



SPARTAN DAILY

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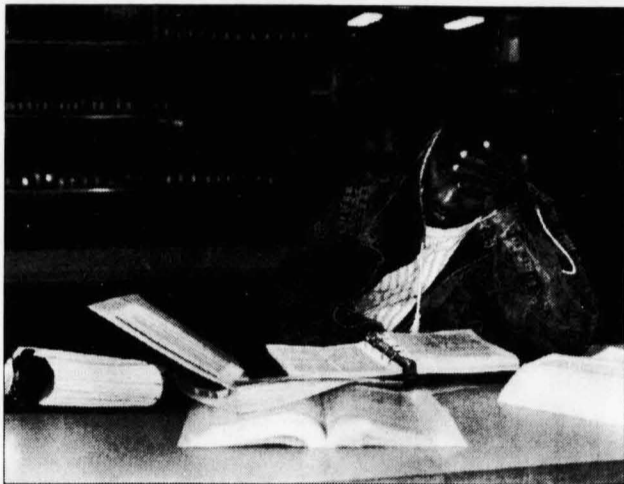


FRIDAY

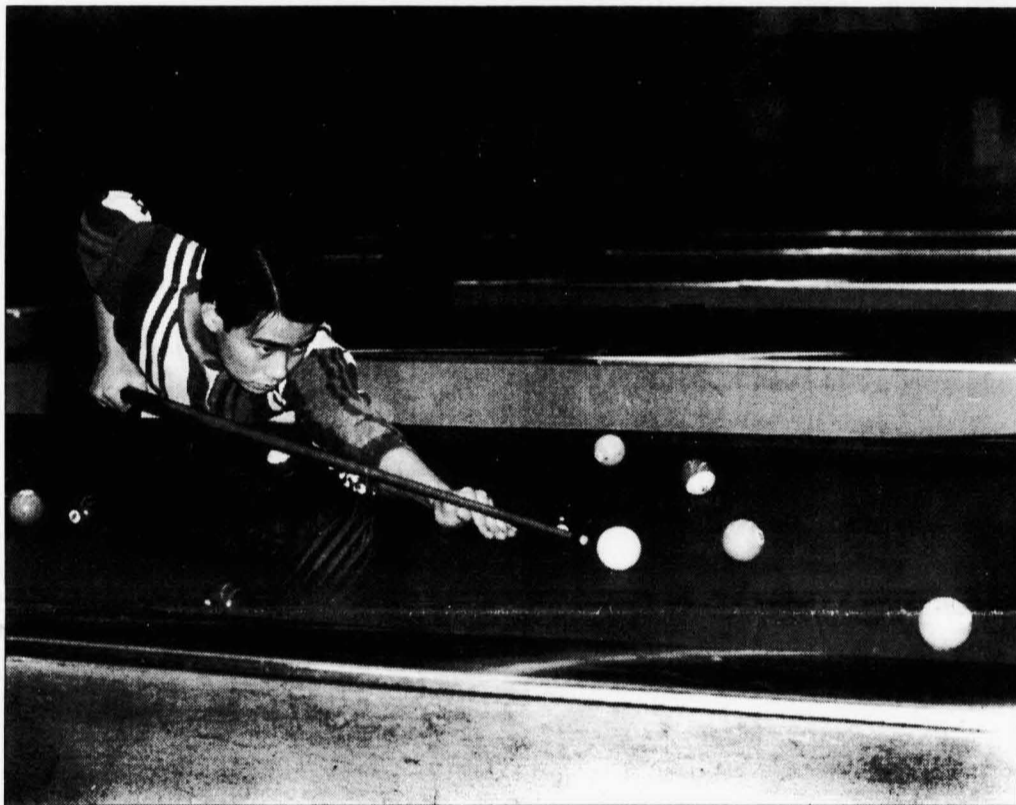
Baseball raring to go for the 1996 season.

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THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM



Above: MBA candidate Vincent Koukpaizan researches tax codes on the first floor of Clark Library Monday afternoon, a full two days before the start of classes.



Right: Nam Cao had a pick of pool tables Tuesday morning. The sophomore biology major was the only person in the usually jam-packed billiards room in the lower level of the Student Union.

PHOTO BY
CHIEKO ARIMURA
— SPARTAN DAILY

Trustees slash remedial classes

Spartan Daily Staff Report

The California State University Board of Trustees voted unanimously Wednesday to make drastic reductions in remedial education over the next 12 years.

They hope to reduce the need for the classes rather than eliminate them entirely, an idea that has met with fierce opposition earlier this year.

The trustees have set a goal of reducing the number of remedial classes offered by 10 percent by the year 2001, 50 percent by 2005 and 90 percent by 2007.

The plan also aims to encourage educators in the CSU system to work with kindergarten through 12th grade schools to better prepare students for college study.

In 1993, the last year for which figures are available, 49 percent of CSU freshmen failed the English placement exam and 47 percent failed the math exam. In 1995, 63 percent of SJSU freshman flunked the English exam and 41 percent failed the math exam.

SJSU senior and CSU student

trustee Frank Wada attended Wednesday's board meeting in Long Beach, where San Diego Trustee Ralph Pesqueira presented the Committee on Educational Policy's recommendation.

After the presentation, the floor was opened to public comment. About 20 students spoke about the proposal, most of them against it, Wada said.

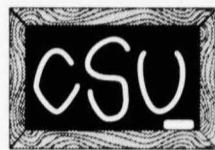
They argued the proposal was unrealistic and would allow fewer students admission to CSU schools.

But Wada, who said he supports the plan, said, "This recommendation we passed was made

from comments of the same individuals that still oppose it."

A subcommittee led by Marvalene Hughes, president of Cal State Stanislaus, will meet in February to decide how to implement the new plan. Reductions in remedial education are scheduled to start no later than January, 1997.

Heather Haas contributed to this report.



TAP renegotiating as time runs out

By Leslie Asbury
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

As the Transportation Access Program, TAP, rounds out its fourth and final semester, negotiations are underway between Associated Students and the county's Transportation Agency for a

new student discount program. The half-million dollar trial program started in fall, 1994, costing students \$9 per semester for unlimited use of all public transportation. The program has operated with success, nearly doubling

See TAP, Back page

Mentoring Faire to inspire women entrepreneurs

By Leslie Asbury
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

A Mentoring Faire for women in business, sponsored by SJSU's Center to Develop Women Entrepreneurs, the Mid-Peninsula YWCA and the Silicon Valley Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners, will be held on Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the San Jose Red Lion Inn.

"We are trying to increase the understanding of the value of mentoring," said Karen Csejty, YWCA's Director of the Women's Entrepreneur Program.

Women who register for the Mentoring Faire have a choice of workshops, rap sessions or speed mentoring. Each program is one hour and 30 minutes long. There are six workshops total, three in the morning and three in the afternoon. They include: seized power of the Internet, emergence

of the metamorphized woman, effective mentoring strategies, the woman's perspective on money, working in non-traditional fields and the women's perspective on marketing.

There are 10 rap sessions throughout the day which consist of facilitated panel discussions on given topics where participants can talk with mentors in a group environment.

The speed mentoring section gives the women a chance to speak personally with a mentor for 10 to 15 minutes. There will also be an opportunity to speak with up to 40 successful business women on a one-on-one basis.

Another aspect of the Mentoring Faire is the "Test Marketing Hall." Women entrepreneurs have a chance to display new products, goods and services. The participants are given feedback from female marketing experts, a

valuable key in the marketing process.

The purpose of a mentoring program is to provide a connection between young entrepreneurs and women in the field. The female business owners provide expert advice on the wrongs and rights of the industry.

"You need to find a support system to fill in all your voids and weaknesses," said Enid Allison, CEO of Oak Tree Mazda and a guest speaker at the Faire. "It's going to make your organization much stronger."

The protégés are able to learn from the experiences of the mentor and the mentor is able to learn from the protégé's questions and responses.

"Most people can benefit from mentoring. It's a kind of relationship that we need more of," Csejty said.



Nguyen

Beyond the war: musician shares music of Vietnam

By Danthanh Huynh
Spartan Daily Contributing Writer

When he was five years old, Phong Nguyen began singing. At the age of 10, he became a professional musician and made his debut throughout South Vietnam's provincial center as a folk singer and instrumentalist.

Fueled by a family of musicians and his village's love for music and entertainment, Nguyen began his early career performing in festivals and ceremonies.

Today, Nguyen continues to pursue his love for music. During the last two decades, he has toured Europe, Asia and the United States, giving more than 200 concerts. He will be making his second visit to San Jose in two performances at The San Jose Stage Company tonight at 8 p.m. and Saturday. A workshop on Saturday at 1 p.m. will accompany the performances.

The workshop, conducted by Nguyen and his ensemble, aims to help participants understand the complexities of the bamboo and string instruments used in the performances, and answers questions about the historical, cultural and theoretical aspects of Vietnamese traditional music.

