

SPARTAN DAILY

Wednesday

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Fear and 'losing' in Las Vegas



Photos by
Brian Prince/
Spartan Daily

Professor Marcia Holstrom lectures to students in her Geography 101 class Tuesday, in front of Tower Hall. She was protesting the new modules that are too small to hold all of her students comfortably.



An outdoor protest

Geography professor uses Tower Lawn to express anger over class renovations

By **Hugo Rivera**
Staff Writer

A lecturer at San Jose State University is upset about being forced to hold her classes in a location she sees as unfit. Marcia Holstrom, a geography lecturer, showed her anger by having class in front of Tower Hall Tuesday — instead of the modulars. The modulars have replaced the Business Classrooms, which are being renovated. The modulars are portable buildings that were put up during winter break on Tenth Street next to the ATMs. Holstrom directed a walk from

the modulars to Tower Hall because she believes her students deserve more than to be placed in portables she called inadequate. Holstrom has several complaints about the modulars. She said the classrooms are too small, there is poor ventilation and they do not have the materials necessary to teach. She said she does not have the maps or projection devices necessary to teach her geography class. She also said the 47 students in her class should not have to put up with being stuck in a room fit for 35. Holstrom's students agreed they deserve proper learning facilities. Bob McKay, one of the students in the class, said his instructor cannot teach in the portables. "I love Ms. Holstrom's class wherever it's taught, but she can't teach to her potential without the proper learning aids," McKay said.

See **Holstrom**, page 6

Spartans blow eight-point lead, get cooked by Rice 64-61

By **Jeremiah Oshan**
Staff Editor

LAS VEGAS — No one can fault Spartan point guard Michael Quinney for his effort.

Quinney, whose calf injury limited his practice time all week, nearly pulled off a last-second miracle for the San Jose State University men's basketball team at the Western Athletic Conference tournament Tuesday.

With the Spartans trailing Rice University 64-61, with 5.6 seconds remaining in the game, Quinney took the in-bounds pass, raced up court and fired a 25-foot prayer from the left wing. The ball rolled in, and then out, and the Spartans hopes of an upset ended.

"I felt it, it felt good," Quinney said of the last-second shot, which would have sent the game into overtime. "Just my luck, it rolled out."

It was luck of another kind for the Spartans — or maybe just poor shooting by the Owls — that even allowed Quinney the chance for his near heroics.

Rice's Robert Johnson, who scorched the Spartan defense for 26 points, despite being double and triple-teamed all night, missed both of his two trips to the free throw line in the final 14 seconds. The Owls as a team missed 7 of 12 free throw attempts in the final two minutes of the game.

Rice 64 SJSU 61

Rice University (64)
Armstrong 1-3 0-0 2, Johnson 9-17 4-8 26, Skaer 1-4 1-3 3, Wilks 1-3 3-6 5, Tyndell 0-1 0-0 0, Cooper 9-11 2-3 21, Michaelis 1-3 1-2 4, Bougaiff 1-2 1-4 3.

SJSU (61)
Richmond 1-3 0-0 3, Trawick 5-10 2-4 12, Griffin 0-2 4-6 4, Quinney 3-10 2-3 10, Powell 7-13 0-1 16, McCullough 0-0 0-0 0, Kennett 0-0 0-0 0, Preston 1-2 0-0 2, Murray 5-10 4-6 14.

• **Halftime** — Rice 31, SJSU 30
• **3-point goals** — Rice 6-16 (Armstrong 0-1, Johnson 4-10, Skaer 0-2, Tyndell 0-1, Cooper 1-1, Michaelis 1-1), SJSU 5-11 (Richmond 1-1, Quinney 2-5, Powell 2-3, Preston 0-1, Murray 0-1).
• **Fouled out** — Powell, Murray. **Rebounds** — Rice 29 (Wilks 7), SJSU 32 (Trawick 10). **Assists** — Rice 13 (Wilks 7), SJSU 13 (Quinney, Powell 5).
• **Totals Fouls** — Rice 16, SJSU 22.

