## Sexual harassment is only the beginning in this warehouse of nitwits and intellectual black holes.

The experience was humiliating, unproductive and gave me the impression that she saw no sincerity in my inquiry. She is no less than an arrogant rogue.

Should I feel the need to simply ignore the problems of a physically abused woman when that woman volunteers the information? It seems to me that she told me as a way of reaching out for help. Do you walk by a bleeding man without

— *Letter to the Editor* —

## Affirmative action called discriminatory

This is in response to Tom Manriquez's letter "Affirmative Action helps disadvantaged" (April 20). At issue is whether minority groups can excel without Affirmative Action. Minority groups can excel without the Affirmative Action program. Let me point out that the affirmative action plan is not an equal opportunity program, rather it is a discriminatory program designed to help a select few gain unequal access to education and careers.

Equal opportunity is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, while affirmative action is at the expense of white men, giving preferences based solely on race, sex, or other forms of minority status.

There is no need for such a program in a free country such as the United States.

First of all, America is a land of opportunity, equal opportunity. I don't feel sorry for anybody who does not take advantages of the programs (excluding Affirmative Action) and opportunities that the American system has to offer.

Anybody can be what ever they want to be, but they have got to be willing to work hard and sacrifice early, not blame their personal inadequacies on someone else.

Secondly, attending a State University is a goal for some or most students, but what is wrong with going to a community college at first to obtain one's general education requirements? One does not need to have excellent grades in order to attend community college, plus the fees are very affordable. Attending a community college will definitely better ones' chances at securing a position at a state college or university. In fact, transfer students are given priority by many universities.

Thirdly, anyone should be able to obtain a degree based on their own personal abilities and level of desire, regardless of affirmative action. Tom Manriquez states that Affirmative Action helped him to finish his degree, but what about the poor kid who was unable to attend college

because Tom had an unfair advantage during the admission process and took that slot? That poor prospective student was denied equal opportunity based on a discriminatory policy, Affirmative Action.

Living in a safe neighborhood has nothing to do with Affirmative Action or equal opportunity. If anything it should be a bigger incentive to do well in school and expand ones' educational base so that they can leave the bad environment.

Finally, not everyone is a firm believer in the affirmative action program, including those that it reportedly serves. I am not a supporter because it promotes unfairness through reverse discrimination and implies a level of inadequacy among those who rely on its benefits. In a country founded upon fairness and equality for all, affirmative action has no place.

**Bibi Bachman**  
Junior  
Health Sciences

— *A Word From the President* —

## Caret announces retreats, women's soccer

I am providing the campus with an update with regard to some of the changes that are under way:

- Working retreats of the President and Vice Presidents, and numerous guests (called mini-retreats) are scheduled for May 12 (on campus climate), May 19 (on enrollment management), and June 2 (on information resources). The mini-retreats are being held to frame the key issues facing the university, provide broad-based campus input, utilize key people in setting initial agendas and priorities.

- I have received a number of nominations and applications for the position of Special Assistant to the President for Multicultural Affairs (title tenta-

tive). Individuals have been asked to submit letters of interest, and a screening committee is being formed to review potential candidates.

- A working group has been formed to review our institutional policies related to discrimination, workplace violence, racism, etc. The group is being asked to provide recommendations as to how we should proceed in developing a more coherent and cohesive set of policies, including one which defines racism, our stance on racist behavior, and our expectations of our faculty, staff, and students.

- The search committee for the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs has made a selection of final candidates who have been invited to the

campus within the next two weeks. There will be an open forum for all members of the campus to meet each candidate.

- The institution recently announced the addition of women's soccer as our ninth women's Division I athletic team, as part of our commitment to gender equity.

These are some of the high points on changes over the last couple of weeks. I hope to be able to provide you with updates on a periodic basis using the Spartan Daily as the vehicle for communication.

Wishing you a successful end of semester.

**Robert L. Caret**  
President

## Attention Artists

The Spartan Daily is actively recruiting San Jose State artists interested in drawing political cartoons.

Political artists should have good drawing skills, keep up with current events and have a strong position on issues.

If you are interested in becoming a Spartan Daily

political cartoonist, submit your cartoons at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, room 209. Submissions should include the artist's name, address and phone number.

The cartoons will be reviewed by Spartan Daily editors and artists will be notified by phone if their cartoons will be published.

## Opinion page policies

"If all mankind minus one, were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind."

— John Stuart Mill,  
"On Liberty" (1850)

The representation of a broad range of opinions is important to a democracy. The Spartan Daily is committed to sharing those opinions with the community.

Spartan Daily readers may express themselves on the Opinion page with a Letter to the Editor or Campus Viewpoint.

A Letter to the Editor is a 200-word response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily. Campus Viewpoint is a 300- to 500-word essay (two double spaced pages) on current campus, political or personal issues.

Submissions become the property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

Submissions must be typed or submitted on a 3.5" disk using Microsoft Word on the Macintosh. Always provide a printout of the piece.

Submissions may be put in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237 or mailed to the Spartan Daily Forum Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA, 95192-0149.

Editorials are written by, and are the consensus of the Spartan Daily editors, not the staff.

Published opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications or SJSU.

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# Sparta Guide

SJSU's Weekly Calendar

## Today

**Campus Democrats**  
Meeting 2:30p.m. Student Union, Costanoan Room. Call 924-7910.

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**  
Health and Beauty Fair 3p.m.-9 p.m. Engineering Auditorium Room 189 Call 298-4852

**Disabled Students Association**  
Last meeting 1p.m.-2p.m. Student Union, Guadalupe Room. Call 241-2507.

**The Listening Hour**  
SJSU Electro-Acoustic Ensemble 12:30p.m.-1:15p.m. Music Bldg. Concert Hall. Call 924-4631.

**Lutheran Student Fellowship**  
Bible Brown Bag 2p.m.-3p.m. Student Union, Montalvo Room. Call 292-5404.

**Student Health Services**  
Sickle Cell Anemia testing 9:30a.m.-1:30p.m. Health Bldg., Rm. 208. Call 924-6117.

## Friday

**Aikido Club**  
Last Meeting & Weapons training 2:30-4p.m. Spartan Complex West Room 202. Call 259-6816.

**Club Anamaniacs**  
Japanese Animation 2:15p.m. Washington Square Hall Room 109. Call 924-8760.

**M.E.Ch.A.**  
Meeting 2p.m. Chicano Library Resource Center. Call 656-0635.

**Sikh Student Association**  
Meeting 2:30p.m. Student Union, Almaden Room. Call 270-9331.

**SJSU Gamelan Ensemble**  
Spring Concert-Gamelan music from Java & America 8p.m. Concert Hall, Music Bldg. Call 945-0294.

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.

# D.A. sued by opponent

## S.F. prosecutor claims he was fired for running against his employer in election race this Nov.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A former San Francisco prosecutor has sued District Attorney Arlo Smith for firing him after he announced plans to run against Smith this November.

Assistant District Attorney William Fazio was fired in retaliation for exercising his right to take part in the political process, and was falsely accused by Smith of lawbreaking, Fazio said in a U.S. District Court suit Tuesday.

The firing "strikes at the very roots of our constitutional democracy," attorney Joseph Cotchett said in the suit.

In response, Smith's campaign manager, Mike Rice, said

Fazio is "a desperate man who is asking the courts to intervene to salvage whatever credibility he may have left."

Smith has been district attorney since 1979 and was the Democratic candidate for state attorney general in 1990. He faces his first serious re-election opponent in Fazio, who has been with the office since 1975 and has prosecuted high-profile homicide cases.

Smith fired him a few hours after Fazio announced his candidacy April 13. The district attorney said he had lost confidence in Fazio, and accused the prosecutor of violating state law by offering not to run if he was promoted to the No.

2 job in the office.

Fazio denied making any such offer. He said a district attorney's investigator approached him shortly before his announcement, urged him to wait four years before running and suggested he would be a good replacement for Smith's current top aide. Fazio said he replied that Smith would never promote him to that position and that he intended to run for the top spot.

Fazio's lawsuit does not contend he had the right to permanent employment or Civil Service protection. But he said he had a right to run for office without losing his job and

should have been given a hearing to respond to Smith's accusations.

The suit, filed against Smith and the city, seeks reinstatement and damages for lost pay, benefits and emotional distress.

In a somewhat similar case, a Santa Clara County prosecutor, Julius Finkelstein, was suspended in 1982 days before an election in which he was running against the retiring district attorney's chosen successor, Finkelstein, who said he was falsely accused of wrongdoing by the incumbent, lost the election but was later awarded more than \$1 million in damages by a jury.

# Bomb site to be imploded soon

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A company that imploded the old Dunes Hotel in a fiery spectacle and is currently destroying Scud missile sites in Hungary may demolish the devastated federal building in Oklahoma City.

Workers with Controlled Demolition Inc. of Phoenix, Md. began preliminary work at the Alfred P. Murrah building on Tuesday.

"We are presently on site, working for the GSA (General Services Administration) in removing debris from the floors in that portion of the building which is still standing in order to reduce the load on what is a

very distressed structural framework," Mark Loizeaux, CDI president, said in a telephone interview from his Maryland office.

"Once that load is reduced, and we have better visibility of the remaining structure, we will be providing opinions to the GSA structural people," Loizeaux said. "At that point, further decisions will be made."

Loizeaux said any decisions about possible implosion of the building would have to be made by the GSA.

Imploding the heavily-damaged building — demolishing it with strategically-placed explosives.

# Carjacking turns fatal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A gunman shot a passenger to death during a brazen daytime carjacking, then led police on a chase through Hollywood with the dead man strapped in the front seat, authorities said.

Costello Blackwell, a transient whose most recent address was St. Louis, was arrested and booked for investigation of murder, said police Detective Wendi Berndt.

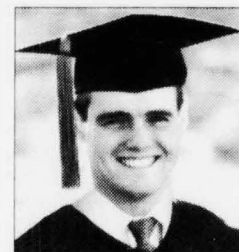
Blackwell apparently knew the car's driver, who stopped when he spotted Blackwell walking

down the street at about 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, investigators said. Blackwell asked for a ride and got in the back seat of the Acura Legend, said Berndt.

