

**Spartan Weather**  
**Sunny**  
**High: 63° F**  
**Low: 42° F**



**'Opposing Views' asks if some dog owners should be sent to the 'pound'**

—Opinion, page 2



**Agassi defeats Lee 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 at Sybase Open**

—Sports, page 5

# Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

# SPARTAN DAILY

February 28, 2001

www.spartandaily.org

Volume 116, No. 24

## Senate OKs new review board

By Erik Anderson

DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Some critics are predicting that mountains of paperwork may await department heads and college deans with the Academic Senate decision to create a new committee to oversee curriculum assessment for all departments across campus.

Monday's passage of resolution A.S. 1134 was carried out despite the presence of curriculum assessment procedures already in place in each of the departments.

The new operating committee for evaluating curriculum assessment across campus would be able to make recommendations only and would report to the current chairman of the curriculum and research committee, one of six policy committees within the senate.

Bethany Shifflett, one of three statewide senators from the San Jose State University campus and professor of human performance, said she wondered how high the mountains of paperwork could get.

"It may go through the roof," she said.

A California State University system-wide directive for installation of a curriculum assessment mechanism in each of the CSU campuses had initiated the action, said Pam Stacks, chairwoman of the senate's organization and government committee, the body in charge of creating the new committee.

Jonathan Roth, chairman of the senate's curriculum and research committee and assistant professor of history, said he opposed the action.

◆ See SENATE, Page 6

## Cafecito's open mike brings style to San Jose

By Karen Kabling

DAILY STAFF WRITER

Most college towns have a local hangout. A place where people can go to and relax.

Like some students, Misty Mulhall has been searching for that kind of place.

"I never really found anything cool in San Jose," said Mulhall, an electrical engineering major.

All that has changed.

Mulhall is one of the students who have discovered Cafecito, a downtown San Jose coffee shop on Third Street that has a style all its own.

Dozens of San Jose State University students and local artists gather at Cafecito's Creative Expression Night to perform, watch, hang out or relax at 8:30 p.m. on Monday nights.

"And now I find myself here every night," Mulhall said. "It's cool because it's a really friendly environment, kind of like a family. It's very welcoming, and it's an awesome atmosphere."

Sam Orozco, owner of Iguanas Taqueria, said he wanted to give the people of San Jose the opportunity to have a safe place to enjoy other people's company.

"In the Hispanic culture, coffee plays a big role (in communicating)," Orozco said. "It's sweet bread and talk."

Along with his wife and co-owner, Lizzi, he opened Cafecito not for the money, but for the interaction, he said.

Orozco said he named the coffee shop "Cafecito," because it is an endearing name for coffee in the Spanish language.

Cafecito opened in September 2000, but the coffee shop started to take off during the past month and a half, said Greg Vlamis, Cafecito's

◆ See CAFECITO, Page 6

## Let the good times roll



Top, Dee Rochelle, and Finney Mo, right, of Chief Takawaka and The Gumbo Band perform "Bill Bailey" during a second-line procession Tuesday at the Post Street Mardi Gras celebration in downtown San Jose.

Right, Marynka Rojas, a San Jose State University graduate student, right, helps Tony Mercado, a SJSU alumnus, chose a Mardi Gras mask Tuesday.



◆ Read the Daily on Thursday for complete coverage of the Post Street Mardi Gras.

Chris Prevolos / Daily Staff

## Journalism student lands national award

By Karen Kabling

DAILY STAFF WRITER

Lakesha Y. Walker said she felt strange being the subject of a news story.

She said she was used to making the story. And she's proved it true.

Walker took third place and won a \$1,000 award in the William Randolph Hearst Foundation Journalism Awards, under the features category.

The senior, who is a broadcast journalism major, beat 57 other video entries submitted to the national competition for broadcast news.

Because she was one of the top 10 finishers, Walker has to turn in additional tapes for a second round of judging along with the top five finalists from the audio and video categories.

In the final round, five finalists from both audio and video will be chosen to compete in the program's national broadcast news championship in San

Francisco.

The William Randolph Hearst Foundation has been administering and funding the Hearst Journalism Awards Program since the 1960s.

The national program was designed to encourage student excellence in journalism education.

Students can submit their entries only through their school of journalism.

Prizes are awarded to undergraduate students at accredited schools and are

matched with their school in categories such as print journalism, photography and television and radio news.

They are judged by a panel of media professionals.

Walker said she found out she was a finalist after winter break.

"I was at work, and Jan Watten sent me an e-mail to let me know," Walker said.

The first person she called was Darla Belshe, a journalism lecturer and

Update News staff adviser, she said.

Belshe said she was pleased that Walker's work paid off and that her efforts were being acknowledged.

"She is very good at what she does," Belshe said.

Bob Rucker said he remembers Walker as a student in one of his beginning news-writing classes.

"I gave her a kick in the pants a few times," Rucker said. "And she still talks to me."

"I knew she was one of those people who have the ability to be special, but needed someone to draw that out."

Both Belshe and Rucker said they have seen a number of San Jose State University students place in the top 10 in the Hearst Awards.

Walker said she entered two television feature stories at the end of the Fall 2000 semester.

◆ See WALKER, Page 8

**"I'm the first one in my family to go to college. It means a lot more than just winning the award."**

—Lakesha Y. Walker

## OPPOSING

Should dog owners be punished for their pets' offenses?

## VIEWS

### Dogs have innate dangerous behavior that people sometimes can't control

When you see a little pup, you think "What a cute, harmless dog." What happens when the pup grows up? Is it still as harmless as you think? Just stick out your hand and attempt to pet the dog and see if it rips your arm off.

Although dogs can be trained to obey their owners, the actions they take are their own choices.

So if they decide to kill a person, it is their choice and theirs alone.

It wouldn't matter if dog owners spend as much money as they want on the most expensive obedience school. In the end the dog makes the decisions.

We see and hear so many stories about dogs, big or small, that wouldn't hurt a fly, and then they decide to suddenly attack.

The gruesome death of Diane Whipple at the jaws of two Presa Canario-mastiffs, Bane and Hera, is one story never to be forgotten.

In a recent article in the San Jose Mercury News, Dr. Fon Chang, a veterinarian and animal behavior specialist at UC Davis said that once a dog exhibits extremely violent

behavior, "it's too late for (behavioral) treatment to work."

In essence, once Bane and Hera decided to physically attack Whipple in front of her apartment door, there is no way for anyone — dog owners, police officers, medical veterinarians — to change the dogs' minds.

According to the United States Police Canine Association, a dog's behavioral well-being depends on its heredity, its environment, natural instinct, basic senses, past experiences and basic drives.

Although dogs can be loving and nurturing, they can also be dangerous, possessive, aggressive and intimidating.

It is all has to do with their mental state.

If people believe that dogs don't think, but merely act or react, then they are very much mistaken.

The Police Canine Association said a pup's critical mental development begins after the first 21 days of the pup's life.

Unlike a child, a pup's dependence on its mother or pet owner is much

shorter.

By the 21st day, a pup should be able to use its senses to recognize stimuli. By the 28th day, the pup becomes aware of its surroundings. By the seventh week, the pup should be actively interacting and socializing with its environment.

According to the canine association, human contact with the pup becomes very important during this stage. Whether the dog is a stray or owned by a pet owner, its innate personality depends on its surrounding environment and experiences.

The characteristic feared by some humans is a dog's level of aggression. If a dog is accustomed to a loving environment that meets its needs, then the dog will be a happy dog. If the dog grows up in an abusing surrounding, then the dog may turn irritable and destructive.

According to the Humane Society of Denver's Dumb Friends League, there are various types of aggression seen in all dogs.

The first, according to its Web site, is dominance aggression pertaining to the dog's social status within a family or "pack." If a dog thinks its status is higher than its owner's, it will more than likely challenge the owner's commands.

