

VSA holds pageant  
at 7 p.m. in  
Morris Dailey Auditorium

'Confession' looks  
at judgmental Christians

# SPARTAN DAILY

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Sebastian Widmann / Spartan Daily

Deonce Whitaker, Joslynn Gallop and Liz Garcia spoke in front of 75 seventh-graders Thursday at Sylvandale Middle School. The athletes are part of an ongoing program by SJSU to promote the importance of good grades. The athletes expressed the idea that kids can accomplish anything they want if they put their head to it.

## Athletes drum up grades

D.S. Perez  
DAILY STAFF EDITOR

About 75 seventh-graders sat on the yellow tiles of the Sylvandale Middle School cafeteria Thursday afternoon, staring at the large figures who were speaking to them.

They watched silently, occasionally having to stand up and answer — or at least raise their hand — for the man who was pacing back and forth in front of them, a soft-voiced gentleman who held his hands behind his back.

The man who was dressed in the same blue and gold that matched the stage — and the little boards that held left-over Valentine's Day cards — also had a 1998 total of 1,214 kickoff return yards, an NCAA I-A single-season football record.

"Why should you stay in school?" Deonce Whitaker, the San Jose State University running back, asked the children. He gestured to Angel Lunczok, who grudgingly stood up and spoke.

"So you can get a good job, a lot of money and not be a bum," Lunczok said.

Along with Whitaker were

SJSU athletes Joslynn Gallop of the volleyball team and Liz Garcia of the water polo team. The three athletes were there on behalf of the CHAMPS/Life Skills program at SJSU to tell the children the necessity of a college education, the hard work it takes to be both a student and an athlete and define terms such as grade point average, scholarships and the National Collegiate Athletics Association.

The program — which stands for CHallenging Athlete's Minds for Personal Success — is designed to help athletes contribute to the community and prepare them for post-athletic life, said Lawrence Fan, sports information director at SJSU.

Fan said the program is one that Chuck Bell started in 1998 to provide a learning opportunity for student athletes and prepare them for life after graduation.

The talk at the middle high school would fall under the commitment to public service.

Fan and Ron Hannon, director of the SJSU program, said the CHAMPS/Life Skills has five components, one of which is a

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# Gays dispute Knight

Erin Mayes  
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Opponents of Proposition 22 spoke out against what they are calling a "divisive measure," Thursday at the amphitheater next to the Student Union.

Proposition 22, the protection of marriage initiative, declares, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California."

Meaning, even if people in homosexual relationships marry in a state where same-sex marriages are legal, California will not recognize their marriages.

"It's not about protecting marriage, it's about excluding it," said Jennifer Rycenga, an instructor in the comparative religious studies department and member of the campus based organization, Queer Revolution. "There is no elective measure more heinous than voting on the civil rights of a minority."

Rycenga said the proposition is meant to divide the "have-nots" so they will not be able to organize effectively.

She said she is concerned about "material benefits" that married couples receive, such as shared insurance, hospital visitations, the ability to adopt a child and inheritance rights.

"Marriage is not only about affection or (else) we would not have seen a television show like 'Who Wants to Marry a



Kohjiro Kinno / Spartan Daily

From left: Rene Navarra, Jennifer Rycemga, Ross Nakasone and Kristin Noel speak against Proposition 22 in front of students Thursday at the Student Union amphitheatre. If Proposition 22 passes, only marriage between a man and woman would be recognized in California.

Multimillionaire."

Ross Nakasone is a field organizer for the No on Knight Campaign, which is opposed to the proposition.

He said the proposition is trying to govern "the most intimate relationships people share with one another."

The No on Knight Campaign has been organized to get citizens to vote against initiatives proposed by California Senator Peter Knight.

"I'm unclear as to how it would protect marriage," Nakasone said. "It attacks civil liberties."

Kristen Noel said she is planning her own same-sex marriage, and the proposition is very hurtful to her.

"To walk through the neighborhoods and see the 'Yes on 22' signs feels like a stab wound," Noel said. "I feel that there is enough hate, intolerance and sadness in the world that we should be celebrating love where it is found."

Noel has a 10-month-old child and said being married would help create a bond as a family, regardless of gender.

She said she is discouraged by people who don't have a problem with homosexuals but also don't want them to marry because they feel marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman.

"Gays and lesbians are people, human beings who want to enter into marriage," Noel said. "I'm getting married because I'm in love."

Nakasone said the wording of the proposition is meant to trick voters into voting in the opposite direction of their intentions.

A "Yes" vote will not allow same-sex marriages to be recognized in California, while a "No" vote leaves the present status of homosexual marriages unchanged.

Currently, same-sex marriages are not allowed in California, although Vermont recently legalized them.

"I do find it incredibly restricting, and I think of it as beating a dead horse," said illustration major Joanne Shewid of Proposition 22. "I see no reason why that salt should be poured in."

Few people seemed to know about the gathering, which took place from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday.

There were less than a dozen audience members and three main speakers.



