



## OPPOSING VIEWS

Should CSU instructors receive a cost of living adjustment in their salary?

OPINION 2

SJSU VOLLEYBALL  
**SPARTANS WIN FIRST MATCH**  
*SJSU hosts the Crowne Plaza Invitational this weekend*  
**SPORTS 5**

**FEATURE**  
 Students learn lessons in design  
**NEWS 6**

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# SPARTAN DAILY

VOLUME 121, NUMBER 9

WWW.THESPARTANDAILY.COM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

## Library art collection looks to provoke curiosity

Editor's note: This is the second of six stories the Spartan Daily will publish to profile the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library. - F.B.

By Alexandra Proca  
Daily Staff Writer

SJSU students Katie Boissicat rushes toward the blue wall next to the philosophy section on the 7th floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library. Smiling, she points to a sculpted beige owl hidden in a corrugated crack in the wall.

Her friend, Sylvia Tran, looks amused.

Boissicat and Tran, both sociology graduate students, have just discovered the Owl of Minerva, one of the 33 pieces of art that make up the "Recoleciones" public art collection in the new library.

Boissicat said that she had been strolling in the library for about a week, but she never noticed the owl until she overheard a tour guide.

"I think this is cool," Boissicat said.

Few minutes later, Tran and Boissicat headed toward the Wise Cracks, another piece of art on the library's 7th floor.

Tran remembered that she had just spotted some strange white lines on a window while passing a corridor.

"I don't know if it's art or scratches," Tran said. "It's too early to be vandalized."

"There are probably just scratches," Boissicat said, but her words froze in the air, once she started reading loud the wisdom lines quoted from world wide literature painted on the big window in the corridor.

"I didn't even notice they put art in the library," Tran said, "I took this place for granted."

Xadani Ramos, a senior majoring in aviation, is trying to find a puzzle behind the Vessel on the 3rd floor. The Vessel is a vase whose sides unveil the profile of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the dark area next to it.

When Ramos discovers the optical illusion, he goes around the vase to make sure he can see it from all sides. "I should show it to friends," Ramos said, slowly walking away.

Mel Chin created the installations together with Hann Saussy, the chair of Asian language department, and Robert Batchelor, professor at the history department, both at Stanford University. Chin said that he intended to create something that would provoke curiosity.

"There are no signs about the art," said Nancy Cardinet, a volunteer guide with the library. "It makes you discover."

Anne Simonson, program coordina-



Photos by Yvonne Pingue / Daily Staff

tor in the art history department of SJSU appreciated the imaginative character of the art collection in the library. "The locations were cleverly designed and there is a great sense of humor to the overall package," Simonson said.

Cardinet said that the name of the art collection, "Recoleciones," stands not only for its pure meaning in Spanish ("memories"), but also for gathering people and remembering them who they are. According to a library flyer, the Latin root "lect" — the base for the Spanish "recoleciones" — means both "to gather" and "to read."

Bob McDermand, outreach coordinator at King Library, has been supervising the art project throughout its development. McDermand said Chin's proposal stood out from other candidates because rather than making one large monumental installation, he divided it into many smaller ones.

"Besides," McDermand said, "the kind of work that he [Chin] had to commission in North Carolina is literally not as expensive as it is here in California."

Chin lives and works in North Carolina and commissioned the work in the Kin library in his home state.

Chin said that he designed 33 items because that is how far they got into the project. He said he still has money to design other items for the library, too.

According to McDermand, one percent of the money invested in city projects need to go to public work of art. Therefore, \$700,000 out of the \$70 million that came from the city was assigned to the art collection.

Chin said he wanted his artwork to compliment the collections of books. The artist looks at his creation as "a puzzle with an answer," he said.

"You can make your stories up, but the real story is in the books. Eventually, you'll discover what inspired the art," Chin said.

Unique art pieces part of \$700,000 collection

By Alexandra Proca  
Daily Staff Writer

### True and Through.

One of the four main pillars of the building visible from the Koret Atrium looks different than the others. That is because it is actually clad in veneers milled from an old redwood tree that used to grow where the library is sitting today, docent Nancy Cardinet said. The pillar goes all the way to the eighth floor and Cardinet said that it serves as an orientation point throughout the building.

### The Hearth

Placed in the corner reading area on the second floor, the hearth was intended as a place of meditation, said artist Mel Chin. The bricks that usually make the interior of the hearth have been shaped to look like books. The project is a homage to the books that have been burnt throughout history ... a lamentation for the books that we lost," Chin said.