"It (free throw shooting) is something we have done a good job with," Rice's coach Willis Wilson said. "We probably spend more practice time on free throws than 90 percent of the teams in America."

Prior to its cold streak from the free throw line, Rice appeared to be in control of the game.

After falling behind the Spartans 48-42 with 9:38 remaining, Rice went on a 14-0 run, which featured two three-pointers by Johnson and five points from forward Erik Cooper.

The most telling basket of the run came on a follow-up dunk by Cooper.

Spartan guard Terrance Richmond missed a three-point attempt, which Rice point guard Mike Wilks turned into a fast-break opportunity. The Spartans appeared to get a break when Wilks missed the layup, but Cooper, trailing the play, soared over a Spartan defender to throw down the dunk. The dunk gave Rice its first lead since the 2:24

See **WAC**, page 4

Manning hopes to amend policy

By **Margaret Bethel**
Staff Editor

Philosophy professor Rita Manning said after a traffic encounter with the University Police Department, she hopes to see a civilian review board established at San Jose State University.

Manning's dissatisfaction with UPD stems from being arrested last semester and charged with a

criminal misdemeanor for disobeying a police officer's orders. Manning disobeyed a UPD traffic officer who, while trying to control the morning traffic coming onto campus, directed Manning in one direction, and she went another.

A civilian review board would require implementing new policies, and hiring people outside UPD and the university to hear complaints, such as Manning's.

See **Manning**, page 6

Gonzales gives teachers promised priority

By **Halima Kazem**
Staff Writer

San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales seems to be coming through on his campaign promises of making education his top priority.

The Mayor recently unveiled the San Jose Future Teachers Program and will soon announce a first time homeowners buying program for teachers.

"I want to make San Jose a teacher friendly city, and make sure we compete for the best teachers in California and across the country," Gonzales said.

The San Jose Future Teachers Program was one of the mayor's education related initiatives. The plan offers money to students at San Jose State University and Santa Clara University who are interested in becoming teachers in San Jose.

The city is partnering up with the two university's to offer \$100,000 a year in forgivable loans to students entering teacher-training programs.

These loans would be forgiven if the students become teachers in San Jose after graduation. Twenty percent of the loans would

be forgiven each year, and after five years, the loans will be forgiven completely.

About 30 students a year will benefit from the program, which begins in the fall.

"I'm excited and in support of the program. It shows that we are not just giving lip service to the fact that we care about the quality of education and the teacher shortage in San Jose," said Susan Meyers, SJSU associate dean of Education.

Meyers said details of SJSU's plan for the loan program is not final yet, but about 19 students could benefit from the loans this fall.

With almost 3,000 students in the liberal arts and teacher education programs, the awards would help less than 10 percent of them.

The loans will be awarded to all class levels, including graduate students, and they will vary between \$2,000 and \$3,000 annually.

Many students said this is not enough, and it would only pay for about two semesters.

An annual education at SJSU can cost a student up to \$10,000 with room and board.

Gonzales said the loan pro-

gram is modest, but he's hoping it will alert other parts of the community to join in the effort.

Although the specifics of the home buying program have not been announced yet, the mayor said he is hoping it will offer some extra help for teachers.

Stacey Mizuguchi is a senior at SJSU and she expects to graduate in May. She said she hasn't decided if she wants to teach in San Jose.

"The program doesn't apply to me because I don't have loans, but what makes me think twice about staying in San Jose is the high cost of living compared to the low teacher salaries," Mizuguchi said. She plans to teach first or second grade.

In San Jose starting teachers can make up to \$31,000 a year and usually spend five or more years studying to become teachers.

A rookie San Jose police officer, who requires a two-year degree, receives a salary starting anywhere from \$44,000.

David Hernandez is the president of the Alum Rock Educator's Association, an affiliate of the California Teacher's Association.

