

Student workshop turns designs into theater sets

By Ron Pangrac
Daily Staff Writer

Behind the University Theatre in Hugh Gillis Hall is the Scene Shop, a workshop with two band saws, a table saw and a range of other tools along with an assortment of art and construction supplies from paint to lumber and sandpaper.

Sets for "The Amen Corner," "The Crucible" and other theatrical productions for the year are being created here.

Working from ideas developed for a play's sets by a student designer and a theater professor, students help turn two-dimensional pictures and small-scale models into the scenery that will be populated by actors in front of a live audience.

"It's essentially one gigantic art class," said John Chavez, a senior majoring in radio, television and film. "You're working with tools more sophisticated than a paintbrush and a palette, but it's still an art class."

Daniel Dziubczynski, a graduate student majoring in art, has helped translate ideas into sets on a number of shows.

He said the first step is to plan the structure of the set.

"We get working drawings, we get a model ... of what it's supposed to look like," Dziubczynski said. "We turn (those) around and start breaking it down into various components. We'll start building the structure behind it," he said.

The two main elements of a set's structure are platforms to allow varying elevations on the stage, and flats — panels of different size, which will be connected and decorated to represent walls or landscapes.

"Once we build that structure, we'll turn it back around and we'll lay on the detail to make it look like the drawings we have for the show," he said. Dziubczynski said he has not been formally trained in theater design, so he handles a set like an art project.

"I approach it from more of a sculptural point of view," he said.

"It might not be the best way or the proscribed way, but it works."

John York, the scene shop manager, said that due to budget concerns, the department decided to make one basic stage set up that all of this year's plays will utilize.

"All the productions are going to use the same platform layout, and we're going to change things like the walls," York said. "We'll add to

and take away from the basic structure depending on the needs of the play."

When the plans for a set are ready, students do much of the actual work of building it.

"I do everything from constructing flats and platforms to painting," said Joey Lin, a senior majoring in television, radio, film and theater.

Lin said new flats are built only when an irregular size is needed.

"Flats are mostly regular. We try to save all the regular flats to recycle," he said.

Lin also works as a shop assistant.

"There are a lot of students that come in for class credit hours. John York will delegate a job to me and I will have a crew work on it," he said.

Because it is a workshop, students are trained on the safe use of tools.

"They gave a safety lecture," Chavez said. "They covered it in two parts — one for working in the theater in general and one for assembling set pieces."

Chavez said he was surprised by the amount of cooperation that building a set involves.

"In other art classes I've taken, it's more solitary. If it's a sculpting art class, I'm molding my own statue. If it's a drawing art class, I'm painting my own picture," he said. "I wasn't prepared for the amount of teamwork."

On Wednesday afternoon, Lana Dykstra, a sophomore majoring in theater arts, was sanding down a large flat to be used again later. Dziubczynski helped her move the six-foot tall item to an open spot on the floor.

"I'm doing it for a class, but I really like it," Dykstra said.

"I can't stand being lectured. I'd much rather being doing physical work."

By helping build sets, Dykstra said she is learning about the efforts that go into a theater production.

"So much is put into a show," she said. "I never really had an idea of that before I worked in the shop."

Right: From left, senior David Guzzetta, a theater arts major, stands on a ladder to fix one of the lights on the Amen Corner set in the University Theater in Hugh Gillis Hall Wednesday afternoon. Nick Ruiz, a junior television, radio, film and theater major, puts tape on the seams of boards to make them look like one piece on the set.

Below: Lana Dykstra, a sophomore theater arts major, cleans a wooden board Wednesday in preparation for painting in the scene shop in Hugh Gillis Hall.



Photos by Yvonne Pingue / Daily Staff

Bomb scare turns out 'harmless'

By Ken Lotich
Daily Staff Writer

A suspicious black motorcycle carrier container was reported Wednesday morning at the intersection of Ninth and San Fernando streets according to San Jose Police Department public information officer Gina Teppoorten.

A San Jose State University grounds worker placed the call to the University Police Department at 6:05 a.m. UPD Officer Jason Martinez and Cpl. Lee Tassio arrived at 6:07 a.m., said Sylvia Hutchinson, director of communications and public affairs at SJSU.

The San Jose Police Department was notified, and arrived at the site at 6:31 a.m. They contacted their bomb squad to check out the container.