The second type is fear-motivated aggressive defensive reactions made by a dog if it instinctively thinks it is in danger of being harmed.

Protective aggression is the third type and is aimed toward strangers or animals the dog feels will be a threat to it or its family.

Territorial aggression happens when a dog feels a person or animal is invading its territory. When a dog wants to protect its food, toys, or other valuable objects, it becomes possessively aggressive.

Lastly, redirected aggression happens when a dog is prevented from attacking a person or animal that has provoked it. Instead, it will redirect its anger on someone else.

Based on these six types of aggressions, dogs are ultimately responsible for the acts they commit. No matter how much training and discipline the dog is put through, in the end, the dog will choose its own actions.

Vivian Bejarin is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.

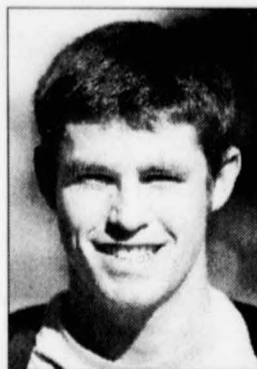
### TALKING HEADS

Should dog owners be held responsible for their pets' offenses?



"Yeah, I think that if it's their dog it's up to them to keep it under control. That's what having a dog is all about."

— Brandon Woodworth  
freshman  
aerospace engineering



"I think they should be held semiresponsible. It's their pet. (Owners) should be punished in some way, to some degree ... maybe jail time."

— Drew Kimball  
freshman  
engineering



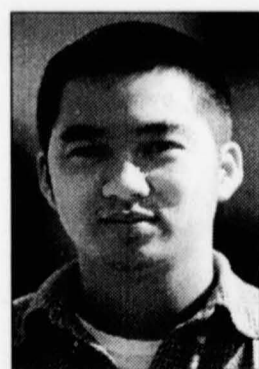
"No, you can control your pet to a certain point, but they have a mind of their own."

— Rebecca Fong  
freshman  
undeclared



"Yeah, I think so because that's their responsibility. That's their dog, so if you are going to license a pet, you should be able to take care of it. It's like having a child. You are responsible for what they do."

— Stephanie Valera  
freshman  
psychology



"I think owners should be responsible for whatever damages their dog causes. Owners should be more aware of the condition of their dogs so they can prevent their dog from going to harm other people."

— Thanh Nguyen  
senior  
philosophy



"I think sometimes dog owners should be punished, but (it) basically depends where the dog is or what they are doing."

— Bryce Taylor  
freshman  
political science and music



Illustration by Dawn Bozack

### Owner neglect and improper training causes dogs to act out aggressively

Idiot pit bull owners who have irresponsibly and selfishly turned their otherwise benevolent dogs into vicious attackers are the reason my loving, friendly pit bull would be instantly put to death if she ever ran away and ended up at the "humane" society.

The Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley has a policy of putting pit bulls older than five months to sleep upon arrival, based solely on their breed, said Leslie Baikie-Khavari, Humane Society public relations coordinator.

Since Dec. 1 of last year, Baikie-Khavari said the society had been testing a new policy regarding pit bulls that are older than five months.

This policy allowed for the careful screening of adult pit bulls to determine if they were safe to be adopted, she said.

According to Baikie-Khavari, two adult pit bulls were adopted during the trial period, which will end today.

The board of directors at the Humane Society will review the plan to determine if they will adopt it or go back to their previous policy of killing the adult pit bulls.

Pit bulls, Rottweilers, German shepherds and now Presa Canarios have all had their turns as outcasts in society because of the ways in which some of their owners have chosen to train them.

Almost any dog in the wrong hands, however, has the ability to become a threat to society.

On the other hand, dogs with the right training become people-friendly, safe and loving, no matter what the breed.

It is up to the owner of the dog to make sure it will not be a threat to society, and if it is, it should be the owner who should be punished.

People such as Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller — the lawyer couple that cared for Bane, a Presa Canario that recently mauled a San Francisco woman to death — are responsible for giving dogs a bad reputation.

The couple had been caring for the dog in place of their adopted son, 38-year-old Paul "Cornfed" Schneider, an inmate in California's highest-security prison, Pelican Bay, according to news reports.

Schneider is serving life without the possibility of parole for attempted murder and aggravated assault.

In an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, he said he named the dog "Bane," which means death and destruction and comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for murderer or slayer.

Schneider told Chronicle reporters that he chose the Presa Canario breed for its aggressiveness.

"It seemed like a good choice — a dog we could relate to," he said in the interview. "They weren't sissy dogs."

Schneider also reportedly said that the dogs had been kept chained up.

"It makes them more aggressive," he said. "I definitely didn't want the dogs chained up."

The Feb. 25 Chronicle story said Noel admitted to owning a copy of "Manstopper," an attack-dog-training book. Other than chaining up and attack-training the dogs, keeping them from socializing with people, children or other dogs and animals can also make the dogs more of a risk to society.

I blame Noel, Knoller and Schneider for the actions of their dogs. They should have been punished for the death of the San Francisco woman.

Noel and Knoller are barred from owning dogs for three years and could face four years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, according to reports.

The couple suggested in a letter to the San Francisco District Attorney that the victim, Dianne Whipple, might have provoked the attack by being in the way, wearing a pheromone-based perfume or taking steroids.

Again, dog owners like this, who can't even take responsibility for their dog's behavior, ruin it for the rest of us.

The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has a much more humane policy regarding pit bulls than the Humane Society in San Jose. "To take healthy, well-behaved pit bulls that we have found eligible for placement, classify them as 'not adoptable,' and automatically euthanize them just because they are of a particular breed would compromise the integrity of our adoption program," the society's

Web site states. "This we will not do." "Pit bulls aren't naturally bad," it continues. "But some pit bull owners are. They are the ones who train dogs to be mean and vicious. They're the ones who allow dogs to be ripped to shreds in training bouts and dog fights. And they're the ones who need to be punished."

Until all dog owners start becoming responsible for the actions of their dogs, many people will still believe some dogs are inherently vicious.

As long as people continue this false belief, innocent dogs will continue to be needlessly killed.

Jena Torres is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.

# Annoying movie patrons need a lesson in theater etiquette

Movie theaters are special places. Where else can one sit in a dark room on a comfy chair, turn off the cell phone and actually be away from the world for an hour and a half?

There is a reason some people agree to be ripped off just to see a silly movie.

We go there to see the sheer size of the pictures on the screen.

We go there to hear the surround sound.

Some people may even go to eat the popcorn.

But it's the movies, a happy place to forget reality.

All is well until rude people step into the picture.

You know who I'm talking about.

They're the people who bring their infants to action movies.

They're the ones who sneak beer into the theater, spill it and try to pretend they didn't do it.

But the most annoying of these people is the talker: the one who just can't seem to keep his or her mouth shut during the movie.

Talkers make comments ... continuously.

They laugh loudly at



MICHELLE JEW

SPOILED

parts in a movie that just aren't funny.

For example, I went to see "Hannibal" on Saturday.

I didn't think there were many humorous scenes in the movie.

The man sitting next to me, however, seemed to find everything being shown on the screen either hilarious or comment-worthy.

It wouldn't have been so bad if he was quiet about it or whispered it to the girl he was with.

This guy said each comment loudly enough for the whole crowd to hear.

Of course, he had to sit next to me.

I didn't want to make a scene by saying something — which usually ends up making the experience worse.

Instead, I sat in my seat for the entire movie rolling my eyes and wishing for all that I was worth that he'd

choke on the Everlasting Gobstoppers he continuously popped into his mouth.

I actually thought he choked once, but he was only sputtering.

Apparently, a dog growling at Anthony Hopkins is one hilarious sequence.

What is wrong with people anyway?

It's called common courtesy — you wipe your feet before going into someone's house.

You hold the door open for the person walking into a building after you.

And you don't talk during a movie in the theater.