"What the city pays its new

See **Teacher**, page 6

The book is always better



Sarah Orr/Spartan Daily

Najiba Alimi, a finance major at San Jose State University, looks through a magazine at a book sale Tuesday in the lobby of the Clark Library. Book sales are held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Tuesday in the Clark Library and the Wahlquist Library North.

INSIDE THE DAILY



SPORTS

After a nearly fatal car wreck, Lindsay Lewis is back at third base — **Page 4**



FORUM

Smoking on campus — a right or a blight? Point/Counterpoint takes a look — **Page 2**

INSIDE THE DAILY



COUNTERPOINT POINT

Anti-tobacco organizations are slowly pushing for more non-smoking laws such as the California smoking ban for bars. Is a law banning smoking on campus a justifiable endeavor?

Butt-fiends' toxic antics enough to end privilege of smoking on campus



Aaron Williams

No smoking privileges for anyone anymore. Damn the American Civil Liberties Union. Damn the tobacco companies. And damn you smokers for filling my air with toxic, carcinogenic smoke.

When asked if smoking should be banned from campus, I thought for a second and said,

"Hell yes." For that matter, smoking should be banned everywhere, period.

I am a liberal at heart, although I'm not as big of a tree-hugger as I used to be, but two issues get my dander up — drug and alcohol abuse and smoking.

I am a recovering alcoholic and drug addict, so I have experienced, first hand, the utter despair of alcoholism and drug addiction.

But I've had to sit helplessly for the majority of my life and passively watch smoking take the life of my grandfather and one breast from my mother.

Now, I know all my personal heart-warming stories don't mean squat to all the butt fiends hovering near the entrances of every building on campus.

Nor do 1995 statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention such as: \$50 billion, with a B, spent in health care for treatment of smoking-related diseases, one-seventh — \$12.9 billion of the annual Medicaid budget and more than \$100 billion drained from the economy through health costs.

None of that means anything to you smokers, because you are addicts. Let me repeat that: You are addicts.

There are chemicals and additives in cigarettes that make them more addictive than heroin and cocaine.

According to a National Comorbidity Survey, published in the 1994 edition of "Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology," only 23.6 percent of teenagers who ever try smoking are able to successfully quit.

Compare that with the success rate of recovering cocaine addicts — 24.5 percent, and the success rate of heroin addicts — 20.1 percent.

It doesn't take a math major to figure out that smokers are going to fight — tooth, fang and claw — trying to preserve what they see as their right.

I agree, it is your right to poison your body with tar, nicotine and other noxious chemicals which have been proven to incite the onset of cancer and a whole host of other diseases. It is not your right, however, to poison my lungs with the toxic smoke from your cancer sticks.

Each year you smokers kill 3,000 non-smokers with second hand smoke. Another 35,000 to 40,000 deaths can be linked directly to second hand smoke annually.

It is also not your right to discard cigarette butts all over our campus. There are no statistics as to how ugly San Jose State University looks as you walk from building-to-building and see butts littering the ground. But suffice to say it's about as attractive as the television commercial with the lady smoking a cigarette through her tracheotomy hole in her neck.

I know I will never sway smokers into giving up their beloved habit.

I do know that if we non-smokers stick together, eventually we can ban smoking from all public places — for all the smokers' own good.

Aaron Williams is the Spartan Daily production editor.