Two of Nguyen's recordings—"Music of Vietnam-The Phong Nguyen Ensemble" and "From Rice Paddies and Temple Yards"—have received positive

reviews from The New York Times, which raved: "(Nguyen) sang with a wealth of delicately quavering microtonal variations, accompanying himself on a two-string lute that delicately shadowed his vocal lines."

His most recent recording, a double compact disc set, "Eternal Voices," includes talented Vietnamese-American musicians from across the United States.

Nguyen, who teaches ethnomusicology at Kent State University's Center for the Study of World Music, describes his music as being deep in the sounds of timber.

"Vietnamese music is enriched by the concept of mode that makes music embellish in such a way that you can literally hear the bending tone," he said.

"A member of the audience may feel that the (Vietnamese) music is jazzy, dizzy or even give them a headache. But when the music is played more and more, he or she will feel there are significant notes and hear the emotions."

Accompanied by songs and dance, his performances will feature a series of bamboo and strings instruments: Dan Bau, a Vietnamese monochord; K'ni, a one-stringed fiddle; Dan Tranh, a zither with 16 to 21 thin metal strings; Dan Nguyet, a moon-shaped, long-necked lute; Truong, a bamboo xylophone; and Goong, a bamboo tune zither.

Nguyen and his ensemble, which includes Tuyen Tonnu, Miranda Arana and Dock Rmah, would like their audience to leave with a lasting impression of Vietnamese music.

"I hope they learn the meanings of the songs, the behavior of the Vietnamese artists, the culture of the people and the sounds (of the instruments)," Nguyen

See Nguyen, Back page

New development director trying to do more with less

By Becki Bell
Spartan Daily Staff Writer

California's system of college education has always been subject to the budget fluctuations of state government. Recent cuts in funding have been challenging for San Jose State, and the university has been forced to take some creative steps to compensate for a slimmer portion of state funds.

As part of that creative process, the university has added a new director of development to its team at

the College of Humanities and Arts.

Ursula Surgalski, who was hired for the position last October, said, "The reason I'm here is because the California State University system must now secure private contributions to maintain the quality of education we have all come to know."

"My job is to make sure that programs like The Center for Literary Arts remain alive and healthy. In addition, my job is also to be the main voice speaking

See Surgalski, Back page

SPARTAN SPEED READ

Shutdown avoided

Bruised by two government shutdowns, Republicans embraced legislation Thursday that would keep federal agencies going through March 15.

Apple for a billion

Conflicting reports say that Sun Microsystems Inc. is ready to pay \$4 billion for Apple Computer Inc. Or is it \$2.76 billion? Sun might pay for Apple's frustrated shareholders and investment bankers.

Attack possible

China refused today to rule out a military strike against Taiwan and would not comment on a report that Chinese leaders have planned a specific attack. Taiwan warned not to provoke China.

Best in baseball

On the day that Atlanta organizers unveiled the baseball schedule for the 1996 Olympics, most of the talk centered on finding a way to get the major leaguers involved for the 2000 Games in Sydney.

If the old adage "what goes around comes around" is true, what do we have to lose?

Think globally, act locally

Growing up Puerto Rican on the inside and "nigger" on the outside, I thought my life as a child was an unfair, unbearable nightmare.

Growing up Catholic meant that every so often a paper bowl with photos of less fortunate children and their families was the centerpiece at the dinner table.

The depictions reminded us how fortunate we were.

The guilt was supposed to motivate us into donating at least spare change, my allowance, or the cost of their meal each time we sat down to eat.

But when I read about and saw the life of unwanted children in Chinese orphanages, in retrospect I lived a luxurious childhood. Human Rights Watch/Asia reports neglect and abuse abandonment of unwanted children.

Under Chinese population control laws, the most severe of any country in the world, I would not have those two headaches who I always had to share my stuff with and who continually got in my way — siblings.

In fact, if either parent was a state employee and they had more than one child, either through natural birth or adoption, according to Bill Takazawa, Professor of Geography at SJSU, the penalties would have included denial of food subsidies and the threat of a pension reduction.

China's draconian policies have fostered horrendous conditions in the orphanages. Atrocities com-

mitted include attaching toddlers to infant seats for hours, expecting infants to feed themselves by leaving the baby bottle in the crib, and simply starving children to death.

This situation calls for action and I am a results-oriented person. My solution is simple: adoption.

However, because I am American, China will not allow me to adopt. China, embarrassed by exposure of orphanage conditions, will make it difficult, if not impossible, for Americans to adopt Chinese children.

This denial of adoption by the Chinese to childless or generous American families amounts to a message to stay out of China's affairs.

The fact is that China is burdened with the world's largest population. It is faced with an unprecedented problem that has no model for resolution according to Takazawa.

When I first saw the bumper sticker, "Think globally, act locally," I almost lost my lunch.

Now I appreciate the concept.

Today I tith at my church but feel I should be able to do more.

I can't be the end all and be all solution for every single problem around the world.

But as a student journalist, I am in a unique position to learn how I can communicate necessary, responsible, thought-provoking and unbiased information to the public.

This information will hopefully motivate people to learn how they can make a difference.

Most students were fortunate enough to be raised in a home with climate-appropriate clothing, sufficient food and a relatively pleasant environment.

As members of an educational institution we are in a unique position to affect

change by drafting a worldwide orphanage policy

change by drafting a worldwide orphanage policy through the United Nations.

Takazawa suggests that rather than "scandal mongering," researchers should develop a program where the international community creates a set of worldwide standards for orphanages.

Of course, different standards for different countries exist, but SJSU could act locally by instituting a research project funded by the United Nations that could begin the long, arduous process of raising the standard of living for the world community.

If the old adage, "what goes around comes around," is true, what do we have to lose?

Former President Richard Nixon in his final publication titled, "Beyond Peace," stated that America must lead.

I agree. Let it begin with us.

Lisa Brown is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer



change by drafting a worldwide orphanage policy

When worlds collide...

What you should consider about Prop. 197

This March there will be an initiative on the ballot asking to reinstate privilege to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to control the mountain lion population.

It should be considered carefully. It is not a license to murder an endangered species, nor is it asking for permission to hunt a living creature for a trophy, but for control over an animal which could be a possible threat to humans or themselves by entering our environment.

Mountain lion sightings have been unusually high in recent months. Many have been spotted closer to civilization than normal, showing up in backyards and even on a community college campus in Gilroy. This is a big concern in that area as well as other areas near the wilderness.

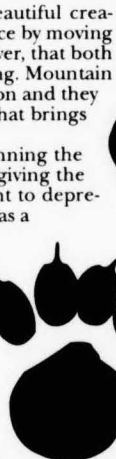
There is no doubt that these are beautiful creatures, or that we have invaded their space by moving closer to them. The fact remains, however, that both their world and ours seem to be colliding. Mountain lions are not animals that like commotion and they prefer to stay away from humans. So what brings them so close to our world?

Laws were passed in the late '70s banning the hunting of mountain lions for trophy, giving the Department of Fish and Game the right to depredate them in case of human threat. It was a good way to preserve the mountain lion in the wild as well as ensure human safety.

Other factors play a part in why they are moving closer, including the increase in feral pig and deer population. When a main food source population increases, a predator begins to reproduce in larger quantities. Because there are more lions, there is less territory for them, and younger lions are forced to look for space uninhabited by another lion.

Both pigs and deer come down from the hills this time of year in search of food. The lions follow them closer to civilization where they find much easier prey such as sheep, goats, calves, foals or even a domestic cat. Not only are these unpleasant possibilities, but the lions put themselves in danger when having to cross roads and freeways or face an apprehensive individual.

The problem will only increase with the mountain lion population unless something is done.



Jennifer Johnson Spartan Daily Staff Writer

In general, mountain lions aren't dangerous to humans. They think we are obnoxious, noisy creatures and will tend to hide or run away from our presence, but there are a few exceptions. If a person happens down a trail and finds himself or herself between a lion and her cub, or if a lion feels trapped, it would be cause for alarm. They are prone to self-defense.

A lion would be more apt to attack a child than an adult for size reasons, which means if you happen to be a child walking down a trail, your chances of winning a "tango" aren't too good. With their growing population these scenarios are more of a possibility than before.

In 1990, an initiative was passed taking DFG control away. Now, a mountain lion may only be removed if it actually attacks. Studies done by the DFG are showing a significant increase in population without the space to grow. At last count there were about 5,100 adult mountain lions (2 years old and older) in the state of California.

There are only 12 documented fatal attacks on humans in California, but if you look closely at the statistics, only two occurred before 1909, and the rest occurred between March, 1986 and July, 1995. This is an indication that the problem will only increase with the lion population unless something is done.

Take a good look at the initiative. Even if you are against reinstating DFG control, please be aware that something needs to be done for human sake and for the mountain lions' well-being.

Is this fair to our students?