You just don't do it. That's why theaters show the "silence is golden" ad on the screen before the movie starts.

So when you decide to go watch a movie, leave the baby with a sitter, turn off your cell phone and, for heaven's sake, shut up.

I paid my \$9 to hear Anthony Hopkins, not you.

Michelle Jew is the Spartan Daily Managing Editor. "Spoiled" appears Wednesdays.

# Spartan Guide

## Today

### REACH Program

Re-Entry And Commuter Help Program hosts Brown Bag Lunch: Student-to-Student Info Exchange with REACH Staff, noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Pacheco room, located in the Student Union. For more information, call Jane Boyd at 924-5950.

### Students for Justice and The C.A.U.S.E.

Sound sessions: A biweekly concert series fusing political thought and music, noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Amphitheater. For more information, call Vanessa at 924-4578.

### Student Life Center

Publicizing Your Event meeting, 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Pacheco room, located in the Student Union. For more information, call the Student Life Center at 924-5953.

### Nutrition and Food Science Department

Two-for-one Valentine's special on the latest body composition testing. Cost: \$5, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in Central Classroom building, Room 221. For more information, call Sherry at 206-7599.

### Chicago Commencement

General meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Chicago Resource Center in Modular A. For more information, call David Ruiz at 924-2991.

### Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Social, 7 p.m. in the Music Listening Room, located in the Student Union. For more information, call Paulette Armsted at 924-7905.

### Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Alliance

Meeting/discussion, 5 p.m. in the Costanano

room, located in the Student Union. For more information, call Shanna at 938-0803.

### Catholic Campus Ministry

Ash Wednesday services: Mass at 12:10 p.m. in the Chapel, Ecumenical Liturgy with Ashes at 5:15 p.m. and Gospel Concert and Youth For Christ Mass at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall. Catholic Campus Ministry is located at 10th and San Carlos streets. For more information, call the Sister Marcia Krause at 938-1610.

### School of Music and Dance

Choreography showing, 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. in the Dance Studio Theater, located in SPXE, Room 219. For more information, call Donna at 924-5041.

### SJSU Alumni Association

Deans' scholarships: 17 \$1,250 scholarships available to undergrad and grad students. Pick up application from any dean's office, deadline: March 1. For more information, call Ivy Low at 924-6524.

### Student Leadership Workshop Series

Making meetings work, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Almaden room, located in the Student Union. For more information, call Bethany at 924-5950.

### Associated Students

Online scholarship applications at <http://scholarships.sjsu.edu>. For more information, call Maria Murphy at 924-6240.

### sjspirit.org

Meditation — guided and instructional — All meditators welcome, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Campus Ministry Chapel, located at 300 S. 10th St. For more information, call R. Wharton at 606-1687.

### Catholic Campus Ministry

Youth For Christ, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Pacheco room, located in the Student Union. For more information, call Sister Marcia at 938-1610.

### Clark Library

Book giveaway. Thousands of duplicate library books for free, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the SJSU Senter Road storage facility, located at 1875 Senter Road, building B. For more information, call Celia Bakke at 924-2715.

## Thursday

### Listening Hour Concert Series

Language Arts talent show: Celebrating National Foreign Language Week with Brazilian Pop guitar, voice, dance in the piano, trumpet, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Music building Concert Hall. For more information, call Joan Stubbe at 924-4631.

### Anemia, the SJSU Film Club

Nihilism on screen. Tsukamoto's "Tokyo Fist" (1995). A bleak, ultra-charged cinematic experience. Free admission. Free your mind, 9:03 p.m. in Sweeney Hall, Room 100. For more information, call the Matteo at 286-4684.

### Catholic Campus Ministry

Daily Mass, 12:10 p.m. at the Campus Ministry Chapel, located at 10th and San Carlos streets. For more information, call Sister Marcia at 938-1610.

### Teunani Anime

Meeting, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Washington Square Hall, Room 109. For more information, call Patrick Wong at 621-7536.

*Spartan Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working 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.*

# 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.

**Editorials are written by, and are the consensus of, the Spartan Daily editors, not the staff.**

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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# Prevent abortions by offering better financial support and more alternatives for women

The courts ruled that the fetus is not a person with constitutional rights. The modern science of fetology makes it undeniably evident that human life begins at conception.

With the possible availability of RU-486 here in the Bay Area, it would be easy to abort a life.

The abortion-rights advocate says, "This is my body. That is my right."

We have "Save the whales" and "Save the spotted owls," but we never have a sign saying, "Save the babies."

Seventy-five percent of women say they have abortions because

## Letters

a baby would interfere with their careers.

You don't murder somebody just because he or she interferes with your career.

In the United States, about 1.5 million abortions are performed each year. It is estimated that one out of every four pregnancies ends in abortion.

What a horrible slaughter.

That's where it seems to me that Christian protestors are being a little hypocritical,

because it doesn't seem like they're offering genuine help, such as financial help and baby care or adoption.

A lot of women want to have a baby and would like to keep it. But they hesitate because once they give up their child to an agency, they will never see it again. This makes them lose all hope.

Christians need to put their money where their mouths are. They need to put out more money to help girls and save the babies.

Ted Rudow III  
credential student

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Qualified candidates will be at least 21 years of age, have excellent facilitation, communication, and organizational skills, as well as flexibility and creativity. The ability to coordinate multiple promotions at various accounts and provide personal transportation is required. A Bachelor's degree is preferred (required for promotional opportunities) and bilingual skills are a plus.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their resume to Anheuser-Busch, Inc. via email: [buschjobs@anheuser-busch.com](mailto:buschjobs@anheuser-busch.com), Attn: 01-TEMPCA/JF

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**Wednesday and Thursday March 7 and 8**

## Accused pedestrian killer goes to court

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — A university freshman accused of murdering four pedestrians with his car was granted a delay in his arraignment Tuesday, and his father acknowledged outside court the "unspeakable" grief of the victims' loved ones.

"I just want to say how devastated and heartbroken we are for everybody who's been affected by this — this very horrible tragedy," television director Daniel Attias said after his 18-year-old son, David, made a brief appearance in Superior Court.

With his tearful wife by his side, Daniel Attias struggled to finish his statement.

"We know that it has affected not just the loved ones and the families of the victims, whose grief must be unspeakable, and we extend whatever compassion we're capable of," he said. "We know it has also left a terrible, terrible gash in this whole community and we can't begin to tell you how saddened we are."

David Attias, of Santa Monica, is accused of running down five pedestrians late Friday in Isla Vista, the student community next to the University of California, Santa Barbara. Witnesses captured Attias after a struggle. The scene was videotaped by a bystander.

Killed were Nicholas Shaw Bourdakis and Christopher Edward Divis, both 20 and UCSB students; Ruth Dasha Golda Levy, 20, a Santa Barbara City College student; and Elie Israel, 27, of San Francisco. Levy's brother, Albert Arthur Levy, 27, was in critical condition Tuesday at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, spokeswoman Cathy Walker said.

Sabado Tarde, the street where the five were struck down, continued to draw streams of students Tuesday. Burning candles, bunches of flowers, pictures of the victims, prayers and notes were left at five places.

"We have been coming out here on a daily basis," said Brooke Smith, 19, a sophomore from Glendora, who reminisced with friends about Bourdakis and Divis. "You see random people who really didn't know the victims dropping off flowers and candles. It's just amazing."

Several UCSB students have described Attias as acting strangely, and the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department reported Tuesday that he was involved in a Feb. 1 scuffle with a fellow student at the private, off-campus dorm where both lived.

A resident adviser who broke it up told authorities the other student had started the trouble, but both were issued citations ordering them to appear in court next month.

Lt. Mike Burrigge, a sheriff's spokesman, said it was unlikely authorities would pursue that case now.

"They're not going to bring Attias to court for this," he said.

Associate Dean of Students Debbie Fleming said the university itself had no reports of odd behavior.

