FORUM

Current traffic problems a "Bad Sign" for the future of freeway travel in the Bay Area -Page 2

SPORTS

Basketball seasons start, football season ends

- Monday SPARTAN L

One Washington Square San Jose, CA 95192-0149 SDAILY@jmc.sjsu.edu

Volume 113, No. 58

Friday

Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

November 19, 1999

Music bridges cultural gap

By Ryan McCrossin

Ahmad Waraich drifted back to his homeland Thursday in Spartan Complex Room 219 as he listened to a piece of South Asian music. It reminded him of his own struggles to live in the American culture.

Waraich's feelings synchro-nized with the purpose of the event, which was to show how people from different cultures feel and express themselves through art. The music opened the Personal Perspectives of Diversity

"I was deep inside the music — it gave me a boost. I looked inside myself and saw another world of peace and hope," Waraich said. Waraich, a San Jose State

University computer science major, came to the event alone just as he came to this country from his native Pakistan two years ago. When he first came here he didn't have any friends from Pakistan, but he

said he was prepared to dive into a foreign culture. "I didn't feel that lonely," Waraich said. "I made up my mind to go on and make new

friends."
Although Waraich's transition into American culture was fairly smooth, he said for others it is not so easy. This struggle for assimila-

tion was evoked through a powerful mixture of dance, music, theater and visual arts put together by the education equity committee in the College of Humanities and Arts. The purpose of the event was to open people's minds

See Diversity, page 4



Gladys Mondala / Spartan Daily

Aimee Lam, a University Dance Theatre member, performs a Southern Indian dance College of Humanities and the Arts. The program showcased a cross section of music Thursday as part of the Personal Perspectives of Diversity performance sponsored by the and dance from South Asia and Africa, emphasizing personal growth through culture.

Conference helps SJSU, Russia relations

By Liz Cloutman Daily staff writer

At the end of a two-hour teleconference Wednesday, the 16 Russian and San Jose State University political science students who participated agreed that, despite the disagreements between their two governments, they shared many opinions in they shared many opinions in common concerning the future of US-Russian relations.

"It was a good experience. I got to see Russians aren't much dif-ferent than Americans," said Leo Davila, a political science major and president of the Associated Students at SJSU "It's a shame our political leaders don't see

The eight SJSU teleconference participants — Davila, Karim Kahwaji, Heather Cook, Jason

Stephany Baker, Weinstein, Genevieve Lapham, Andrew Sims and Mikela Babayan - were chosen from Sharyl Cross's Russian

politics class.

The eight Russian participants Sergey Likhosherstov, Pavel Iliev, Victoria ("Vika") Smirnova, Sergey Baev, Anya Anya Nikolai Sergey Baev, Anya Kornilevskaya, Nikolai Kolashnikov, Pavel Volosov, and

Semyen Lomazov — are students

at Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. They also have been Cross's students. Cross, an SJSU political science profes-sor, spent six months — from February to late July — teaching and conducting research at the Institute as a Fulbright scholar.

See Russia, page 4

NASA, SJSU join forces

By Erika Coron

NASA will plan future research, development, and educational partnerships with San Jose State University according to a memorandum the two signed.

Nancy Bingham, associate director for system management and planning at NASA / Ames Research Center, said this is not the first and probably will not be the last agreement NASA makes with SJSU.

"Our goal is to develop this land into a world class shared research facility," Binham said.

NASA wants to develop about 200 acres left by the Navy at Moffett Field Federal Air Force Rese in Mountain View. Base in Mountain View.

Base in Mountain View.

SJSU, just one of numerous institutions NASA will be working in partnership with, was the site of a provost forum Wednesday in the engineering department at SJSU.

"This is an opportunity for the university to become involved in a rather formal way with NASA in something called Ames

See NASA, page 4

Questioning answers



Chad Pilster / Spartan Daily

Jennifer Perez (left) and Stephanie Marinelli (middle left) are two of the three people to host Slightly Moldy Parsley Genetic Jeopardy in their Science 2 class, Thursday in Duncan Hall. The project was to present disciplines of the College of Science using different and innovative methods.

