

Men's basketball team
digs past Miners,
win 47-44

For a certain price, D.S. Perez
and 'Born Under a Bad
Sign' can be yours

SPARTAN DAILY

February 7, 2000

Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

Volume 114, No. 7

SJSU alumnus dies on Flight 261

Erin Mayes
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Renato Bermudez lived his life the way many people only wish they could.

He pursued every dream he ever had, from biking through Alaska to fighting fires. He left behind dozens of heartbroken friends and family members when he and 87 others aboard Alaska Airlines Flight 261 were killed when the plane plunged

Bermudez, 39, graduated with a degree in environmental science and a minor in



Bermudez

journalism from San Jose State University in the late 1980s. He was also a member of the judo team.

Born on Jan. 7, 1961 in San Francisco, Renato was a happy baby, so happy that his mother, Rose Bermudez, sometimes worried that her son didn't cry enough.

"Even when he was

very small, he was very aware of my presence," Rose said. She said Renato would always be peeking out the window when she came home from work and would jump up and down in delight when she walked in the door.

Renato attended catholic elementary and high schools and was always very athletic.

"He crossed the U.S. by bike, from Oregon to New Jersey," Rose said. "He would ride from the house to the beach."

He also rode his bike from San

Francisco to Alaska and from Boston to Oregon.

Many times he would meet people on his trips and bring them back with him. Rose said she always let them stay in her home.

"I welcomed all these people that my son met because I wanted to return the kindness they had shown my son," Rose said. "He was a wonderful friend, a loyal friend. He was such a nice person."

Renato had a black belt in karate and went on to earn a brown belt in judo while

at SJSU.

Rose developed cancer in 1993 and her husband died while she was ill. Renato was concerned about her living alone and decided to move back in with her.

"He told me, 'You are alone and I don't want to leave you,'" Rose said.

Describing how she and Renato went shopping for furniture together, she said he had very simple tastes and felt anything fancy would be unnecessary.

See *Bermudez*, page 6

A.S. election dates set

Donna Carmichael
DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The date has been set for Associated Students' election for the academic year 2000-2001.

Voting is slated to take place on Wednesday, March 22 and Thursday, March 23, putting the election right before spring break.

Michelle Johnson, a sophomore, said holding elections so close to spring break has a negative effect on voter turnout.

"Students are busy with midterms and preoccupied with spring break," Johnson said. "We are not thinking about student government that week. They should hold the election after spring break for more participation."

But A.S. President Leo Davila recommended the dates to his board of directors after Heather Cook, an A.S. Election Board officer, presented him with the choices at the last A.S. Board of Directors meeting.

Davila said the week of March 12 — the other choice — was out of the question.

"The California State University Trustees are meeting here that week and we are hosting the California State Student Association that weekend," he said.

The CSU Board of Trustees will meet at San Jose State University, March 14 to 15 and A.S. will host the CSSA Friday, March 10 through Sunday, March 12 — promising a busy schedule for the A.S. Board.

A.S. campaigning should start the week of March 5, said Megan Anderson of the Election Board.

"The candidates will have a longer shot at getting their message out this year," Anderson said at the A.S. meeting.

Voter turnout statistics have been dismal at SJSU in past years and are steadily on the decline, according to university records showing the past 10 A.S. elections.

Last year, a mere 1,185 registered students — about 4.5 percent of the student body — turned out to vote, from an estimated enrollment of 25,000. That was down almost 600 votes from the 1996-1997 academic year and down a whopping 1,800 votes from the 1984-1985 election when 12.62 percent of the student body of 24,191 turned out.

Claire Hargreaves, Chief Election Officer for A.S., said she and her board want to see a good turnout this year.

"We intend to really get the

See *A.S.*, page 4

A.S. Elections Quick Hits

Voting Times:

Wednesday, March 22

Thursday, March 23

Number of votes last year:

1,185 / 4.5 percent

of the student body

Stipends per month

Board Members: \$250

President: \$1,000

Dragon
out the
new
year

Santa Clara County's Tet festival celebrated

Monica L. Ewing
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Trini Bui, a businesswoman from Hawaii, decided to stop by Santa Clara County's Tet Festival before flying home, and she was glad she did.

"I am very impressed, it (the festival) was very well-prepared," Bui said with a beaming smile. "This is one of the biggest communities of Vietnamese in the country right here in San Jose."

The Tet Festival is the most important Vietnamese holiday. It celebrates the Lunar New Year. This year is of even greater significance because of the confluence of three important dates: the Year of the Dragon, the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon and the year 2000.

The rain which fell all day Saturday did not seem to keep the crowds of revelers away from the festivities or dampen the spirit of this year's Tet Festival held at the Santa Clara County fairgrounds.

"The weather is not so perfect, but people are still coming," said Michael Nguyen, operator of one of the food vending booths at the festival.

This is the county's 18th annual Tet



Photos by Rika Manabe / Spartan Daily

Above, Ngockhanh Phan takes a good look at his dress at the Tet Festival Saturday at Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Right, Huy Phan carries a dragon head and dances during the grand opening ceremony at the Tet Festival Saturday. Phan is one of 20 San Jose Dragon Dance members.

Festival and its 16th held at the fairgrounds. It has rained during each of the last three years on the festivities, according to Minh Nguyen, a San Jose State University alumnus who said he attends the festival almost every year.

"It always rains in the Year of the Dragon," said David Thomas, a contributor to the festival who is conversant in Vietnamese traditions.

The two most fierce mythical creatures in Vietnamese folklore are the tiger and the dragon, according to Thomas. The tiger is the king of the land and the dragon is king of the air and the water. Along with rain, the dragon brings luck and prosperity, according to Vietnamese beliefs.

Saturday's events were kicked off by the lighting of the torch, which burned continuously throughout the three days of the festival, and by drum playing and ringing of a large bell. The lighting of the torch symbolizes freedom and the drum

calls forth the spirit of Vietnam to the Tet Festival.

Much of the early celebrations on New Year's Day centered around cultural traditions, including the fan dance and the dragon and lion dance, while banners behind the stage declared "Human Rights and Freedom for Vietnam" and "Liberate Home Country."

One of the dance groups, Wings of 100 Viet, danced and portrayed the folktales and history of Vietnam.

Thao Nguyen, a senior finance major at San Jose State University, is a lead dancer in many of the group's numbers. Nguyen injured her ankle before going on stage, but still performed beautifully.

She said the group is made up of high school and college students who volunteer to perform for free at various community events.