She said Attias lived primarily with other freshmen in the dorm housing 2,600 people. Residential assistants there are trained by the university to intervene if there are signs of substance abuse or psychological problems, and Fleming added that Attias' case may force a review of that approach.

"As a student you don't see it as your responsibility to do anything. I think asking an 18-year-old to make a mental assessment is a big stretch," she said.

University spokeswoman Joan Magruder noted that Attias had only been at school about 12 weeks.

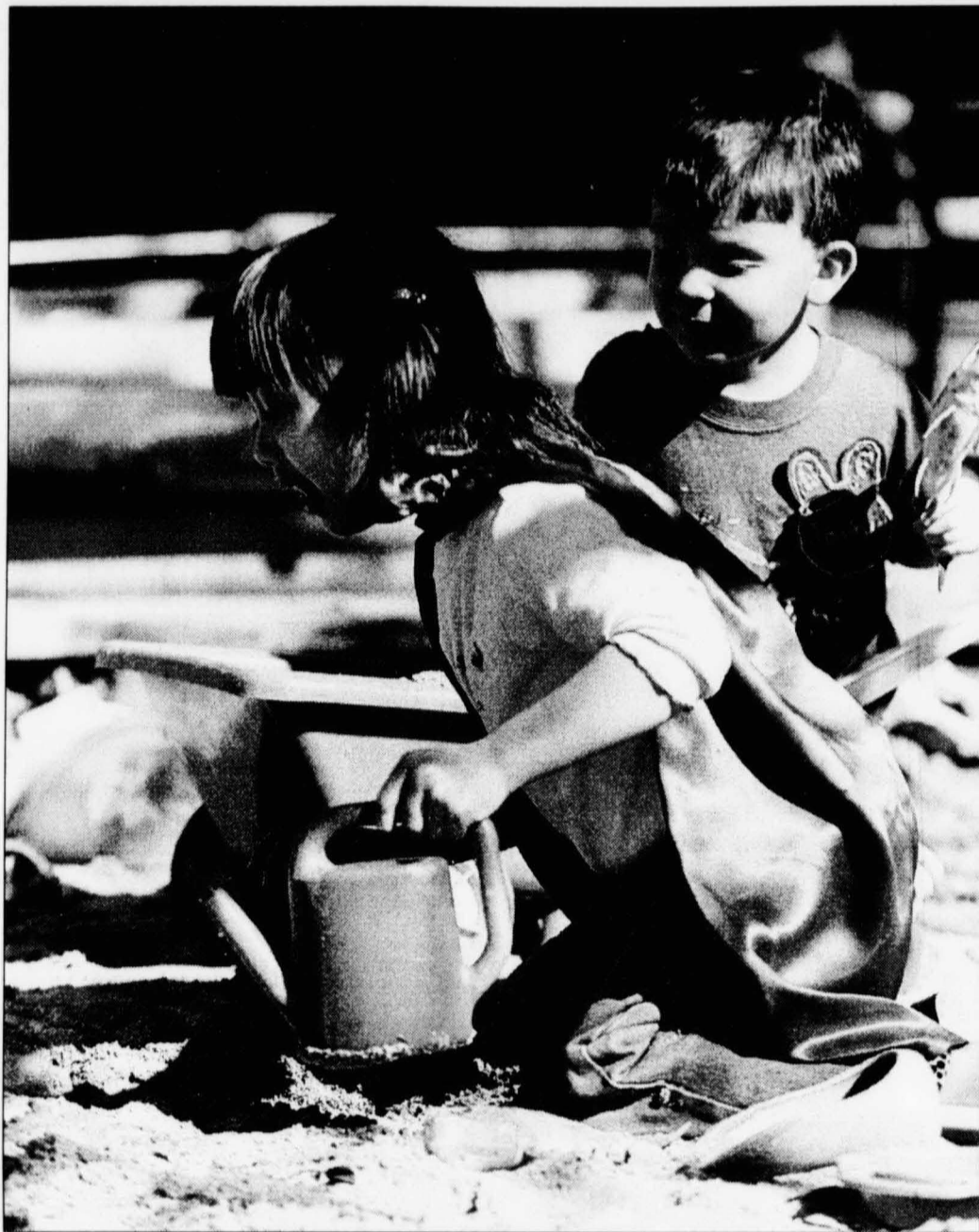
"If this student had been a junior or senior so many more of us would have known him," Magruder said.

Prosecutors charged Attias on Monday with four counts of murder, four counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, and five counts of driving while under the influence of drugs and causing great bodily injury.

An amended complaint filed Tuesday was not released.

Superior Court Judge Deborah M. Talmage rescheduled Attias' arraignment for March 6 at the request of defense attorney Bob Sanger. The attorney also objected to news cameras in court but Talmage allowed a pool video camera and still photographer.

## 'Look what I made...'



Amy Vo and Joshua Leary enjoyed a sunny afternoon in a sandbox at the San Jose State Development Laboratory Preschool on Tuesday.

David Royal / Daily Staff

## 'Biggest freak show' takes streets in Big Easy

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An estimated million or more people jammed the city's streets on Mardi Gras for the Big Easy's raucous, libidinous, alcohol-fueled celebration.

Tourists stood agape in the French Quarter as three women strolled the crowded, narrow streets wearing nothing but sandals, bikini thongs and elaborate swirls of brightly colored body paint.

"It's like nothing else in the world — the world's biggest freak show," said Wolf Martin, 57, a Los Angeles software engineer.

Olivier Zissler, a visitor from Nice, France, was amused by the Fat Tuesday excess.

"We have Carnival in Nice, but it's nothing like this. This makes me think Americans are crazy. In America, it seems like you have everything or nothing, it's all done to extremes."

Families, many of them with picnic spreads and barbecue grills, lined parade routes in residential neighborhoods and suburbs, but the Quarter revelry was for adults only.

"This is amazing," Marilyn Campbell of Fairborn, Ohio, said as she watched the costumed and sometimes barely clad show go by. "You just stand there and laugh."

Costumes included one man's see-through jockey shorts and one woman's revealing skirt and top made only of tied-together bead necklaces. The presidential election was a common theme: One man dressed as a Florida ballot with a pot belly and a sign declaring himself a pregnant chad.

"This is the one day a year where I as a New Orleansian feel superior to everyone else in the country who are at their desks checking e-mail and voice mail, while I've been out here since before dawn drinking beer," said Lloyd Webre, a New Orleans native who now lives in Atlanta.

"And we don't have the riots that other parts of the country have with gatherings this big. We know how to have a good time. It's controlled craziness."

Late Tuesday, sanitation trucks and mounted police officers mustered near Bourbon Street, preparing for the end of the party and Lent, the austere period of self-deprivation that begins Wednesday.

In Seattle and in Austin, Texas, weekend rioters hurled bottles and smashed store windows, bringing out police in riot gear. Austin police canceled Tuesday's Mardi Gras parade.

New Orleans police reported no serious incidents by afternoon, and no immediate arrest figures were available for Mardi Gras misbehavior. Last year, police reported 589 arrests over the 12-day Carnival period, down from 836 in 1999.

Last year, a crackdown on women flashing their breasts drew criticism from revelers who said it was harmless fun. This year, the police said officers would make arrests only when nudity or lewdness were a threat to public safety.

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is the climax of New Orleans' Carnival season, which begins each year on Jan. 6 and ends at midnight with the arrival of Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

Jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain opened Tuesday's celebrations by leading his Half-Fast Marching Club on its 40th annual Mardi Gras trek down St. Charles at 7 a.m.

## Bush talks tax cuts, national debt, spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, eyeing forecasts of huge budget surpluses, said Tuesday he hopes Congress will give an impartial hearing to his proposals to cut taxes, raise federal spending and pay down the national debt.