### Golden Gate

Polished golden carburetors sitting on glass shelves make up the portal surrounding one of the doors to the special collection department on the fifth floor. The inspiration for this piece of art was drawn from a three Bay Area community sources: a Buddhist temple, the Golden Gate and cars, Cardinet said. The carburetors were collected from damp sites and then restored, McDermand said.

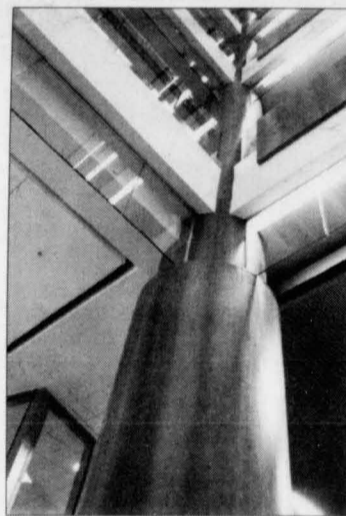
### Skeptacle

In a bright corner at the 5th floor, a dome-shaped, high-ceiling shelf is holding master's thesis. "It is made to resemble a beehive," McDermand said. In old English, "skep" means "beehive" and "spectacle," Cardinet said. McDermand said that the reason behind this analogy is that "thesis-writing is such an intensive process and covers all area of knowledge that it resembles the bustle in a beehive."

### Tectonic Tables

Not all tables in the Grand Reading Room on the eighth floor stay put. Although heavy, five of them move now and then in front of the glass wall that look downtown San Jose. The five tables together stand for the continents before they stood apart, McDermand said. Rolling the tables around the room represents the tectonic movements that eventually divided the continents, Cardinet said. Either gray or reddish, the tables are made out of stones brought from the continents they each represent, McDermand said.

Above: Mirrors are placed in between shelves of the Self-Help Section in the new Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library. The mirrors are a part of the 33-item "Recoleciones" art collection by artist Mel Chin.



Left: "True and Through" is a pillar that extends through the eighth floor of the library. This pillar is clad in veneers milled from an old redwood tree that used to grow where the library is situated today. Due to its unique appearance the pillar is easily separated from the other three main pillars.

## Student Life provides leadership opportunities

By Tony Burchyns  
Daily Senior Staff Writer

Staff members at the Office of Student Life and Leadership say they want students to know that education can, and does, extend beyond the classroom at San Jose State University.

According to a few of the center's coordinators, who oversee a range of campus activities, starting or joining a campus club or participating in a student leadership program is a great way to hone what likely could become life skills to pay the bills.

"There's a direct correlation between our leadership programs and the skills students will need to succeed in whatever employment atmosphere they choose to enter," said Nam Nguyen, the center's leadership development coordinator.

Team building, public speaking and active listening are just a few of the handy talents Nguyen said SJSU students can sharpen in an upcoming program called Leadership U, slated to begin Thursday, Oct. 2.

"Any student can jump into (Leadership U)," Nguyen said. "There's no screening of applicants, and the deadline to sign up is Sept. 29."

Nguyen said the six-part workshop series emphasizes fun and includes a spine-tingling ropes course adventure at City Beach in Fremont.

Despite the lack of prerequisites to enroll, only 25 spots exist in Leadership U, according to Student Life and Leadership information.

Another way SJSU students can get involved on campus is by joining or starting a campus club or organization, said Gregory Wolcott, associate director of student life and leadership.

Wolcott said SJSU usually recognizes about 200 organizations at any one time.

Each group, he said, attains official SJSU status by registering and/or renewing its charter at the Office of Student Life and Leadership, which is located in the Old Cafeteria Building.

"It takes eight people to start an official club," Wolcott said. "Plus, you need to be able to show how your idea is original and benefits the campus community."

It wouldn't make sense to have 20 clubs doing the same thing, he said. John Travis, an administrative assistant in the center, said the number of registered organizations rises as the year goes on.

"I'd say we have about 180 core groups, including the fraternities and sororities, that are always in place, and about 30 to 40 others that sign up and then vanish," Travis said.

By the end of last year, 214 clubs and organizations had registered, Travis said.

"There are a lot of groups that form temporarily, like the Graduation Committee, and things like that," he said.

A new directory of student organizations will be available Oct. 1 in Office of Student Life and Leadership, according to the center's

See STUDENTS, page 4

## AmeriCorps offers students job experience

By Janet Pak  
Daily Staff Writer

A campus program aimed at providing students job experience performing community service projects is hiring.

Debra David, director of the Center for Service-Learning, an organization that sets up service learning projects with community organizations and the school.

This is the first year of the program called Bridging Borders AmeriCorps.

The center is building on a small program from last year. Students serve as liaisons between the community and in classes as service learning according to David.