Blackwell then shot the passenger in what the detective called "an apparently drug-related" attack. Blackwell then pointed the weapon at the driver, investigators said, and announced, "This is a carjacking!"

The driver jumped out of the car and the gunman took the wheel and drove away.

## GIVE US TIME TO REPAY YOUR LOAN.



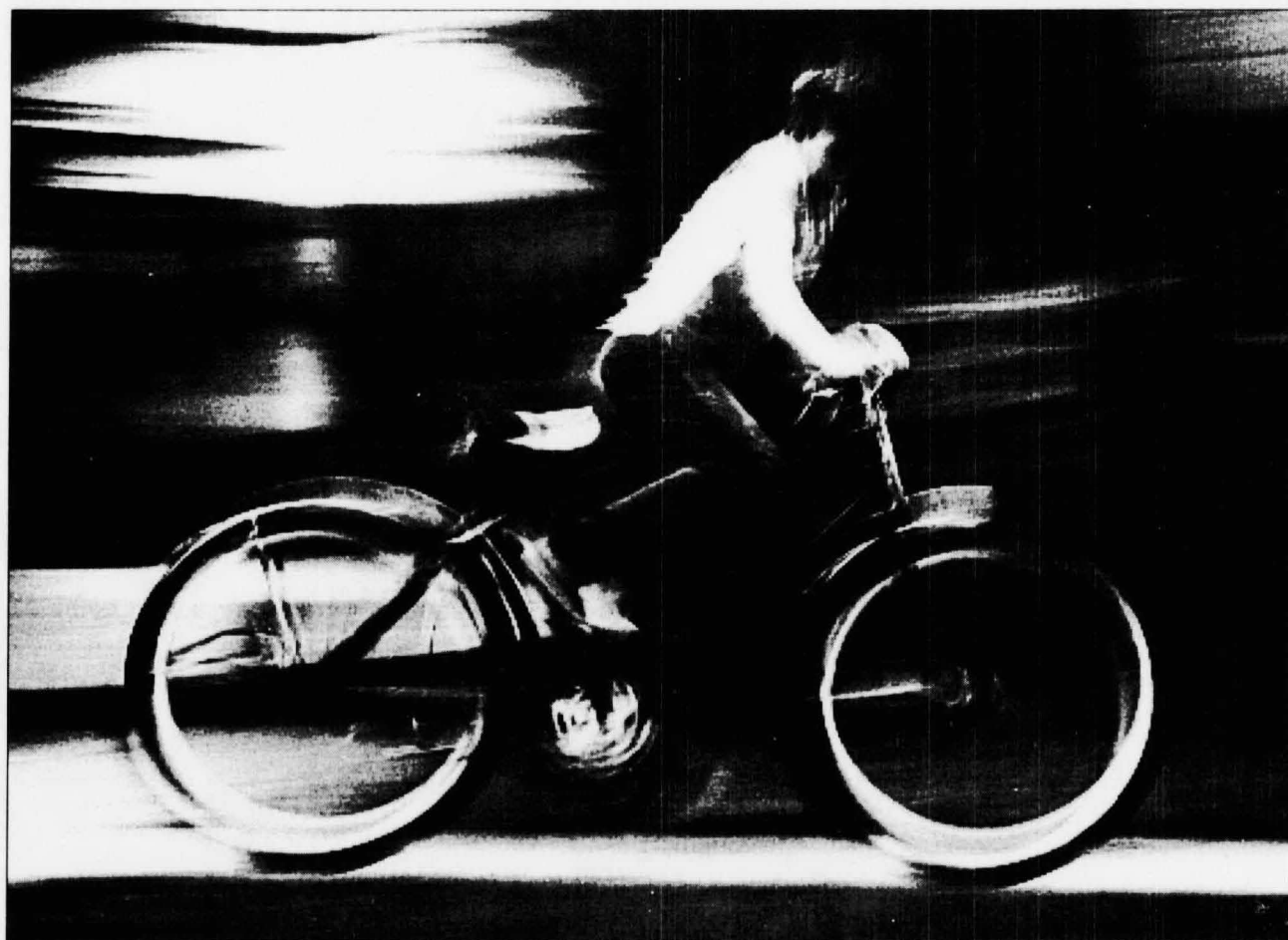
After just three years in the Army, your college loan could be a thing of the past.

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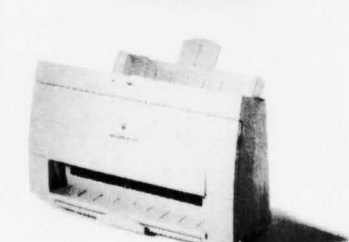


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\*Deferred Apple Computer Loan offer expires June 2, 1995. No payment of principal or interest will be required for 90 days. Interest accruing during this 90-day period will be added to the principal and will bear interest which will be included in the repayment schedule. Monthly payment is an estimate based on a total loan amount of \$3,712.17, which includes a sample purchase price of \$3,508 and a 6.0% loan origination fee for the Power Macintosh 7100 system shown above. The monthly payment for the total loan amount described above would have been \$63. The interest is variable based on the commercial paper rate plus 5.5%. For example, the month of February 1995 had an interest rate of 11.57% with an Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 13.32%. The monthly payment and the APR shown assumes 90-day deferral of principal and interest as described above, and no other deferral of principal and does not include state sales tax. Product prices, product availability, loan amounts and sales taxes may vary. The Apple Computer Loan has an 8-year loan term with no prepayment penalty and is subject to credit approval. Prequalification expedites the loan process but does not guarantee final loan approval. © 1995 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, Macintosh, Macintosh Performa, PowerBook, LaserWriter Select, Color StyleWriter and "The power to be your best" are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Power Macintosh and Mac are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. All Apple products are designed to be accessible to individuals with disability. To learn more (U.S. only), call 800-776-2333 or 714-800-833-6223.



PHOTO BY JOHN STUBLER — SPARTAN DAILY

Students walk under a quilt rendition of Picasso's painting, "Guernica," in the Engineering Building. The quilt was made by students of Art 144 Textile Design.

## Picasso rendition hangs high

By Ken Stewart  
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

A different version of Pablo Picasso's painting, "Guernica," hangs in the lobby of the San Jose State University Engineering building in the form of an 8-by-16 foot quilt made by students in a textile design class.

"It was one of the best experiences I've had," said art graduate student Cathy Larkin.

The quilt took about six weeks to for 13 students, plus the instructor to finish. Twelve students each made a panel and one made the border.

The black and white textures create a blend of light and shade. They were made by starting with black fabric and using bleach to achieve the white portions.

Consuelo J. Underwood, pro-

fessor of the design class, decided to use a 6-by-15 inch picture of Picasso's original "Guernica" as a model for the quilt. It was customized in remembrance of war casualties.

In a press release, Underwood said, "the quilt is dedicated to the loved ones who have participated in contemporary warfare since the painting of "Guernica" over fifty years ago. "Guernica" was originally painted by Picasso to protest the air-bombing of innocent civilians who resided in the Basque town in northern Spain."

Students of the art class have recreated the famous artwork to remind students of the nature of armed conflicts which take place in the world every day. The students hope the viewers will

reevaluate, then cherish the value of peaceful resolution.

"It was fun and challenging," art education senior, Susan Vaughan-Surman said.

"Professor Underwood was looking for someplace to give the quilt an installation on campus. It's a very good piece of art," said Linda Adams, executive assistant to the dean of engineering.

A couple of engineering students seemed surprised and delighted to see artwork in the Engineering building.

"I think it's good that different departments exchange things. It brings the school closer together," said Cindy Ho, a junior majoring in electrical engineering.

"It's interesting to look at," said aerospace engineering sophomore, Holly Adamson.

## Contract

From page 1

On student loans, Plotkin said if implemented, the "Contract" would do away with the federal government paying the interest while students are in school.

"Republicans," he said, "have decided that's too big a price to pay."

Jewett countered with personal responsibility. "I'm sympathetic to students," he said. "But there is no free lunch. I took out loans and worked two jobs to get through school."

The need for welfare reform also sparked debate. Jewett said people who remain on welfare too long, "lose their self-respect."

This prompted one student to say, "I take great offense when you say people on welfare don't

**We've got to look at wealth creation and not division of the pie.**

Frank Jewett  
SJSU graduate

have self-respect. My mother is on welfare and gets up every day to go to a job that doesn't pay enough."

The real division was in Plotkin's and Jewett's philosophy of government.

Plotkin, who works as a writer, said the "Contract with America" represents a "pernicious idea: The wealthier you are, the fewer obligations you have to the society that made your wealth possible."

For Jewett, who works as a

banker, the issue should not be framed as rich versus poor. "We've got to look at wealth creation," he said, "and not division of the pie."

Throughout the evening, participants munched on cookies baked by Everton. "Everyone (in Markham) knows I bake," she said.

But a question remains: Do cookies and politics mix?

"Most definitely," Brent said. "We need cookies to soften the hard edges of the rhetoric."

## Shooting on Golden Gate Bridge

Pleasanton man in fair condition after threatening to jump

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In its 58 years, the Golden Gate Bridge has seen nearly 1,000 suicides off its fog-shrouded railings. But the desperate people who seek its heights most often jump.

They rarely provoke police into shooting them, as police said happened Tuesday night.

Bradley Kubik of Pleasanton, 33, was in fair condition Wednesday after surgery for four gunshot wounds suffered when a California Highway Patrol officer shot him shortly after he threatened to throw himself off, police and hospital officials said.

The shooting followed a tense standoff that closed the bridge for 2 1/2 hours because officers thought Kubik was armed.

The trouble began around 8:30 p.m. when Kubik's mother called the highway patrol to say her son was headed toward the bridge and might be suicidal. She told dispatchers he owned

a .38-caliber handgun, CHP Officer Jerry Monge said.

Officers found Kubik, dressed in camouflage gear, near the north tower. He was despondent and irrational and at least once, climbed over the railing and threatened to jump, but deputies talked him out of it, Monge said.

At several points during the hour-long standoff, he taunted the officers, told them he had a gun and dared them to shoot, Lt. Rich Laden of the Marin County Sheriff's Department said.