Following his meeting Tuesday with Colombian President Andres Pastrana, Bush said he will argue that it is better to use federal surpluses to make the largest debt payment ever — \$2 trillion — and offer tax relief, rather than pay the debt off entirely, as some have advocated.

"It does not make sense to pay down debt prematurely and therefore have to pay a premium on the debt that you prepay," Bush said. "We will pay down the debt as it comes due."

He complained about public opinion polls that suggest tax cuts will mean spending cuts.

"People will be asked the question, do you want tax relief, or do you want somebody to not get their Medicare check?" the president continued. "I'm going to be mak-

ing the case that, with the right leadership, the right priorities and the right focus, that we will fund important programs and have money left over for tax relief."

As is standard for first-year presidents, Bush is forgoing the formal State of the Union address and instead is appearing before a joint session of Congress Tuesday night to outline his \$1.9 trillion budget plan for fiscal 2002.

Bush said he is not worried about Democratic rejection of his plan. "I'm really speaking to the American people," he said.

He declined to elevate the importance of this presidential address — "Every one of them is important," he said — but indicated he is concerned about how his message will resonate with the public.

"Sometimes, it's hard to make these budget speeches very poetic," he said in an aside to Pastrana.

White House aides indicated the speech would run 40 to 50 minutes.

Bush counselor Karen Hughes, inter-

viewed Tuesday on CBS' "The Early Show," scoffed at Democratic insistence that big parts of his proposed tax cut take effect only if the projected budget surplus actually develops.

"If the surplus does not materialize, it will not materialize for only two reasons: One is Congress spent too much and therefore all the money is gone and the other is if you have an economic downturn and that is precisely the time when you do not want to raise taxes," she said.

House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., recalled that a similar tax cut was enacted in 1981. "Most of it went to the wealthiest Americans" and was followed by huge budget deficits, he said. "We don't want to repeat that mistake. We can have a lesser tax cut (but) let's see how the economy goes," Gephardt said on NBC's "Today."

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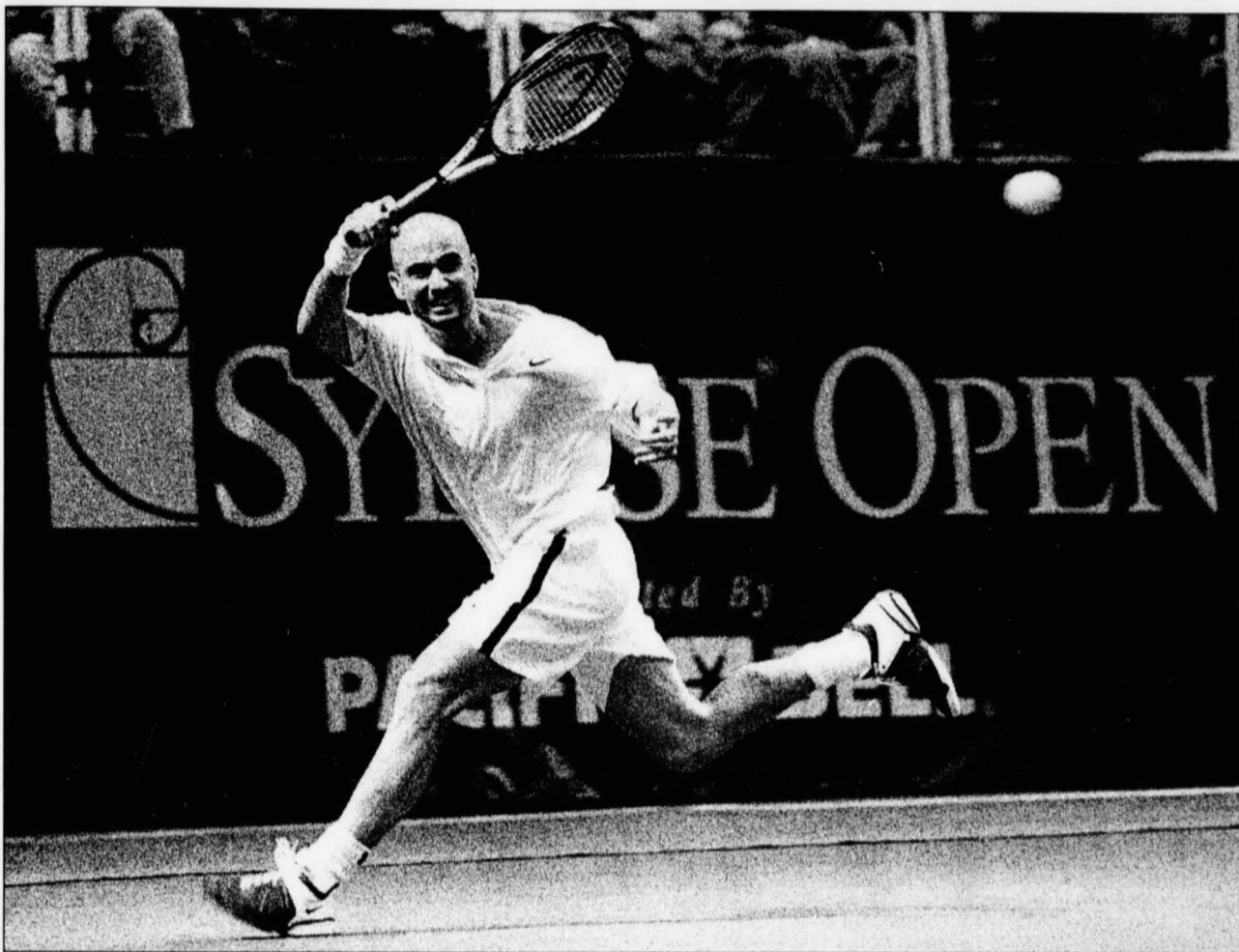
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## Four-time Sybase champion tops Lee in three sets



Andre Agassi returns a serve from Hyung-Taik Lee on Tuesday night at the San Jose Arena. Agassi won the match in three sets, 7-5, 3-6 and 6-3. The Sybase Open is scheduled to run through Sunday at the San Jose Arena.

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

Andre Agassi had trouble with Korean Hyung-Taik Lee in the first-round of the Sybase Open, but the Australian Open champion prevailed to win 7-5, 3-6, and 6-3.

Lee went up 3-2 in the third set on a service break when top-seeded Agassi, the No. 1 player in the world, double-faulted on the final point.

The seven-time Grand Slam winner scrambled back to win, taking the match with a light lob over Lee's head.

Lee, who started to leave the court with his head bowed, was treated to a standing ovation from the San Jose Arena crowd and looked up with a smile and a wave.

Agassi, who had not played since his victory in the Australian Open, appeared rusty. Unseeded Lee, who opened the match erratically, gained confidence as he played on.

Agassi broke Lee's serve to start the match, but Lee climbed back to a 3-2 advantage, drawing a collective gasp from the crowd.

Agassi, a four-time Sybase winner, shook off the setback to take the set, but he didn't seem to take Lee seriously in the second.

Germany's Tommy Haas survived a tough match earlier Tuesday, defeating countryman Christian Vinck, 6-4, 7-5 in the first round of the \$400,000 indoor event.

"It wasn't that good, but it was enough," Haas said. "My first break at 5-4 in the first set was important."

The fourth-seeded Haas, ranked 21st in the world, meets 78th-ranked Magnus Gustafsson in the second round.

American Andy Roddick, the youngest player in the tournament at 18, also won his first-round match, beating countryman Chris Woodruff, 6-4, 6-4.

Roddick, who made his debut in

the Davis Cup earlier in February, will meet No. 6 Jan-Michael Gambill in the second round.

"I like playing against higher level players, and it doesn't get much higher than here," Roddick said. "I like to hit the ball hard. That's basically what I do. If I'm serving well, I feel good."

Italy's Renzo Furlan, playing in his first Sybase since winning the title in 1994, defeated Tomas Zib of the Czech Republic.