See *Tet*, page 4

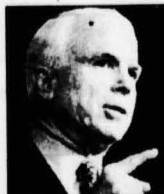


The Race is on



Orrin Hatch
Utah-R. Senator

"McCain's campaign reform would take real interest away from the political process."



John McCain
U.S. Presidential Candidate

"There will be no food-stamp economy when I'm president."



Tom Campbell
U.S. Senatorial Candidate

"Dianne Feinstein, if you're listening, give back the P.A.C."

Californian Republican Party 2000 Spring Convention

Donna Carmichael
DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

BURLINGAME — Republican party faithful from almost every nook and cranny of California converged on the Hyatt Hotel in Burlingame over the weekend in a show of support for their candidates for the U.S. Senate and the presidency.

But the event — a kind of

Golden State Woodstock for the GOP — was missing one of its lead acts.

George W. Bush, governor of Texas and GOP presidential hopeful, fresh from a resounding defeat in New Hampshire's primary, was missing from the lineup. In his place was brother Jeb Bush, governor of Florida.

But the proxy had little effect on party activists such as Linda

Donnelly of Orange County, who still hadn't decided which presidential candidate to throw her support behind.

"He's (George W. Bush) done this to us before. He should have been here (in California)," she said, shaking her head.

Bush, reportedly, was sitting out the Northern California convention at home in Texas, regrouping and resting after his

recent defeat in New Hampshire and his poor showing in polls for the upcoming primary in South Carolina, which was until now considered a Bush stronghold.

Bush's recent performance has left some supporters wondering if backing Bush was a poor investment.

Louise Spain, a Bay Area

See *Convention*, back page



Opinion

EDITORIAL

Free speech protects even ugly words

The prevailing notion of free speech seems to be that you may say what you choose if you don't shock me," wrote Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Nearly 100 years after Holmes wrote those words, it is what many Americans believe free speech means. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

Free speech, Holmes would add, means, "Not free thought for those who agree with us, but freedom for the thought we hate."

In today's issue of the Spartan Daily, there is an advertisement which some will find hateful.

It is an ad for a group called the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust. In the ad, Bradley R. Smith, director of the group, questions Holocaust accounts and the validity of claims brought forth by some Holocaust survivors.

We at the Spartan Daily neither defend nor challenge Smith's claims and accusations. They belong to his group alone.

The decision was made to run the ad, a decision we, as the editorial staff, stand fully behind. We feel it is the ultimate test of our First Amendment rights.

We believe in "the marketplace of ideas," as Holmes so eloquently put it.

There are some who will immediately denounce Smith as hateful because of his message. But we at the Spartan Daily believe, as Americans, as enlightened students at a university, you will be able to make up your own mind as to the validity of the claims Smith puts forward.

If we, as a newspaper, refuse to run an advertisement merely because it offers unpopular or "hateful" views, then we are no better than fascist dictators who rule their country with an iron fist.

We believe it is not our place, nor our right, to tell you how to think or what to believe.

We feel, however, it is our duty and obligation to at least let you make up your own mind.

The First Amendment gives the Ku Klux Klan the right to march in Skokie, Ill. It also gives Smith's group the right to express its point of view.

We realize we might be criticized for printing the advertisement because of its viewpoint.

We believe in the Constitution, the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press and all they stand for — good or bad.

Outside influence grabs ahold of media's hand

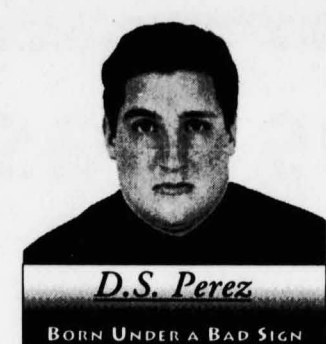
The psycho in the box says welcome back. Now starring in the top column on the week's face, rather than at the ass end of the five-day schedule. Nothing wrong with that though; there would only be 500 students who could possibly point me out on campus.

Now let's get started on the topic of today's column. It's about voice. No, not the physical one that sounds pretty hoarse most of the time, but the voice of the media. The images, sounds and words you see dance in front of you when you watch the idiot box, click a web page or flip physical paper pages.

Seems the public is just becoming aware that within the storylines of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" or sections of the newspaper about new sports arenas are actually purchased messages that an interested party wants the media to send out to the masses.

All sorts of juicy items are flowing from this discovery. The Los Angeles Times does a few pages on the new Staples Center, but does not put down the words "paid advertisement." The government is criticized for paying money to studios that put anti-drug messages into its programs. Sharon Stone sends out expensive watches to critics in order to "buy" a nomination for her acting in "The Muse."

Want to know something? Nothing really new, especially with the enter-



tainment media — ever check out the movies made during World War II and the beginning of the Cold War? The other examples — The Times and Stone stories — are breaches in ethics.

In theory, the job I do — journalism — is supposed to highlight facts on both sides of the story. To be as fair and objective as possible. That is where The Times erred; it misled the public by not saying it had been paid to say as many nice words about the new arena. C'mon, the building ain't perfect, and it's not designed for Average Joe Fan's wallet, either.

For the Stone incident, the media is not meant to call a film or performance "an awesome spectacle" unless it really

was such a thing, or the writer happens to be writing an opinion or review piece. If it's a piece of crap, he or she writes up a story saying so — regardless of getting freebies like watches, money, free food, prophylactics, whatever. This isn't a host-and-guest affair.

Although the Spartan Daily might be at the lower end of the Great Media Food Chain, we've received our share of freebies. We get event passes and music CDs to review. We either review them or use them in practical means — Frisbees, coasters, crappy gifts.

And no matter how boring the story could be, should an editor mention that there will be free food at the event, someone will cover it.

In a related case, a Web site that was dedicated to an upcoming video game sequel I took interest in was blacklisted by the company that was releasing the game.

Why? Because the guy who ran the Web site was putting up bad reviews and valid complaints from people who had bought the game when it was first released.

I cannot imagine how any publication would manage to have coverage of anything if they were kicked out of the loop for not putting out the ugly truth — a bad agenda by a politician, corporate misdeeds, crappy service at a restaurant or bad entertainment.

The statement about freedom of speech in the First Amendment comes to mind.

Well, if the speech is free, it shouldn't have a price tag on it telling which slant it should take. And if the facts and details lead to something not being right, then it's generally not right.

By the way, the Spartan Daily received three free video games a few weeks back. Those copies were late, since I had asked the company for one free copy for a review. Instead of having a free copy to review, I had to borrow a friend's copy. The game got a good review before we got the freebies, so it wasn't influenced. Really.