Around 10 p.m. Kubik reached into his pocket and pulled out a fake, plastic handgun that in the darkness, looked real.

Upon seeing it, one officer fired between four and six shots, Laden said.

Kubik underwent surgery at San Francisco General Hospital Tuesday night for wounds in his back, upper abdomen, buttocks

and upper leg. His condition improved quickly Wednesday, but hospital spokeswoman Gloria Rodriguez did not know when he would be released.

He will undergo psychiatric counseling, she said.

The Marin-based officer who did the shooting has been placed on administrative leave, as is standard practice in any officer-involved shooting. He is a 13-year veteran of the department. His name has not been released.

The shooting is a new twist on what sadly is a common occurrence. Since it opened in 1937, 993 people have jumped to their deaths off the rust-colored span. Only a few have survived the 220-foot fall.

Monge, who keeps a log of the suicides and has heard his share of stories, does not remember ever hearing about somebody being shot by police while trying to jump.

## Children scared of future: worried over AIDS, alcohol

WASHINGTON (AP) — American children are frightened about their lives and futures but still look to their parents for advice, according to a survey released Wednesday.

Children ages 10 through 13 think they are more likely to die or be abused than start smoking or drinking, the KidsPeace survey found. And it suggested

most parents are ill-equipped to deal with today's problems.

"Most parents want to be good parents, but they don't know where to turn when there's a crisis," KidsPeace spokesman Mark Stubis told a Capitol Hill news conference. "The kids are really scared and confused out there."

One poll respondent, 10-year-old Janelle, told researchers, "I'm scared of being killed. I want to live my life to the fullest and do everything. I don't want to be dead."

In releasing the survey, KidsPeace launched a program to train parents to help children deal with fears and problems, and they named talk show host Leeza Gibbons as the national spokeswoman for the effort. The KidsPeace program includes a television and radio information campaign and "SafetyNet," a computer Internet service that offers advice — "7 standards for effective parenting" and "15 ways to help your kids through crisis."

"We stand at a turning point in the history of children," said John Peters, the KidsPeace chief executive officer. "We as a nation have the last best chance to help America's kids ... Parents have a last chance to help kids."

According to the survey, 47 percent of children questioned reported bleak expectations in life, saying they would be unhappy in the future.

At the same time, 93 percent of the children believe their parents really love them. And about two-thirds said they'd go to their parents for advice — 72 percent about drugs, 63 percent about sex and 72 percent about alcohol. Mom beat out Dad 4-to-1 as the source of advice, according to the telephone survey conducted by Barna Research of Glendale, Calif.

Barna Research polled 1,023 children at random nationwide this year. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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PHOTOS BY JANET BLACKBURN — SPARTAN DAILY

LEFT: Thirty seventh graders from East Palo Alto's Ronald McNair Middle School converged on the SJSU campus yesterday as part of a student outreach and recruitment program. Their first official stop was at the Office of Admission and Records where they picked up student ID's — good for one day only.

RIGHT: The students listen as the mysteries of financial aid are laid before them. Things lightened up after this lecture when they all received mock scholarship checks and then toured the dorms and the Spartan Bookstore. The trip, arranged by Angel Cantrell, of SJSU's Student Outreach and Recruitment, was the third time seventh graders from the middle school have visited the campus.

## Outreach: Middle school children get a taste of college life

From page 1

know what college is like or how to get there," Cantrell said. "I wasn't seeing a lot of black students going to college and those who were interested weren't prepared.

"On top of that, high school counselors were becoming fewer and fewer in East Palo Alto," she said. "I meet with them (students) twice a year and try to track them so they

are prepared by the time they're ready to graduate."

Instead of targeting students already in high school, Cantrell began recruiting students from middle schools so she could guide them into taking the proper courses and educate them about the realities of college.

Prior to Wednesday's event, students completed mock applications where they chose to be journalism, engineering,

"It's bigger than I thought. I didn't know people lived here.

Irene Jones  
middle school student

physics or theater arts majors. After receiving the mock admission notices, Cantrell gave each of them a fake check which they used to "buy" books and supplies for school.

Chemise Jones wasn't necessarily interested in science, but she was a physics major for the day.

"I want to go to college," she said. "I know about computers

already, but I need to learn about different things so I can see what I like. That's why I signed up for physics. I wanted to try something new."

Irene Jones wants to be a lawyer. Although she knew she needed to maintain her grades and prepare herself for the college entrance exam, she wasn't prepared for real-life campus.

"It's bigger than I thought," she said. "I didn't know people

lived here."

At the end of the day, students received a certificate of completion. Cantrell hopes the program will be one way to guide young students into a better future.

Cantrell said the program's name, "Harambee," means "Together we are united."

"Black people need to come together and help themselves," Cantrell said.

## Bellyflop

From page 1

"Finals are coming up. I'm hurting my brain," she said. "Why not hurt my body?"

Toshi Takamiya, a 24-year-old student from Japan, won third place. He entered the contest in celebration of his birthday on May 10.

For first place, Follenweider received two all-day passes to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. Schmidt, for second, won a \$25 gift certificate to the Wherehouse. Takamiya was presented with a \$20 gift certificate to Spartan Shops.

The other woman in the contest, Chiara Llamas, a senior majoring in hotel management, doesn't know how to swim. She walked off the 1-meter board,

"Finals are coming up. I'm hurting my brain, why not hurt my body?"

Angela Schmidt  
SJSU Junior

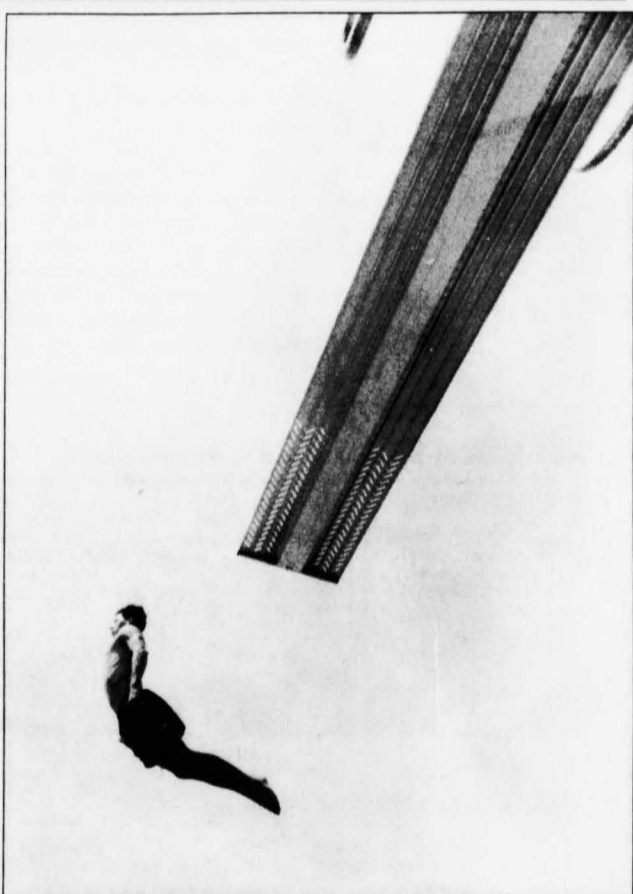


PHOTO BY COREY RICH — SPARTAN DAILY

Colin Follenweider takes first place in the San Jose State University belly-flop contest, Wednesday afternoon.

arms out at her side for balance, and, well, flopped.

"I wasn't scared," she said. "I like water."

Two lifeguards were in the pool under the diving board waiting for Llamas. Each took an arm when she came up for air, and then ferried her to the side of the pool.

The youngest flopper in the contest was Patrick Amador, a 12-year-old seventh grader at Hoover Middle School. He was swimming with his friends who got out of school at 2:05 p.m.

Judy Hermann, public relations and marketing director for the Student Union, said the event was put on to draw attention to the Aquatic Center, which opened in the spring of 1988.

The SJSU swimming pool is the

largest outdoor pool in Northern California, Hermann said.

"It's bigger than Olympic size," said Caryn Collopy, manager of the Aquatic Center. It's 60 meters long, with 50 meters of deep water. An Olympic-sized pool is 50 meters," Collopy said.

In 1989, the Aquatic Center held its first belly flop contest.

"We had 15-20 floppers," Hermann said. "They were mostly males. It tends to be a guy thing," she said.

This summer the Aquatic Center will offer swimming lessons by Swim America for all ages at all levels. The center is selling \$50 family passes for

three months of membership at the Aquatic Center and the Sport Club. The pool is heated to 81-83 degrees. Hermann and Collopy said the facilities are open to the neighborhood as well as to the campus community.

"It's a nice, safe place for children," Collopy said. There is no age requirement for children to come to the pool, but there is a height requirement. Children must be 48-inches from toes to chin.

"We develop a friendship with the neighborhood children," Collopy said. "It's a good place for them to get away from a TV in the summer."

# DENZEL WASHINGTON      GENE HACKMAN

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## Twardzik is offered position with Warriors

OAKLAND (AP) — Dave Twardzik, player personnel director for the Charlotte Hornets, apparently has been offered the job of general manager of the Golden State Warriors, according to published reports.

The Warriors declined to confirm it and said no news conference had been scheduled.

"We have no official announcement at this point," Warriors Director of Media Relations Julie Marvel said

**basketball**

today.

But Hornets owner George Shinn basically confirmed Twardzik's departure, telling The Charlotte Observer today, "I like Dave very much, but opportunity has called and I'm happy for him. The Observer cited unnamed sources as confirming Twardzik had been offered the post.

Twardzik played professional basketball for nine seasons, including four with Virginia of the old American Basketball Association and five with the Portland Trail Blazers, although his entire last season was spent on the injured list. He was on Portland's NBA championship team in 1977.

Twardzik, who has been with the Hornets since 1990, confirmed that he has been talking with Golden State.

"We have talked," he told the Contra Costa Times on Tuesday of his contacts with the team. "We have had more than one conversation. How serious they are about me, I don't know. It's a good job. They definitely have some interesting pieces to the puzzle."

## Flames hope new location helps them start winning

SAN JOSE (AP) — Maybe the change in scenery will help.