Why little Jane and Johnny can't read

Do you know when to use a colon or semi-colon? How about when to use a singular verb versus a plural one? Sounds easy, right? Not when it means coming down to doing it.

We learned all the basics back when we learned to write, but after that we pretty much learn the hard way, through our grades on papers.

I do recall being bombarded with grammar in grammar school — that is what it's all about, right? They taught it all to me and I thought I had it mastered.

As time progressed, my skills grew a little, but with no help from the classroom instruction that I did not get. By high school, the definitions behind a semicolon and gerund had all become a distant memory to me. Sure, I could recognize and use them effectively, but how was I to know how to use them correctly in all situations? What sounds right isn't always right.

In ninth grade they did give me a book, but we as a class maybe opened it only a few times. I was a typical student and would not open any textbook without the consent (order) of the teacher.

My last few years of high school consisted of reading and some writing, but no verbiage skills. In my eyes, I was one of the lucky ones because I love to write, and practice got me by.

I passed the English entrance exams and started my college career with a few million papers. In every paper, I had at least three grammar errors. I was extremely good at comma splicing.

With a lot of angry little notes on the paper from the professor and lower grades than expected, I started to learn how to do it right. I learned the hard way and my grades definitely could have been higher. I knew my grammar was bad.

Some students, like me, needed the repetitiveness of learning grammar in grades higher than the seventh.

Why are 49 percent of CSU's incoming freshman failing the English placement exams?



My writing composition class would have benefited us much more if we used a handy little English book in place of the teacher's old stories.

Many schools do dedicate a few days to "writing the perfect sentence," but compare that to an entire year's worth of curriculum. Why are 49 percent of California State University's incoming freshman failing the English placement exams? That does not even account the fact that 63 percent of SJSU's freshmen alone flunked the same exam. One out of every two freshmen were forced into remedial English classes due to their grades.

Is it the students? The majority say no. How can so many fail the same exam? I say take a look at the curriculum of primary education. Sure a lot of it comes from practice, but students need to know something at least a little bit before they can practice it.

When talking to some local high schools, I found that there was some education of basic grammar in the higher grades. Teachers had grammar textbooks available to them. One school said that most used them, but what about the rest? Obviously we are not doing enough in the primary education system to get into higher education without a rocky road.

How is that fair to our students? They do not get the full benefit of education that will be forever valuable, whether they further their education or not. No matter what field of work we end up in, we have to write. Grammar is needed for understanding and is definitely lacking in our education system.

Leslie Asbury is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer

Letters to the Editor

A.S. is here to serve all students

We all come to SJSU for a variety of reasons. Some come to pursue a degree, others to learn new skills, and still others to maintain an active mind. I came to SJSU to get an education. My education went beyond the traditional classroom as I gained practical skills beyond academic scholarship and research.

At the end of the semester, I will leave SJSU with so much more than the degree I have earned. For

the last two years, I have served in the University's student government, first as Director of Academic Affairs and currently as President of Associated Students. My participation has offered me the opportunity to interact with the university community on common ground, and my involvement with students, faculty, staff and administrators has given me a better understanding of the challenges we face in higher education. Most importantly, Associated Students has renewed my civic responsibility as I embrace the most important issues of the day. I will walk away

with the advantage of connecting to a large, comprehensive university beyond my own close-knit academic department. This gift has presented me the opportunity to know that I can make a difference.

You, too, can make a difference by taking an active role in a number of ways. There are employment opportunities through Associated Students programs and services such as the Business Office, Print Shop, Transit Access, Program Board, and Campus Recreation. Many students get involved in a university or A.S. committee, while others interact

with friends and colleagues by enjoying the services A.S. provides. This semester you can look forward to full participation in Campus Recreation activities, all included in your increased A.S. fee voted on last semester. Sign up at the A.S. Business Office in the Student Union for your favorite aerobic class or intramural sport all included in your \$41.00 A.S. fee!

Associated Students is here to serve you as your student government and student service corporation. Your \$41.00 fee (part of your \$202.00 Campus Fee on your stu-

dent bill detailed on page 22 of Spring 1996 Schedule of Classes) automatically makes you a member of the association and gives you the right and the responsibility to vote in student elections. Mark your calendar! On March 13 & 14, 1996, A.S. will hold elections for next year's officers. If you decide to run for office, please come to the Candidate Orientation meeting on February 22, 1996. There are no more run-offs so the one with the most votes will win. Officers receive a stipend of \$470 per month and directors receive a stipend of \$140 per month allocated from your stu-

dent fees. These elections, and other student elections, may also involve issues on the ballot that offer you a choice of future services, possibly through fee increases. As your official representative, I will do my best to alert you and inform you of the current issues.

I look forward to a very exciting semester, and I thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Marilyn Charell, President Associated Students

Spartan Daily

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SPARTA GUIDE

SJSU's Weekly Calendar

TODAY

Conversational English Groups
Informal sessions to practice spoken English skills. 10a.m.-12noon. Administration Bldg., Rm. 269. Call 274-4740.

SATURDAY

Sikh Student Association
Nach DA Punjab. 6:00p.m. Morris Dailey Auditorium. Call 270-9331.

SUNDAY

South Bay Lit
Poets on Film. 7p.m.-9p.m. Ajax Lounge, S. First St. Call 295-6753.

MONDAY

Career Center
On-Campus Interview Preparation. 12:30p.m. Student Union, Costanoan Rm. Call 924-6033.

Chi Pi Sigma (Co-ed) Fraternity (A.J./sociology majors/minors)
Rush table. 8a.m. - 12noon. MacQuarrie Hall-5th floor. Call 998-8433.

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.

The skinny on the flat tax

Simple idea has complex history

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Very tempting thing," Ronald Reagan said of the flat tax 14 years ago. "I think it's not as simple as it sounds."

Ambivalence has surrounded the flat tax for a generation. In Congress, and occasionally in presidential campaigns, major players have been intrigued and unerved by it.

These days, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole sounds much the same as he did in 1982, promising hearings on the matter, saying "fairer, flatter, simpler" sounds good, wondering what could really work — and what about that darned mortgage interest deduction?

Back then, in a congressional rush to tax simplification, Dole tried to come up with a compromise between a real flat tax and a graduated system. A "little bumpy flat rate," he called it. A pothole ate it up.

Now, he's criticizing GOP presidential rival Steve Forbes for peddling "risky ideas." Dole's chief target is Forbes' "economic plan" — code phrase for the flat tax Dole is reluctant to take on by name.

Politicians have invoked common sense, Scripture, the promise of a bright and rosy tomorrow — and even economists — when trying to sell the notion of introducing a single income tax rate with few or no deductions.

"The Bible tells us God asks for 10 percent, and Caesar should ask for no more," Illinois Republican Rep. Phillip Crane declared in 1982.

Yes, but what about that darned mortgage interest deduction?

Then as now, few would touch that seemingly holy tax break.

In today's plans, Forbes and House Majority Leader Dick Army are both pitching a 17 percent income tax — Army's would be phased down from 20 percent — that eliminates the mortgage interest and charitable deductions.

Other plans — including the Kemp Commission report and those of GOP candidates Pat Buchanan (15 percent) and Texas Sen. Phil Gramm (16 percent), leave those deductions alone. Indiana Sen. Dick Lugar wants a flat sales tax and no income tax — or Internal Revenue Service — at all.

While flat tax variations are being advocated now mainly by Republicans in the presidential race and in Congress, the idea often crossed party lines in the 1980s and to some extent does today.

Some in the Reagan administration said a flat tax would help the rich and hurt the poor and middle class — "a snare and a delusion," Donald Regan called it as treasury secretary in 1984.

"If you're rich, you'll love it; if you're not, look out," populist Sen. Russell B. Long said.

Among those pitching flat taxes then was former California Democratic Rep. Leon Panetta, now White House chief of staff, who proposed 19 percent.

Missouri Rep. Richard Gephardt, now House minority leader, and fellow Democratic Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey wanted a 14 percent tax on the income of 80 percent of Americans, keeping key deductions and hitting the richest 20 percent harder.

Gephardt continues to advocate a "flatter" two-tiered tax.

Starting with 1986 tax reform, the number of rates shrunk over several years from 15 to as few as two — only to puff up again to five in 1993, with brackets ranging from 15 percent to 39.6 percent.

The dilemma has been: the more tax rates, the more complexities and loopholes in the tax system; the fewer, and the system risks becoming less sensitive to people's ability to pay.

Democrat Jerry Brown made the flat tax a prominent part of his 1992 presidential campaign, but it — and he — didn't go anywhere. Now, GOP candidate Lamar Alexander accuses Forbes of advocating a "nutty" Jerry Brown idea.

For all the dust kicked up in the 1980s, the flat tax didn't make it.

"We may have to back off, take another look," Dole mused back then, while also wondering, "Should home mortgage interest be deductible?"

"Give us the flat tax rate for 20 years," pleaded California Republican Rep. William Dannemeyer in 1982, "and we will create in this country a wealth that will boggle your minds."