The program that offers the job is the Bridging Borders AmeriCorps

that involves San Jose State University students in service to immigrant communities in San Jose according to Carlee Howie, project coordinator for the Center for Service-Learning.

"The community said they couldn't have done it without them. The faculty said it made the experience much better for them. AmeriCorps members said they grew a lot personally and professionally," David said.

"The program is hiring 42 to 60 students to serve in the program," said David. "And they will serve a required one year term."

David said her goal is to increase the number of students who are helping the community especially connected to classes and within.

Howie was in the AmeriCorps Vista program which involved indirect service-learning where she worked at the center helping them building capacity and meet the community needs.

Students interested in the program fill out an application and go through a series of interviews and background checks before they are selected for the program according to Howie.

The program is funded through a grant from the governor's office, which helps to pay for the stipends, according to Dana Lapham, student development specialist who handles fundraising.

A \$250 monthly stipend is given to students in the program and a \$1,250 scholarship after completion of the program.

Students are required to commit 10-12 hours a week for a year in the program, said Howie. They also are not allowed to have jobs outside of the program.

Howie said students once selected for the program are put in teams of two or more based on their interests, skills and strengths with local community based organizations and helping children of immigrant families to obtain health, social and educational services.

Other direct service-learning projects students can participate in including peer leaders for university service-learning, service advocates and community tutors, according to Howie.

See AMERICORPS, page 4

## Maze of meditation

By JaShong King  
Daily Staff Writer

A string of students wait in front of an elaborate design stretched across a large conference room floor.

The first one takes off his shoes as he prepares.

"Do you have a reflective question?" asks SJSpirit chaplain Roger Wharton. John Henderson pauses for a moment, then answers that he does.

His loose jeans curled around his ankles, Henderson steps off with bare socks onto the patterned canvas and begins walking.

Every semester, students of the create a meaningful life class, as well as anybody else intrigued by the designs laid on the floor of the Student Union

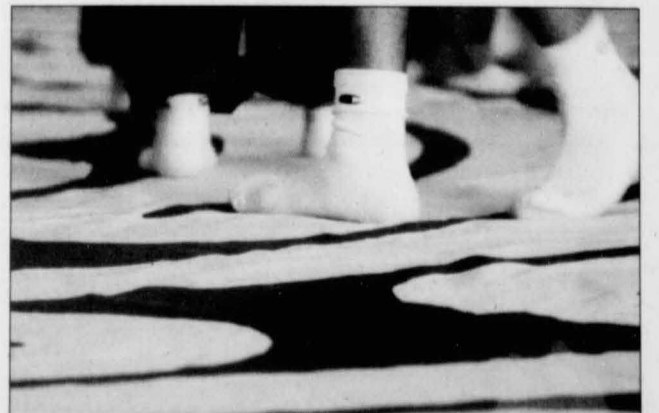
Barrett Ballroom, walk the twisting paths of the labyrinth as they search for answers to any questions they might have as part of their lecture for the day.

"The labyrinths have been around for 4,000 years," said Wharton, chaplain of organization that brings the labyrinth to campus. "They come in different shapes, designs and patterns and they're found in just about every culture."

Labyrinths have been used throughout the ages for meditation and reflection, according to Wharton. The SJSpirit labyrinth is based on a design embedded on the floor of the Chartres Cathedral in France, Wharton said.

SJSpirit is a 125-year-old, cross-religious campus organization that does

See MAZE, page 4



Janean Brongersma / Daily Staff

Students in Gonzaga da Gama's creating a meaningful life class paused to meditate as they walked through a labyrinth in the Student Union Ballroom Tuesday.



# opposing views:

## Should instructors in the CSU system receive a

**YES** | Losing teachers as a result of living costs harms students

With budget cuts looming in the air, the last thing San Jose State University students need to worry about is losing professors because of low salaries and high-priced housing.

Apparently, "finding and keeping faculty" was considered a critical issue by the campus and was revealed in "A Document of the SJSU Academic Senate" in spring 2001.

According to the document, "SJSU is located in one of the highest cost-of-living areas in the country. An assistant professor's salary of \$47,000 in Los Angeles would need to be \$53,000 in San Jose to provide an equivalent standard of living."

*"Teachers are essential in helping mold the future of America — doing what is necessary to help them do their job is essential."*



ANNELINDA AGUAYO

entation — a drop from 60 in the past three years.

If we lose professors then it is the school's responsibility to find replacements. But then again, low pay and high-living expenses is hardly attractive to potential candidates.

"A Document of the SJSU Academic Senate" stated that "the inability to hire faculty can lead to impaction in certain programs which then limits access for students and creates funding difficulties for the entire campus."