Unsuccessful at home, the Calgary Flames now come to the San Jose Arena, seeking to stay alive in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Seventh-seeded San Jose, which ousted top-seeded Detroit in a first-round upset last year, won the first two games at Calgary and could advance again with victories Thursday night and Saturday night.

"We've got to figure out some way to get back in it," Flames winger Sheldon Kennedy said. "Maybe we'll finally get some breaks down there."

History, though, is not on their side. No Calgary team has ever come back to win a playoff series after losing the first two games.

"This is the most difficult scenario I can paint," said Calgary coach Dave King.

**hockey**

"Now we're sitting with our backs against the wall," Calgary defenseman Zarley Zalapski added. "Now we've got to play desperate hockey. But when we have had to play that way this year is when we've played our best."

Calgary defenseman Phil Housley also pointed to the Flames' success in San Jose during the regular season as a reason to maintain some optimism.

"We won both our games in San Jose this year, so there is hope," Housley said.

No question, though, the Sharks have all of the momentum.

San Jose is coming off Tuesday night's 5-4 overtime victory at Calgary. Ulf Dahlen scored at 12:21 of the extra period to give the 4-year-old franchise its first playoff overtime victory.

"We're in the best position we could be after two games, but we haven't accomplished anything yet," cautioned Dahlen.

"Calgary is a good team and they're going to come to San Jose even tougher to beat."

San Jose coach Kevin Constantine remains concerned about the Sharks' defensive lapses in the late going. Calgary center Robert Reichel forced Tuesday's night's overtime when he scored with 46 seconds left in

regulation. In San Jose's 5-4 victory Sunday, German Titov scored with about six seconds left and Reichel just missed on a shot as the time expired.

"We've given up three in final minute the last two games, or at least it feels like three," Constantine said. "It's certainly something we'd like to figure out a solution to... We still had to make some plays and control the puck."

Calgary, which fought back to tie in dramatic fashion, was left to fume over the way Tuesday night's game ended. Dahlen's winning power-play goal came seconds after Flames captain Theo Fleury was penalized for elbowing Jeff Friesen. Referee Paul Devorski made the call.

"If that's a penalty, I'll eat his shorts," Fleury said.

Television replays showed Fleury first hooked Friesen to the ice, then knocked his helmet off with an elbow.

**Maybe we'll finally get some breaks down there.**

Sheldon Kennedy  
Flames winger

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## Barros named NBA's most improved

NEW YORK (AP) — Dana Barros, who led the Philadelphia 76ers in six offensive categories, won the NBA's Most Improved Player award on Wednesday.

Barros averaged career highs in points (20.3), assists (7.5), rebounds (2.4) and steals (1.82) per game. He shot a team-record .464 from 3-point range and set an NBA mark by making at least one 3-pointer in his last 58 games.

The 5-foot-11 guard received 50 of a possible 105 votes from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters. Phoenix Suns' Elliot Perry finished second with 15 votes, while Charlotte Hornets' Scott Burrell and Washington Bullets' Gheorge Muresan tied for third with eight votes apiece.

Barros was the only player to finish in the top 20 in five categories. He was third in 3-point field goal percentage, third in free-throw percentage, 10th in steals, 11th in assists and 17th in scoring.

He scored a career-high 50 points against the Houston Rockets on March 14, becoming only the third player under 6-feet in NBA history to score 50 or more points in a game. The others were Calvin Murphy and Michael Adams.

## Four Spartan fencers qualify for nationals; team hopes fund raising keeps them alive

Spartan Daily Staff Report

The San Jose State University fencing club has been given a reprieve prior to the Pacific Coast Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada.

On the verge of dismantling, the fencing club qualified four fencers for nationals as Janet Olimpo took 7th in the women's foil, and Coach Bruce Capin, Clayton Young and Roger Tu qualified in the men's sabre.

Olimpo's qualification marked the first time in 10 years a SJSU woman was a finalist. She won nine of her 12 matches.

Capin went 10-0 for the tournament, taking first place. Young (9-3) took third place and Tu, went 4-5 in his first Pacific

championships, placing 13th out of 30 competitors.

The club nearly broke up because Capin is moving to Las Cruces, New Mexico. The club members hope to preserve the program by flying Capin out once a month.

The team is considering bringing Capin to California for three-day camps each month, in addition to flying him to a competition. They hope to achieve the money for his flights by fund raising and donating some of their own money.

Paul Tu, the foil/epee' coach, will continue training the fencers at club practices.

## SJSU women's golf still ranked No. 3 in nation

Spartan Daily Staff Report

The San Jose State University women's golf team was ranked No. 3 in the nation in this month's Golf World Magazine.

Arizona State, two-time defending NCAA women's champ, received all 14 first-place votes to lead three other teams from the West — Stanford, San Jose State and UCLA. The highest-rated Eastern team, Wake Forest, is fifth. Stanford is ranked No. 2.

The Lady Sun Devils are perfect (8-0) this year and, by far, have the leading team stroke average in the nation, 73.23. They're 47-0 against teams ranked in the top 20.

SJSU averaged 75.18 and had a record of 30-9-1 against top 20 teams. The Spartans, led by Janice Moodie's 73.39 average, have taken first place in three tournaments.

Other golfers for SJSU include: Vibeke Stensrud, Cecilia Afzelius-Alm, Monica Stratton, Nicole Materne and Ji-Yun Lee.

# DAILY COMICS

15.7% of SJSU's Field Hockey Team believes O.J.'s accomplice was John Doe II.

### OFF THE LEASH BY W.B. PARK



When porcupines go bad.

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# High-tech toys provided by movie mogul

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hollywood film mogul Steven Spielberg is joining with several Silicon Valley high technology companies to provide seriously ill children with bedside computer games to brighten their hospital time.

Spielberg's non-profit Starbright Foundation plans to set up a network of "virtual" playgrounds to entertain youngsters when they are sick. The children will be able to take on the identity of computer

animated cartoon characters to talk to each other through the network or play in three-dimensional computer animated playgrounds. "By linking these kids, who are often deprived of the simple joys

of childhood, we give them a play space just like a park or playground in which they can interact with one another unencumbered by their physical limitations," Spielberg said in a statement issued Tuesday.

"Not only do they get the chance to communicate with their peers, but these distractive interventions have significant therapeutic value," he added. The network could eventually link a hundred children's hospi-

tals in the United States, alone, and even more internationally, said Mel Marks, a hospital administrator and volunteer with Starbright Foundation.

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## DAILY CROSSWORD

answers will appear in the next issue.

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- Aroma
- Browned bread
- Headliner
- Really super
- Zany
- Molten rock
- Insect whacker
- The toe line
- 20 Church official
- Speedwagon
- An Officer and a Gentleman
- star
- 23 Wading bird
- 24 Auto
- 25 Luxurious
- 26 Sibling of bro.
- 31 Sea bird
- 34 Nap
- 36 Savory jelly
- 38 Mimic
- 39 Stubborn
- 41 Lures
- 43 Fleur-de-
- 44 Give feedback
- 46 Cove
- 47 Made cat noises
- 49 "Hannah and - Sisters"
- 51 Loch - monster
- 52 Doze
- 53 Installed electricity
- 55 Small combo
- 57 Very long time
- 58 Draw water
- 63 South African monetary unit
- 64 "Ninotchka" star
- 66 Units of energy
- 67 Ore test
- 68 Crows
- 69 Not hard
- 70 Feats
- 71 Cathedral part

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

LOLL DOGE PETAL  
ELIE ARAB IRENE  
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ADORE BALI GOBI  
RIGOR OVER EDEN  
BESTS TENT SERE

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- DOWN**
- Clumsy ones
  - Sen. Robert - favor
  - Cameo stone
  - Stop working
  - Nasal sounds
  - Cereal grain
  - Leading lady
  - Trapshooting place
  - Novice
  - Motto
  - Place of worship
  - 53 Inferior
  - 1

# Financial aid

From page 1

children unclear. Rob Schwarzwald, press secretary for Rep. Bill Baker, R-Calif., said, "The proposal to eliminate the student loan subsidy is being considered in order to avoid cuts in programs such as the Pell Grant and campus-based student aid to enable students to obtain higher education."

If the Stafford loan subsidies are taken away, Gomez wouldn't be able to continue with school.

This would be a problem for Gomez since she needs both programs. "I'm barely getting by. I'm finding it hard to make ends meet," she said. "The financial aid makes up 100 percent of my income for school, while welfare pays for me and my two children's living expenses."

Her two children, Alicia and Matthew, play a vital role in how Gomez feels about the cuts.

"I'm very angry, primarily because of the affect on my kids and (other) women," Gomez said.

John Boehner, chairman of the House Republican Conference, responded to allegations that Republicans are making it harder for the middle class to send their children to college.

"This is the most outrageous lie of all. At the heart of the just-completed 'Contract with America,' were a series of legislative proposals to help America's middle class," he said.

Boehner also said there would be a \$500 tax credit for every middle-class child under the age of 18 and there would be a creation of "American Dream

Savings Accounts," which would allow families to save for college without being penalized by taxes.

House Democrats disagree. On April 11, Rep. Norm Mineta spoke out against the Republican cuts calling them "draconian" and "mean-spirited" in a press conference which called together presidents of several South Bay colleges.

Mineta said the proposed cuts are being done to finance tax cuts for the very wealthy.

A March 1994 report issued by House Budget Committee Republicans to the Senate and House Committees, proposed options on how to reduce the deficit and suggested spending and revenue options.

The report stated, "Eliminating federal funding of these (campus-based) programs would lower outlays by about \$5.9 billion during the 1995-1999 period."

Donald Ryan, director of financial aid at SJSU, said, "In order to assist our neediest students, we depend on the funding we receive from the campus-based programs."

In chapter four of the Republican report, it suggested reducing subsidies to students for Stafford loans. The report also said the measure would not cause cash flow problems for students while they are in school because they would be allowed to defer interest payments during that time.

But the report acknowledged larger repayments would cause some students to leave school or limit their choices to

lower-priced institutions. Another problem the elimination of the subsidies would cause would be an increase in default rates.

"I am concerned that with the elimination of the in-school interest subsidy, that our (SJSU students') default rate would increase," Ryan said.