Now, recovering from shoulder surgery in 1999, and coping with rankings that are far below his standard, Furlan is back on the scene.

The Italian player, who said he is ranked near 250th in the world, won a qualifying match Tuesday against Czech opponent Tomas Zib.

The win signifies a sort of resurgence for Furlan, who said after the win that he was excited to be recuperated and playing well again.

"It's always nice when you come back to a place where you win — it's always important," he said, making a mention toward the future. "It will be important for me to play well in the second round against (English player Greg) Rusedski."

In other action, Belgium's Xavier Malisse topped American Paul Goldstein, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

"I was playing well, then all of a sudden I slowed down," Malisse said. "My feet weren't moving, and I gave him easy points, but I kept focusing."

The tournament, which began on Monday, is scheduled to run through March 4 at the San Jose Arena.

◆ Daily Staff Writer Jordan Robertson and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Women's basketball team drops regular season finale

DAILY STAFF REPORT

The San Jose State University women's basketball team lost its regular season finale to Texas Christian University, 66-54, on Tuesday in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Spartans were plagued by a season-high 34 turnovers and a season-low nine freethrow attempts in the loss.

SJSU finished the season with an overall record of 12-15 and 4-12 in Western Athletic Conference play. The number of victories was the most for an SJSU women's basketball team since the 1996-1997 season.

It also marks a sharp turnaround for head coach **Janice Richard**. The second-year head coach finished with a record of 3-24 a year ago.

"When I sit back and look at it, we've come a long way," Richard said.

Under Richard this season, the Spartans won four conference games, while in the past two seasons, the Spartans had only won one WAC game.

"It has been a good year," Richard said. "I've been a lot harder on myself than the team."

Tuesday night, TCU and Kati Safaritova were hard on the Spartans.

Safaritova led the Horned Frogs with 15 points, while **Danada Smith** of SJSU matched her in scoring.

The rest of the game couldn't do the same, however.

SJSU went into the locker room at halftime trailing 32-27. The Spartans were outscored 34-27 in the second half.

TCU did get a challenge in the second half as the Spartans

closed the lead to two. An 8-0 run made the score 51-49 with 8:17 left to play.

But the Horned Frogs went on a run of their own, outscoring the Spartans 11-3 and opening up a 64-54 lead with slightly more than three minutes on the clock.

Also for the Spartans, freshman guard **Cricket Williams** had 10 points and dished out seven assists.

TCU turned the tables on SJSU in the free-throw shooting department. Saturday, the men's basketball team defeated TCU in a 91-90 overtime victory. Free-throw shooting was the key down the stretch for the Spartans.

The female Horned Frogs got revenge for their male counterparts by outshooting SJSU from the free-throw line. TCU was 21-of-33 while SJSU was only 3-of-9.

The Spartans will next take the floor in the season-ending WAC tournament. The tournament is scheduled for March 6 in Tulsa, Okla.

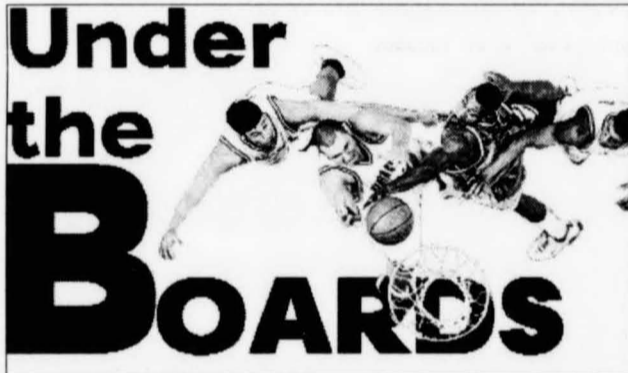
SJSU will play either Tulsa University or the University of Texas at El Paso.

### All-WAC nominees

Three Spartan women's basketball players have been nominated for the all-WAC team.

The conference has recognized Williams, as well as junior guards **Danada Smith** and **Atari Parker** for the team.

The results of the award will not be known until next week.



### Women's stat leaders

With Tuesday's loss, the Spartans currently hold a record of 12-15 overall and 4-12 in the WAC, where they are in eighth place.

Parker currently leads the team with an average of 17.6 points per game, with Smith behind her with 16.4 points a game.

Parker also leads in rebounds with 5.5 per game, with freshman forward **Tatiana Taylor** and junior forward **MiaTonya Smith** following with 5.3 per game.

Williams still leads in assists with 4.8 per game, with Parker trailing at 1.9 per game.

### Seeking sixth place

The men's basketball team has a chance to earn its best

overall record since its entrance into the Western Athletic Conference in 1996, and move into sixth place if it can win Thursday's contest against the University of Hawaii.

Head coach **Steve Barnes** said the win would guarantee his team a winning record and that occupying sixth place would be an honor.

"Our league is ranked seventh in the nation," Barnes said. "We have a tough league."

The Spartans' last meeting with the Warriors ended in a 65-64 overtime loss Jan. 20, and Barnes said Thursday's game won't be easy, either.

"They (Hawaii) are playing as good as anyone in our conference right now," He said.

San Jose State University is scheduled to play Hawaii at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Event Center.

### Free tickets

The first 500 tickets for the Spartan home finale are available free of charge with a valid Tower Card. They can be picked up at the Event Center Box Office and at the Spartan Ticket Office on Seventh Street.

Barnes said this season's attendance has been less than stellar, but he thinks the game should be fun to watch because of the talent his team has.

"We have a good basketball team," Barnes said. "I wish more students would show up."

### Injuries sideline Spartans

The Spartans' rise in the standings will be tougher than originally thought, Barnes said.

The men's basketball team will be without the services of forward **Andre Valentine** and guard **Mike Garrett**.

According to Barnes, Garrett is still nursing his right leg, after spraining his right medial collateral ligament (MCL) in the Feb. 18 game against Southern Methodist University.

Valentine re-aggravated his strained right knee in practice Tuesday.

### Men's stat leaders

**Cory Powell**, who led the Spartans with 19 points in Saturday's overtime victory against Texas Christian University, is currently leading the team in

scoring, averaging 13.5 points per game.

**Darnell Williams** continues to lead San Jose State University in the rebounding and assists categories with 7.3 and 2.3 per game, respectively.

### Farewell to seniors

Thursday's game against Hawaii will be the final home game for four Spartans.

Seniors **Garrett**, **Billy Landram**, **Powell** and **Williams** will step onto the Event Center hardwood for the final time in a Spartan jersey.

With the exception of Powell, the other three seniors have been playing at SJSU before Barnes was named head coach.

Barnes said the transition for those players had to initially be tough because they had to get used to him, and vice versa.

"They've fought hard," he said. "I hope it works out for them."

◆ Daily Staff Writer Kevin Higuichi contributed to this report.