Fourteen years later, unboggled, the country is being deluged with flat tax plans again, even if most fall into what Forbes calls the "ER" category — flatter, fairer and simpler, but not pure like his.

For that matter, Reagan had sounded like an ER politician on the question.

"Maybe," he said, "there's a happy medium."

Assembly repeals motorcycle helmet law

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The California Assembly voted Thursday to drop the state's 4-year-old motorcycle helmet requirement for riders over age 20, despite warnings that it would lead to more deaths and injuries.

"A person has the right to decide if they want to wear a helmet," said Rep. Trice Harvey, R-Bakersfield, a repeal supporter. "We don't need government telling us what to do."

The bill was approved 42-30 and sent to the Senate, where its future is uncertain.

"It will be more challenging," the author, Rep. Bill Morrow, R-Oceanside, said of the Senate.

The Legislature in 1991 passed, and Republican Gov. Pete Wilson signed, a bill requiring all drivers and riders of motorcycles to wear safety helmets. Backers of that law said it would save lives and save the state money for the medical costs

of uninsured injured riders. The California Highway Patrol, which strongly supports the law, says 569 motorcyclists were killed and 18,578 injured in 1990. Those figures fell in 1994 to 291 fatalities and 9,938 injuries.

The Morrow bill would require helmets to be worn only by riders under 21 years old.

Morrow said he has ridden motorcycles for 30 years and believes helmets limit hearing and vision, tire the rider and increase the chance for whiplash and spinal injuries.

"I've ridden enough to know the issue of motorcycle helmets is not a cut-and-dried issue. You're not automatically made safer by donning a motorcycle helmet," he said.

He said the fatality and injury rates have fallen because many cyclists have stopped riding due to the requirement. The Department

of Motor Vehicles says motorcycle registration fell 21 percent from 1991 to 1995.

"When you don a helmet, you significantly change the fun of riding a motorcycle," added Rep. Bernie Richter, R-Chico.

Opponents of the bill said the law has saved lives and money, noting that a UC Davis study showed that nearly 75 percent of those injured in motorcycle accidents have no health insurance.

"There is overwhelming evidence that says a helmet bill saves lives and prevents injuries," said Rep. Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles.

Rep. Louis Caldera, D-Los Angeles, said a hospital in his district, which calls motorcycles "donor cycles," has noticed a shortages of hearts for transplants since the law took effect in 1992.

Immigrant son joins state supreme court

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Gov. Pete Wilson on Thursday appointed appeals court justice Ming W. Chin, the son of Chinese immigrant parents who didn't speak English, to the California Supreme Court.

Chin, 53, an abortion rights Republican respected within the judiciary for his intelligence and independence, is Wilson's third appointment to the high court. He replaces Justice Armand Arabian, who retires Feb. 29.

Chin was named to the Alameda County trial court in 1988 by former Gov. George Deukmejian. Deukmejian, a conservative Republican, named him to the 1st District Court of Appeal two years later.

Wilson described Chin as "engaged, self-assured and unafraid to take on some of the law's more challenging issues... he is gracious at a time when civility seems lacking in too many legal proceedings."

"He is superbly prepared for these great challenges," Wilson added.

The court has six Republicans and one Democrat. Wilson is expected to appoint another court member later this year when he names the successor to Chief Justice Malcolm Lucas, who is retiring.

Court observers say Chin is considered a perceptive, articulate jurist with a direct, head-on style that occasionally has disconcerted

even fellow justices. "He doesn't beat around the bush, but at the same time, he always treats counsel with respect," a lawyer who appeared before him once said.

He also has written several major opinions, including a 1992 decision in which he ruled that DNA evidence was not then admissible in court because of conflicting scientific conclusions about its reliability.

He added that his role as a judge has placed him the center of human drama. "The problems being brought to the court were real problems. I always had to remind myself that there were not an academic exercise," he said.

GOP ready to keep government running

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bruised by two government shutdowns, Republicans embraced legislation Thursday that would keep federal agencies going through March 15. The White House said President Clinton would sign it as the yearlong budget fires cooled on all fronts.

After solving an impasse over abortion restrictions, the House moved toward passage of a measure that would keep dozens of federal agencies functioning through March 15, though at lower levels than 1995. The Senate was expected to approve the legislation Friday, and the White House said Clinton would sign it.

"We're satisfied that a lot of give-and-take has produced an agreement the president can live with," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Lawmakers had faced a Friday night deadline that if breached would see civil servants furloughed for an embarrassing third time since November.

After taking a drubbing in public opinion polls for their confrontational tactics, Republicans were no longer vowing to halt government's most basic functions unless their demands for a balanced budget in seven years were met. With this fall's elections on their minds, both sides seemed to feel the best path, for now, was to settle immediate differences and save their most stubborn disputes over Medicare, Medicaid and welfare until next year.

But all the embers from the budget inferno were not dead. Despite an apparent truce over extending the debt limit and pressure from Wall Street to do so, the two sides fenced over how it would be accomplished.

"Since I gave the State of the Union address, there have been some encouraging things said by the congressional leaders," Clinton told mayors visiting the White House, continuing the positive tone he took in that speech. "But I would remind you that we still have some roadblocks in the way that I think need to be cleared away."

For the next seven weeks, the stopgap spending measure would finance many agencies whose 1996 budgets are incomplete, including the departments of Veterans Affairs, Interior and Labor and the Environmental Protection Agency. Most would receive less than they got in 1995, and 10 minor programs — such as money for the native Hawaiian and Alaska native cultural arts — would be eliminated. None of Clinton's major initiatives would be cut below 75 percent of last year's levels.

"Nobody wants to close down the government," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston, R-La., reflecting GOP leaders' new

strategy of disavowing confrontation as a tool for pressing their budget ideology.

The measure included \$12 billion for foreign aid for the rest of the fiscal year.

In a compromise between conservatives and abortion-rights lawmakers, the measure would block U.S. funds to international family planning programs, but only until July. After that, the money could be dispersed, though at just 65 percent of last year's levels. The program would thus spend \$367 million over the next year and a half.

In a win for anti-abortion legislators, there would be a ban on embryo research.

In addition, travel restrictions would be slapped on many Cabinet officers, a clear poke at the controversial trips of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. And in a symbolic win for the GOP's effort to shrink government, congressional officials were ordered to sell a House office building.

The bill would also provide, for the first time, that federal workers could be furloughed or laid off by agencies looking for savings. During the first two shutdowns, furloughs only occurred in programs that had no spending authority. Separately, there was continued support for the idea both sides embraced

"We're satisfied that a lot of give-and-take has produced an agreement the president can live with."

Mike McCurry
White House spokesman

Wednesday of putting limited spending and tax cuts onto a measure that would extend the government's debt limit. Without that bill, the administration has predicted that by March 1, Treasury would be unable to pay federal obligations for the first time in history — which could cause widespread financial disruptions.

A day after House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., said he hoped the debt-limit measure could also carry \$100 billion in spending cuts and \$29 billion in tax reductions, White House chief of staff Leon Panetta said he did not know what was achievable.

But Panetta said talks at a staff level could begin Friday. And hoping to wrest the deficit-cutting mantle from Republicans, he continued to insist that the administration preferred a deal on a balanced budget, not just modest savings.

"That really ought to be our first priority," he said. "That's what we promised the American people and we ought to deliver on that promise."

For their part, Republicans tried to soothe concerns that they would spark a stalemate that could cause a federal default.

"I understand our responsibility on the debt ceiling and know we have to raise the debt ceiling," said House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

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Sun Microsystems still bidding for falling Apple

Associated Press

Sun Microsystems Inc. is ready to pay \$4 billion for Apple Computer Inc. Or is it \$2.76 billion?

Conflicting reports about how much Sun Microsystems might pay for Apple frustrated shareholders and investment bankers Thursday.

Apple's stock fell and Sun's rose amid the uncertainty. The two companies continued to discuss their options but declined comment.

The New York Times reported Thursday that Sun had offered \$23 per share for Apple, about 70 percent of its market value, while The Wall Street Journal said the companies were close to agreeing on a \$33 per-share buyout. Neither newspaper identified its sources.

Analysts said the disclosure of a lower offer may have been negotiating tactic intended to further drive down Apple's stock price, which has plunged from around \$50 since last June.

"Sun clearly is in the catbird seat and there apparently are no other bidders," said Robert G. Herwick, president of Herwick Capital Management in San Francisco. "Sun is apparently the buyer of last resort and ... Sun is increasingly aware of that and squeezing — as they should."

But investors apparently believed Apple would not agree to such a low bid. The company's stock closed down just \$2 to \$30.25 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Sun was up 37 1/2 cents to \$43.87 1/2. Analysts said they

“Sun clearly is in the catbird seat and there apparently are no other bidders. Sun is apparently the buyer of last resort and . . . Sun is increasingly aware of that and squeezing — as they should.”