Jepression

Students learn to deal with emotions

By Cindy Arora

Editor's note: We're college Editor's note: We're college students. Many of us sleep less than we should, drink too much and eat anything and everything bad for us. This is the last installment of our five-day Health Series. JO.

Sophomore April Coffey hasn't decided on a major yet, dreads going to school everyday and is overwhelmed by the future.

the future.

"What if you don't have what it takes to make it in the real world?" Coffey asked.

Normally, Coffey considers herself to be a happy person, but lately she's been feeling unmotivated by the routine at San Jose State University

and is unhappy.

In hopes of finding the finding root to her unhappi-ness, Coffey attended the depres-sion workshop spon-sored by

counseling services Nov. 9. One of six who workshop, attended the Coffey's sentiments were echoed by the other students.

According to Wiggsy Sivertsen, director of counsel-ing services, students need to pay attention to emotional symptoms as they do physical

symptoms.

"If you have difficulty sleeping or are not sleeping enough and the rest of your life sucks ... then maybe you need to look into that," Sivertsen said. "But nobody should wake up and say 'I'm sleeping too much, I'm sleeping too much, I'm depressed.' If you're sleeping too much your psyche has a fever — go check it out." Mercedes, a student at SJSU who asked that only

her first name be mentioned, attended the workshop because she was feeling the classic symptoms of depression: lack of motivation, a change in sleeping patterns — either sleeping to much or too little — and feeling tired and unhappy. All can signs

depression or something going on in a student's life that could be relieved with counseling.
"There is

something going on with

me and I want to figure it out. But I've been so busy so I just focus on school," Mercedes

Sivertsen said often when people become bored with

See Depressed, page 4

FORUM

San Jose State University

Pit bulls not the best choice for 'man's best friend'



Ryan McCrossin

STAFF WRITER

peered down from the second story window of my house into the shadows, and I spotted a pit bull rummaging through my backyard. "Hey, boy," I said, and he darted from the yard

It wasn't until the next day when I found my cat mauled — evidently by two pit bulls that have been running loose in the neighborhood — that I began

to think differently.

Many thoughts bolted through my mind, but one prevailed: I wondered how anyone could own an animal capable of such cold-blooded killing.

Along with that thought awoke the image of that pit bull. I looked at him once again through the darkness. I heard his heavy panting, and I mar-veled at his sturdy, muscular build as he looked for

his prey.

That natural born killer is believed to be a descendent of the Staffordshire bull terrier. It was shipped from England to the United States in the shipped from England, these dogs were bred to excel in combat or "pit" fights with other dogs. They were brought to the United States for this purpose, and by farmers who used them to guard their cat-

In the last few decades these animals have become a threat to suburban life. In my own neighborhood, some people were afraid to take their small dogs for walks or even go outside by them-selves when these pit bulls were loose. That a child may be the next victim of these pit

bulls' wrath was our biggest concern when we heard accounts of these two dogs. Pit bulls are easily antagonized, especially by children.

Between 1979 and 1996, 189 dog bite related

fatalities were caused by Rottweilers and pit bulls, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Innocent civilians have had their faces chewed on, and limbs ripped off by these beasts.

Anyone who owns a pit bull is brandishing a lethal weapon. When a pit bull bites its victim, its jaws lock and it is very difficult for the victim to pry the dog away from him or her.

Those who own pit bulls insist that if they are bred and raised properly, the dogs make good pets. That's what my brother said about his pit bull.

until he was forced to sell it when it showed early signs of aggression.

With all of this stirring in my mind, I headed over to the pit bull owner's house with my father and a neighbor. I gained an appreciation for what my cat, who was deaf and declawed, went through every day as he strolled down the street not know ing what he might come up against.

My legs became unsteady and my breathing shallowed as I got closer to the pit bulls' lair. On the driveway, I was startled by the heavy barks summoned from the depths of the beasts' chests. My fate may have been the same as my cat Casper's lead they not been lacked even in the correct had they not been locked away in the garage.