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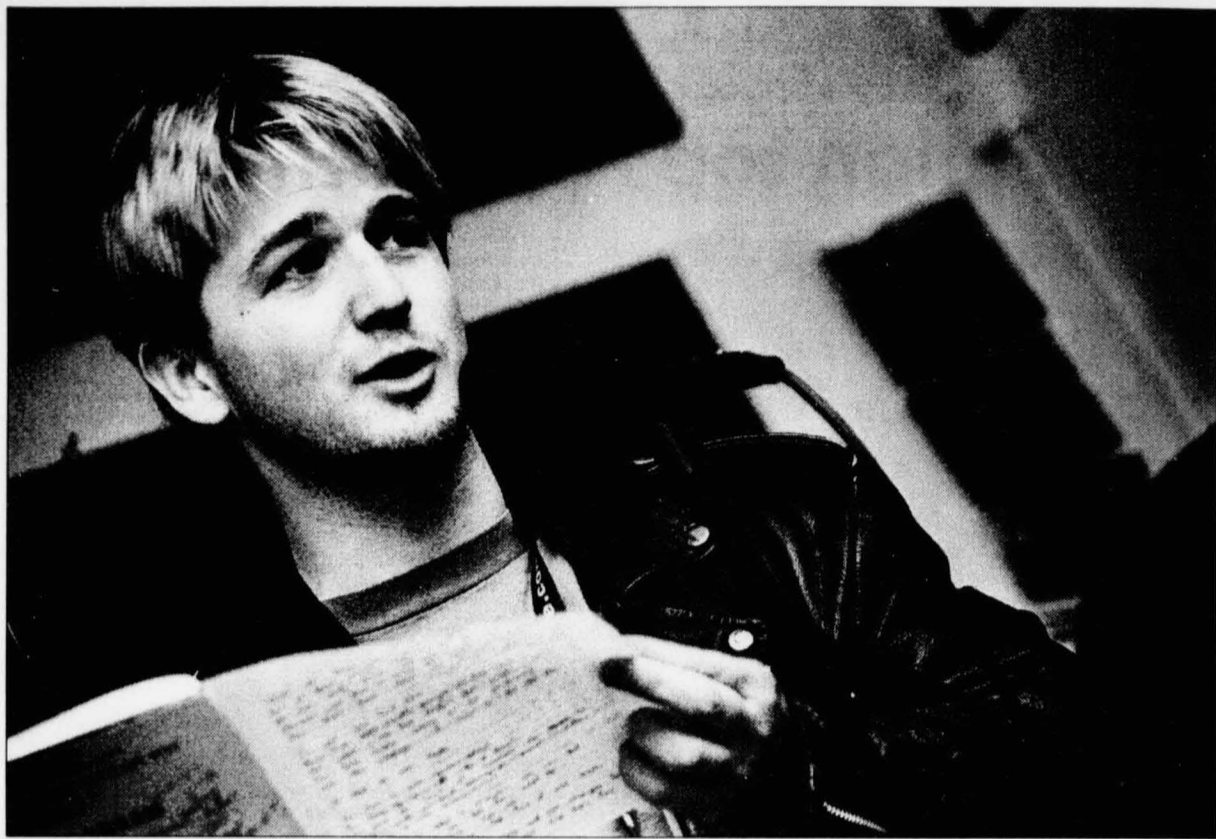
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Yoshie Sejima / Daily Staff

David Barker, a San Jose State University student, reads his "self-portrait" poem for the Open Mike Night at Cafecito, the coffee shop next to Iguanas Taqueria. Open Mike night is from 8:30 p.m. to about 11 p.m. on Monday.

## CAFECITO: Creative night offers open mike every Monday at 8:30 p.m.

◆ continued from Page 1

general manager.

Orozco said he took a chance with Vlamis' idea about having a Creative Expression Night.

"I didn't want to limit expression, but I wanted to make sure people weren't offended," Orozco said.

Vlamis and Orozco created one rule, with hopes that people keep in mind other's feelings: "Don't disrespect to gain respect" which is posted on a sign hung in the coffee shop.

Tisha Gibbert said she tries to go to Cafecito every Monday night, and participates in the "open mike" session.

"It's very open and nonjudgmental," Gibbert said. "It's a very diverse crowd. A lot of different personalities are represented each night."

Christina Saucedo, a nursing major, got out of class early and sang a Spanish song on stage with Marc Pinate, who played guitar.

"It's a true passion. And this is a good place to share," she said.

Following Saucedo's performance, Pinate, who teaches Chicano Theater (MAS 40) at SJSU, went solo and recited his poem "When the revolution comes — won't be any cappuccinos with it."

"It's a wake-up call to people who claim to be progressive, but do more talking than action," Pinate said. "Its about time San Jose has a culturally diverse spoken-word open mike."

Pinate said he comes to Cafecito in his spare time, and hopes the coffee shop will continue on its road to success.

From behind the counter making coffee drinks to socializing with the crowd, Vlamis said he tries to create an atmosphere that makes customers feel "like a family."

"It's more than just a coffee shop job," he said.

Vlamis said he took off a semester from SJSU to pursue a dream of opening a coffee shop.

He used to work at the Market Café in the Student Union, but said his boss told him that he talked too much.

Vlamis said in a fast-paced lifestyle like the Silicon Valley, people need to interact with one another.

"San Jose needs a social place ... where people can come and hang out," he said.

The Detroit native said he moved to San Jose a year ago, and knew almost no one.

Now, many people know him as the "coffee guy."

In July 2000, Lizzi Orozco met Vlamis when he applied for a position at the coffee shop. After enduring the interview process for about a month and a half, Orozco said his wife found the right person for the job.

Sam Orozco set the job description for Vlamis: "Do what you feel is right."

The first thing Vlamis created was a "Creative Expression Open Mike Night."

Vlamis said he tries to have something planned each night, such as an Actors Workshop where aspiring actors rehearse their scripts and perform improv skits like the show "Whose Line is it Anyway?"

"It's all about avenues to expressing yourself," Vlamis said.

## SENATE: Some professors and staff members predict new committee will result in mountains of paperwork

◆ continued from Page 1

"We are putting the cart before the horse," he said.

Speaking of the resolution, A.S. 1134, Roth said the new committee had been given no charge or definition.

Stacks said the aim was not to create another layer of bureaucracy, but that it is a way to keep the campus informed.

"We don't have a grass-roots mechanism on assessment," she said.

Rameshwar Sigh, a professor of civil engineering with more than 34 years experience as well as a freshman senator on Stack's committee, said a lot of work had gone into the resolution. Assessment is very important, he said.

"Are students learning what we are teaching them?" he asked.

Stacks questioned the merits of the history professor's criticisms.

"Does (the) curriculum and research (committee) not have enough on its plate? We spent a whole committee retreat schooling ourselves on the philosophies of it," Stacks said.

Member Patrick Hamill, a professor of physics, said he thought a better solution was needed.

"Are we really going to be moved forward by having another committee look at this?" Hamill said.

Ted Norton, an honorary senator and professor emeritus of political science, said the CSU mandate is a state requirement, with backing from everyone from the state governor, the chancellor on down to administrators on the SJSU campus and that the senate had no choice but to take action.

Norton said he thought the committee would help unify assessment as SJSU.

"This is an attempt to make this more user-friendly," he said. "What else do you want?"

Nancy Stork, an associate professor of English and member of the senate, said she opposed creation of the committee and cited previous experiences with SJSU's assessment program for general education.

"Another nightmare of paperwork for us," she said. Shifflett agreed.

She described the resulting paperwork that would result at the department level as creating a "snowball effect."

Assessment would be required every semester, over and over again, she said.

General Education, in the fall of 1999, released a finding outlining several student concerns including writing mechanics and organization, reading comprehension, math equations, problem sets and vocabulary recognition.

Stacks said she was sympathetic to Stork's and Shifflett's concerns.

She said her committee was well-informed of the problems and experiences with General Education's assessment program.

It was because of those prob-

### Issues addressed in Monday's Academic Senate meeting

#### Housing, student enrollment and year-round operations remain concerns

SJSU grapples with housing, offers four possible solutions.

- A major bank to provide loans to individual faculty members based on need. The loan is planned to be "zero down" and be offered at a comparable mortgage rate.
- Purchasing of land to be sold to faculty at a much-reduced rate.
- Equity sharing
- Apartment rentals
- San Jose State University President Robert Caret assessed the housing situation. "I think we are making progress," he said. "I think we have people's attention."

#### Student enrollment

SJSU is having a difficult time making its student enrollment target for this year.

- For the year 1999-2000, enrollment fell 1.5 to 1.6 percent. A buffer of two percent was acceptable, he said.
- For the year 2000-2001, the decline may double that. "That is a problem," Caret said.

#### Year-round operation

- Year-round operation will begin this summer.
- Fall enrollment was 19,000 full-time students.
- Past student summer enrollment: 750 full-time students.
- "We don't expect to change overnight," Caret said.

lems that a feedback mechanism is desired, she said. The committee's goal would not be to mandate, but rather to receive feedback from the departments and colleges on campus.