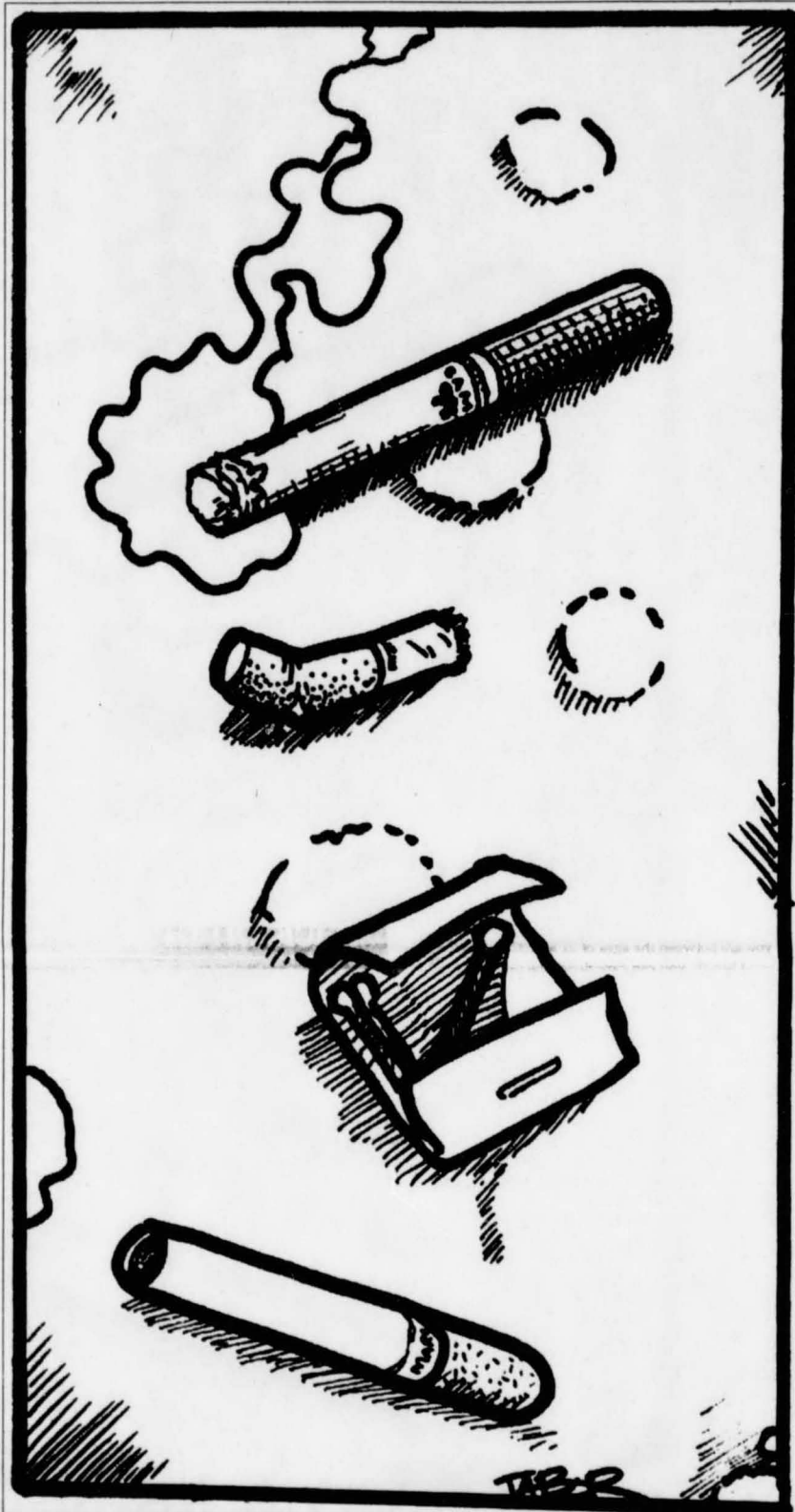


Illustration by Jess Temujin Tabor

Smoking may be bad but ending smokers' rights isn't 'Kool'

Cindy Arora



Smoking is one of the last social "taboos" that's still OK to do in broad daylight, in the street, in your car, in your bed or somebody else's bed.

Yet with the current trend of smoke-free cities, bars and restaurants, I'm beginning to wonder if the next step will be a smoke-free campus.

San Jose State University students who smoke may be exiled to lighting up in some dank street corner away from campus.

Then, the rest of the smokers and I could get to know the crack dealers in downtown.

Great.

How a university could regulate a smoke-free campus is beyond me.

Would they hire smoke police?

Would I get a ticket for lighting up next to Duncan Hall?

Guess what?

Smokers would still smoke on campus even if there was a law.

Remember prohibition?