Although he was disabled, Casper lived boldly

for 10 years. He ventured out into the wild every day and never came home with a scratch on him. It took two pit bulls to end his adventure.

When I see a pit bull now I will think about my

cat, and I will question the owner's reason for fos tering a natural born killer.

Ryan McCrossin is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



Bay Area traffic problems to get worse

BORN

UNDER A

BAD SIGN

D.S. Perez

A fter a night of driving the pathway to hell, I return to this keyboard. Tired, defeated and distraught, I'm wondering what to type next for the column you are reading right now.

The hell if I know. Actually, that's a misnomer. I've just come back from Hell. Right off its highway. Not Route 666 (wasn't that an old, rambunctious TV show?), but Highway 17.

I've never been religious, but ever since I moved up to San Jose, I feel like saying a prayer every time I get in my car. Unfortunately, Γ m not too familiar with

Let's see ... Allah, no wait, just had a pork sandwich ... Hare Krish ... Christ, it was a pork and roast beef sandwich ... wait, Hail Mary, Tetris Dominatrix E Plurbus Unum ... OK me not know Latin. Please God,

no wrecks, thank you.
OK, time to get to the point. Wednesday, the San Jose Mercury News had an item listing the San Francisco-Oakland area as having the third worst amount of traffic in the nation. In the study, by the Texas Transportation Institute, San Jose was ranked

On a side note, Los Angeles - my hometown, baby — was No. 1 in the rankings and Las Vegas was 10th — no surprise here: It takes 30 minutes to go 10 feet on the Strip. New York City, for all its taxis and speeding dump trucks, was 13th.

Now you might think San Jose being No. 15 isn't bad. But when you consider that people who commute through San Jose may be going to or coming from the San Francisco-Oakland area, it might be the worst traffic zone in the nation.

Also, take into account two other facts. According to this study, the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area loses 160 gallons of fuel and \$1,760 per driver stuck in traffic. In comparison, L.A. drivers lose 120 gallons and \$1,370 per driver. Also, California, in a separate study done by insurance companies, has the

Having been in two auto accidents in the 18 months since I moved to Northern California, I can agree with that study. I miss the old tank I brought up here — a Ford Crown Victoria (yep, a cop car) that got decomissioned by an SUV coming off the 280 offramp on 10th Street, just a week after I moved to San Jose.

Even though I felt naked without a vehicle. I started to see the wisdom in the choice of riding a bike to school, like my adviser and a roommate of mine do Hell, I live only a mile away. Unfortunately, I didn't find a bicycle that had a seat large enough for my ass and was built in a fashion that wouldn't have

my knees hitting my chin.
But it was that California pride that won me over - I got another set of wheels. Unfortunately, my first

drive in my new used car was Highway 17. Narrow roads, rocks, cliffs, people in SUVs traveling 20 miles faster

than the posted limit — excluding the cars, I think I know how those riders felt driving elephants up the Alps with Hannibal.

I'm used to L.A.'s traffic. I'm used to stop-and-go traffic and scheduling to leave for places at the 10 a.m.-to-3 p.m. and 7 p.m.-to-5 a.m. windows. And I'm used to L.A.'s solutions to solve traffic: Build more freeways and invest in failures like the subway and light-rail. I chose San Jose State University over California State University Fullerton not just because Fullerton's paper sucked, but because I didn't want a

90-minute drive on four freeways, all of which were constantly under reconstruction.

Fortunately, the Bay Area is a little more enlightin that aspect. Talks are resuming to bring Bay Area Rapid Transit lines to San Jose, and surrounding freeways and highways are in the process of being stretched to have a few lanes more. If Teddy Roosevelt could have Panamanian mountains torn down for the Panama Canal, we can have a mountain ripped out to have a better drive to the beaches and Santa Cruz.