The cuts are expected to be proposed in the upcoming federal budget. It will be on the House floor within the next two weeks following the "Clean Water Bill," which is being debated until Friday, said

Lawrence Carr, Rep. Mineta's field representative.

For Gomez, the cuts would change her life.

"This is tearing down the dreams I've worked for all my life," she said. "It takes away the foundation for my family and me."

RIGHT: Delia Gomez paints characters on the children's hands during a play break.

BOTTOM: Delia Gomez, cleans the classroom while her students play.

PHOTOS BY COREY RICH — SPARTAN DAILY



# A.S.: Debate over decision

From page 1

If the funding goes through, the big winners would be the Environmental Resource Center and the Women's Resource Center. Each would receive \$8,000. The remaining \$3,000 would go to the other 11 organizations.

This is the second time A.S. members have tried to reinstate the \$19,000.

At last week's meeting, their decision was vetoed by Wagner. Wagner said by not funding salaries and travel for campus organizations, the A.S. would not be in violation of Smith v. Regents.

Instead, she wanted the A.S. to pay only for the programming — such activities as dances, lectures and speeches — that campus groups sponsor.

"I felt," Wagner said, "if we

only funded programming and not travel and salaries we'd be safe. Sometimes people on salaries spend their time making political fliers."

She said if any students believed A.S. sponsored programming was political or ideological, they could complain to the A.S. Board of Directors.

A.S. Chief Justice Stephanie Jorgl said Wagner's decision was harsh but would meet with the judiciary's approval.

"I understand Andrea's statement," Jorgl said. "Our judiciary says you don't have to go that far. We would accept it as a solution."

The A.S. Judiciary came up with its own solution to Smith v. Regents.

The Judiciary issued an April 13, 1994 interpretation of the decision that it has tried unsuccessfully to get two A.S.

Boards to implement.

The judiciary's interpretation calls for all groups the A.S. funds to be listed when students register for class. If students object to any of them, students can ask that their A.S. fees not go toward the funding of these groups.

The new A.S. Board decided to ignore Wagner and the Judiciary. It decided to send a letter to President Robert L. Caret asking him to mediate the dispute between the A.S. Board of Directors and the A.S. Judiciary.

The officers also formed an ad hoc committee which will investigate Smith v. Regents.

Wednesday was the last scheduled board meeting for this semester. Though Evan said it was possible the board members may hold an emergency meeting.



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# THE GREAT ESCAPE

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## The Trouble With Fantasy Women;

## They Make Our Lives Hell

• Text by etc. editors  
Linda Taaffe and Tina Casalino •

Tina, I don't know what's wrong with my friends, but it seems they all have crushes on cartoon women. Just mentioning Ariel, the red-haired mermaid from "The Little Mermaid" will send my friend into a drooling frenzy. Once, during a party, my other friend boasted that he was dating someone who looked like the girl, Jasmine, from the Disney movie, "Aladdin." Of course, all of the guys started whooping and hooting.

Vampirella is another favorite doodle among them. The reincarnated Cleopatra struts around wearing little more than her long finger nails and thigh-high boots.

Well, Linda, it seems that just as women have figured out how to even out the competition with super models, who are human, men are now idolizing cartoons. I remember reading a survey in a woman's magazine that reported men who looked at pictures of super models were less satisfied with their mates in bed. After that, women rushed out to get boob jobs, butt lifts and tummy tucks.

Hmmm, how can we compete with women who aren't even real? Competing with the super models is expensive, but competing with these cartoon women is impossible. We're talking about women who can read minds, manipulate males with magic spells and arm wrestle 12 men (and win).

Maybe I could compete with Olive Oil (Popeye's love interest), but not these dominant, space-age sluts like the long-legged, big-breasted Shi or Lady Death, who conquered Lucifer and now rules Hell.

This obsession is out of control. It has turned into a big business. Comics expos attract hundreds of groupies searching for books filled with their favorite women.

Linda, I wouldn't spend too much time worrying about it. Mens' obsession with fantasy women is nothing new. Look at the Greeks, they idolized Aphrodite, a love goddess. Even the Romans worshiped the sexy goddess, Venus.

Hopefully men realize that it is just a fantasy. They know it's not real and perhaps that's where the attraction lies. I mean, who would want a woman who could tear your limbs



off just because she feels like it? Or a woman who could read a guilty man's mind and then manipulate him even more than a human girl?

Comics and cartoons are just a way for men to escape from reality — even if it's only for a few minutes.

Well, all I can say is at least real women won't give men paper cuts. etc.

A special thanks to the former etc. staff.

Chris McCrellis-Mitchell  
Laura Becker  
John Lee  
Martin Gee

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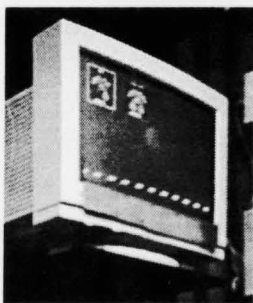
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cover photo  
by john stubler

At the end of the mission, Garritano and Conklin, look at tv monitors to see a replay of the game they just played. They also receive a play-by-play computer printout of their completed mission.

2 May 11 - 17, 1995 etc.



## Meg Ryan & Kevin Kline Make the Ultimate French Connection

• Text by Linda Taaffe •

20th Century Fox has added yet another movie to the ever growing list of romantic comedies. But don't worry, "French Kiss" isn't another strong-sexy-man-saves-helpless-lonely-woman flick.

"Kiss" is about what happens when a bumbling French jewel thief loses his jewels and meets a law-abiding school teacher on the verge of losing her fiancé.

Even though it doesn't take a brain surgeon to figure out what is going to happen, this reincarnation of classic slapstick comedy - minus Larry, Moe and Curly - is still entertaining.

Meg Ryan (When Harry Met Sally/Sleepless in Seattle) plays a suppressed school teacher, Kate, whose dreams of having a house, a career, a husband and kids, are shattered when her fiancé (Timothy Hutton) falls in love with a long-legged-pouty-lipped French woman during a convention in Paris.

The perky Kate overcomes her flying phobia and distaste for France when she flies to Paris in an attempt to win back her fiancé.

Of course, Kate happens to sit next to a French jewel thief, Luc (Kevin Kline), while en route to Paris. His exaggerated accent, nicotine addiction and blunt personality re-

resent everything that Kate dislikes about Frenchmen.

Luc stashes a stolen diamond necklace in Kate's backpack during the flight. Surprise, another French thief quickly steals the naive tourist's backpack when she arrives in Paris. When Luc offers to help Kate win back her fiancé, his motives are anything but innocent. The scramble to regain their lost items leads the unlikely duo into a series of silly events.

All the characters in "Kiss" are exaggerated and their mannerisms are overblown, but in an enjoyable way. This makes "Kiss" the kind of movie you simply enjoy, not the kind you waste time analyzing.

Ryan's performance is her typical cutesy, bubbly, cheery, smiley character. As always, men will love her and women will be envious of her.

Kline's pompous Frenchman may of been created through a stereotypical American view, but he is more fun than foul.

The movie's ending is not a not so stereotypical presentation of the male-female relationship. Instead of the woman playing the role of dependent, she becomes the provider.

If you liked the goofy antics of the "Pink Panther" movies, then "French Kiss" will be right up your comedic alley. etc.



☘ ☘ ☘ (Out Of Four)

### Review French Kiss

**Starring:** Meg Ryan, Kevin Kline, Timothy Hutton

**Director:** Lawrence Kasdan

**Rated:** Pg-13

Live Music & Sports

# Chasers

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etc. May 11 - 17, 1995 **3**

# Holy Com

• Text by Kevin Valine •

• Photos by Janet Blackburn •

A banquet room may not seem the ideal setting for entering a post-apocalyptic world where mutant super heroes battle the forces of evil, but on Sunday, 600 fans attended the Bay Area's biggest comic book show at San Jose's LeBarron Hotel.

These fans came to buy, sell or trade their X-Men, Spawn, Killer Instinct Turbo, Razor, Lady Death, Deathlok, and Vengeance of Vampirella comics. Old favorites like Superman and Spiderman comic books were at the show, too.

The most popular comic books, however, featured men who could pass as body doubles for Arnold Schwarzenegger and women who looked like they belonged in Playboy — if Playboy ever did an issue devoted to women on steroids.

"Conan — The Most Savage Hero of All" epitomized many of the comic books at the show.

In the foreground of the cover stood our hero, a beefcake stud dressed in a loin cloth. His right arm was raised above his head and his hand clutched the decapitated, blood-drenched head of an ex-villain.

In the background stood the raven-haired heroine in chains, as she tried to break free from four captors.

"Just look at the pictures of the heroes. They keep getting bigger and bigger muscles and bigger and bigger



**above:** Weekdays, mild-mannered Tom Senadenos is an operations manager for a beverage distributor he declined to name, but on weekends he sells other wares—his private collection of comics and related paraphernalia. His wife lost her job and he is trying to maintain a lifestyle he can no longer afford. "So I'm selling my toys back at the same place I bought them from," he said. "I'd rather keep them, but..."

guns," Liz Sidebottom said as she surveyed the show.

"They're super heroes. Why do they need guns?"

Sidebottom, who owns Comic Collector Shop in San Jose, said the comic book industry targets boys and men.

"It's been traditionally male," she said. "But it's changing. There are women super heroes but even they are geared toward men."

Of the 600 people at the show, no more than 40 were female. And most were someone's girlfriend, wife or mother.

Abby Baldovinos joked that one day she will take her son Johnny's X-Men comics and paint clothes on the

women.

"I think they're too sexy," said the 30-year-old mother. "They don't wear enough clothes. I won't let him put an X-Men poster on his wall."

Despite her qualms on how comics treat women, Baldovinos has been a loyal X-Men reader for the past two years — the same time her son, 12, started reading them.

"I like the story lines, how they deal with the feelings of the characters," Baldovinos said of X-Men, which chronicles the adventures of a group of mutant super heroes. "But I started reading them so I could keep communicating with my son."

For Johnny, the appeal of X-Men is more basic. "I've always liked to read and it's helped my reading," said Johnny, who owns at least 200 comic books and spent \$32 at the show, which was a little lower than the \$50 average.