Lexey Swall / Spartan Daily

Nga Nguyen, a junior accounting major, studies for a test Thursday while waiting to be let back into the Boccardo Business Center after her class was interrupted by a fire alarm. According to UPD, the alarm was set off accidentally by campus facilities staff.

# The high points of pot legalization

Hugo Jiménez  
DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The solution to overcrowded prisons and preventing drug dealers from having easy access to potential customers would be to legalize marijuana, according to members of a panel to discuss marijuana.

The panel discussion put on by Tau Delta Phi Fraternity on Wednesday evening in the Engineering Auditorium brought together a law-enforcement officer, a marijuana advocate, a San Jose State University professor that suffers from glaucoma and a recovering drug-addict.

Although the theory that marijuana serves as a "gateway drug" that will lead to use of harder drugs such as methamphetamines and heroin is unfounded, Dale Gieringer, representative of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. He

said having to buy marijuana from drug dealers that also sell harder drugs is how marijuana use leads to other drug use.

"Marijuana is a gateway drug. It's a gateway to the dealers of the harder drugs," Gieringer said.

Gieringer added that another problem with marijuana — or any other drug being illegal is people being put in prison without receiving any help for their addictions. He also said one of the main reasons why such a harmless drug is illegal is to promote jobs in law enforcement.

"It is a kind of job creation. It

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Gieringer

# Don't trip the ALARM



Students enter the Boccardo Business Center after a fire alarm, which sounded for about 25 minutes Thursday, shut off. Some students were taking midterm exams when the false alarm started.

Jill Toyoshiba / Special to the Daily







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## Kids

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commitment to public service. The other four are personal development, career development, academic success and athletic success.

As for the impact of the athletes' speech, it impressed the teachers, who hoped their students would grasp how important education — and discipline — is.

"This was a great thing," said Pam Micali, a seventh-grade teacher at Sylvandale. "They (the junior high students) are not ready of the discipline of a university like Santa Clara University requires."

"They need to start trying (to get disciplined) now," she continued. "They need to smash this idea of a free ride through athletics, the thought that they don't need to apply themselves. Some think they can just be a good athlete and end up being Joe Montana."

Micali said the lack of discipline in junior high students may be the reason the state of California comes near the bottom in national testing.

"If you know you can graduate with bad grades, why strive for good grades?" she said.

In the auditorium speech, Whitaker explained the term grade point average to the children, and told them maintaining a 2.0 GPA — making As, Bs and Cs — is important for students who wish to compete as athletes.

"Everyone's watching you as a student athlete," Whitaker said. "It's important to be bright."

The three also told students a smattering of college life. The seventh-graders were amazed that classes could be held every other day, for only 45 minutes, and some classes could be really easy.

Garcia brought down the students' amazement when she said that some of these classes also require 10-page essays or three-day exams.

Some students already knew that. Cindy Portilla said her sister goes to SJSU, and even though she couldn't recall what her big sister majors in, she knows the workload her sibling has to deal with.

Lunczok was still amazed with the prospect of 45-minute classes.

"I know, those sound so easy," Lunczok said. "But those short classes probably teach like heck."

Whitaker said he had to lead by example in his family, as the sociology major is the oldest of his family. He stressed to them that they should at least listen to what they had to say about what lies ahead in life, academically.

"Sometimes I wish I had a time machine — then I would have paid attention in my science classes," Whitaker said.

Some students may have been intimidated by the size of the athletes at first — most of the children barely reached the shoulders of 5-foot-3-inch Garcia.

"Yeah, we must have been giants in there," Garcia laughed afterward.

After explaining what water polo was to the crowd of 12-year-olds, Garcia put down the idea that school gets harder the higher one goes — and that life and sports are in the same category.

Garcia said sometimes she felt like crying from the stress of her schedule, but she couldn't give up.

"You have to say to yourself, 'I'm a

strong person, I'm a confident person, I can overcome this," she said to the children.

She then asked if they enjoyed school, and the number of hands was far fewer than the number of little wrists that popped up for kids wanting to be high-school athletes.

"If you don't like school, than something's wrong with you," she said.

Garcia said part of the reason she came was because it was a way of getting in touch with her past.

"When I was their age, friends I saw went off to college. It told me I could do it too," Garcia said. "I would like these kids to see someone who is in college and let them see they have the opportunity to do it."

Gallop told the crowd that dedication and hard work were part of college life. For an athlete, the schedule includes managing practice, eating, homework and other life choices on precious little time.

"It's really hard ... an overload," Gallop said.

Gallop also mentioned life is more than sports, as she is going to SJSU to be a teacher, and she will be spending more of her life in that profession than on the volleyball court.

Micali hoped those ideas penetrated the heads of her students, who are still naive to what awaits them in the world.

"There's a lot of kids here who want to go to college and go a long way," Micali said. "I hope a lot of what was said today has sunk in, but you never know at this age level. But in the future, one day, they'll go 'Oh yeah, I remember when those athletes came in and said that to me.'"

The event held at Sylvandale was a change in the type of news that has been concerning SJSU athletes, where head-

**"Sometimes I wish I had a time machine — then I would have paid more attention in my science classes."**

— Deonce Whitaker  
SJSU football player

lines of arrests and attacks have been common.