So, when you unfold the Daily, maybe you should enjoy the news while it's not being sugarcoated by all interested parties.

Don't send any letters though, because we won't be appreciating your input. Everything here is flawless. For the right price, "Born Under A Bad Sign" can be yours. Next time, please check out my next column, which will be put out by the financial support from parties that spend \$415 apiece, such as

D.S. Perez is the Spartan Daily Investigative Reports and Copy Editor. "Born Under A Bad Sign" appears Mondays.

Congress needs to act in leveling wage field

It seems the 1963 Equal Pay Act isn't cutting it and never will.

The Equal Pay Act makes it illegal for an employer to pay women less than men as long as they are fulfilling the same duties.

However, statistics show women earn an average of 75 cents for every dollar men are paid.

Employers get away with paying different wages to their men and women employees by changing the job title, even if the duties only slightly differ.

Most people have heard that Michelle Akers and some teammates of the United States World Cup championship soccer team have boycotted training because their salaries are less than those of the men's soccer team.

I can't imagine what excuse the U.S. Soccer Federation has cultivated for not rationing equal pay checks to Akers and her teammates.

Do I somehow fail to see the variation when a female athlete plays soccer to when a male athlete plays it?

If, indeed, there is a difference, then it's certainly the fact that the women's soccer team brought home the trophy, and the men's didn't.

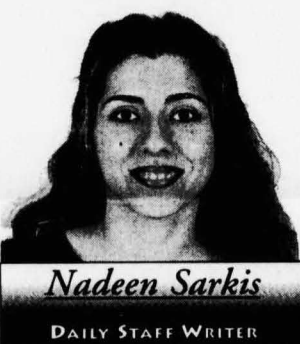
Before Akers' protest, President Clinton proposed a bill that would close the wage gap between the sexes but Congress failed to pass it.

President Clinton used the example of Akers and her teammates to once again propose a bill to Congress, which would direct federal agencies to collect data on wage disparities and increase penalties to those who would dare to violate the equal pay law.

Congress is still debating the bill.

When will members of Congress come to their senses and realize there is just no room for this sort of intolerance?

We are living in the year 2000 for God's sake, and we consider



Nadeen Sarkis is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.

ourselves an advanced nation. So why aren't we acting like one?

Here's the deal: Congress has to approve President Clinton's bill and a regulatory agency should be established to monitor employers that try to get away with any type of pay discrimination.

Eventually the likes of the Boeing Company, which according to the Los Angeles Times recently settled a \$4.5 million suit for sex and equal pay discrimination, will have to pay colossal amounts in penalties for even considering any act of bigotry towards female workers.

I am not preaching a bunch of feminism, as some might think. As a woman, I'd like to believe — or dream — that if I work as hard as a man, I'll get paid the same wage.

I insist that women get a dollar for every dollar men make.

If that's not going to be the case and women still make 25 percent less than men in the work force, then I propose women get a 25 percent cut in college tuition, general bills, and health care.

Plus, throw in free birth control and yearly mammograms. Why not free tampons for life?

God knows a woman has plenty to deal with in the course of her lifetime. Pay discrimination should not be one of them.

Nadeen Sarkis is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.

Adversity brings about positive changes

Life has presented me with some specific and taxing challenges over the past 50 or so weeks.

In fact, the anniversary of the day that my year went to crap is fast approaching.

Although the "Dark Time," as I have come to call it, ended months ago, some lessons were learned during that time.

The challenges I faced in that span of time were some I would not wish on my worst enemy. Almost no good came of that time, save four things.

1) I know who my real friends are. The Dark Time was a trial by fire, and now I have friends that will stand by me no matter what.

2) I know exactly who I will spend the rest of my life with.

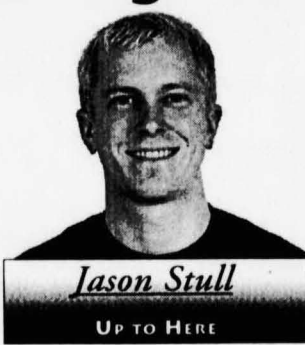
3) I know the name of one man I will never have a beer with or welcome into my home.

These first three items are of immense importance on their own, but are affected by the fourth: a profound feeling of determination to simply do my best.

The Dark Time left me equipped to deal with some heavy duty doody.

Where once I was a charter member of the Path of Least Resistance Society, I have become the spokesman for the I Can Move Any Mountain Syndicate.

What I mean is this: I used to simply want to "get by," to slide



Jason Stull is the Spartan Daily Managing Editor. "Up To Here" appears Mondays.

through life with the greatest of ease. If something presented a challenge greater than the amount of effort I was willing to put forth in order to solve, I would simply move aside or get another hobby, read a different book or write on a different subject.

My philosophy was one of, "I'll get it done ... or if I don't, I'll get something else done, or something."

I was lazy and unmotivated. Pathetically, much of my life was lived this way. There were a few times I finished a video game or perfected a put-down or two. Outside of that, most things were not met with any high level of enthusiasm.

That all changed almost one year ago.

The event which started the

cataclysmic and wholesale descent is not as important as what I got out of it.

I was shoved nose-first into the Dark Time, where I was able to take a step back, survey emotional inventory and slowly get my bearings.

Well, after being re-worked and re-tooled in the Cave of the Dark Time, I have a whole new philosophy. I am now the immovable object, and my challenges — whether a tough class, dealing with difficult people or writing a column — are the underdogs.

I am the Champ. I rule my house. I wear the pants.

Now, meeting my challenges head-on is the only plan of attack I feel is effective.

Before, I would only go for the sure thing, the challenge I absolutely knew I could handle.

Now, I take risks and aim high. Taking on the prospect of unfamiliar tasks may not always result in victory.

Failure was once something to be afraid of. Now, it is something to learn from.

Perhaps it is some astrological phase that has taken over one of my "houses" I hear astrology buffs talk of, or maybe I have just had it up to here with just getting by.

I have started to take immense pride in all the things I do. The big stuff — dealing with my girlfriend, compromising with

the roommates, spending time with my family — is done with the greatest care and the most tact.

Even the small stuff, like my soon-to-be former job — waiting tables — gets my full attention. I used to get the food to the table and take the check, that's it. Since the Dark Time, I have a higher regard for the people I see at work, drive with on the freeway and sit next to in class.

I have taken to observing the environment around me, seeing the things that I didn't see before.

No longer do I walk looking down at the sidewalk. Instead, I look up, to catch the things I wouldn't normally see.