One woman, who asked not to be identified, came to the show with her brother.

"I'm a grad student at San Jose State," she said, "and I'd prefer my advisers not to know how I spend my

free time. I don't want any flak about why I'm not working on my thesis."

She listed X-Men, Mad Dog and Apple Seed as her favorites. Apple Seed is a Japanese comic about a post-apocalyptic world.

"Everyone is at war," she said. "Cyborg vs. non-cyborg. Techs vs. non-techs. It's very violent."

She reads comics because "they are less insulting than TV. It's a way to socialize. It's fun, and it's safer than most things."

Duncan Sandiland, the show's promoter, said comic books often get a bad rap.

"Comics are the bastard stepchild in the U.S.," said the UC Berkeley graduate. "The biggest U.S. show is in San Diego and will draw 30,000 people."

"In Japan, they have shows that draw 350,000 people. That's a lot of people for what over here is considered a throwaway art form," he said.

For Sandiland, comics offer a different type of entertainment.

"I read good science fiction and historical fiction," he said. "And I find the same type of material in comics. The artwork and writing con-

vey a different level of storytelling just as satisfying as a novel, but to a different level of senses."

Sandiland, who works as a small-business consultant, counts Sandman among his favorites.

He described it as "extremely well written. I've never been a fan of horror. I don't want to be in the same room when my wife reads a Stephen King novel. But a friend recommended Sandman two years ago, and I was hooked."

"It's difficult to describe other than to say the title character is the lord of dreams," Sandiland said. "And he creates the setting for the stories that develop."

Perhaps the real attraction for comic books is they feed people's fantasy lives.

"Most good comics that capture you as an adult work because you identify with a character," said Sandiland, who on the day of the show, was dressed in white running shoes, beige Dockers, a dress shirt, and a tie emblazoned with Walt Disney characters.

"Every man wants to be James Bond," he said. "The same thing happens in the comics." etc.





# 'FUNNY BONES'

Tickling ribs with a (Oliver) twist of dark, English humour

• Text by Roger R. Ramirez •

Dark humor, odd faces and equally odd comedy skits are the bare bones of the movie "Funny Bones" by Peter Chelsom.

"Funny Bones" begins with Tommy Fawkes (Oliver Platt), son of the famous George Fawkes (Jerry Lewis), taking the stage in Las Vegas only to bomb miserably. Tommy flees the scene and goes to Blackpool, England, a one-time mecca for comedians, desperately seeking a comedy act of his own.

Tommy lived in Blackpool before, but at the age of six, "the sun stopped shining" for him when he and his family abruptly and mysteriously left.

Tommy journeys back to Blackpool to search for comedy and the reason why he and his family left in the first place.

Every outlandish character from Blackpool shows up attempting to cash in on a bounty that Tommy offers for the perfect original physical act.

From a backward-talking man to a bag-pipe playing dwarf, Tommy sees it all and doesn't find a single shred of what he came to Blackpool for.

Answers to both his problems are found in the Parker brothers (Freddie Davies and

George Carlin) and their son Jack Parker. The Parker brothers are known "as the funniest people Blackpool ever saw."

Tommy finds out that the old Parkers worked with his father and he quickly discovers startling secrets about his father's past.

He calls his father, who quickly flies out to England and tries to set the record straight.

The film peaks when father and son finally come to terms and George Fawkes must tell his son the truth about his comedy.

"You either have or don't have funny bones. The non-

funny bones comedian tells funny, while the funny bones comedian is funny — he has a funny persona. He can make you laugh before he opens his mouth."

"Funny Bones" is a wonderfully wild film that paints a picture of what it takes and doesn't take to be a world-class comedian.

The film is filled with legendary performances of true-to-life comedians like Lewis, Carlin, Davies and the young British comedian Lee Evans.

Giving the audience plenty to laugh about, "Funny Bones" is sure to tickle a few and rattle even more. etc.



(Out Of Four)

## Review Funny Bones

**Starring:** Oliver Platt, Lee Evans, Richard Griffiths, Oliver Reed

**Director:** Peter Chelsom

**Rated:** R

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etc. May 11 - 17, 1995 5

# Altered States

• Text by Olo Waldorf •

• Photos by John Shaber •

# A Virtual

*Somehow in an alternate virtual universe of the future, on the surface of a barren, planet called Solaris VII, mercenaries piloting huge, heavily-armed and armored walking tanks called battlemechs, or "mechs," are battling for cash and glory.*

*Surveying the reddish, desert landscape on the display in front of him, he feels completely alone. He knows better. His mech thunders forward a few tentative steps on powerful armored legs. Nothing. But he knows they are out there. Then he notices the two blips on his radar. Enemy mechs are charging him at over 150 kilometers per hour.*

*Accelerating to top speed, he moves the mech forward. Its powerful legs respond, loping forward across the featureless landscape toward the horizon. Short range missiles and laser cannons slam into his mech from the rear, ravaging his torso. They were closer than he'd thought.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Back in Walnut Creek, at the reception desk, Ben "Quixote" Curtis is making reservations for a group of rookie pilots eager to try their hand at piloting a real battlemech. Each has paid \$8 to sit at the controls of a computer-generated walking tank and engage in a simulated, free-for-all melee to the death with up to seven other players.

"Battletech simulation is very competitive, it's about blowing other people up, basically, and the longer you last... the more times you blow other people up," Curtis said, who, like the rest of the male staff, wears a uniform that's somewhere between a bellhop and Battlestar Galactica.

Open for almost two years, Virtual World seems to have succeeded in attracting a loyal core of players. But first-timers expecting a grimy video arcade ambiance may think they've walked into the lobby and lounge of a small, Victorian-period hotel by mistake. In place of row upon row of banging and whizzing video games is a sturdy bar of polished wood and brass. On the opposite wall is the reservations desk. Between the bar and the desk are several plush sitting chairs and coffee table. On the floor, tasteful carpeting replaces concrete with dried soft drinks and discarded gum.

Behind the bar, clocks tell the time in several different time zones, including Mars and "Solaris VII." What sets Virtual World apart from being just a sophisticated video arcade is the lengths the staff have gone to create a fantasy universe. To them, packaging is just as important, if not more, as product.

"Our graphics are not great. PC's can do this sort of thing. What we spend money on is making sure it's a good environ-

ment to hang out in," Curtis said.

The area around the bar and reservation desk is called the Explorer's Lounge, and brochures describe the history of the fictional Virtual Geographic League as if it were real. An entirely skewed line of fictional history is offered to tickle the customer's imagination.

According to a free brochure available in the lobby, Virtual World is the offshoot of the "Virtual Geographic League (VGL)™," which was founded in 1895 by Alexander Graham Bell and Nikola Tesla "with the goal of discovering and exploring other dimensions, or virtual worlds."

The 10-minute sessions in the cockpit of a battlemech in a computer-generated vir-

# Reality

that houses the "translocation pods."

Once inside the cockpit, the door slides shut, and the video display that is before you becomes your window into the virtual world of Battletech. Veteran player Cherry "Freelance" Wan is one of the few women regulars at Virtual World. Even rarer, she is an accomplished battlemech pilot. As a veteran, she tried to explain her continued interest in the game.

"It's a challenge. It's always new. There's always something new to do. Either a new person, or a new vehicle to play, or a new scenario to go into, because there are so many different elements that you can put together to make different things," she said.

This particular night is a special night. The Order of Burton, a group of veteran players considered masters of the game, are conducting trials for acceptance into their number. To qualify, an aspiring veteran pilot must survive 10 minutes on a virtual landscape with three masters hunting him. Curtis says that the Order of Burton... "is designed so that we can isolate those who are considered the best, so that they are no longer feeling the pressure of having to prove themselves all the time. They can actually step down and start teaching people so it becomes a more social institution."

"It becomes very competitive, but it's all oriented around sport, where people help each other out to become better," he added.

Several video monitors in the explorer's lounge display ongoing battles on the virtual landscape. The computer is not only able to provide views of the game world, but to people in the game as well. The monitors in the bar show the action from the perspective of a variety of "virtual cameras" inside the simulation.

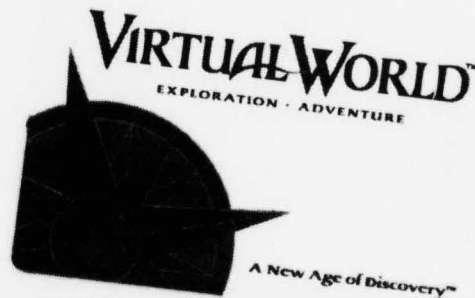
Small groups of players, mostly young men in their twenties, watch the action on several different monitors. They cheer when a friend passes the two-minute mark.

"We got all types here. We got business guys that come in on their lunch break, to guys that are ditching out on their girlfriends and are hanging out here all day," said bartender

tual landscape are not called games, they are called missions.

For the uninitiated, the first mission might be a little intimidating. You do not simply pop quarters into a slot on the side of a machine and start blasting away. You must make reservations at the reservation desk, where you will be issued a ticket with a specific starting time. Care is taken to match people against others of their approximate experience level.

Then, you must be groomed. When your mission number is announced, you are shown a training video (a slumming Judge Reinhold and Joan Severance star as Dr. Ernest Macintyre and Lieutenant Dooley, ace battlemech pilot, respectively). This is followed by a brief quiz conducted by a lab-coated Virtual World employee. Only then are you allowed into the large back room



etc. May 11 - 17, 1995

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Jake "Damien" Marantz.

Another popular special event is a multiple site link-up. Virtual World in Walnut Creek is just one of a string of "digital theme parks." Other cities that host such 'parks' include Chicago, Las Vegas, Dallas, San Diego and Houston. During a link-up, teams of players from one location, such as Walnut Creek, can go head-to-head with teams in one of the other cities.

In spite of the blatant violence that forms the theme of the Battletech fantasy universe, Curtis insists that the end result of all this is people getting closer together through the shared experience.