Robert G. Herwick
financial analyst

don't think Sun will pay a premium for Apple.

"They've always been extremely frugal," said Laura Conigliaro, an analyst at Prudential Securities Research. "I don't think that personality trait is going to change,

which suggests that whatever they pay for a company like Apple it would be accompanied by a lot of cuts and writedowns and so on."

The Journal reported Sun has made two other bids — at \$38 per share and around \$35 per share —

in the past three months. Both were rejected by Apple, which also rejected a \$40-a-share offer from IBM in the fall of 1994.

Apple, based in Cupertino, Calif., has been the subject of perennial takeover rumors as its profits, market share and stock price have tumbled.

Sun, based in Mountain View, Calif., is the largest maker of advanced workstation computers generally used by engineers. It would likely be most interested in Apple's ability to help improve its growing business in Internet-related machines and software.

Apple last week reported a \$69 million loss for the last three months of 1995, its first since the summer of 1993. The company also said it would streamline its

product line and lay off 1,300 workers over the next year.

The company on Thursday said it hired Heidi Roizen as a vice president to build and maintain relationships between Apple and companies that develop software for its Macintosh computer.

The announcement signals the company intends to be more aggressive in attracting developers to the Mac, said Tim Bajarin, president of Creative Strategies Research International.

Roizen was co-founder and chief executive officer of T-Maker Co., one of the first software developers for the Macintosh. She was president of the Software Publishers Association from 1988 to 1990.

Police say Interstate 580 sniper attacks over

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. (AP) — Two more teens have been arrested in connection with a spree of sniper attacks along Interstate 580 after two other suspects turned them in.

San Leandro police say they are confident that they have now arrested all the snipers.

"I think the four we have are it," Lt. Joe Kitchen said. "The shootings appear to be over."

The arrests come a day after police arrested Raymond Laws, 22, of San Leandro and a 16-year-old companion in connection with the shootings on Tuesday.

The new suspects — another 16-year-old and a 15-year-old — were arrested on Wednesday, police said. Their role in the shootings was not immediately clear.

The two youths were booked on suspicion

of assault with a deadly weapon and negligent discharge of a weapon — the same charges the other two face.

None of the teens were identified, since they are minors.

"In the interviews we had with the two suspects (already in custody), they implicated these two juveniles in the shootings," Kitchen said. "One admitted involvement and the other invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege (against self-incrimination)."

Police originally were led to Laws because he allegedly bragged to a friend about the shooting spree, which started Jan. 17, Kitchen said.

Laws, whom police described as "very cooperative," led investigators Tuesday evening to a sawed-off .22-caliber rifle that

was hidden in bushes near the freeway not far from his home, police said. Investigators believe it was used in at least some of the shootings.

Others — including officers — first noticed Laws and the 16-year-old arrested Tuesday near the stretch of freeway where at least 13 cars have been hit with bullets.

The two were spotted acting suspiciously near the shooting site, and police also found bullet casings.

In one of last week's shootings, a woman from Del Rio, Texas suffered two broken bones in her hand when a bullet shattered the window of her rental car.

The most recent confirmed shooting was Monday morning. The driver was not hurt when a bullet nicked his windshield.

Kitchen said the suspects had started out shooting at smaller, stationary objects with the rifle. When they got bored, they took turns shooting at cars, he said.

"They spent the night shooting at tin cans, street lights, hubcaps and then the cars themselves," Kitchen said.

Investigators say they have evidence that could link 11 of the 13 shootings.

Laws, who was being held without bail at the Hayward City Jail, was scheduled to be arraigned today in Alameda Municipal Court. The teenagers, all of whom are incarcerated at Alameda County juvenile hall, will undergo closed juvenile court proceedings.

Bad wig bandit strikes

VENTURA (AP) — Maybe some criminals just can't face themselves in the mirror.

A man blamed for six bank robberies in the past three months takes pains to change disguises but can't seem to get his wig on straight, an FBI agent said Thursday. The agency has dubbed him the "Bad Wig Bandit."

His latest holdup was Friday at a Great Western branch in Santa Barbara, said Larry Dick, a special agent at the bureau office in Ventura.

Since a robbery in Port Hueneme last Halloween, the FBI believes he has struck about every two weeks. He has also robbed banks in Simi Valley and Ventura.

He appears to be Hispanic, in his late 30s or early 40s, 5-feet-8 to 5-feet-10, with a pockmarked complexion. He weighs about 200 pounds, Dick said; or so it seems.

"He takes pretty good effort each time to make himself look different," the agent said. "He has used various wigs and various articles of clothing that makes him look very bulky. I've had people tell me they were questioning whether it was all him or not."

The robber appears with various styles of facial hair, maybe fake beards and mustaches, said Dick.

SF police, fire departments face court order to diversify

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The police department here has nearly fulfilled its court-ordered obligations to increase diversity, but the fire department is far from meeting its goal, officials said.

Part of the reason is that the police department has been under order by federal authorities for the past 17 years to increase the ethnic and gender diversity throughout its ranks.

The fire department has been under a similar order for eight years.

The cost of carrying out the consent decrees for both departments totals \$4.3 million.

Mayor Willie Brown says "ending the consent decrees are a big priority, a major, major priority."

"The dollar amount is an important consideration of why I would like to see the end to the consent decrees," he said. "But the fact that the departments reflect the population of the city far outweighs the financial considerations."

The decrees detail the hiring, promotion and retention of ethnic minorities and women and set up Equal Employment Opportunity offices to handle discrimination complaints.

Brown's two key appointments, Police Chief Fred Lau, an Asian-American, and Fire Chief Bob Demmons, who is black, have both vowed to end the consent decrees during their tenure.

However, that decision will ultimately be made by the courts.

“The department is starting to look more like the population it serves. The bad news is that it has taken so long.”

Nathaniel Trives
Court appointed monitor

The police department only has two more obligations to meet before it can request an end to the court order — the administration of promotional tests for the ranks of captain and assistant inspector — said Nathaniel Trives, the court-appointed monitor of the plan.

Deputy City Attorney Lori Giorgi, who is handling the case, said that could happen within a year.

"You have, for the first time ... more women in managerial positions, more minorities in managerial positions, really a good mix in the ranks from the bottom up. The department is starting to look more like the population it serves," Trives said. "The bad news is that it has taken so long."

At the fire department, it's a different picture.

The court order set a goal that

the force be 40 percent minority and 10 percent female. It is now about 34 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

In addition, the work environment must be free of harassment and intimidation for women and minorities before the decree is lifted. A federal judge last year extended the decree two years.

"The court wants to make sure there is institutional change made at the fire department," said Jim Jefferson, the court-appointed overseer. "I don't think we're there yet."

The department still needs sweeping changes in management and increased sensitivity training, Jefferson said.

The court orders stem from lawsuits in which women and minorities charged that the higher ranks in the police and fire departments were dominated by white men.

Former editor sues Oakland Tribune for discrimination and harassment

OAKLAND (AP) — The former editor of The Oakland Tribune has sued the Alameda Newspaper Group and its editor-in-chief, David Burgin, claiming she was a victim of discrimination and sexual harassment.

Christine Lavin's suit alleges Burgin forced her to resign after she became romantically involved

with Oakland City Council member John Russo.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Alameda County Superior Court, says Burgin initially sanctioned the relationship. But on Aug. 15, 1995, the suit claims, Burgin allegedly told Lavin "the rules have changed" and she would have to stop seeing Russo or lose her job.

Lavin, 36, also alleges Burgin made an unwanted amorous advance toward her in 1990 when she worked for him at the Houston Post and continued to make comments about her physical appearance when she worked at the Tribune.

"Women have been putting up with this kind of situation in the workplace for decades," Lavin said. "I've been putting up with it for too long and it's time to do the right thing."

Burgin denied the allegations. "These claims are vicious, irresponsible and completely base-

less," he said. "We are confident we will be vindicated through the litigation process."

Attorney Mark Reagan, who represents Burgin and the newspaper group, called Lavin's claims "nothing short of frivolous and vexatious."

Lavin, unemployed since leaving the Tribune last summer, is seeking unspecified damages for loss of wages, humiliation and distress. ANG, which publishes the Tribune and four other papers, says Lavin resigned. Lavin says she was fired.

Burgin promoted Lavin to the post of editor last year after she

had worked for nearly three years as assistant regional editor and regional editor. The suit says Lavin began dating Russo in May 1995 and alleges Burgin did not then consider it a conflict.

ANG's employee handbook does not specifically address relationships with news sources. But it does state, "It is the responsibility of the employee to keep ... outside affairs from hindering their performance or creating a conflict of interest."

Lavin says in her suit that she kept a distance from assignments concerning Russo.

The suit alleges that when Lavin told Burgin of her plans to move in with Russo, Burgin became upset and told her she could date or marry Russo.