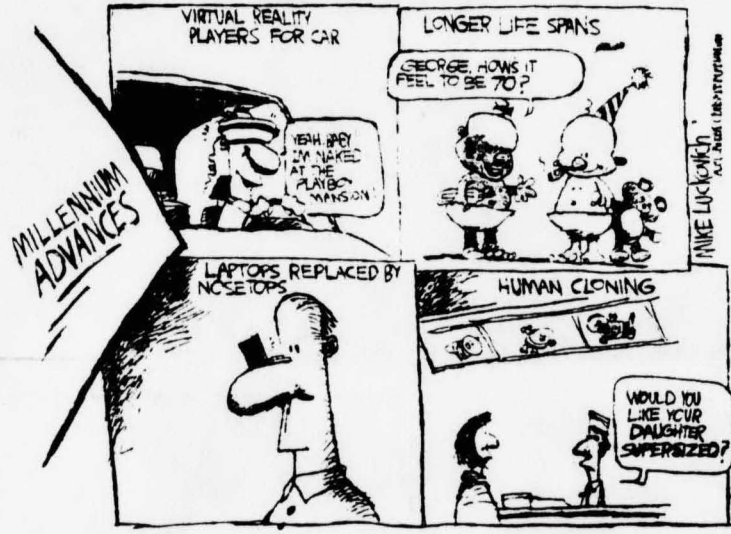
I almost feel goofy writing like this. This is something I would not have even thought of saying in the past.

This is not to say there has been some religious thing that happened to me: Rather, it's just an awakening.

Times have changed. I have new confidence, loftier goals and greater value in the things that really matter.

I feel I can handle any challenge. I will deal with it all. Maybe I can move any mountain. All I can do is my best.

Jason Stull is the Spartan Daily Managing Editor. "Up To Here" appears Mondays.



SPARTAN DAILY

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Opinion page policies

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

A letter to the editor is a 200-word response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

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

Submissions may be put in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily Office in Dwight Bentel Hall Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at SDAILY@jmc.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

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

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Forum

SPARTA

GUIDE

Today

Associated Students SJSU
Fifty-five A.S. nomination forms are now available in the A.S. Government Office, located on the third floor of the Student Union. Deadline to turn in nominations is March 10. For more information, call Maria Murphy at 924-6240.

Associated Students SJSU
A.S. scholarship applications are now available in the A.S. Government Office, located on the third floor of the Student Union or in the Financial Aid office. Deadline is March 15. For more information, call Maria Murphy at 924-6240.

A.S. Election Board
Candidate applications are currently available in the A.S. Government Office. For more information, call Claire Hargreaves at 924-5955.

Hillel Silicon Valley
Caffeinated Comedy at 7 p.m. at the Hillel House. For more information, call Arlene Miller at 286-6669.

American Library Association Student Chapter
"Homework Centers in Libraries," a lecture by Cindy Mediavilla at 7 p.m. in the Engineering building auditorium, Room 189. For more information, call 998-8316.

Phi Chi Theta Business and Economics Fraternity for Men and Women
Rush event: movie night, "Austin Powers, The Spy Who Shagged Me" at 8 p.m. in the Student Union, Almaden room. For more information, contact Rudy at 924-8693 or petsjsu@hotmail.com.

Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity for Men and Women
Professional event: get to know

the SJSU Career Center at 7:15 p.m. at the Career Center, Building F. For more information, call Lari Hoang at 398-6199.

School of Art and Design
Student galleries and art exhibitions from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art and Industrial Studies buildings. For more information, call John or Jenny at 924-4330.

Student Life Center and The Re-entry Advisory Program (REAP)
Free afternoon coffee and munchies from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the University Room. For more information, call Jane Boyd at 924-5950.

Golden Key National Honor Society
Resume writing workshop in preparation for Career Expose 2000. Everyone is welcome at 4:15 p.m. in the Guadalupe room, Student Union. For more information, call Christine Williams at 924-7939.

Catholic Campus Ministry
Daily Mass from 12:10 p.m. to 12:35 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Campus Ministry Chapel, 300 S. 10th St. For more information, call Father Barry at 938-1610.

Catholic Campus Ministry
Newman Community Gathering from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Campus Ministry Chapel, 300 S. 10th St. Refreshments to be served. For more information, call Laura McHale at 938-1610.

Tuesday

Chicano Commencement
Weekly meeting at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Chicano Resource Center. For more information, call Celeste at 259-5630 or Alejandra at 971-7942.

Alpha Kappa Delta Phi
Exchange with the brothers of Zeta Chi Epsilon at 7 p.m. in front of the Seventh Street Plaza fountain. For more information, call Linda at 924-8363.

School of Art and Design
Student galleries and art exhibitions from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Art and Industrial Studies buildings. For more information, call John or Jenny at 924-4330.

School of Art and Design
Tuesday night lecture series: Deborah Remington, New York artist and recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant. In residence with SJSU Washington Square Press, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Art building, Room 133. For more information, call Andy at 924-4328.

India Student Association
First meeting of the millennium from noon to 1 p.m. in the Costanoan room, Student Union. For more information, call Andy at 787-7010.

Catholic Campus Ministry
RCIA meeting, for those interested in becoming committed Catholic Christians, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Campus Ministry Center, 300 S. 10th St. For more information, call Father Bob Barry at 938-1610.

Student Society for Technical Communication (SSTC)
"How to Market Yourself" workshop with guest speaker Ron Kfoury from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Costanoan room, Student Union. For more information, call Melissa Clark at 231-5605.

Wednesday

Chicano Commencement
Weekly meeting at 7 p.m. every Wednesday in the Almaden room, Student Union. For more information, call Celeste at 259-5630 or Alejandra at 971-7942.

M.E.Ch.A.
Weekly meetings at 3 p.m. every Wednesday in the Chicano Resource Center. For more information, page Miguel Rodriguez at 383-6475.

A.S. Campus Recreation
Back-country skiing pre-trip meeting at 5 p.m. in the Montalvo room, Student Union. For more information, call Matt McNamara at 924-6217.

A.S. Election Board
Candidate orientation from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Pacifica room, Student Union. For more information, call Claire Hargreaves at 924-5955.

Hillel Silicon Valley
God schmooze and bagel lunch at noon at the Hillel House. For more information, call Arlene Miller at 286-6669.

Akbayan
First general meeting from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the third floor of the Student Union. For more information, call the Akbayan voice mail at 534-1140.