Smokers will ban together, open a speak-easy where we can smoke, drink and indulge in naughty brothel activities.

Everyone will want to join.

But we won't let you — so there.

We know smoking is bad for us. We can read. I hear all the public service announcements. I watch the commercials and hear every nagging word non-smokers feel they have the right to voice.

We smoke because we want to and that's the beauty of it.

This is why we fought wars, broke off from England, had the Cold War with Russia and allow men such as Bill Clinton to run our country.

Raw freedom gives you the right to be bad to your body because you can.

First you take away smoking from bars, sadly trying to purify the bar scene.

Smokers were kicked to the curb and now patrons of bars can get liver cancer without bothersome cigarette smoke.

You know what? We understood.

We didn't like it, but it wasn't a farfetched request. But to take away smoking outside is where smokers must draw the line.

Non-smokers are always complaining and making smokers the anti-christ.

They're always screaming damn you, you're killing us. Well, damn you.

Damn you for trying to take away our rights as people. We've obliged in more ways than one to make non-smokers happy and leave us the hell alone.

Yet they won't, so if they want to make every city in this state smoke-free and are hoping to make universities smoke-free, I'll smoke in their face.

Do you really want 18.6 percent of the student population who is addicted to nicotine to be angry at you for taking away their right to smoke at school, where they pay mucho cash?

Go ahead, I'd like to see you try it.

Cindy Arora is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Talking Heads should smoking be banned on campus?



"I think it should be banned where people eat. Other than that, it's OK."

— Derek Balavac senior electrical engineering



"As long as they don't smoke by the buildings, I don't care. Just put cigarettes in the ashtrays."

— Emanuel Abraham senior electrical engineering



"I think it would be good because you still breathe in (smoke) even when it's outside."

— Gretchen Phillips graduate student French



"I totally disagree. It's a violation of our rights."

— Jose Gomez senior interior design



"As a smoker, I don't bring cigarettes on campus. If we want to smoke outside, it shouldn't be a big deal."

— Joyce Borg senior humanities



"I'm not even a smoker, but I think people who smoke should have the right to do it."

— Kristen Lenning senior public relations

Compiled by Cindy Aurora and photos by Dai Sugano.

Tony Vetromile, can you spare \$1 million?

All I have to say to Tony Vetromile is: Get ready. Let me be one of the first leeches to ask you for some money. Don't worry, it isn't a huge sum. I am only asking for \$1 million.

Another California Jackpot has come and gone, and once again I am left to wonder how it would feel to be a multimillionaire.

On Thursday, Santa Clara University student Vetromile found himself \$16 million richer because of his purchase of a winning Super Lotto ticket. Vetromile is an exception to most winners of the Super Lotto. He is 22 years old. Most of the Super Lotto winners are middle-aged men named Gunther who live out in Bakersfield. I could never squeeze a dime out of them. But Vetromile on the other hand, knows the trials and tribulations that every student has to go through. So Vetromile, I am going to ask you — no I am going to beg you — for \$1 million.

I am not asking for free money. I am willing to give you my reasons and some advice.

So, Vetromile, feel my pain.

Everyday is Saturday.

If I was a millionaire, everyday would be Saturday. It wouldn't matter if it was Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, it would be Saturday for me. Saturday is a day for the bare necessities of life. And they are: Wake up. Drink beer. Go to the bathroom. Drink beer. Eat. Drink beer. Watch TV and drink beer. Pass out. Wake up. It's Saturday again.

Vetromile, if you play your cards right, this can be you in the immediate future. Don't waste your time on investing in condos or stocks from E-Bay. Buy a nice house, a big bed and an extensive refrigerator. If you want, I could show you how to be in a drunken stupor for future reference. Just be careful. I get real lovey-dovey when I am inebriated.

For this advice, you can give me my \$1 million.

Flaunt what you got.

No, this doesn't deal with taking off your clothes.