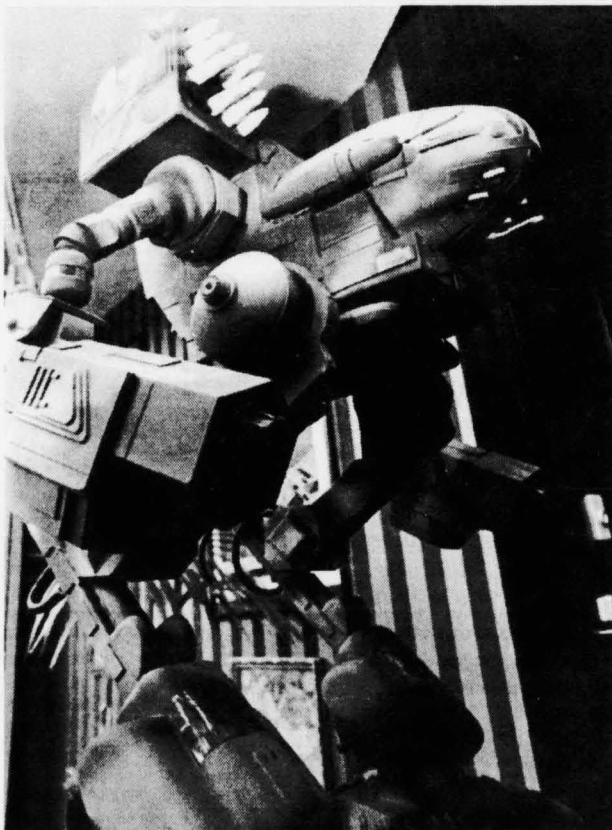
"It's a social thing," Curtis said. "They don't show up here because they feel the need to blow things up. They show up here because they want to meet with friends. For some reason, the way the human being is wired, it's really fun to blow up your friends. I don't quite get it but it's true... So you wind up with a lot of people who are getting very close for no reason other than the fact that they're killing each other repeatedly."

Outside the explorer's lounge, a light rain is falling, and the thick traffic on North Main Street in downtown Walnut Creek flows sluggishly past. But here at the bar, people are talking about their last missions and vowing revenge to those who may have vanquished them today.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Running at top speed, he twists his 'mech's torso around to face the rear. Sighting one of his pursuers, he locks on and opens up with his particle projection cannon, taking off one of the enemy 'mech's arms.*

*Too little, too late. Firing simultaneously, the enemy 'mechs vaporized what was left of his 'mech's torso. His pod ejects, shooting him thousands of feet into the air. As the ground recedes he can see his once-proud war machine crumpled into a pile of blazing scrap metal on the rusty desert floor. etc.*



**Above:** Players go into battle with giant mechanized battle machines like this one. The players work in teams to complete an assortment of missions.



**Above:** Rahul Karadi serves drinks to "pilots" waiting for their mission at Virtual World in Walnut Creek. The bar serves sodas, beer, snacks, and t-shirts.

## Virtual World

**Specializing in:** Flight Simulation

**Place:** 1375 N. Main St. Walnut Creek

**Phone:** (510) 988-0700

**Hours:** Monday thru Thursday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Sunday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**Cost:** \$7 to \$9 (plus a \$1 membership fee)

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**Cost:** \$12.75 weekdays (before 5 p.m.),

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# Bay Area Digital Theme Parks

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*Zone Hunter*: A game similar to Doom where players shoot robots. (1 to 2 players compete on the same team.)

*Flying Aces*: World War I flight simulation where players dog fight against one another.

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Sunday: noon to 9 p.m.

**Place:** One Embarcadero Center and Pier 39, San Francisco

**Phone:** (415) 693-0348

**Cost:** \$5 per game





Photo by Jim Harrington Courtesy of Atlantic Records

# So Hip It Hurts

the tragically hip

• Text by Tim Schwalbach •

"We've gone from being a mystery to an aberration to an enigma wrapped inside a reel," vocalist Gordon Downie said of his band The Tragically Hip, who have for 10 years scratched, clawed and tugged its way into America's existence.

The Canadian-bred veterans are planted in American soil, for the time being, supporting their Atlantic Records debut, "Day for Night," while opening for another pair of legends, Jimmy Page and Robert Plant. Limited to just 30 minutes of stage time — the band has had stints of 15 consecutive sold-out two-hour arena shows in their homeland — The Tragically Hip has learned quickly to adjust into a different dynamic.

"It's a privilege and an honor. I think all cynics should see it twice," Downie said from the back of a tour bus in Kansas City. The tour will swing its way into the San Jose Arena May 20.

Three years after releasing their third LP, "Fully Completely," the Kingston, Ontario quintet gracefully ages with "Day for Night," keenly emitting 14 honest tracks reminiscent of, dare I say it, a tanked-up R.E.M. Yep, Downie, there's one more critic who said the "R" word. Please forgive me.

"No, I don't get sick and tired of it," he said. "You can be compared to R.E.M. with a bit of spit, a bit of venom in the comparison, or you can be compared to them in a sort of laudatory way."

My assessment begs the latter.

Songs noteworthy of praise include "So Hard Done By," a percussive, groove-induced power-chord riff taylor made for Downie's semi-polished vocals.

"Nautical Disaster," the subsequent song, crescendos forcefully while Johnny Fay pounds his steady snare-drum beat. This allows guitarists Bobby Baker and Paul Langlois to paint a landscape of colors by use of solos on a canvas suited to their style.

"It's a song that I like only because it's one of those songs that seemed to come out of nowhere," Downie said. "Against all our best efforts to try and take it apart and turn it upside down and reconstitute it — it stayed the same."

Another moody deliverance, "Emergency," begins with bassist Gord Sinclair accompanied by the pitter-patter of rain, only to hear an E-minor chord with heavy tremolo emerge its

dark timbre. Downie's voice, once again, rings a stinging vibrato while choice words echo the songs atmosphere.

And finally to revert to track 1, "Grace, too," The Tragically Hip execute their signature '70s-marked, Allman Brothers sound convincingly. A sound conspicuous of the French Quarter, New Orleans style — a place the band favors considerably.

With the release of their 1989 hit "New Orleans is Sinking" and recording "Day for Night" more than a year ago in Kingsway Studio, New Orleans, Louisiana, The Tragically Hip has found a home away from home.

"As far as North America goes, there are very few magical places — San Francisco, Quebec City . . . Vancouver — people go to New Orleans and they definitely feel something when they're there, and it stays with them after they're gone," Downie said.

To give you a feel what "Day for Night" has already accomplished, when the album was first released in Canada, the album sold more than 400,000 copies in 10 days. But Downie will admit that successes and failures haven't done much to the old ego meter — the needle just seems to keep pointing at zero and fluctuating back, he said.

"Ego-gratification is a by-product of what we want to achieve, which is writing good songs," Downie said. "There's all kinds of awards and rewards for bands and musicians obviously, if you are to notice and revel in them."

A few months back, I happened to catch The Tragically Hip as they made their debut on Saturday Night Live. In tune, not only with each other but also the audience, the band showed America — the world — what they're all about.

"We pack all our energy into the songs and into the performing of the songs, and that's all we can do," Downie said. "We want to play music for a long time; it tends to make for boring copy. I don't have a conspicuous drug problem, or a collection of a hundred cats at home. I like playing music, writing it."

"I want to be like Howlin' Wolf and climbing the velvet curtain with the microphone under my arm pit when I'm 65 — very boring goals." etc.

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# Once Upon A Time

• When Elia Bel was 13, she listened to her first musical dose of the Australian/Russian Orchestra. She was so mesmerized, she joined the percussion section and hasn't stopped playing music since.

Perhaps that's why the singer/songwriter's combination of water pipes, sheets of tin and ashtray drums banging together with guitarist Jim Reece's electric guitar, seem to blend together smoothly on their self-titled debut, "Once Upon a Time."

The Australian duo has produced a polished industrial sound—a less abrasive alternative for listeners who are disturbed by the heavier, brain-shattering sounds of pure industrial music.

In the featured song, "God," Bel wails like Siouxsie (from Siouxsie and the Banshees) over pounding but rhythmic drums. Although it will get you moving, "God" is not an inane club dance song.

Reece said their musical emphasis is not on the technical side, but rather on getting the right "feel."

The two musicians' "feel" is a

good cup of blended sounds over poly-cultural rhythms.

The lyrics are clever also. Bel said each song is a story about a different character she has created in her own mind. In the track "Marry Me," she sings about a gold-digger looking for a man to marry and take care of her. "Waking Up" tells the story of a



woman who wakes up to find herself naked in a stranger's bed.

The phrase, "Once Upon a Time," is the opening line for every good children's adventure story. The aptly named album is a good musical adventure. **etc.**

# EarDrumBUZZ

[ a c d r e v i e w ]

## little axe: the house that wolf built

• Listening to Little Axe is like getting dunked into the musical traditions of four continents. Composer, guitarist, vocalist and programmer Skip McDonald and the musicians he has assembled are creating music that defies description but remains in the best tradition of the blues.

• Together with bassist Doug Wimbish and drummer Keith LeBlanc, McDonald had worked in several projects under different names before deciding to delve into the blues. The trio provided the musical muscle for hit-makers Sugarhill Records and seventies rap artists such as the Sugarhill Gang and Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five.

The three musicians left Sugarhill to work with English producer/remixer Adrian Sherwood, playing under such names as African Head Charge, Tackhead and Dub Syndicate.

As the group was working on the last Tackhead album, McDonald began listening to a lot of blues, music he heard growing up with his father, a blues musician. He and producer Sherwood decided to start a pro-

ject that combined elements of the blues with reggae dub recording techniques. The result was Little Axe.

The result (so far) is 11 cuts that manage something near impossible—combining 90's sampling and reggae dub techniques, sprinkling in flamenco guitar over a river of acid-soaked guitars—then layering in vocals

as much moaned as sung, suggesting things terrifying and beautiful and fusing it all to a core of bass-heavy, hypnotic grooves.

Listening to this

music will make you smarter. It's a rare group of artists that can combine such a wealth of influences and styles into one compelling, seamless whole that still retains the swing and the power—thick as blood—of the blues. **etc.**



# DRYWALL - Work The Dumb Oracle

• I.R.S. Records' Drywall is what happens when an artist is allowed to have full freedom of expression due to past successes.