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

LETTERS

Rocker's reaction only human

I'm not saying what John Rocker said was appropriate, but I do believe he has the same rights as we do. In this world, we look and treat athletes differently. They have certain privileges that we just don't have, and nobody ever asked them if they want these privileges. They were just handed to them. On the other hand, everything athletes do or say is put under a microscope. The thing society does not understand is that athletes are human. They also make mistakes. In John Rocker's experience, he got to New York and some of the New York fans spit on him and spilled beer on him. Now, if someone spit on you or spilled beer on you intentionally, you would be a little upset and you would make a comment about the people who did that to you. And, if you made a comment like John Rocker did, nobody would have the right to suspend you from your job or make you go through treatment because of your First Amendment rights. Why is John Rocker suspended until May 1, fined and forced to get treatment? Where are his rights?

Ara Vartanian
Political Science Major

FOR A SPECIAL VALENTINE

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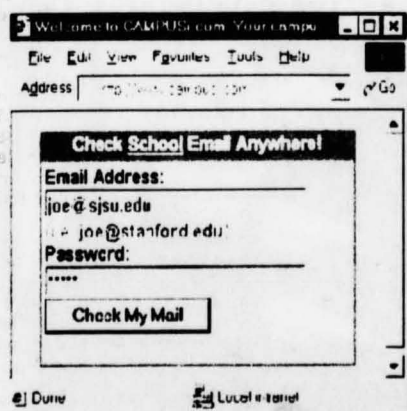
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Applications are located in the Student Financial Aid Office or AS Government Office Student Union Room 360

For more information contact Julie Jimenez 408.924.6073



News

The Rescuers



Paramedics for the San Jose Fire Department, Tony Gunane, left, and George Guerrero attend to Paul Meadow, a downtown resident who frequents the SJSU campus, after receiving a call Friday that a drunk man had fallen and was bleeding outside of the Student Union.

Photo by Lexey Swall / Spartan Daily

A.S.

continued from page 1

message out there," Hargreaves said.

The A.S. Board is made up of 13 directors and three executive officers including the controller, vice president and president's positions. Directors carry portfolios with titles such as Student Rights and Responsibilities, Campus Advising Affairs and Student Fee Affairs.

All A.S. board members receive a monthly stipend ranging from \$250 per month for directors to \$1,000 per month for the A.S. president.

Candidate applications to run for student government offices are currently available in the A.S. office on the third floor of the Student Union.

All candidates must attend one candidate orientation meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Pacifica Room in the Student Union or Thursday, Feb. 10, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in A.S. Council Chambers, which is also on the third floor of the Student Union.

The candidate application filing deadline is Friday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Student Life Center in the old Cafeteria building, Hargreaves said.

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*Attending an A.S. Board of Directors Meeting is highly encouraged!
For More Information, please call 924-5955

Tet

continued from page 1

"We love to perform together," Thao Nguyen said. "We are very proud to keep our culture alive through events and celebrations like this. It's something that keeps us together."

In one of the small buildings at the fairgrounds, participants would light incense, then bow and shake a bamboo jar, called xam the, until a numbered stick fell out.

The corresponding fortune is read by kim loc, a fortune teller. Although many cultural events took place, the rides, sports events, carnival games and food were just as popular.

James Dinh, a recent college graduate who works in the medical field, said he is not in the habit of attending cultural events like this, but said he was enjoying this one because he likes "being out in the crowd, seeing people enjoy themselves."

When asked about the significance of the Year of the Dragon, he did not have an answer.

"I will have to check the books on that one," Dinh said.

Most of the younger people came for the food and games instead of the cultural events.

Leah Ebalaroza, 30, and her friends who came later in the evening admitted they came for the food.

"We saw the martial arts show — the kids were cute — and walked around and played a lot of (carnival) games," Ebalaroza said. "The food is great."

In addition to the usual carnival fair such as cotton candy and corn dogs, several food vendors sold traditional Vietnamese cuisine, such as Michael Nguyen, whose booth "Rendezvous Restaurant" sold plates of rice, chicken and vegetables.

One Santa Clara County Sheriff Deputy said it was "a nice, peaceful, good family crowd."

On Saturday the deputies

said there were no arrests and no incidents, aside from a few firecrackers.

The overall turnout for the festival was expected to be from 30,000 to 40,000, according to Kiet Tran, a Tet Festival committee member. Last year, about 35,000 people attended, Tran said.

At midday Saturday, the crowd estimate was about 7,000, according to festival organizers. Planners expected that number to swell as evening approached.

"Traditionally on the first morning of the New Year, (people) visit their families and then they come to the festival," Tran said.

The words of Minh Nguyen were echoed by several of the carnival-goers:

"I like the Tet Festival because it helps preserve our culture," he said. "It is nice to see people come to one place and meet each other and celebrate our culture."



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Sports



SPARTANS HIT GOLD

Men capitalize on charity, beat Miners 47-44

Franklin Leiva
DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

An inability to make free throws can take away from one's game, just ask Shaquille O'Neal. After Saturday's victory over Texas-El Paso, the Spartans can attest to this as well.

Going into Saturday's game the San Jose State University basketball team had the worst free throw percentage in the Western Athletic Conference.

However, the Spartans did look very un-Shaq-esque at the line, hitting 16-of-19 in the second half. The baskets paved the way to a 47-44 victory at the Event Center.

SJSU coach Steve Barnes said in order to make a free throw, toughness and concentration are a necessity.

"It's not only about your technique when you're shooting free throws," Barnes said, "it's about concentrating when you're shooting them. Tonight we made some when we had to."

In the first five minutes of the game, both the Spartans and Miners traded baskets.

A basket by Spartan forward Darnell Williams made the score 9-8 UTEP.

The Miners then countered with a 7-0 run capped by two free throws by UTEP guard William Smith with 11:49 minutes left in the half.

The next five minutes were scoreless for both teams due to tough defense and sloppy offensive play.

The Spartans missed four three-pointers during the drought, including three by forward Billy Landram.

The Miners did not fare any better, as they missed three of their own.

Williams, who hit one of two free throws with 6:29 to go in the half, broke the scoring silence, but UTEP was still up by the score of 16-9.

The Spartans came thundering back with an 11-2 run of their own, capped by a tip-in by center Kevin Blunt, which put SJSU in front, 19-18, at the half.

Barnes said he was not happy with the poor play of the Spartans in the first half and he urged them at halftime to pick it up in both ends of the court.

The pep talk worked. A stingy SJSU defense, which ranks sixth nationally in fewest points allowed, held the Miners to seven points during the last seven minutes of the game.