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China refuses to rule out strike on Taiwan

BEIJING (AP) — China refused today to rule out a military strike against Taiwan and would not comment on a report that Chinese leaders have planned a specific attack.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian renewed warnings to Taiwanese leaders to stop provoking China with acts intended to promote independence for the island.

China's Communist Party leaders have pledged to use force if necessary to retake Taiwan, home of the rival Nationalist Party, since it lost their civil war in 1949.

Chen did not repeat the threat,

but, in response to questions at a regular briefing, implied the option remained.

"If the Taiwan authorities stick obstinately to their wrongful position, the interests of the Taiwan people will be harmed in the end. But again, I refuse to make any speculation," Chen said.

A report Wednesday in The New York Times stirred the latest wave of rumors about China's intentions, pushed the dollar higher against the Japanese yen and caused Taiwan's stock market to fall 1.47 percent.

According to the report, China's military has plans for limited

action against Taiwan — perhaps conventional missile strikes — if President Lee Teng-hui does not stop moves to raise the island's international stature.

The report, based on a meeting China specialists had with U.S. National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, also said China's military tried to sound out Washington's intentions in the event of such an attack and vaguely threatened a nuclear strike on an American city.

Chen called the article "speculation" and not worthy of comment.

"The report that Chinese officials sounded a warning or conveyed a message to the U.S. side is

entirely groundless," he said.

He reiterated the government's longstanding position that "We will never allow any other country to interfere in China's internal affairs."

China considers Taiwan a renegade province.

U.S. policy-makers have been purposely ambiguous about what Washington would do if China attacked Taiwan, a close U.S. ally during the Cold War. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns says the Clinton administration believes China wants peaceful reunification.

Military exercises China is

expected to stage off Taiwan in the run-up to the island's March 23 presidential elections are being monitored, but are not considered a threat, Burns said.

Lee's election prospects were boosted by his private visit last June to his alma mater, Cornell University. It was the first U.S. visit by a Taiwanese president and signaled the economically vibrant island was breaking out of Beijing's diplomatic blockade. China had lobbied hard to prevent Washington from granting Lee a visa.

Chen said today that conditions were not conducive to resuming

talks on reunification, and warned that increased military spending by Taiwan would be a further impediment.

Lee's office said today the president had asked Washington to continue arms sales to the island.

"The Taiwan authorities must put an end to its words and deeds which are intended to create two Chinas or one China-one Taiwan, and come back to the principle of one China," Chen said.

Serbs to cooperate with war crime investigations

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Top Bosnian Serb leaders have promised to allow a full investigation of suspected mass graves, indicating that they are caving in to pressure from Serbia's powerful president to cooperate on war crimes investigations.

The commander of NATO-led forces in Bosnia said there may be up to 300 mass graves, the first time any senior official gave a figure for the sites.

"There are 200 to 300 suspected grave sites," Adm. Leighton Smith said in London.

The Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, summoned Bosnian Serb leaders to a meeting Thursday and was expected to pressure them to release all prisoners of war and to work with international investigators looking into war crimes.

Bosnian Serb sources the entire Bosnian Serb leadership attended the meeting at Milosevic's retreat near the Serbian and Yugoslav capital, Belgrade.

Milosevic initially supported the Bosnian Serbs who rebelled against Bosnia's secession from Serb-led

Yugoslavia, then turned peacemaker to end U.N. sanctions that battered his country.

In exchange for accepting Milosevic's line, the Bosnian Serbs will demand that Serbia lift the embargo it imposed on them in August 1994 for rejecting an international peace plan then, the sources said.

On Wednesday, two Bosnian Serb leaders — Nikola Koljevic and hard-liner Momcilo Krajisnik — surprisingly promised to allow a full investigation into suspected mass graves around the eastern city of Srebrenica and elsewhere.

Srebrenica has become synonymous with the atrocities of Bosnia's 3 1/2-year war. During a weekend visit to the area, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck spoke of evidence that up to 7,000 dead may lie buried there in mass graves.

Smith, the NATO commander, has only reluctantly agreed to provide security for human rights investigators, saying NATO's primary task is to separate the warring factions.

But he said NATO forces would not

secure individual grave sites, and suggested that an international civilian police force, mandated by the Dayton peace accord, would be better suited to performing that task.

Human rights investigators plan to start searching for the dead with the spring thaw.

Speaking in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale, Krajisnik told reporters, "Our leadership has agreed to a maximum cooperation with every institution wishing to investigate the allegations about the graves."

Hours earlier, Koljevic told The Associated Press: "They (investigators) will be able to see everything. We're not going to hide anything."

Krajisnik, while promising cooperation with war crimes investigators, appeared to play down the existence of mass graves in Serb-held parts of Bosnia.

"A civil war was waged in those regions, and there is a possibility that people were killed and that graves exist," Krajisnik told the reporters. "But we cannot accept that this was a campaign of mass execution."

He also said his faction was ready to start proceedings against "any person suspected of committing a crime, murder or abusing his position."

The Bosnian Serb leadership offered another sign that it is abandoning its hard-line rejection of a key provision of the Bosnian peace accord: On Wednesday, its prime minister, Rajko Kasagic, met for the first time in government-held Sarajevo with Haris Silajdzic, prime minister in the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

They met in the office of Carl Bildt, the administrator of the Bosnian peace process.

"It is time to build bridges of peace," Kasagic said. "I believe in peace," he said, adding that he was "not afraid" to be in Sarajevo.

Previously, Bosnian Serb leaders have fanned the fears of tens of thousands of Sarajevo Serbs, who are afraid the Muslim-led government will retaliate against them when the city is reunified under government control. Bosnian Serbs besieged Sarajevo throughout the entire war.

Silajdzic said the meeting went well.

The peace plan splits Bosnia between the Serbs and a Muslim-Croat federation, whose future premier also was present at the Sarajevo meeting. It was the highest-level meeting of all sides since the war began in April 1992.

The meeting's agenda was not ambitious and no breakthroughs were announced. But it underscored moves by both sides to defuse tensions in the capital.

Just hours after the meeting ended, two Portuguese soldiers and an Italian were killed accidentally in an explosion in a NATO compound. It was the most serious military accident since troops began to arrive in December to enforce the peace plan.

An Italian military source in Sarajevo, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Thursday that the blast was caused by a small grenade-type bomb carried by a Portuguese soldier, not by a land mine as previously reported. A memorial service for the dead soldiers was to be held at Sarajevo airport Thursday.

Palestinian mastermind wants to return to Israel

Architect of deadly attacks causes anger

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian leader who masterminded deadly attacks on Israelis said Thursday he was ready to "return to the occupied homeland" but was evasive about abandoning violence.

In a sign of softening positions, Nayef Hawatmeh granted interviews for the first time to Israeli newspapers, radio and TV stations, speaking by telephone from his base in Damascus, Syria.

Hawatmeh's possible arrival set off angry reactions from some Israelis, who demanded that he be punished for his role in the deaths of dozens of Israelis.

Guerrillas from Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine were responsible for several attacks in Israel, including the 1974 hostage-taking at a school in the northern town of Maalot in which 25 Israelis were killed, most of them children. Underscoring the sensitivity, Israel radio and armed forces radio broadcast Hawatmeh's voice only briefly, then paraphrased the rest of the interviews.

The return of Hawatmeh and other Palestinian hard-liners became possible after Israel announced that all members of the Palestine National Council, the parliament-in-exile, would be allowed to settle in PLO-ruled areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli offer is intended to help Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat fulfill his promise to revoke

sections of the PLO charter that call for Israel's destruction. Any amendments to the charter must be made by the council, whose members now live in various lands.

Under the Israel-PLO autonomy agreement, the clauses must be revoked by spring, and Prime Minister Shimon Peres has said he would freeze further peace negotiations if Arafat did not make good on his promise.

The Jordanian-born Hawatmeh told Israeli media today that he was "ready to come back to the occupied homeland, without any Israeli conditions." Peres has said council members who return can only settle in PLO-ruled areas.

Israel army radio quoted an aide as saying Hawatmeh was ready to make the trip in two or three weeks.

Hawatmeh was evasive when the Yediot Ahronot newspaper asked whether he would abandon violence.

"When occupation ends, there will be a comprehensive peace between peoples," he said. "Our unconditional return to the homeland shows that we are continuing the struggle with all democratic means."

Asked whether he was sorry about Maalot, Hawatmeh said Israelis had a selective memory. "The babies of Sabra and Chatilla are still crying to the heavens," said Hawatmeh, referring to the 1982 massacre of hundreds of Palestinian civilians by Israeli-controlled Christian militiamen in Lebanon.

Hawatmeh also said he would not vote to revoke the PLO charter until Israeli occupation ends and Israel recognizes the Palestinians' right to statehood.

Expert hopes Internet saves endangered Asian tigers

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Can the Internet help the endangered Asian tiger?

Dr. David Smith, a wildlife expert from the University of Minnesota, thinks so, and he proposed his plan to the Second International Conference to Assess the Status of Tigers, which opened here Wednesday.