It's like paying an old washed-up pitcher a whole lot of money because he once had a 20-9 season and the team hopes he can repeat that past success. The problem with that way of thinking is it doesn't account for the change in society's taste. Maybe a knuckleball pitcher was effective in the '60s, but today they would get roped.

In the case of Drywall's "Work the Dumb Oracle," the freedom of expression can be a bit much.

Eighties New Wavers will recognize the southern ranting of ex-Wall of Voodoo frontman Stan Ridgway.

Ridgway describes this album as, "an experiment in terror, a collection of rants, laments and media overload . . . We never really cared about flaws or cracks in the surface. We just wanted to create a toxic waste dump of sound for people who like to feel dizzy."

He describes the band as, "a place to go mad. It's about tension, fear and trash . . . I wanted to use the

format of a trio to strip away all semblance of normality."

Funny, there are certain words he uses there that describe the album quite well: toxic waste, trash, strip away all semblance of normality.

In today's music world, it is nice to hear something out of the ordinary, something different, but this isn't the answer.

Ridgway's talk-singing style is not the only thing from keeping this album down. It worked for Wall of Voodoo, but by now it's old hat.

The music is a strange mixture of Pietra Wexton's electronic sounds, Ridgway stylistic guitar twang, and Ivan Knight's somewhat hip-hopish beats. While some songs sound like they are straight out of the Voodoo catalogue, it is not as creative nor instantly likeable as that which Wall of Voodoo produced. There are no gems like "Mexican Radios" in here.



Some of the songs even use melodies and chord progressions that are so close to other songs, that it's hard to concentrate on what Ridgway is trying to do differently.

On "Bel Air Blues," Drywall uses the melody of the children's song, "Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping, brother John?" with Ridgway talking about the Menendez brothers.

If the sixth track, "Highway Song" was done by the Smiths, I'd have to stop Morrissey because I've heard this one before. The bass line is a slowed down version of "Green Onions" by Booker T and the MG's, while the chord progression of the chorus is also a slower "Stray Cat Strut" from the Stray Cats.

Every chord progression has been attempted by now, but usually it is done in a way that you won't ask yourself, "What song is that from?" Ironically, "My Exclusive Sex Club," the tenth song, asks the question "Or have you heard this one before?" Why, yes I have, thank you.

The latter half of the album is a little more palatable, but since you have to get through the first five, it isn't worth it. "Work The Dumb Oracle" should have been titled "Work The Dumb Musical."

Ridgway said this album has a sort of, "soundtrack for a lousy neighborhood quality in it." If this album is anything like his neighborhood, then his neighbors better start moving . . . elsewhere. **etc.**

10 May 11 - 17, 1995 etc.

Text by Linda Taaffe

•

Text by Otto Waldorf

Text by Chris McCrelis-Mitchell

All times P.M. unless otherwise stated.

# calendar

**11**  
thursday

**SJSU Jazz Dance Ensemble**-Women on Broadway, through May 13, 8 p.m.  
HGH Rm. 103  
**San Jose Sharks**-home against Calgary, 6 p.m.  
**Montgomery Theater**- "The Wiz." through May 14. (288-5437)  
**Santa Clara County Courthouse**-East Pueblo Town Tour, 12:10 p.m.

**12**  
friday

**Cactus Club-Cafe of Regret**, Squeeze the Dog. (491-9300)  
**SJSU Event Center**-San Jose Symphony. (924-6300)  
**The Fillmore**-Flaming Lips, Archers of Loaf. (415) (346-6000)  
**SJSU Event Center**-Dave Mathews Band, Big Head Todd and the Monsters. (924-6300)  
**Evergreen City College Library**-Art Exhibit by Students, 5 p.m to 7 p.m.

**13**

saturday

**Shoreline Amphitheater**-Melissa Etheridge, Joan Osborne, 7:30 p.m.  
**SJSU Tower Lawn**-15th Annual Fountain Blues Festival, 1 p.m.  
**Noble Park**-Twentieth Annual Berryessa Art and Wine Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Oakland Coliseum**-Van Halen, Collective Soul, 8 p.m.  
**SJSU Concert Hall**-Opera Showcase, 7:30 p.m.  
**Parkside Hall**-The Rubber Stamp Festival (247-1126).

**14**  
sunday

**It's Mother's Day! Buy Your Mom a Present or Call Her, Even If It's Long Distance!**  
**Palookaville**-Black Uhuru, 8 p.m.  
**San Jose Arena**- Van Halen, Collective Soul, 8 p.m.  
**Santa Clara University Concert Hall**- Guest Recital, 7:30 p.m.  
**The Garden City**-Red Holloway-Alto & Tenor Saxophones, 7 & 9 p.m.  
**Parkside Hall**-Alternative Press Expo (408) (544-9555)

**15**  
monday

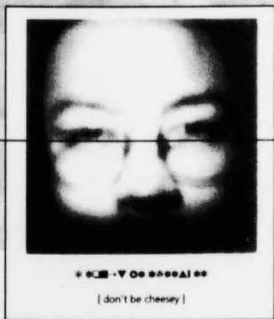
**Center for the Performing Arts**-"A Chorus Line" (453-7108).  
**Shoreline Amphitheater**-R.E.M., Sonic Youth, 7:30 p.m.

**16**  
tuesday

**Shoreline Amphitheater**- R.E.M., Sonic Youth, 7:30 p.m.  
**Santa Clara University de Saisset Museum**-SCU Chamber Players and Friends, 7:30 p.m.  
**The Catalyst**-Mike Watt, Foo Fighters, Hovercraft, 8 p.m.

**17**  
wednesday

**Last Day of Instruction, Catch Up on Some Extra Sleep or Go Out and Party!**  
**Shoreline Amphitheater**-R.E.M., Sonic Youth, 7:30 p.m.  
**SJSU, Student Union, Almaden Room** - California Hemp Initiative, Noon to 10 p.m.



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etc. May 11 - 17, 1995 **11**

# Tall Tales

AS TOLD BY CHRIS MCCRELLIS-MITCHELL



# I GOT YOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE RIGHT HERE, LADY

During the recent labor negotiations involving Lucky's and Safeway a certain columnist at the Herald named Tom Goff decided he would write an article addressing grievances of the customers.

Entitled "Customers wonder when their grievances will be heard," the column complained about everything from broken shopping carts, gabby clerks, false "Three's a Crowd" policies, blinking lights on coupon machines, candy near the check stands as a means of starting children on tantrums, to lottery services that hold up the already lines. Mr. Goff has some valid points, and some of these problems should not go unheeded.

However, I feel it necessary to prove to him the customer is not always right, nor nice. As a produce clerk for more than five years now, I have seen a lot of customers come and go. Many of them I wish would never have come, and many I am glad to see go.

Much like Mr. Goff complains that gabby clerks seem to give up too much information than customers have the time or care to hear, I have spent many an unwanted minute listening to personal factoids from customers that I a) never asked for and b) am no better off for knowing.

Thanks to two gregarious individuals, I know that one shopper has to go to the doctor's office every other week for a testosterone shot because he can no longer get it up for his wife. I told him if anything it will put hair on his chest. Then another lady told me she suffers from a hyperactive sphincter you-know-where. If she had an accident at least a courtesy clerk would take care of it.

Then there's the overused and often rudely stated bitch (complaint), "The prices here are so damn high," or "Things are cheaper at \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)." Most of the time this is said in a way that is meant to incite anger in any employee within earshot. It's called comparison shopping. I guarantee if you go to any store there will be some items cheaper and others more expensive. But if you're so bent about the prices that you have to make a comment, go somewhere else. I'm not a complaint department representative.

As far as Goff's complaint about the carts, it would help if customers would learn how to drive them and put them where they belong. If the baskets weren't used as go-carts by teenagers, battering rams by shoppers too lazy to walk them back to the designated area, and taxi cabs for poor people who live three miles away and have no car, carts may actually stay in their original conditions. It would also help if some people actually watched where they were walking instead of running into things like they do with their cars.

With the proliferation of idiots out there, it's no wonder many workers are in such grumpy moods when it comes to interacting with customers. How many times can a person put up with people arguing

ignorantly with them. I don't know how many times someone has asked me a price on something. I've told them there is a sign right in front of the item, and they say, "No there's not." Then, when I show them they were wrong and too lazy or stupid to open their eyes and look, I get no "thank you" for going out of my way.

Which brings me to another thing, "courtesy." It is our jobs to take care of customers, but what kind of thanks do we get... none. No one has manners any more. When someone sneezes, there is no "bless you," let alone does anyone cover their mouth.

It is also rare to hear anyone say "Excuse me" before they ram the cart into the back of your unprotected ankles. Afterwards there is no "Oops, sorry," it is more like a chuckle, a smile, and then off they go.

Meanwhile, a cameraman for "Rescue 911" is filming the heroic work by paramedics on your ruptured ankles and the panicky trip to the hospital. Embarrassed, you later have to ask for your face to be blurred out when it is shown.

I excuse those who don't speak English, of which there seems to be so many more these days, because they don't always share our customs, but it is pathetic how people act these days.

Speaking of non-English speaking folk, they can be really hard to deal with. They act like you are the stupid one because you are aren't bilingual.

Many of these same people have a bad habit of sampling. Everyone does, but those of foreign birth are the worst. I don't know if it is because they are familiar with the "try before you buy" barter system of home, but it don't work that way here. And you wonder why prices are so high.

The food stamp crosses all borders too. Latinos, Asians, Europeans and Africans are all guilty of this kind of behavior.

What's worse is when they sample without buying any of what they are sampling, and then they buy steak and shrimp with food stamps. You wonder why employees get testy? How would you like to make so much per hour, most of which goes to taxes, and

only to watch people whose income you provide eating better than what you can afford? It's ridiculous.

About the candy thing Mr. Goff, if parents had some balls these days, and never gave in to their children's whims in the first place, having candy in the register area wouldn't be a problem. It is not the store's responsibility to control someone else's child.

So, Mr. Goff, if you would like to actually look around and observe fellow shoppers in the grocery store, you might actually see that everything you see is not always as it appears. Spend one day on the other side of the mountain and you might see that our grass needs a lot of watering. etc.



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