Many professors on the campus not only take on the responsibility of teaching three or more classes, but they also take on duties within their department. When there are no professors handling those jobs, then the students and the whole department suffer.

It takes a special kind of person to be a teacher.

Despite their heavy workloads, a lot of professors at SJSU do what they can to help their students.

It would be a shame to lose such caring professors because they could not afford to stay in the area.

Teachers are essential in helping mold the future of America — doing what is necessary to help them do their job is essential.

It is not too much to adjust faculty salaries in the California State University system in order to help its employees live a little better.

The increase in pay would not only help them with their housing situation, but it would also help them with other expenses that are a part of everyday life.

Let's not forget that professors at SJSU have a life outside of the campus and they need to survive, too.

But this does not include the cost of groceries, utilities and personal items that a person needs to function, and not to mention family expenses — which are different for everyone.

This means that some professors at SJSU are barely making ends meet, and this could be forcing them to leave the school to take teaching positions in more affordable areas.

It is also possible that they could be taking jobs within the industry they teach in because of greater income potential.

In the most recent online issue, Forbes.com ranked San Jose as No. 1 under the "Most Overpriced Places" to live in the United States, with the median home price of \$565,000.

According to the SJSU Web site, faculty salaries for a 12-month period for the 2002-2003 year, ranged from \$34,908 - \$108,744. You do the math.

SJSU's department of communications and public affairs said that there were only 20 new faculty members at this fall's faculty orientation

Annelinda Aguayo is a Spartan Daily Senior Staff Writer.

**NO** | Professors should tough out the high living expenses

Teaching is not the career to turn to if you want to become rich.

As professors get frustrated with their low salaries and high rent, there is lack of funding throughout all of the California State Universities.

Nearly \$304 million, after fee revenues, was cut from the 2004 budget. Instead of giving money to the professors, it should be redirected toward recruiting new students.

Nearly 30,000 students will not be admissible into 13 CSU campuses, according to San Jose State University interim President Joe Crowley.

If students are not flowing into the university, how can revenue expect to increase? The potential money given to increase current professors salaries should be focused on students and making the institution successful.

Crowley suggests looking for financial support from the 140,000 living alums. Currently, he raises the issue that the "... institution is not structurally designed to improve the potential dollars it has."

If efforts are made towards improving potential revenues at state, this can help all aspects of the institution, not just the professors.

SJSU is a communion of subjects, not just individuals. The institution as a whole should work toward improving the overall status of the state.

The professors should not expect to receive "living expense" checks while the CSU — specifically SJSU — struggles with its own financial problems.

If the professors can hang tight for a couple of years as both the state of California and SJSU refocus their financial directions, perhaps they can work with the system and deal with the salaries they have now.

Before entering into the teaching profession, professors must consider several aspects of their future career.

While it is unfortunate that the educational field is not paid well, it is not a popular sought out job because of the money. It is, however, a noble, positive and encouraging career.

Professors should acknowledge this early in the career and either pursue other professions around their expertise or accept the responsibilities, downfalls and salaries associated with being a professor.

Professors do have advantages with their career. Generally, the vacations are the same as students. If professors want an increase in salaries to compensate for high rent, they should consider working a full year instead of two-thirds of a year.

While the rent may be more expensive in the bustling metropolis of Northern California, the Bay Area offers location, location, location.

Working in the Bay Area, professors also have the pleasure of living in the culturally diverse, historically rich and bustling metropolis.

Diversity, activities and weather are all incentives to move and be a part of Northern California.

SJSU, unlike Humboldt State, Sonoma State or Fresno State, is part of an immediate and larger community. This area encourages learning, multiculturalism and constant development.

While SJSU may have a difficult time recruiting professors to teach because of the cost of living, there are other living alternatives.

Nearby cities such as Gilroy, Livermore and Tracy offer cheaper housing. Though the median price of a single-family home may be \$545,000 in Santa Clara Valley, the median price in Gilroy is \$425,000 and in Tracy it is \$260,000, according to the Web sites of the East Bay Times and "Preferred Real Estate Group."

While professors are a necessity to SJSU, they are just one aspect of the institution. Students do not get subsidized to go to school here. Professors shouldn't either.

*"The potential money given to increase current professors salaries should be focused on students and making the institution successful."*



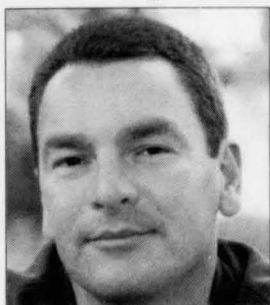
JENNIFER MCLAIN

Jennifer McLain is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.