Unfortunately, since I recall how long it took for the freeway to be built near my house — I was 5 when saw them drop the rubble to make it, and around 18 when I drove on its opening month — it's going to be hell to drive in the Bay Area for the next 10 years. It's going to get worse, not better.
So if you panic in traffic or you're in a hurry — I'm

guilty of both, usually — tough.

I end this column on a thought: Just as I was pulling into the driveway, three little blobs skittered across my lights and started rushing up a telephone

I stopped and watched the three kittens who stared back at me. I'm wondering if they'll be casual-ties of traffic anytime soon. If anybody should complain about too many cars on the road

D.S. Perez is a Spartan Daily senior staff writer. "Born Under A Bad Sign" appears Fridays.

Standardized tests can help kids learn educational basics

Christina Lucarotti

STAFF WRITER

used to work at a learning center for grade school and junior high students. The kids would do reading, spelling, math and science lessons on computers, and



the software would com-pare their abilities with those of students nation-

wide.

With the exception of a few brainiacs who were ahead of their grade level, the majority of kids were behind by at least one grade level in every subject. These kids had the capacity to every subject. These kids had the capacity to learn. Their parents were intelligent, and I'm sure their teachers were too. Very few of those students were actually struggling in school. Usually they received As and Bs on their report cards.

So why, then, didn't these students know the basics of writing, reading and arithmetic? I think a large part of why students with good grades lack common knowledge is the absence of standardized.

common knowledge is the absence of standardized

performance tests to pass each grade level.
Standardized tests shouldn't scare students and teachers. They help guarantee that students learn what they should at each grade. Otherwise, a teacher might feel pressured to pass hard working students on to the next grade, even if they

haven't learned the material.

According to Bob Linn, from the Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing, standardized tests have four purposes:

1) to set clear goals for students, teachers and schools: 2) to encourage educators and students to

achieve greater performance;
3) to create accountability for educators; and

4) to create accountability for students.

If these are the purposes of standardized tests, why is there opposition to making tests mandatory at each grade level?

"Standards are easy to love. Tests are easy to hate! But if standards are to be used for accountability (for students or educators) then tests are necessary," said Sharon Robinson, author of the paper "Standards and Standards-Based

sessment. Robinson gives four guidelines for standardbased assessments, stating the link between the standards and the test questions should be obvi-ous. The number of test questions for each standard should correlate with the importance of that standard. The questions should not be presented in a confusing way. And the questions should represent the diversity of the students and should

not be offensive to any groups of students.

I think it's the "accountability" that Robinson mentioned that keeps some people from supporting standardized tests. I think parents and educators are afraid if we tested kids they would fail.

In the real world, you don't get to keep your job because you're hard working and well liked. In school, you shouldn't be promoted from one grade level to the next if you haven't successfully learned the required material for that grade level. Standardized tests at every grade level could

help prevent students from graduating high school without knowing when to use "there" "their" and "they're," how to properly use a comma and how to correctly add fractions.

Christina Lucarotti is a Spartan Daily

Muslim Student Association

Friday prayer, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Costanoan room, Student Union. For more information, call Emal Numan at 971-8347

SJSU Symphony Orchestra

Russian concert featuring "Swan Lake," Symphony No. 1" and "Polovtsian Dances," 7:30 p.m. in the SJSU Concert Hall. Free for students, \$5 general admission. For more information, call Jun Nakabayashi at 924-4647

Counseling Services "Out to Lunch" support group for

gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Administration building, Room 269. For more information, call Counseling Services at 924-5910.

L.D.S. Students Association Bishop Glenn Hammer speaking

about gratitude, 12:30 p.m. at 66 S Seventh St. For more information, call 286-3313.

The Newman Community

Newman club gathering, 7 p.m to 9 p.m. at the Campus Ministry Center, 300 S. 10th St. For more information, call Laura McHale or the Rev. Bob Barry at 938-1610.

Sparta Guide

Outing, 2 p.m. in William Park For more information, call Amy at 298-4693.

American Society of

The fifth lecture in natural products drug discovery. "Chlorine: Element from Hell or gift from God? Nature's Amazing Role in the Organohalogen Controversy," with professor Gordon Gribble Dartmouth College, 3:30 p.m. in Washington Square Hall, Room 109.