But the most significant statistic of the game was the number of free throws recorded by SJSU.

The Miners did hit seven out of nine free throws in the second half, but it was not enough when compared to the Spartans 13.

Two free throws by Landram evened the score at 40 with 3:54 left in the game.

Landram and Powell hit key free throws to put SJSU in front 45-40 with 32 seconds to play.

UTEP allowed the Spartans all the chances at the line as they had committed more than 10 fouls during the second half.

UTEP came back thanks to a bucket by Eggie McRae, which made the score 46-44 with 9 seconds left. A free throw by Spartan Cory Powell made the score 47-44.

The Miners had one last chance to tie at the buzzer, but Roy Smallwood's off balance three-pointer missed, bouncing off the back of the rim.

Williams led the way for the Spartans, recording his eighth double-double of the season with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Miner Brandon Wolfram was the game's leading scorer with 15 points.

The Spartans snapped a two game losing streak and are now 3-4 in the WAC and 12-10 overall.

SJSU will go on the road to



Kohjiro Kinno / Spartan Daily

Spartan forward, Darnell Williams jumps past the Texas-El Paso defenders to score under the lights Saturday at the Event Center. Williams had his eighth double-double of the season, with a team-high 13 points and 10 rebounds.

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Informational Sessions:
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2/2 - Dining Commons @ 8:30p.m.,
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Applications are due: February 14, 2000 @ 4p.m.

Holocaust Studies Appointment with Hate?*

Let's agree that one ideal of the university is to promote intellectual freedom, and one ideal of the professorial class is to teach students to honor it. Yet this is not true in Holocaust Studies. There, if students express doubt about "eyewitness" testimony, for example, even if it is demonstrably false, dishonorable or both, they understand they run the danger of being accused of being "hateful."

Consider eyewitness testimony given by Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel.

Elie Wiesel as an "eyewitness" authority

EW claims he was "liberated" from Dachau (*Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, 11 April 1983), "liberated" from Buchenwald (*NYT*, 2 Nov. 1986), and "liberated" from Auschwitz (*NY Post*, 23 Oct. 1986, and *NJT*, 4 Jan. 1987). One of these claims may be true. The others are false. Do the professors believe it matters?

EW claims in *All Rivers Run to the Sea* (NY, 1995): "I read [Immanuel Kant's] *The Critique of Pure Reason* in Yiddish." Kant's *Critique* has not been translated into Yiddish. Here again, EW did not tell the truth. Does it matter?

EW claims that after Jews were executed at Babi Yar in the Ukraine, "geysers of blood" spurted from their grave for "months" afterward (See *Paroles d'etranger*, 1982, p. 86). Impossible? Yes, it is. Do the professors believe it matters?

When Holocaust Studies professors are too fearful to condemn such claims, and those who make them, what are their students to do?

Elie Wiesel as an authority on "hate"

Elie Wiesel has won the hearts and minds of Holocaust Studies professors with his counsel on how to perpetuate a loathing for Germans:

Every Jew, somewhere in his being, should set apart a zone of hate—healthy virile hate—for what the German personalities and for what persists in the German.

(Legends of Our Time, "Appointment with Hate," NY, Avon, 1968, pp. 177-178).

Students understand the implications of this statement when brought to their attention, while their professors appear not to. Perhaps if we change one word in Elie Wiesel's sage advice, it will focus their attention: "Every Palestinian, somewhere in his being, should set apart a zone of hate—healthy virile hate—for what the Jew personalities and for what persists in the Jew." Does this help?

How is EW perceived in Holocaust Studies? He is esteemed as a moral authority. Chairs are created in his honor. Students are taught to emulate him.

Holocaust Studies and the exploitation of hate

In *Holocaust Studies*, hate is all the rage. To merely note that Stephen Spielberg lysed his "factual" movie *Schindler's List* on a cheap novel—is hate. To suggest that the "Diary" of Anne Frank is not an authentic personal diary (and should not be taught as such), but a "literary production" crafted by Anne, and after the war by others, from a cache of miscellaneous writings and inventions—that's hate. Exposing false eyewitness testimony is hate. Exposing forged Nuremberg documents is hate. Exposing faked photographs and the use of torture by the Allies to produce confessions by Germans is hate. Asking for proof that one (one!) Jew was gassed in any German camp as part of a program of "genocide" is hate. Asking what "crimes against humanity" National Socialists committed during WWII that Republicans and Democrats did not commit is hate. To note that the story is immensely profitable for those who administer it is hate. Arguing for intellectual freedom regarding any of this—that's hate too. That is, commenting on the record is hate. Telling the truth about the record is hate. Having an open mind is hate.

The unspoken ethical and intellectual scandal in *Holocaust Studies* is that key materials used in these programs are soaked through with fraud and falsehood—led by the use of false and ignoble eyewitness testimony. Here we have highlighted the hapless Elie Wiesel, but the literature is full of "eyewitnesses" who gave false testimony about gas chambers and a great many other matters.

For more information on Elie Wiesel and other problematic eyewitnesses—such as Simon Wiesenthal, Dr. Hadassah Bimko (Rosensaft), Filip Mueller, Rudolf Vrba, Kurt Gerstein, Mel Mermelstein, go to our site on the Web and follow "revisionism." For background on myself, follow my name.

112199
Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust (CODOH)
Bradley R. Smith, Director

Students and others are encouraged to respond to any questions or statements contained in this ad by contacting Bradley Smith at:

www.codoh.com

Women still winless in WAC

Staff report

The women's basketball team has yet to notch a conference win after dropping two road contests to the Texas-El Paso and Fresno State.

Saturday, the San Jose State University women grabbed an early 20-11 lead, but the Miners had tied the game at 30 by halftime.

In the second half, UTEP capitalized on a Spartan scoring drought that produced only four points in the first six minutes of the second half.

The Spartans went on to be outscored 46-23 in the half en

route to their 76-53 loss. For the Spartans, it dropped their record to 2-17 and 0-7 in Western Athletic Conference play.

Natasha Johnson led the Spartans with 18 points and Sasha Spalding had 12 points and five rebounds against UTEP.

Earlier in the week, the Spartans suffered yet another loss, this time to Fresno.

However the game was much closer at halftime when the Spartans only trailed by seven points. The Spartans ended up losing to the Bulldogs by a score of 84-66. SJSU was led by Johnson and Crissy DeLuzio, who each had 13 points.