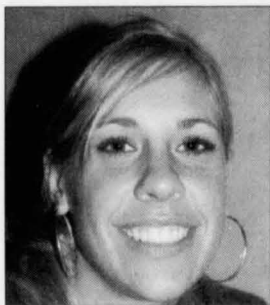
ILLUSTRATION BY TONY ABAD

## campusvoices



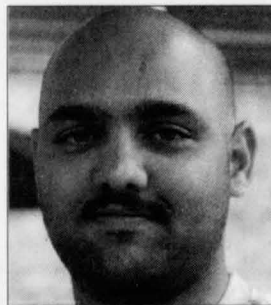
*"Yes, a lot of other industries have a cost of living allowance."*

**Robert Rosales**  
junior, occupational therapy



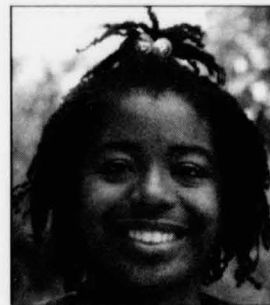
*"Yes, they should. I commute an hour-and-a-half from Modesto just to go to school here because the cost of living in San Jose is way too expensive."*

**Hayley Henderson**  
junior, advertising



*"If it is an outrageous amount of money, then I don't think students should have to pay for that."*

**Ninad Bhav**  
senior,  
aerospace engineering



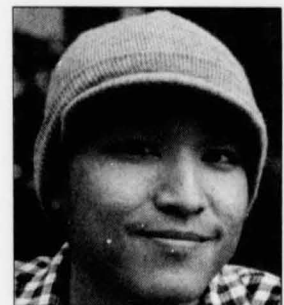
*"They should get paid more. It's like financial aid. If the cost of living goes up, students get more aid. It should be the same for teachers."*

**Lashante Harris**  
junior, nursing



*"Yes, it's really expensive to live here. I think the teachers do a good job, and I think they really care about the students."*

**Mary Rosentel**  
graduate student,  
political science



*"I think there should be an adjustment because it would seem more fair. Different areas have different expenses and that should be considered."*

**Noel Aung**  
junior,  
electrical engineering

Compiled by Michelle Meier | Photos by Rina Ota

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SPARTAN DAILY (USPS#509-480) is published every school day for (full academic year) \$35 and (semester) \$20. Periodicals postage paid at San Jose. Mail subscriptions accepted on a remainder of semester basis. Spartan Daily, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Spartan Daily, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149

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A viewpoint is the same as a letter to the editor, except it is a 400-word response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily. Submissions become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, label and length. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

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# STUDENTS |

continued from page 1

brochure. While students are, of course, free to associate with one another and form whatever private clubs they want in their free time, the perks of seeking official recognition on campus, Wolcott said, include funding opportunities, a campus mailing address and mailbox and free access to Student Union facilities for meetings and social gatherings. When it comes to applying for Associated Students funds, "you must be registered," Wolcott said. Both Wolcott and Nguyen said reaching out to freshmen is a priority at the Office of Student Life and Leadership. While fledgling Spartans might, for the moment, feel overwhelmed by the bustling pace of this 30,000-student institution, "there's no time like the present to get involved with student life," Nguyen said. To attract incoming students to leadership opportunities on campus, Nguyen said she attended freshman orientation meetings over the summer and has already visited groups of new students in residence halls. Wolcott said he attended orientation as well and his office shares information about student activities with residential advisors. In addition, Wolcott said nearly 2,000 students took part in a brand new overnight orientation program organized by Student Life and Leadership and offered over the summer. "The entering students had a chance to relax, feel connected and

learn about opportunities to get involved with clubs and programs," he said. Older SJSU students who return to school after years of pursuing jobs and/or families can stay connected through specialized Student Life and Leadership orientation programs and activities, said Jane Boyd, the center's re-entry and commuter help program coordinator. The Brown Bag Lunch Series, for instance, provides the perfect setting for older, commuting students to meet and discuss issues relevant to their SJSU experiences, Boyd said. When it comes to starting up clubs and getting involved on campus, Boyd said older SJSU students aren't shy. "Mom's on a Mission," a student club for single moms, is one example of older students connecting through the Office of Student Life and Leadership, Boyd said. According to Boyd, the average age of an SJSU student is 29. "We also have several hundred students in our over-60 programs," she said. In fact, the woman who was student body president when former SJSU President Robert Caret took office was actually older than Caret, Boyd said. "I remember him cracking jokes about that when he got here," Boyd said. Nguyen said she encourages students of all ages to enroll in the center's leadership programs. "We look for a diversity of students, all ages and backgrounds, to get involved," she said. "Meeting new students is the best part of my job."