Roth said many philosophical issues had yet to be resolved and suggested that the item go back to committee.

"Nobody is holding a gun to our head," he said. "Let's start from scratch."

Roth said he thought there were a lot of good things in the resolution.

"However, there's some things I really have problems with," he said.

The motion passed with few dissenting votes.

## Lopez says she won't testify at Combs trial

NEW YORK (AP) — Jennifer Lopez said late Tuesday that she will not testify in the weapons trial of former boyfriend Sean "Puffy" Combs.

"As Sean will testify on his own behalf, he and his lawyers have decided at this time it is not necessary for me to testify at the trial," she said in a statement released by Combs' publicist and confirmed by Lopez spokesman Alan Nierob.

"I have told Sean that if he and his lawyers change their minds and require me to testify I will be there immediately to tell the

truth," said Lopez, the star of "The Wedding Planner" and the voice on the No. 1 album, "J.Lo."

The rap mogul issued a statement through a publicist confirming that since he intends "to testify on my own behalf, I feel it is no longer necessary for Jennifer to be involved."

Experts had said the media frenzy a court appearance by the 30-year-old music and movie star could incite may not be worth the trouble for Combs.

"I don't mean to sound like an old fogey, but much of the thinking

behind whether she testifies depends on what she has to say," veteran defense attorney Ron Kuby said.

For the defense, the advantage of calling Lopez was clear: She's perhaps the hottest star in the country right now, and the appearance of such a smart, attractive witness could bolster Combs' standing with the jury.

On the downside, trial testimony shows Lopez was nowhere near Combs when a gunfire-punctuated melee began inside Club New York on Dec. 27, 1999. She would be

unable to say whether Combs pulled a weapon there, as several prosecution witnesses have testified.

Defense witnesses have contradicted those claims.

There was also the risk of alienating the jurors by turning the courtroom into a circus rather than focusing on the case against Combs. After all, though Lopez testified before the grand jury, that panel indicted Combs anyway.

The pair released a statement on Valentine's Day that they had split up.

## Cleveland looking to India in search of math and science teachers

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland public schools, in need of math and science teachers, are headed to India.

Three delegates from the district, including one teacher, will leave March 11 for a 12-day recruiting trip to be paid for by a New York company that matches teacher candidates in India with school districts in the United States.

Cleveland recruiters will travel with school officials from Newark, N.J.; DeKalb County, Ga.; New York City, Baltimore, San Francisco and Philadelphia. The group will travel to four cities in India for interviews with job candidates who pay for help in getting an American placement.

Carol Hauser, the Cleveland schools' executive director for human resources and administration, said that of the 1,200 candidates interviewed last year in Cleveland, only 45 were certified in math or science. The district has about 77,000 students.

The district needs to recruit internationally, said Barbara Byrd-Bennett, the Cleveland schools' chief executive.

"It's a crisis," she said. Hauser will be joined by Kevin Brown, the district's recruitment manager, and Michelle Ruicidlo-

Rupright, a kindergarten teacher at Stephen E. Howe Elementary School.

Cleveland will depend on Teachers Placement Group for its recruiting trip. The company, formed in 1999, has been approved by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Department of Education.

"We've been watching this organization and watching their success rate for a year now," Hauser said. "We certainly would not embark on an international recruitment effort without knowing the track record. If we could find enough math, science and special education teachers in the United States, we would not be going to India," she said.

Michael Vanjani, a spokesman for Teachers Placement Group,

said 24 Indian teachers had come to the United States so far.

Hauser said she could make job offers on the spot, and the district hopes to have the recruited teachers in place by the start of school in August. She said she hopes to hire 25 people to work in the district's high schools.

"If we saw 50 or so excellent teachers, we'd bring them back," she said.

The recruits will get special visas, temporary teaching certificates and work permits. They will commit to stay with the district for at least three years. If a recruit doesn't work out, Teachers Placement Group will pay for a plane ticket home.

Sri Rahm, a training specialist at General Electric Co. who came

to the United States from India for graduate school, said his only worry for Indian recruits was the adjustment to American culture.

"It's not whether they know the subject or whether they're willing to come to the United States," said Rahm, a part-time physics professor at Case Western Reserve University.

Cultural differences need to be taken into account. Teachers are revered in India, he said.

"I don't know how teachers will react if they are thrown into a class and not respected," he said.

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## WALKER: Broadcast major wins third in William Randolph Hearst Foundation Journalism Awards, takes home \$1,000

◆ continued from Page 1

The first story she said she sent in was about the Delancy Street Restaurant in San Francisco, which was completely staffed by ex-convicts and drug addicts who were professionally trained by master chefs.

Walker said the restaurant was a part of the Delancy Street Foundation.

"No one gets paid. They work for everything," she said. "In exchange for working in the restaurant, they get room and board right off of Embarcadero."

Her second entry was a feature story about a professional kickboxer, Carina Moreno.

Walker said Moreno won the state kickboxing championship and an international flyweight boxing champion.

Even as a child, Walker said she knew she wanted to write.

"I knew I always wanted to be a journalist," Walker said. "But I didn't know I wanted to be in broadcasting until I came to SJSU."

Walker said she felt good about winning because it increases her chances of getting a job after she graduates.

Walker said that in a way, however, she's already won, just because of the strides she's made at SJSU.

"I'm the first one in my family to go to college. It means a lot more than just winning the award," she said.

**Lakesha Walker placed third** in the collegiate Hearst Awards for broadcast news. Walker submitted two entries to the contest one on kickboxing and the other concerning the Delancy Foundation, a vocational program for ex-cons and drug addicts.

Troy Bayless / Daily Staff



## Clinton speaks to media, pledges not to make news

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Clinton told hundreds of media executives Tuesday that he would try his best to not make news, even as a sponsor of the \$100,000 appearance pulled its name from conference materials at the last minute.

"I want to get out of the news," Clinton said after his 45-minute speech at a conference on the

business side of media and entertainment. "I am trying to go home and have a life."

The appearance was sponsored by Variety magazine and Credit Suisse First Boston. Only one bank official, whose name was pulled from the printed program, spoke at the conference.

"In light of current events, we reduced our involvement in the

conference," spokeswoman Victoria Harmon said. The bank did not pull its financial support for the conference.

Earlier this month, a Clinton speech at a Morgan Stanley Dean Witter investment bankers conference in Boca Raton, Fla., prompted an unusual after-the-fact apology from the company. Chairman Philip Purcell told

clients in an e-mail message later that the appearance was inappropriate given "Mr. Clinton's personal behavior as president."

Clinton has since been criticized for some of his pardons.

Despite all the headlines about him since leaving office four weeks ago, the former president spoke forcefully of the importance of a free press, a right

which he said most of the world does not enjoy.

Asked later whether he was disturbed by all the media attention about the pardons and whether he was worried about his legacy, he said: "People always get it right over the long run, and the truth will prevail. So I'm not worried about that at all."

"A lot of the press ... may be

wrong," he said during his speech. "But in the end, the American public nearly always get it right."

He jokingly drew the line at the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1789, one of which made it a crime to insult the president. "I lost interest in that act when I found it doesn't apply to former presidents," he said with a grin.

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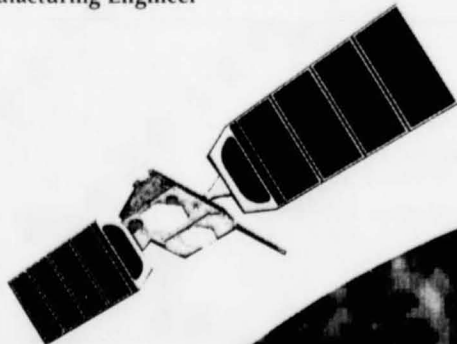
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