Saturday

Multicultural Center Native American celebration,

8:30 p.m. in the Dining Common For more information, call Alina at

SJSU Ballroom Dance Club Ballroom dance classic: Single

and multi-dance events, all levels welcome, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom. For more information, call Michelle Lehne at 260-8187 or 924-SPIN

Hong Kong Student Association Supa Phunky Bowling Nite, 10:45 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the Student

Union Bowling center. For more information, call Vida Tsui at 997-

SJSU Sikh Student Association Birthday celebrations of Guru

Nauak Dev, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Almaden room, Student Union. For more information, call Atamjit Singh at 924-4622.

Saturday Clube Lusitania - Portuguese

General meeting to discuss Go Go. For more information, call Claudia Carrola at 729-9720

Catholic Campus Ministry Sunday Eucharistic workshop, 6 o.m. at the Campus Ministry

Chapel, 8 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral. For more information call Sister Marcia or the Rev. Bob Barry at 938-1610.

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

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So, what are you doing for New Year's Eve?

The Spartan Daily wants to know how you plan to celebrate the end of the century. Tell us your plans by e-mail at sdaily@jmc.sjsu.edu, attn: opinion editor. A list of the party plans will be published Dec. 6, 1999. No names will be included.

Opinion page policies

Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a letter to the editor.

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

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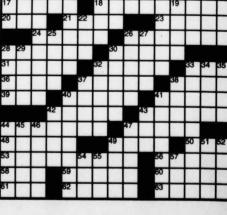
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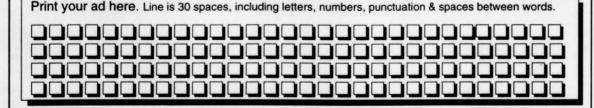
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4

NEWS

San Jose State University



Choreographer Mythill Kumar leads the University Dance Theatre company in a special bow backstage before taking part in the Personal

Perspectives of Diversity performance Thursday in Spartan Complex Room 219. The bow is performed before any traditional sacred dancing.

Diversity

Continued from pg 1

The greatest struggle was evidenced in the Asian artwork, which was shown to the audience in a slide show presentation toward the end of the event. Through their work, the artists expressed their feelings of isola-tion, stress and depression when they came from their homelands to America. A sculpture with exam papers pasted all over it was an expression of how driven one artist was to get good grades and achieve success.

The performance by the African / Afro-Caribbean dancers showed how a foreign culture

Iliev, who is majoring in inter-

national economic relations and

international finance at the institute, had a positive reaction

to the teleconference.
"Even though we live great

distances apart, we're not very different," Iliev said. "We share opinions. Government officials could learn from us."

The teleconference was broadcast from Room 302 of the Instructional Resource Center to the rest of the Russian politics class and invited guests in the Almaden room of the Student

Union and the Engineering building Auditorium. The tech-

nology for the broadcast was provided by Global One Russia, a

corporation formed by Russian Central Telegraph and Global

One, an international telecom-

loans to Russia to aid its eco-

nomic reform; the need for both the U.S. Congress and the Duma,

the Russian legislative assembly,

to have a better understanding of U.S.-Russian relations; Russia's conflict with Chechnya

and the democratization

The conference covered many sues such as the U.S. monetary

munications company.

Russia

Continued from pg 1

various ethnic backgrounds dressed in wrap skirts danced in unison to African drums. Afterwards, some of the dancers came out and talked about their sational and music studies in the school of music and dance.
"We wanted to stimulate dialogue across cultural barriers and find ways of communicating with

personal feelings about the dance each other and highlight what an they had performed. One dancer said she had learned a lot about enriching and rewarding experi-ence that can be," Cartwright African culture, and how much it had influenced the American cul-When the show ended, the ture, through her study of African dance. A dancer from Brazil told organizers stationed themselves in front of the audience for a ques-

could be embraced. Women from

the audience how important it was for her to be able to share her tion-and-answer session. Ethel Walker, a theatre arts professor, music with people and learn about American culture. stressed the importance of arts education in schools. She said it is Many of the professors have a way for children to learn about done research in cross-cultural studies and wanted other people and familiarize themselves with people who are different from them. to experience the enrichment they felt, said Katharine Cartwright,