# MAZE | *Labyrinth takes students on spiritual journey*

continued from page 1

campus ministry as well as work with individuals who are interested in the different aspects of spirituality, according to Wharton. Meanwhile, the students of the class shuffled around the canvas mat, starting down at the twisting path in front of them. Sometimes they would bump into one another. Others would scratch their heads as they tried to gauge how far they had left to walk or figure out where they were. "It looks kind of trippy," said Pablo Aguirre, an undeclared freshman, as he watched other students wander through the maze. "It's interesting," said freshman art major Crystal DeLuca, who is also in the class. "I just see people walk and I wonder what they're thinking." Speaking to the class, Wharton gave some suggestions to the students before they started their walk. "One of the things to do is come into the labyrinth with a reflective question. Might be a question about a career or a vocation," Wharton said. "You have to play with that question to process it, to create with it," as well as leave open the possibility of inspiration from "a higher source," according to Wharton. The instructor for the class, Assistant Professor Gonzaga da Gama, explained why he felt it was important for students to experience the labyrinth. "I tried this a few semesters ago, and I thought it was wonderful for people, students, with busy days and lives," said da Gama. "I wanted them to be one by one, walk the labyrinth and experi-



Janean Brongersma / Daily Staff

Joe Shreve, a sophomore journalism major, left, and Justin Paysinger, an undeclared freshman, right, walked through the labyrinth with classmates on Tuesday as Shakira Khan, an undeclared freshman, sits in the center. This really doesn't do it for me." But at least one student thought the experience was worthwhile. "I feel a little better," said freshman engineering major Chris Nguyen. It's sort of like a safe point where everything seems clear. You just think and meditate." For da Gama that experience alone is worth bringing his class to the labyrinth. "It's an opportunity for them to have 30 minutes of quiet in the midst of the chaos of being a college student," he said. The SJSpirit labyrinth will also be open Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Barrett Ballroom on the third floor of the Student Union.

# State finance director paints rosier picture of California deficit

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California's finance director told a budget study committee Tuesday that California took in more revenue than it spent in July and August, and said there is a public "misconception" that a \$38.2 billion deficit still exists. Steve Peace disputed claims in television ads featuring recall gubernatorial candidate Arnold Schwarzenegger that the state deficit continues to grow rapidly. "Contrary to Arnold's statement that revenue was running behind spending by \$29 million each day, we are actually taking in \$6 million more per day than we are spending right now," Peace said of state revenue during the traditionally slow summer period. Peace said the revenue shortfall would have a hangover of an estimated \$7.9 billion for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004. But if economic conditions improve the left-over deficit could be as low as \$3.9 billion, Peace said, not involving the reserve of \$2.2 billion established in the 2003-2004 budget.

Peace testified at a hearing of the California Commission on Tax Policy in the New Economy. The two-year-old commission is to make recommendations later this year on steady California government revenue after periods of unexpected big deficits and surpluses since the early 1990s. Among recommendations being considered for overhaul of California's budget process is changing from a one-year period to two. "We in essence did a two-year budget this year," Peace said of the plan adopted by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Gray Davis this summer designed to bring the state out of the red. Peace was questioned by commission member Glen Rossman of San Jose about the amount of spending cuts made in the current budget. Peace said: "I'm the guy who has been putting out the layoff notices." An executive order by Davis in July cut state jobs by 19,000 positions and asked state department heads to find another 20 percent in job eliminations for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Also hit was higher education,

which had \$1 billion removed from its coffers. The largest state expenditure of \$29 billion for K-12 schools has remained steady for the past five years, he said. Peace and commission member Sean Burton of Los Angeles both noted that California's tax revenue future is troubled by growing percentages of young and elderly lower-income people, compared to a declining segment of Californians with high earnings. "We're in danger of not meeting our obligations to our poorest citizens," said Burton, a Warner Bros. vice president. "I feel there is real anger and real concern." The commission has other hearings Sept. 25 in San Francisco, Oct. 23 in San Diego and Nov. 17 in Sacramento as it nears issuing its recommendations. Options suggested at eight hearings held this year include taxation of Internet sales, expanding sales taxes from products to services, and lowering the two-thirds Legislature requirement for budget approval. Some suggested changes could require voter-approved amendments to the California Constitution.