An Important Message to our readers From the Spartan Daily Advertising Department

Accompanying this message is a paid advertisement with the headline "Holocaust Studies."

We are running this ad as we received it.

We submitted the copy to Dr. David Mesher, Chair of the Jewish Studies Department (SJSU) and Dr. Harvey Gotliffe, Professor Journalism (SJSU), who has recently accomplished a great deal of scholarly research on the Holocaust, as well as college newspaper advertising acceptance standards. The purpose of their review was to help us determine if any of the copy was false or misleading. Both Dr. Mesher and Dr. Gotliffe concluded that content, while troubling and divisive, failed to meet the classic definition of either "false" or "misleading."

We carefully reviewed our options before deciding to publish today.

1. Ignore the ad and don't run it at all.
2. Run the ad with changes recommended by Dr. Mesher and Dr. Gotliffe.
3. Run the ad as is.

In a unique collaboration with the Spartan Daily editorial department we are publishing this ad with an editorial response appearing on page 2 of today's Daily. Again, this is done with the knowledge and permission of the advertiser.

We are running this ad in this manner because:

1. The advertiser has First Amendment free speech rights protected by the U.S. Constitution.
2. We did not feel the copy was false or misleading but rather an individual expressing an opinion.
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Spartan Daily Advertising Staff
Jack Quinton, Faculty Adviser

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News

Bermudez

continued from page 1

"He was not a material man," Rose said.

She added Renato was constantly taking courses in subjects that interested him and he was always learning new things for self improvement.

"He was a very likable fellow," Rose said. "He would buy me books and sheet music because I play piano. He was a wonderful son, ... very, very generous."

She began crying when she spoke of times when Renato would pick her up and run around the house with her in his arms.

"My older son would say, 'Be careful, you're going to break Mama,'" Rose said.

Rose described her son as intelligent, having always earned good grades in school. He attended the University of California at Berkeley, then transferred to SJSU.

Rose said she loves to travel, so Renato took her to Europe.

"He said, 'I want this to be the best trip of your life,'" she said.

While they were touring castles in Europe, Rose said Renato felt the wealth displayed within was excessive compared to the meager homes outside.

"He was really a humble person," she said.

Renato became a firefighter at the age of 36. Rose said she pointed out an ad posted by the San Francisco Fire Department to him.

She added that being a firefighter was something he'd always wanted to do, and that he had even applied a few years before. This time he was accepted and he ended up becoming an outstanding fireman.

Renato became known as a local hero in July of 1998 when he and a fellow San Francisco firefighter rescued a 70-year-old man from the second floor of a burning apartment building in

"He was a very likeable fellow. He would buy me books and sheet music because I play piano."

— Rose Bermudez
Mother

the Mission District. He earned a commendation from the city fire commissioner for his actions that day.

San Francisco's Council of District Merchants Association also honored Bermudez with the Firefighter of the Year award.

"The first thing I felt was shock when the news said his name and showed his picture," former Judo teammate Dave Williams said. "I went, 'I know that guy,' and my pager went off with others calling to find out if I knew."

Williams said Renato Bermudez was always full of energy.

"He had a big competitor's spirit," Williams said. "That's probably what sent him into that burning building after that guy."

Marius Popescu was another one of Bermudez' judo teammates who said he is still in shock.

"We lost track of each other in the last couple of years," Popescu said. "I wish I would have made the effort to keep in touch with him. It just didn't happen and now I have this deep regret."

Popescu said he can't remember a time when Bermudez didn't have a smile on his face.

"He's one of those guys who is just a pleasure to be around," Popescu said. "Truly, this guy was just a great guy, extremely polite. I never had a chance to meet his new wife, but my heart goes out to her and his family."

More memorials held for Flight 261

PORT HUENEME (AP) — Navy crews on Sunday mapped more of the ocean floor near the crash site of Alaska Airlines Flight 261, leaving the plane's wreckage alone but collecting some human remains.

The National Transportation Safety Board wants a detailed picture of the aircraft debris before pieces of the plane are brought to the surface.

Exactly what will be brought up will depend on further interpretation of flight data and cockpit voice recorders, which were still being analyzed in Washington, an NTSB spokesman said. The debris area is about 10 miles offshore in the Santa Barbara Channel, covering an area about the size of a football field in water 640 feet deep. Meanwhile, more memorials were held for families and friends of the 88 people lost with

the plane. Among them was a service by Cardinal Roger Mahony, archbishop of Los Angeles, who led a service near Los Angeles International Airport.

The Alaska Airlines MD-83 crashed a week ago, killing all 88 people on board during a flight from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The plane was bound for San Francisco and Seattle.

The plane's voice recorder shows that for at least 30 minutes prior to the crash the pilots were struggling to correct a problem with the tail-mounted horizontal stabilizer, which they said had jammed.

Witnesses who saw the plane go down said it rolled upside down and spiraled into the ocean.

The Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office, which is responsible for identifying the

victims, has said that it has several nearly complete bodies. Sheriff's spokesman Eric Nishimoto said it could be a week before any are identified.

A pocket knife can take on profound significance when they're the only links that families have to loved ones lost in plane crashes.

United Airlines Capt. Harold Green's silver pocket knife was misplaced during the recovery of personal effects of the 24 people killed when his Flight 585 crashed in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1991. The loss still weighs heavily on his ex-wife, Gail Dunham, now president of

the National Air Disaster Alliance in Washington, D.C.

"They need to recover every single thing," said Dunham, whose support group has a mailing list of 3,000 members.

The recovery of the bodies — if they can be recovered — will help ease the shock, numbness and denial that are constant companions of victims' loved ones.

"What will allow them to move out of that stage is the actual tangible evidence their loved one is gone," said Robert T. Scott, a member of the American Red Cross disaster mental health team formed after the crash.

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IF YOU ENJOY EATING ICE CREAM & drinking coffee & getting paid for it, Freddie's Ice Cream and Desserts is the place for you! Freddie's is opening March 4th, in Naglee Park on E. San Carlos St. at S. 11th St. Freddie is looking for qualified people to smile, scoop, brew, create and on occasion, when no one else is looking, lick! Freddie's is a great part-time job, with flexible hours, a great manager, & a fun atmosphere. If you are interested in working here, call 408-278-1912 or e-mail us at Freddie's@aol.com.