LAST OF
THE
MOH'RICANS'

Jon Perez

This is an age-old Puerto Rican tradition of making an ass out of yourself in public. We Ricans don't have a lot, but we do have the gumption to be ourselves. I am a jag-off, walk with an exaggerated swagger and have fast feet to run away from the people I have rubbed the wrong way. I don't need \$1 million to do this, but at least I would

have some money to back me up.

Money buys acceptance, just look at Ross Perot. The world would be a lot better place if the world accepted me. Acceptance leads to imitation. Perot has had his business practices followed, and people would follow my smooth, Rico-suave antics.

Vetromile, you are not a Puerto Rican. Hell, you go to Santa Clara University. But if you want, I could teach you how to be the man or just look like one. Hey, if I can take my 52-year-old production chief and teach him how to say, "Hey money," I could definitely hook you up.

Don't waste the people's time.

Vetromile, a \$1 million donation to the Jon Perez fund will instantly give you 27,000 friends. Every week I constantly waste the readership of the Spartan Daily's time with this column. You will be saving people from one less column of underdeveloped thought and argumentation. Logic teachers would not have to re-educate their students who have read my illogical arguments and the illogical letters that follow them. I am a fallacy waiting to happen.

Please don't subject my readers — see, this is an appeal to emotion — to bad writing. Basically, Vetromile, what I am trying to say is: Good for you. Live life to the fullest potential that your money can give you, but also keep a good head on your shoulders. Even though I want money, there are a lot of people in need who could use it more.

Oh yeah, you can mail my money to the address listed on the front page of the Daily.

Jon Perez is the Spartan Daily executive editor "Last of the Moh'ricans" appears every Wednesday.

Sparta Guide

Today

Golden Key Honor Society
General meeting at 5:30 p.m. in Costanoan Room, Student Union. For more information, call Stacie Haro at (831) 427-6213.

Espiscopal Canterbury Community Church
Free dinner and discussion from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Campus Ministry Center. For more information, call Katherine or Geoff at 275-1346.

Ongoing Book Sales
The library donations and sales unit will holdbook sales from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Clark Library lobby and Wahlquist Library North, room 408. For more information, call the acquisitions department at 924-2705.

International Relations Association
Lecture on the global environment at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Student Union. For more information, call Karim Kahwaji at 379-4950.

Association of Black Scientists
General meeting at 5:30 p.m. in Duncun Hall, room 505. For more information, call Tre at 924-8280.

Catholic Campus Ministry
Daily Mass at 12:10 p.m. Discussion on the history of the church from 5 to 6:30 p.m. All events will be held at the Campus Ministry Center, located on the corner of San Carlos and 10th streets. The ministry will also hold a Lenten prayer ser-

vice at 7 p.m. For more information, call Ginny at 938-1610.

School of Art and Design
Student art exhibits from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and art receptions from 6 to 8 p.m., both in Art and Industrial Science Buildings. Tuesday night lecture series, presented with the CADRE Institute, featuring David Ross, director of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art at 7 p.m. in Art Building, room 133. For more information, call Scott or Jenny at 924-4330 regarding the art reception or Andy at 924-4328 regarding the lecture series.

Career Center
Recruiting services workshop at 11:30 a.m. in Guadalupe Room, Student Union. A foreign languages career panel will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Almaden Room, Student Union. Resume critique from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Building F. For more information, call the center at 924-6033.

Re-Entry Advisory Program
Brown bag lunch for peer networking from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Pacheco Room, Student Union. For more information, call Jane Boyd at 924-5950.

Body Composition Testing
The nutrition and food science department will provide bioelectrical impedance from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Central Classroom Building, room 103. Cost is \$5 for students, faculty and staff. For more information, call James Burke at 293-9225.

Time Management and Juggling Roles Workshop
The Re-Entry Advisory Program and Child Care Center will hold workshops from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Pacheco Room, Student Union. For more information, call Jane Boyd at 924-5950.

HIV/AIDS Panel Discussion
Discussion from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Pacifica Room, Student Union. For more information, call Ronald Williams, at 294-2231.