# AMERICORPS |

continued from page 1

As leaders, they serve as volunteers to help ensure the SJSU service-learning students are placed in meaningful service, communicating with the students' service-learning professors and representing the community in classes. Service advocates deliver direct health and or social services to the clients their hosting community based organization serves. Some responsibilities involve case management, community outreach and education. Community tutors provide tutoring to adults and or children served by their hosting community based organization. Tutors working with adults

could tutors English as a second language, citizenship and or computer literacy. Howie found her experience to be moving. "The experience far outweighs the time of the program and what you learned," Howie said. She said she applied for the program out of her desire to service the community. Hiring won't officially begin until the end of this month according to Howie. At a recruiting event Tuesday, some students expressed an interest in participating because of the opportunities the experience provides. Allen Arcibal, a senior business major, said he was thinking about applying because of his brother's experience. Arcibal said his brother

worked in a company that sponsored the program. "It was cool and you get to meet a lot of kids," Arcibal said. Other students such as Tahira Vickers are already into her third week in the program. The senior political science major said she applied for the program because she liked their principles and what they stood for. "I want to get involved with the community and work with children," said Vickers. "I'm there for the kids." Vickers works at City Year as a community event coordinator. She said she wants to take skills from her experience to do child advocacy work helping them in the community.

# Bay Area rents least affordable in nation

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Apartment rents in San Jose, San Francisco, and Orange County are among the highest in the nation, making California the state most inhospitable to low income renters, according to a new national survey published by the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Assuming that renters spend no more than 30 percent of their income on housing, the report released Monday lists San Jose and San Francisco as the nation's least affordable metropolitan areas, where renters must earn at least \$70,000 a year to afford a two-bedroom apartment. Los Angeles and Orange County residents must earn over \$40,000 a year. The top-ten list of least affordable cities also includes Oakland and Santa Cruz. The state's minimum-wage workers, those earning \$6.75 per hour, are hit hardest by the high rents since their take-home pay is only \$14,000 per year. "It is appalling that here in America, the richest country in the world, we have millions of people working full-time ... who cannot afford decent, modest rental housing," said the organization's president, Sheila Crowley, in a statement.

National rental rates have spiraled upward, growing by nearly 40 percent since 1999, the report said. The limited number of units, low wages, and an increased number of immigrants working in service-oriented industries have made California one of the worst places for low income renters. "Los Angeles has the largest proportion of low-wage workers of any metro area in the country," said Jan Breidenbach, executive director of the Southern California Association

of Non-Profit Housing. Parts of Los Angeles and Anaheim and Santa Ana in Orange County are "some of the most overcrowded in the country," she said. Bay Area rent prices, despite less crowding, are still much higher than Los Angeles, Boston, and New York. Part of the reason is that there is a greater number of high-income earners in the Bay Area than in other parts of the state, who are able to afford higher rents and more expensive homes.

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## Bling, bling ...



August Patterson / Daily Staff

Liz Hoffman, an undeclared sophomore, looks at jewelry from a vendor in front of the Art Quad on Tuesday afternoon. Numerous vendors, ranging from arts and crafts dealers to textile sellers, can be found lining the table areas down the Paseo de San Antonio walk way near the Student Union.

## Students get lesson on design

By Robert Hong  
Daily Staff Writer

The lights were dim in room 133 of the Art building as students and faculty gathered to see the presentation of assistant professor Diana Seah on Tuesday.

Seah, who came to San Jose State University in the fall of 2002, is the newest assistant professor in the department. She opened the lecture by discussing her childhood in Singapore, and her growing fascination with architecture.

"Since I was born in Singapore, I like to do work that involves that culture as well," she said.

Seah said the central theme of her work has always revolved around the fusion of East and West.

She went on to discuss her personal involvement and study of interior design.

According to Jo Hernandez, the

director of the gallery in the school of art and design, Seah's presentation is the second in a series of lectures intended to introduce students to different aspects of the department.

"We hope that it will spark interest in students from different fields," Hernandez said.

After receiving a degree in design from Ohio State University, Seah said she has accomplished much in her field of work, both in and out of the United States.

"My main project so far has been on the Enteos Club in Indonesia," she said.

The Enteos Club was a large task for Seah, in which she was the head designer on a 72-story structure, which included 4 restaurants and a billiards area.

Before coming to SJSU, Seah previously taught at Miami University in Ohio, Fresno State and the University of Oklahoma. During her time as an architect, she has also done work in

space planning, cost estimation, corporate design, construction drawing and detailing.

"(Professor Seah) is a great designer, not just interior, but in graphic also," said Renee Laput, a junior majoring in interior design. "She always has great ideas for students, and her work is very well rounded."

Throughout her lecture, Seah showed slides of her previous work as well as her own concepts. She not only included her work on Enteos, but also the on Pythian Building in Iowa and her work revitalizing the town square in Eldora, Iowa.