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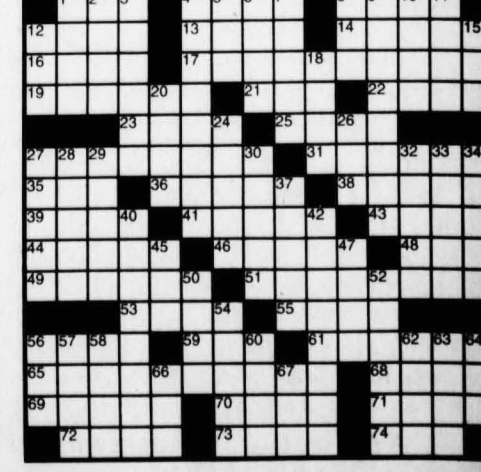
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19 Tender
21 Oct. 31 sound
22 Bakery buy
23 Kind of bean
25 "Star Trek" name
27 Like some security systems
31 Fruit drink
35 Mexican snacks
38 Not fresh
39 Tumble
41 One who likes solitude
43 "The Mammoth Hunters" heroine
44 Burglar
46 Did floor work
48 Hullabaloo
49 Popular sport
51 Band instrument
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55 Thin strip of wood
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Back page

Tony Lopez plays tunes such as "La Bamba" and "All My Ex's Live in Texas" to entertain and attract people to a table supporting the George W. Bush campaign during the California Republican Party Spring Convention in Burlingame Saturday.



Lexey Swall / Spartan Daily

Convention

continued from page 1

accountant who was not at the republican convention, said many Californians who contributed to the Bush campaign probably wish they could get a refund.

"It's one of the worst skills on the American public in recent memory — he is clueless on foreign affairs and foreign policy," Spain said.

At McCain's triumphant luncheon at the convention Saturday, he made a quick reference to Bush's absence, pumping up the crowd and setting the tone of his brief visit.

"It seems the Crown Prince forgot to show up for his coronation," McCain said, to a crowd of about 1,000, in the Hyatt Hotel's Grand Ballroom.

But at the press conference after Saturday's luncheon address, McCain bluntly told reporters he had no opinion on Bush's absence

from the convention — considered a key link before California's primary on March 7.

George's brother, Jeb, spoke at Friday night's dinner to a less than enthusiastic crowd of about 700 party faithful, making pitches for his older brother while Bush family friend, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, addressed a crowd of about 400 at a banquet Saturday night.

Hatch's after-dinner oration upset numerous guests who hadn't expected the veteran senator to rail against McCain in a blatant pitch for the Bush camp.

"That did not go down well," said Donnelly. "We paid to attend the dinner. It should not have been so negative."

"That was in very poor taste, and it put many of us off," she added.

Hatch made several references to McCain's stand on campaign reform, including McCain's professed dislike of special interest groups and "soft" money. Soft money is funds contributed to a political campaign that are outside

the restrictions imposed by the federal elections commission on national corporations, according to a dictionary of new words by Sid Lerner.

"McCain's campaign reform would take real interest away from the political process," Hatch said, suggesting the idea is un-American and against the spirit of the First Amendment.

At McCain's press conference Saturday, the U.S. Senator from Arizona was aggressively asked about the integrity of his stance on soft money since it was rumored he attended a private Bay Area fundraiser right before his brief appearance at the convention.

McCain — clearly taken off guard and ruffled by the question — said he knew nothing about such a fund-raiser.

But the discomfiting moment didn't appear to put a damper on McCain, despite the pouring rain beating hard on the tent set up for his welcome.

George W. Bush's absence at the dinner reception Friday seemed to

up the ante for McCain's luncheon Saturday.

Thunderous applause and enthusiastic cheering forced McCain to stop several times throughout his speech that hit on key conservative issues.

McCain focused the talk on change and reform.

"There will be no food-stamp economy when I am president. I will not conduct foreign policy as social welfare," he said with obvious indignation, referring to the military.

McCain was shot down over North Vietnam in 1967, survived five excruciating years in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison and was released in 1973, according to biographies. He is considered a war hero.

As for campaign reform, McCain said he would take the government out of the hands of big self-interest groups and give it back to the people.

"I believe union members should give their permission on how their union dues are used," he said.

The presidential hopeful referred to the debauched politics of the Clinton White House, obliquely citing myriad scandals of the past eight years.

"They tried to turn the White House into a Motel 6," McCain said, echoing a favorite Republican jibe voiced throughout the week-end by GOP candidates.

McCain, like other GOP candidates at the convention, paid tribute to Ronald Reagan who celebrated his 89th birthday Sunday.

Referring to the negative campaigning that is beginning to creep into the Republican side of the campaign, McCain said Reagan believed in the 11th Commandment — thou shalt not speak ill of other Republicans.

"I can only propose a 12th Commandment. It is wise to obey the 11th Commandment," he said to the delight of the crowd.

But McCain's advice came a little too late for the Friday night audience attending the U.S. Senate Candidates Debate.

Front-runner Tom Campbell of San Jose squared off with San Diego County Supervisor Bill Horn and State Sen. Ray Haynes, another Southern California conservative. All three were peppered by a panel of reporters.

It wasn't long before Horn and Haynes began to gun at Campbell's too-liberal style of conservatism.

"Tom Campbell is not a moderate Republican, he votes like a liberal Democrat. I believe the Republican Party wins when it runs on Republican values," Horn said as a clearly uncomfortable Campbell tried to strike a conciliatory note.

"We are Republicans. We are united and we have so much in common," he said.

But things got worse for Campbell when the crowd of about 700 began to loudly boo and jeer at his controversial stances on drugs and the Internet sales tax issue.

Campbell has campaigned for giving drugs to addicts in treatment centers and he favors taxing sales made over the Internet, both very unacceptable positions to the GOP mainstream.

"The government should not be financing drug addiction," Horn said flatly.

Campbell tried to convince fel-

low Republicans that not taxing Internet sales would bring about the ruin of small businesses because consumers would start shopping online exclusively in order to avoid the tax.

"Your position (against Internet sales tax) just doesn't make sense," Campbell told Horn.

Staunch Republican W.M. Buck Johns, a Southern California developer, said Campbell is on the party's fringe.

"He represents the Stanford and Silicon Valley Republicans, but they are not the majority," Johns said.

Horn, who clearly respects the traditional conservatism of Haynes, suggested Haynes should drop out of the U.S. senatorial race if he can't raise sufficient campaign funds soon.

Haynes said he did not have personal wealth but intended to continue in the race.

Feinstein's myriad special interests and her business dealings with China through spouse Richard Blum came under intense criticism.

Getting the debate's last word, Horn said they had to send Feinstein packing — a pun referring to her connections to political action committees, known as PACs — and the barb got laughs from the audience.

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