Preetha Sheshadri, who led the

who is the coordinator of improvi-

southeast Asian dance segment, said she was happy to share her own culture and learn about oth-

"When I came here today I didn't know there were so many other styles (of music and dance) like the African drumming," Sheshadri said. "I have never seen that before. It was a very good experience for me."

Sheshadri shared her culture in a very personal way with her music and dance colleague last summer. When Cartwright decided to go to India in the summer to study music and dance, Sheshadri suggested Cartwright stay with

her parents there.
"It was a great experience,"
Cartwright said. "I want to go

- Sergey Likosherstov Russian participant

"We want to punish terrorists who have committed severe crimes. The conflict is internal."

Several students agreed the United States should consider foreign aid rather than loans to Russia because its economic

"In time of economic crisis and

Likosherstov, an internal law major, emphasized how Russia's domestic problems can affect for-

I really believe our foreign policy is determined by the inter-nal problems of Russia — espe-cially the recession,"

Kornilevskaya, a major in international economics, compared Russia's economic situation to the unpredictability of

"We don't know the next step of the government. Changes come very quickly."

a good working relationship, similar to that of presidents Clinton and Yeltsin.

We need to get beyond propa-

Likhosherstov and Kornilevskaya both said they believed the Russian-Chechnya situation was a domestic one, and disliked the United States's

back next summer.

Federation, Cross said. "We want to punish terrorists who have committed severe crimes. The conflict is internal, Likhosherstov said.

Smirnova, an international relations major specializing in U.S. history, economics and foreign policy, said she thought the young people of Russia wanted to continue the process of democratization.

"The fact we are at our second conference (with SJSU) shows the younger generation is against the return to the Soviet era," Smirnova said.

Baev, an international law major, said he believed the majority of the Russian popula-tion supports human rights and democratization.
At the end of the conference,

Smirnova added a light final comment to the American partic-

We're (the institute participants) not 30 years old. We're 20 years old," Smirnova said. "We don't spend all our time cramming in books or preparing for an international relations con-ference. We like to go out and have fun. We want to know what all of you do for fun."

The next conference between SJSU and the Moscow State Institute of International International Relations is planned for May,

Depressed

Continued from pg 1

school and feel unmotivated, it's because they're depressed but don't know it.

According to Holly Hopkins, a counselor intern, depression can often be more than an emotional problem. The mental health research resources for students point out that clinical depression or mood disorder can be detected with the classic signs and symptoms of depression, but a much more severe reac-

Steinberg said there are cases of depression called dysthymia, which is chronic long-term depression, bi-polar disorder, which is extreme moods of either euphoric happiness or intense depression. These are clinical disorders that need to be

addressed by psychiatrists.

Hopkins said clinical depression can be treated if people will forgo the stigma of medications for depression

"I know there is a common misconception on medications

for depression or any other emo-tional problem," Hopkins said According to Jill Steinberg, a psychologist for counseling services, people who are suffering from depression tend to keep themselves busy to avoid focus ing on the problem.

Katie Dashtban, an intern for counseling services, was one of the speakers at the depression workshop last week. She said counseling services offers indi-vidual and group therapy. "The reasons for referral (stu-

dents who attend counseling) are so broad — a lot of people come in for relationship issues," Dashtban said.

Dashtban said.

According to Sivertsen, group therapy or counseling tends to be more difficult to arrange because SJSU is a commuter school. Workshops, such as the depression workshop held last week, are being used to see if students will attend.

NASA

Continued from pg 1

Research Center," Provost Linda Bain said.

She said the agreement will allow the university to get involved in research projects and engage in some of the educational projects and activities that NASA envisions as forming part of the center.