Seah said her heritage is a key factor in all of her projects. Much of her work deals with adaptive reuse of historic structures.

"I really feel strongly about the importance of historic buildings," she said. "If you destroy the inside, it destroys the integrity of the building. The inside of a structure retains its history and heritage."

## Study: Weak needle exchange efforts leave Calif. addicts at risk

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Public policies on distributing clean needles to prevent the spread of HIV are inconsistent across California, with the same local governments that fund needle exchange programs charging addicts with possession of drug paraphernalia, according to a report released Tuesday.

The situation, which results from political concerns taking precedence over health needs, has undermined a method proven to reduce HIV transmission and "amounts to a death sentence" for injection drug users, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said in its report.

The organization's position is that the possession and distribution of needles for HIV-prevention purposes should be decriminalized in California and across the country.

Since 1999, California has allowed local elected officials to authorize needle exchange efforts through emergency orders that must be renewed every two weeks. At least eight counties, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, and the city of San Diego have done so.

But the state, home to nearly one-eighth of the reported AIDS cases in the United States, is also one of only five

in the nation where syringes can't be bought legally without a prescription.

"The hypocrisy in California law, the discrepancy between the need for needle exchange and the restrictions on their use, is striking," said Jonathan Cohen, the report's author.

More than two decades into the epidemic, injection drug use accounts for at least 36 percent of all reported AIDS cases in the U.S. and more than half of the cases among women, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Included in those figures are patients who shared needles or had sex with an infected drug user.

The report was issued as a bill that would allow residents to buy up to 30 syringes at a pharmacy without a prescription awaits Gov. Gray Davis' signature. The governor vetoed a similar measure last year, but has not taken a position on the current legislation, according to Davis' office.

In its report, Human Rights Watch focused exclusively on California, but said it chose the state as a case study of what is happening nationally in the United States, where "the ideology of the 'war on drugs' has trumped both reason and reality," according to the group.

Although the CDC recommends sterile equipment as the best way to

keep HIV from reaching drug users and their sex partners, the U.S. government since 1988 has banned federal dollars from being used to promote needle exchange programs. Opponents of the programs, including President George Bush, argue that using public dollars to provide addicts with needles amounts to government-sanctioned drug use.

Human Rights Watch gathered testimonials from 67 intravenous drug users. Some of them alleged that they had been repeatedly harassed by police after picking up their supplies from authorized exchange programs, while others said they avoided needle exchange sites because they were afraid of being arrested.

A police official in Oakland, Calif. who was interviewed for the report, however, said that while officers did not target clients of exchange programs, many such programs are located in drug-affected communities they patrol.

According to Glenn Backes of the Drug Policy Alliance Network in Sacramento, many large California counties, including Riverside and Sacramento, have not authorized needle exchange programs despite support for them from local public health officials.

## Assembly approves changes to sex education in public schools

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — The state Assembly approved a bill Tuesday that would streamline the process for allowing students to take sex education classes, over Republicans' objections that it would weaken parental say.

The bill, by Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, would require schools to send notices to parents at the beginning of the school year alerting them of the dates students will take sex education, HIV/AIDS prevention classes and if they will take student health surveys.

Kuehl said her bill would gather the scattered and sometimes conflicting notification requirements and put them into one place. "The directions for the school districts, parents and teachers will be unified and much more easily followed."

If parents do not want their children to attend those classes or take surveys, they would have to notify the school — the same "opt-out" system schools have now for sex and HIV/AIDS education.

Though schools aren't required to teach sex education, 98 percent of them do. "Even under the current patchwork of the law, you always had to opt your child out of sex ed and HIV/AIDS instruction," Kuehl said.

The programs all have different deadlines and procedures for parental notification, said Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento. Under Kuehl's bill, those would be consolidated and schools would have to send the announcements just once, at the beginning of the school year.

Steinberg said parents are more likely to be looking for letters from school at the beginning of the school year.

But Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, R-Lancaster, said she worried that "with backpacks full of information" that come home at the beginning of the year, parents could miss the notice.

Steinberg said the law still required teachers to stress that abstinence was the only sure way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Several Republican Assembly members objected to the bill, saying it would take the decision away from parents.

"What you're saying in this bill is that as a parent, I'm too stupid or too lazy to lend a voice to this argument," said Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia, R-Cathedral City.

Those opposing the bill also objected to allowing the surveys without

parental permission, some of which ask questions about drug use and sexual behavior.

The bill's supporters say that the surveys measure how well schools are teaching sex education, and with the opt-in system, the surveys' return rates were often so low that the results weren't statistically significant.

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