Thursday

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alliance
Meeting to organize upcoming events including "Rainbow Lounge," at 3:30 p.m. in Guadalupe Room, Student Union. For more information, call Juan Ramos at 456-5058.

African Student Union
General meeting at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers, Student Union. For more information, call Sunday Udeffia at (510) 614-9441.

The Listening Hour
Vocal jazz and guitar with Katherine Cartwright, Rich Vandier on guitar, and Strayhorn, Willinton and Mercer from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in Music Building Concert Hall. For more information, call Joan Stubbe at 924-4631.

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff. The deadline for entries is noon, three days before desired publication date. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily Office. Space restrictions may require editing of submissions.

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HAIR

Return to softball no pain in neck

By Brandy Sailors
Staff Writer

Lindsay Lewis broke her neck in a brutal car crash in the summer of 1998.

Six months later, not only is she alive, she's back on the Spartan softball team "wo"-manning third base.

Kim Bentley, an outfielder on the team, said not only is Lewis optimistic, but she keeps the team laughing. She compares Lewis to Jim Carey, who says randomly stupid-funny things.

"She works hard. Most people would quit or give in, but she's aggressive. She'll try to stop everything that comes to her — she'll dive," Bentley said.

Lewis grew up with softball. Both of her parents played slow-pitch and Lewis started her softball career as their bat girl at 3.

She actually started playing at the ripe old age of 5, and it's been a part of her life ever since. Lewis or "Lewi" as the team calls her, moved to Chico when she was 8 years old, where she moved on to baseball. When she reached 13, she had to choose between continuing baseball with the boys or switching to softball and staying with the girls. She switched to softball.

Becca Baldrige, a freshman shortstop, agreed Lewis is aggressive, but said when the game gets too intense, she'll crack a joke.

"She keeps us focused," Baldrige said. "She's a leader by example. If you make an error, she'll make you laugh and remind you that it's just a game."

When it was time to go to college, Lewis was recruited by Oklahoma State University, Oregon State University and San Jose State University. She chose the Spartans.

"The other two schools saw me as an outfielder and San Jose saw me as an infielder — that was the biggest appeal," Lewis said.

Lewis is now a senior and has dedicated four years to the Spartans.

On July 15, 1998 Lewis was involved in a car accident that broke the C2 and C4 vertebrae in her neck. These two vertebrae act as protectors of the spinal cord and are located at the top of the neck.

She was en route to Willows, a small town outside of Chico, for her sister's wedding. She was sick



Lindsay Lewis, who plays third base for the Spartan softball team, recently began practicing again after breaking her neck in a car accident.

and had just gotten off work after working 80 hours the week before. Her Honda Accord had no air conditioning, and it was approximately 115 degrees that day — normal for the Sacramento Valley.

Lewis caught herself nodding off, but she wanted to continue. She pulled off at a rest stop on Interstate 505, but she didn't feel comfortable with all of the people there. She decided she would drive to her grandma's house, which was only 40 minutes away.

Once on the road, she continued to nod off and decided to just go to Williams, which was only 15 minutes away. There, she planned to go into an air-conditioned restaurant and refresh. She passed Williams without even realizing she had dozed off.

About a half-mile later, she went off the side of the road, and when she woke up, she saw a

guard rail in front of her. Slamming on the brakes as she turned back onto the freeway, she overcompensated, and her car spun 180 degrees. She thought she would hit another car head-on, but instead she smashed into a guard rail — driver side first.

When she came to, a man was holding her neck and telling her not to move. Luckily, the first two people on site of the accident were a retired California Highway Patrol officer and an off-duty firefighter. Both had been driving behind her on the freeway.

Through her unclear vision, she could see the steering wheel in the windshield.

"Then, all I remember is them putting me in a helicopter. It felt like I was being taken away by aliens because the lady was in a full suit and mask, like an Air Force mask. So when I'm sitting

there in dream world, not knowing what was wrong with me, I'm asking, 'Where are you taking me?'" Lewis said.

Lewis said she didn't know at the time she had broken her neck. She thought she just had a severe case of whiplash.