The memo includes educational programs, a teacher institute, graduate and credential programs at SJSU, extended education and science, math, engineering and technology programs for kinder-garten through twelth grade.

The forum was sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies Research and Foundation.

The programs were briefly outlined at the forum, but were not

discussed in any detail. The part-nership was described by Bain as more of a vision that is still in the

planning stages.
"We are inventing it as we go," Bain said.

Funding for the center was not described in detail either. Bain said they are looking at the possibility of funding with one or more legislators.

"This is probably a great oppor-tunity, not only to market our students, and open more opportuni-ties of jobs for them, but also to upgrade our facilities," said Nabil Ibrahim, associate vice president for graduate studies and research at SJSU. This would provide both teaching and research facilities, which would make undergraduate research activities available to students and faculty, Ibrahim

ecession makes loan repayment difficult.

recession, the United States shouldn't be giving out loans, but assisting Russia," Davila said. "It's (the loans) making problems

eign policy

Likosherstov said.

"It's (the situation) almost like living in California, where you never know when an earth-quake will come," Kornilevskaya

Kahwaji, a senior majoring in political science and president of the SJSU International Relations Association, stressed the importance of the U.S. Congress and the Duma having a good working relationship

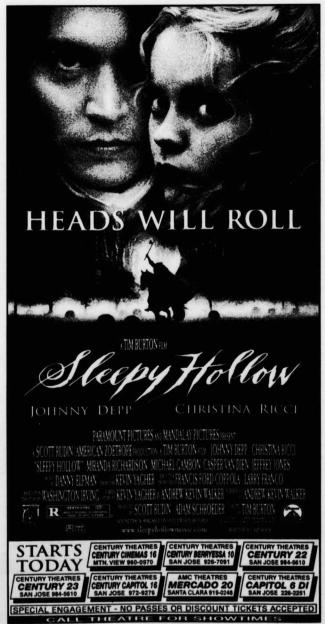
ganda," Kahwaji said.

negative reaction to the problem.

Chechnya is attempting to cede from the Russian

The Spartan Dailly. Never missing a press day since 1934.





40-foot pyramid of logs collapse, kills six, injures 28

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — A 40-foot pyramid of logs being assembled for Texas A&M's annual bonfire collapsed early today while dozens of students were climbing on it. At least six students were killed and 28

In the hours after the 2:30 a.m. collapse, rescuers pulled four stu-dents from the rubble alive, said Bart Humphreys, a fire department spokesman. One student wasn't pulled free until more than six hours later.

Even after that, Cynthia Lawson, a spokeswoman for the university, said crews using sound detectors could hear "moaning and tapping sounds," leading them to believe one or more students was still trapped.

At midmorning, cranes were removing logs gingerly, one by one, in the search for more stu-

Every piece of wood in that

pile is unstable and every piece of wood that moves affects other pieces of lumber," Humphreys

Students who had been looking forward to the huge bonfire, a tra-dition since 1909 to get fans ready for the football game against archrival University of Texas,

were instead in mourning.

"The scene right now is a scene
of disbelief," said Sallie Turner,
editor of the Battalion, the student newspaper. "A lot of the stu-dents just feel it's surreal."

University President Ray Bowen gave the death toll as six dead, all men, and 28 injured. At least three people were in critical Officials

conducted head counts at residence halls in an effort to account for everybody who may have been working on the structure. Some 60 to 70 students were believed to be on it when it fell.

Rusty Thompson, assistant director of the Memorial Student Center and the bonfire faculty adviser, said students told him there was just a sudden movement. Five to seven seconds and it was on the ground."

Gov. George W. Bush choked up when he discussed the accident in a CNN interview. "I just can't imagine what that means to have that happen to them," he said.

"It's sad, it's tough."

The bonfire tradition, which draws tens of thousands of specta-tors, began when Texas A&M was still an all-male military academy. The only year the bonfire was not lit was 1963, following President Kennedy's assassination.

This year's bonfire was scheduled for Thanksgiving night, the eve of the game. The event was canceled after the accident.

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