Fan said the athletes' talk at Sylvandale was not a public relations move.

"The (event) was planned ahead of time, independent of anything that has happened," Fan said. "This is not a one-time activity."

Hannon added the events are not publicity stunts.

"This is also to remind the public that our athletes are people too," Hannon said. "These athletes are doing so much for the community. Unfortunately, no one knows about it."

According to Fan, the program had the baseball team visit the Stanford children's hospital in December. Hannon added the next event will be reading to children on National Read Across America Day, March 2. Football linebacker Jeff Wucinich and gymnast Tanika Byrd will be reading to children at J.W. Fair Junior High School.

Hannon said such visits help raise the morale of the children, as well as remind the athletes themselves there are worse things off the field.

As for the reason Garcia, Whitaker and Gallop were chosen, Fan said it was because they were the top members of

their respective teams.

Gallop was the co-most valuable player in the Western Athletic Conference in the 1999 volleyball season, and was an honorable mention as an All-American. Garcia has been the top offensive threat for the water polo team.

Hannon added the three were also available for the time slot, as the program cannot take athletes out of classes to participate in such activities.

As he sat on the bench at the end of the day, Whitaker summarized his visit to Sylvandale.

"It's cool to be sitting down with all of these kids and being back in this atmosphere," said Whitaker, who has gone to schools to talk before. "It reminds you that you were once this small and in their position, hearing the bells and loudspeakers."

Luis Luna, who was sweeping the bench areas with a broom, then told Whitaker he wanted to play on the Spartan football team when he grew up.

"Oh yeah, what jersey you want to wear?" Whitaker asked.

Luna replied, "17."

"That's my number," joked Whitaker — who really wears No. 21.

"Don't worry, I'll have them wash it for you."

## Pot

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creates jobs in drug prevention and law enforcement," Gieringer said.

SJSU sociology professor Terry MacDonald also believes creating law enforcement jobs is part of why drugs such as marijuana are illegal.

"I was in college for 10 years to receive a Ph.D. After 13 years of teaching, I make \$50,000 a year," MacDonald said. "A person who just has a GED can become a correction officer and start with a salary of \$53,000 a year."

MacDonald also said the high number of prisons that have been built in California in the last 30 years is only due to the rise of people being arrested for drug use and possession.

Recovering drug addict Joseph Moulton said people who are caught in possession or under the influence of drugs should not be sent to prison because it's more of a disease.

"You wouldn't stick a person in jail just because they have AIDS or cancer, but prisons are full of drug addicts," Moulton said.

Moulton added he believed marijuana served as a "gateway drug" for him, although he said his family had a history of drug and alcohol use.

"Marijuana was the catalyst that started my addiction," he said.

Moulton said he is recovering from an addiction to opiates and heroin and has been sober for several years. Although Moulton said he believes marijuana might serve as a path to other forms of drug abuse, he said it is the only illegal substance that should be legalized.

San Jose Police Sgt. Scott Savage said he believes that "absolutely" no drug, not even marijuana, should be legalized.

"Imagine the message we would be sending to kids with the legalization of marijuana," he said.

Savage, who spent two years with the San Jose Police Department's narcotics unit, said although marijuana use is illegal, the police department does not

spend much time on finding marijuana dealers or cultivators. Savage said possession of less than one ounce of marijuana in California is a misdemeanor, punishable with a \$100 fine. However, he said, people who are caught cultivating marijuana might have to face jail time, depending on the district attorney. Savage added most of the people who go to jail for drug use often go to jail because, along with the use, they have also committed other crimes such as probation violations.

The three other panel members said they thought legalizing marijuana would be best.

According to MacDonald, marijuana was made illegal by the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937. He said part of the reason it was illegal stemmed from a movie of that time, "Reefer Madness" portrayed a character who had smoked marijuana as having a strong desire to commit violent acts.

Other than that, MacDonald says, there are no studies that show marijuana use as having negative consequences. He said he did one study on marijuana smokers who used no other drug and found their academic achievement was just as high as those who didn't smoke marijuana.

## Pageant to be held

Staff Report

Vietnamese students from several Bay Area colleges and high schools are scheduled to be on hand Saturday for the Vietnamese Student Association's pageant in Morris Dailey Auditorium.

"This will be the biggest show that the VSA has ever put on," said Tho Nguyen, emcee of the pageant.

"We have invited students from UC Davis, De Anza and West Valley College, as well as other area colleges, to come and join in the show," Nguyen said. There will also be non-students and high

school students attending, Nguyen said.

The pageant, slated to run from 7 to 11:30 p.m., will feature a fashion show — featuring casual clothing and formal wear — as well as a modern dancing, and singing competition. Each participant will represent their school in the various competitions.

"Flowers will be available to buy to give to your date or to give to the winner of the pageant," Nguyen said.

In addition, a comedy troupe, Vietnamese Youth, is scheduled to perform a skit titled "Employment."

Tickets for the event are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

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