Between 4,500 and 6,000 tigers remain in the jungles of Asia, spread out in pockets from India to Indonesia. They are threatened with extinction, due to deforestation from economic development and the demand for tiger parts to use in traditional Chinese medicine.

Smith wants to set up an Internet web page and get input from Chinese communities around the world about how to convince consumers of traditional Chinese medicines not to use remedies with tiger parts.

"We need Chinese conservationists to participate because they will know what kind of campaign will be effective in the Chinese communities," Smith said.

Some Chinese believe that tiger body parts can cure problems ranging from arthritis to impotence. A dead tiger can fetch \$10,000.

Minister claims Diana's father once loved Queen Mother

LONDON (AP) — Princess Diana's father was once in love with the future Queen Elizabeth II and wanted to marry her, a Church of Scotland minister said Thursday.

Buckingham Palace had no comment on the story. "Clearly this is something which we will leave to this minister and what he claims to have been told," said a spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Rev. Douglas Lister said in an interview with The Associated Press that the late Earl Spencer told him of the romance in 1947, when Elizabeth was still a princess and Spencer was John Althorp, a 23-year-old soldier in the Royal

Scots Greys. Lister was chaplain to the regiment.

On return from one leave, Lister said in a letter to Aberdeen's Press and Journal, Spencer sought him out and told him, "I've had to break off my relationship with Princess Elizabeth. I couldn't meet the demands of prince consort." Prince consort is the title of the husband of a reigning queen.

Lister said Spencer was distraught after Elizabeth married Prince Philip later that year.

However, the queen's biographers are unanimous in saying that Elizabeth was in love with Philip as a very young woman and that they were engaged unofficially long before they married.

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Sports

Results

For Jan. 24-26

Men's Basketball
 ♦ Spartans lose to Longbeach State, 76-63.

Lead scorer: Olivier Saint-Jean, SJSU, 16.
 James Cotton, Longbeach State, 30.
 The Spartans are 4-12 overall and 3-5 in the BWC.

Women's Swimming
 ♦ Spartans dynamic duo have shattered two records this season.

Freshmen Jeanette Thorne and Elin Carlsson have eclipsed two SJSU records held by Angi Webster, a 1992 olympian. Thorne broke the record in the 400 individual medley and Carlsson in the 1,000-yard freestyle.



See swimming story on page 6.

Schedule

For Jan. 24-28

Men's Basketball
 ♦ U.C. Santa Barbara at SJSU, Event Center Saturday, 7:30p.m.

Women's Basketball
 ♦ SJSU at U.C. Irvine Friday, 7:30 p.m.
 ♦ SJSU at C.S. Fullerton Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

Women's Gymnastics
 ♦ C.S. Fullerton at SJSU Friday, 7:30 p.m.
 Spartan Gym

Hockey
 ♦ Univ. of Nevada Reno at SJSU, ICE CENTRE Friday, 8p.m.
 ♦ USC at SJSU, ICE CENTRE, Friday, 8p.m.

Men's Gymnastics
 ♦ SJSU at Santa Barbara Friday (time to be announced)

Women's Swimming
 ♦ SJSU at BYU Diving Inv. Friday and Saturday (All day)

Men's Tennis
 ♦ Oregon at SJSU, Sunday 10 a.m.

Baseball
 ♦ Alumni game, Muni Stadium, Saturday, 1 p.m.

Briefs

The Rugby team begins its season by hosting U.C. Santa Cruz on February 3, at South Campus, San Jose.



PHOTO BY CHRIS SIMESCU — SPARTAN DAILY

The baseball team runs sprints after a practice game at the municipal stadium Tuesday.

Baseball team all geared up

Spartans look to improve on last year's record

By Michael Barton
 Spartan Daily Staff Writer

The SJSU baseball team is now preparing for the 1996 season — its last in the Big West Conference. The team plans to get back on the winning track by learning from the mistakes of last year's losing 21-33 season.

In 1997, the team enters the even more competitive Western Athletic Conference against such college baseball powers as Fresno State, San Diego State and Hawaii.

Head coach Sam Piraro said he knows the team must focus on its shortcomings to move forward and be competitive. Piraro said the team had a bad season because of inexperience and some weaknesses in pitching

and offense. "We went through a rough season last year," said catcher Geoff Fessenden.

For 1996, the Spartans have another grueling season ahead of them. First, they have nearly 25 non-conference games starting with Cal State Los Angeles at home on Feb. 3 at Municipal Stadium. Conference games begin away from home on March 22, when they play against UNLV.

Piraro says the non-conference games will be the litmus test for the team and will establish the player's roles. He said the goal is to gain stability as a team and move back on the winning track.

Piraro nabbed John Schmitz, last year's California junior college player of the year, despite offers from Cal and Stanford, for an early season boost. Unfortunately, the recruit went sour when Schmitz "couldn't make the grades" and became

academically ineligible, said Piraro. Despite the loss Piraro feels the team is better prepared this year than last and ready to learn from its losses.

With 12 returning players this season, more than twice last year's number, Piraro says he is counting on leadership to play a key role. "Their experience has to be an asset," he said.

Piraro is counting on returning senior Rich Ledoit to boost the pitching staff as the number one starter and team captain.

Also, four new junior college transfers will add to the team's overall pitching strength. Jason Davis from Solano College and Javier Pamus from Mesa College will complete the top three starter's list.

The pitching staff will benefit this season from a new pitching coach, Doug Thurman, who joins the team from Sacramento State. Fessenden said the coaching has paid off and the pitching staff already seems to be ahead

of last year. Improving the offense, says Piraro, will also be a key focus. Besides other strong returning players, Piraro is counting on second baseman Patrick Walsh, junior John Misplay, and senior pinch-hitter Chris Kokaly to improve the team's offense through improved "run production."

Transfer student Ryan Johnson will have a significant role, said Piraro. Johnson is touted as a top recruit with his .371 hitting average at Saddleback JC in 1995. "He'll swing the bat for us," said Piraro.

Coach Piraro is optimistic that last year's weaknesses have been addressed and with returning and new talent, the Spartans will get back on the winning track this year.

"We are learning not to beat ourselves," said Piraro. "[We need to] make the opponent play their best game."

Dream team Baseball in 2000 Olympics?

ATLANTA (AP) — On the day when Atlanta organizers unveiled the baseball schedule for the 1996 Olympics, most of the talk centered on finding a way to get the major leaguers involved in time for the 2000 Games in Sydney.

Baseball boosters are worried their sport could be dropped from the Olympic program unless they secure the best players like basket-

ball and hockey. "We're not kidding ourselves," Richard Case, secretary general of the International Baseball Association and chief of USA Baseball, said Thursday at a news conference announcing the 1996 Olympic format. "We're not the greatest game in town in some of these countries."

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, has made clear his

desire to have the world's best athletes in every sport.

"There's pressure to bear on us to have pros in the Olympics," Case conceded.

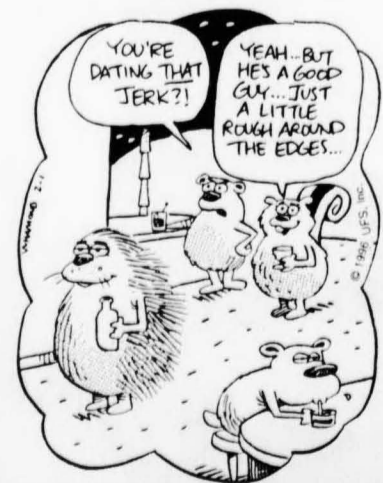
The Atlanta Games will feature the third version of the U.S. "Dream Team" in basketball, while Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras are expected to play for the American team in tennis. The National Hockey League has

agreed to shut down for two weeks in 1998 so its top players can take part in the Winter Olympics at Nagano.

Baseball, meanwhile, continues to have the rule barring any player who has signed a professional contract from competing. Under the Communist system, the world champion Cubans are able to send most of their top players but other countries field second-rate teams.