Lewis was transported to the emergency room at Enloe Hospital in Chico where she later had a halo put on.

A halo is a medical device consisting of a body harness and four vertical bars supporting a metal band that encircles the head, which immobilizes it with four pins inserted into the head.

"It felt like a big ball of pressure, and I had a headache," Lewis said.

The halo was part of her attire as maid of honor at her sisters wedding that Saturday, where the best man wheeled her down the

aisle in her wheelchair.

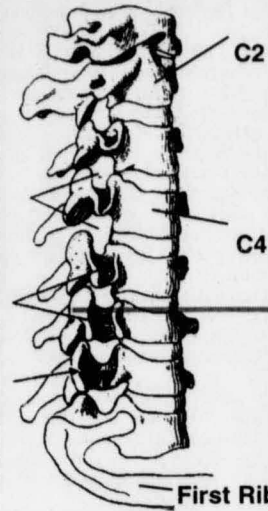
Lewis had to wear the halo for 13 weeks, a neck brace for four weeks, and she started working again on Dec. 18. The good word from Bruce Burke, Lewis' surgeon, came on Dec. 23 — she could start softball in January.

Connie Minor, the softball coach for SJSU, thought Lewis wouldn't be able to play again and was surprised by the doctor's release. Last year she was the third leading hitter on the team, with a .280 average and four homers. Lewis is already hitting .219 and has a field percentage of .911 through 17 games.

Lewis said she's running slower, and she's more tentative. She said her hitting has been about the same, but admitted that at first she wouldn't "go to the left." She was nervous when the ball would fly by her left side because

Neck diagram

Lewis broke the C2 and C4 vertebrae in her neck in a car accident six months ago.



that was the side the accident occurred. Lewis said she now makes a conscious effort to turn and move to the left.

Minor described Lewis as a vocal leader with a great attitude. She said she intends to nominate Lewis for The Inspiration Award given by NCAA. Nominations have to be in by March 31, and the NCAA will announce the winner at the end of the season.

The award is given at a nationwide banquet/dinner, and it is given on a basis of extenuating circumstances that have been overcome, as well as achievements in the sport.

This is the second time Minor has nominated someone in her 18-year coaching career.

As for the 21-year-old Lewis, she plans to graduate in the fall with a business administration degree, with a concentration in marketing.

PG&E is the first place she plans to apply, and as for softball, she said she would just play recreationally or maybe do some coaching.

"Now I live day to day instead of looking so far into the future. I still have goals, but now I live for each day," Lewis said.

WAC.

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mark of the second half, when they led 33-32. The 6-foot-6-inch Cooper would go on to repeatedly exploit his size mismatch over 6-foot-1-inch Spartan freshman Junior Preston.

The turnaround came as little surprise to Rice's coach.

"I was never really worried about the game slipping away," Wilson said. "We have a lot of experience with playing from behind. The players understood what they had to do. We had to rebound and play some defense."

From that point, it appeared as if Rice was poised to put the game away, but two free throws by Spartan forward Shaun Murray stopped the bleeding, which had lasted more than four minutes.

SJSU then closed the gap to 56-52 on a jumper by R.J. Powell, and the game would get as close as 63-61 on a layup by Powell with eight seconds left on the clock.

Powell would end up leading the Spartans with 16 points, five assists and three steals.

"R.J. Powell did a great job for us," Spartan head coach Phil Johnson said. "He fought real hard on offense and defense."

Powell, who is listed as a senior but hopes to get one more year back with a medical red-shirt, drew the unenviable job of guarding Rice's Johnson for most of the second half.

"I just wanted to step up and play hard," Powell said.

The loss capped a relatively successful season for the Spartan players who were in their first year with Johnson at the helm. The Spartans finished 12-16 compared to 3-23 a year ago.

Senior Will Trawick, who contributed 12 points and 10 rebounds, was able to take solace in that fact.

"We definitely had a good season," Trawick said. "As it was, we were the surprise of the WAC. But I am still very disappointed with this loss."

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