DAILY COMICS

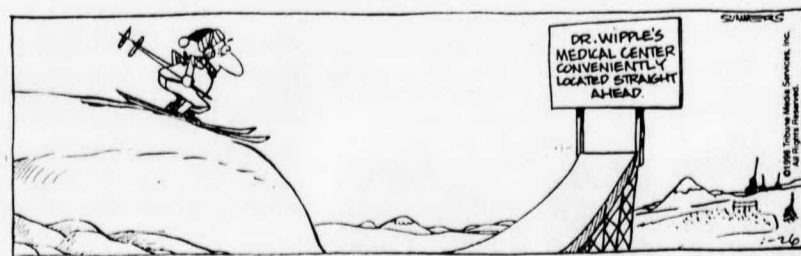
OFF THE MARK BY MARK PARISI



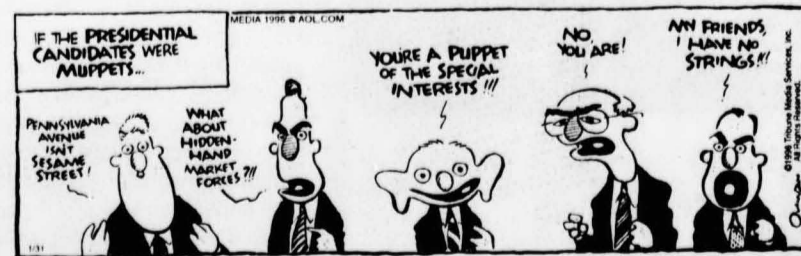
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TAP: Students could lose discount if no transit agreement can be reached

From page 1
 the rate of student use of public transportation from 10 percent to 20 percent. The goal of the program is to reduce pollution, eliminate stressful commuting and get people off the streets and onto buses and light rail trains. Though the transit card issued to students each semester is the key to TAP, Alfonso De Alba, A.S. Special Projects coordinator said that it is not being used enough. "There are still quite a few students who use public transportation without their

transit card," he said. The transportation access is facing its final semester, and De Alba is working on developing a new program similar to TAP with the Transportation Agency. Though it may cost the students more, he said he hopes to provide some kind of incentive for them. On Dec. 14, 1995 the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency proposed the Eco Pass Program to De Alba and Ed Chambers, associate vice president of Admissions and Records. Eco Pass is a pilot program aimed at employers for

their employees. The cost is \$40 per year. De Alba said that although some benefits are helpful to the university, such as fewer parking problems and congestion, "It is not applied to students and doesn't address our needs." De Alba has proposed a different program in which students would be charged \$16.50, the same youth fare that children between the ages of five and 17 pay. If the Transportation Agency and De Alba do not develop a program that

“ There are still quite a few students who use public transportation without their transit card.

Alfonso De Alba
 A.S. special projects coordinator

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benefits all parties, transportation will go back to the way it was before, with no discount programs for students.

Surgalski: Chinese-American advantaged

From page 1
 on behalf of our college to specific corporations and foundations," Surgalski said. Surgalski comes to the university with a strong philanthropic background. She was previously employed as the director of development for the Arts Council of Santa Clara County, where she was responsible for adding 40 percent to the total contributed income. "We hired Ursula for four reasons," said Jack Crane, dean of the College of Humanities and Arts. "First of all for her expertise, which is great; second of all her experience, which is vast; third of all her intelligence, which is very sharp; and fourth of all her personal graciousness."

In addition to conducting needs assessments for her department, Surgalski will use those skills to open new channels of communication between the university and its alumni. "The exciting part to me is bringing former faculty and students back to campus and letting them know that they can help in very specific ways," she said.

The programs that Surgalski's work will support include the Center for Literary Arts, the John Steinbeck Research Center, the Beethoven Center and the Institute for Social Responsibility. These programs have been active in bringing speakers such as writer Amy Tan, an SJSU graduate, and Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, to campus. In February, the list of notable guests will include Yevgeny Yevtushenko, one of Russia's most celebrated poets, Surgalski said.

Surgalski, a Chinese-American, says she feels her cultural background gives her an advantage in her new position. "I feel like that cultural richness has added to my ability to work with a wide cross-section of cultures," she said.



PHOTO BY T.R. NICHOLS - SPARTAN DAILY
 Sursalski

Grandmother and granddaughter slain in home

By Francis Ladines
 Spartan Daily Staff Writer
 A San Jose man came home Wednesday morning to find his wife and 19-year-old granddaughter slain, said San Jose Police. About 11 a.m., Wednesday, police responded to the 3200 block of Rockport Avenue in Berryessa, where Mouné Damrongtham and the police

found the two bodies of Phang Damrongtham and Pak Damrongtham in different parts of the house.

Phang Damrongtham was found in the first floor of their two-story duplex house, while her granddaughter, Pak Damrongtham, was found on the second floor.

The bodies were first discovered by a mail carrier, who alerted a

neighbor. Although police said the women may have been beaten, stabbed and perhaps shot, the cause of death is unknown, and the nature of the wounds is still under investigation.

No evidence suggests the crime was gang-related and the case is also not being considered as a murder-suicide.

Three children slain as estranged father opens fire into car

LANDERS, Calif. (AP) — A father fired a handgun into a car filled with his children Thursday, killing two 11-year-olds as sheriff's deputies arrived, then killing a 13-year-old stepdaughter he had grabbed by the neck.

The three children were identified as stepson Erik Resendiz, 11, niece Wendy Cervantes, 11, and stepdaughter Sandra Resendiz, 13, all of Landers. Also wounded was a 7-year-old boy, the gunman's biological son. Martin Mendoza-Garcia, 32, of Carson City, Nev., was wounded by San Bernardino County deputies after he shot at them, hitting their patrol cars. Deputies returned fire and caught Mendoza-Garcia as he ran into a back yard.

ing to Nevada court records. A horrified Jose Cervantes, uncle of 11-year-old Wendy, said: "I think there's no words to describe what he's done."

Mendoza-Garcia was treated for a wound to the shoulder and was booked for investigation of murder and attempted murder. He was being held without bail at the Morongo Basin county jail, said sheriff's Sgt. Floyd Gilbreth.

Mendoza-Garcia's nephew, Jose Soria Delgado, 23, also of Carson City, accompanied his uncle from Nevada to Landers so that Mendoza-Garcia could confront his estranged wife, Rocio Cervantes, who had just moved with her children to be with relatives, Gilbreth said. When Mendoza-Garcia began making threats, Delgado drove away. He was stopped by deputies

in Apple Valley and arrested for investigation of murder.

Jerry Mather, chief deputy of the Carson City Sheriff's Department, said Mendoza-Garcia had lived there about a year. His wife and children left about a week ago for Southern California, and he left two days ago, Mather said.

Deputies went to a house on Geronimo Trail after someone phoned in a warning of a gunman, said Deputy Cheryl Huff of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's office. The desert town is about 100 miles east of Los Angeles.

As deputies arrived, they saw Mendoza-Garcia in the driveway clutching the 13-year-old by the neck. He began shooting into a brown car, said sheriff's Sgt. Rick Carr. He then shot the third child in the head, said Carr.

Nguyen: Troupe wants to capture essence of Vietnamese

From page 1
 said. As a musician, Nguyen said he believes he plays an active role in his culture and society. He refers to music as a silent textbook, because it contains no words, but carries a lot of expressions. "The musicians must be trained to respond to the need of their society," Nguyen said. "In playing music, the musician or singer must understand the concept of his or her emotions and concentrate on how to project their feelings to the audience. Their feelings must transfer to the audience."

He said his international audience is often not aware that the Vietnamese possesses musical talents. "Someone would tell me at the end of a concert that they didn't know Vietnam, besides by the war, there is a rich musical culture that

had not been known to a lot of people, particularly in the U.S.," Nguyen said.

Nguyen's performance is presented by the Association for the VIET ARTS (AVA), a San Jose-based non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the artists of Vietnamese Heritage.

Hoa Glassey, chairman of AVA, said Nguyen's first visit to San Jose was well received, and that he played to a full house of all ages and cultures. Because of the success of Nguyen's visit, Glassey said the association will continue its commitment to expose traditional and contemporary Vietnamese art.

"We want to capture the essence of (Vietnamese) artists, to support all of them and to be there for them," Glassey said. "We want to present them to the community and have them appreciated by the community."

“ Someone would tell me at the end of a concert that they didn't know Vietnam, besides by the war. There is a rich musical culture that had not been known to a lot of people, particularly in the U.S.

Phon Nguyen
 Vietnamese musician

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SPARTAN DAILY FILE PHOTO

Dr. Phon Nguyen and his wife, Tuyen Tonnu, who's also one of the ensemble.

Father kills girlfriend as daughter watches

9-year-old witness to brutal murder

By Francis Ladines
 Spartan Daily Staff Writer
 An ex-convict with a history of domestic violence stabbed his girlfriend to death Wednesday as their 9-year-old daughter watched, San Jose Police said. About 3:15 a.m., San Jose police responded to 612 N. Genevieve Lane after the child placed a 9-1-1 emergency call to tell authorities, "Mommy and Daddy are fighting." Officers found the child and her 5-year-old sister alone with the bloody body of their mother, 30-year-old Charlotte Maestas of San Jose. The suspect, 29-year-old Jimmy Vincent Mariscal of San Jose had

left the scene, but was later found at a relative's residence. He was taken into custody without incident, police said.

Mariscal had just been released from state prison a few months ago. At the time of the killing, he was wanted for failure to appear in court on charges of narcotics possession.

Santa Clara County court records show numerous arrests for narcotics and domestic violence. In 1994, Mariscal was sentenced to two years in prison for possession of narcotics.

The children are currently staying with their maternal grandmother, police said.

Investigators are still determining the motive for the slaying.

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