The bomb squad arrived at the scene at 6:55 a.m. Twelve officers made up the squad, including on-call bomb technicians Sgt. Don Harris and Officer Richard Sugimoto, said Teppoorten.

The Ninth Street Plaza entrance near the corporation yard was closed off, extending to the signal lights located north of the Industrial Studies building to the ATM machines, said Hutchinson.

The corporation yard and the Industrial Studies building were evacuated as well, said Hutchinson.

Hutchinson said the number of people evacuated from the yard and building was unknown.

The San Jose Police Department

bomb squad deemed the case harmless and the area was cleared at 8:44 a.m., Teppoorten said.

UPD reports described the container as a black motorcycle cargo carrier container, approximately one-and-a-half feet long, one foot wide, and one foot tall.

Teppoorten said an article referring to biological testing from the Sierra Club was found by the case.

According to the Sierra Club official Web site, the Sierra Club is an environmental organization founded in 1892. Their mission is to "Explore, enjoy and protect the planet."

Hutchinson said the incident is still under investigation.

UPD asks if anyone has information regarding this or any other incident please contact UPD at (408) 924-2222.

If a student would like to report information confidentially, they can call Crime Stoppers at (408) 947-STOP or visit the report page at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/police>.

ESL |

continued from page 1

"We teach English as a first step in training for a high enough score to pass the TOEFL," he said.

We also have a placement test to determine their level to help students who might have more problems with the ongoing language barriers, he said.

Webb said the difficulties might include getting comfortable with their new learning and living environment.

"It is more difficult to get settled in and learn things," he said. "And, for most of them, it's the first time living in the area. The grocery stores, restaurants, bus system and transportation are always a big challenge."

Vananh Thanh, a senior art major who is a student assistant at the Mosaic Cross-Cultural Center, said ESL students are hardworking.

"I think they need more attention and have extra work, they work harder because of the language and have more work to do," she said. "Try to understand the ESL student. They need understanding."

Thanh said she sees how students

strive to translate their native language into English to survive.

"There are many levels of ESL," she said. "In general, people not born here might have to translate every single word."

Thanh said Mosaic offers ESL workshops, and it is open for everyone as well as ESL students.

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Spartans drown Otters

By Ian Ross
Daily Staff Writer

The Spartans men's soccer team upped their unbeaten streak to four games with a 3-1 victory against Cal State Monterey Bay Wednesday at Spartan Soccer Field.

San Jose State University improved their record to 5-1-2 while handing the Otters their sixth consecutive loss.

Striker Johnny Gonzalez and midfielder Jose Flores provided the scoring punch and the Spartans defense held CSUMB to one shot on goal the entire game.

Gonzalez opened the scoring in the 32nd minute on an assist from midfielder Jose Juarez. The Spartans attacked down the right side of the field and Juarez played a through ball to Gonzalez.

Otters goalkeeper Jared Racz came out to challenge the shot. Gonzalez chipped it over Racz into the left side of the goal for his fifth score of the season.

"I was making a near post run and Jose Juarez flicked the ball to me over the defenders," Gonzalez said. "I saw the goalie coming out so I shot for the far post and luckily it went in."

SJSU took the 1-0 lead into half-time. The Spartans defense, led by Richard Halvorsen, Chris Mackey and Dylan Pender, prevented the Otters from getting off a single shot attempt in the first half. The Spartans out shot the Otters 17-1.

"Our defense has been the rock of this team," said Gary St. Clair, the Spartans head coach. "We've been changing the rest of the team (with substitutions) except those three guys, because we have no one else." The Spartans scored their second

goal in the 63rd minute. Midfielder Daniel Perez sent a touch pass to Flores just beyond the midfield line. Flores made a run toward the goalkeeper's box, eluding defenders left and right. Once inside the box, Flores placed the ball into the right side of the goal, his third of the season.

St. Clair said that Flores was the man of the match for SJSU. "Soccer is like any other sport," he said. "You need players once in a while to make a play and (Flores) did."

The Otters got back into the game in the 69th minute, scoring a controversial goal on their lone shot of the game.

After an initial shot attempt, Otter defender Nick Lackey got behind the Spartan defense for a one-on-one opportunity against Spartan goalkeeper Eddie Dominguez. One of the linesmen raised his flag for an offside call on the play as Lackey put the ball into the back of the Spartan goal to pull within 2-1.

The Spartans bench was unhappy with the call but the referee allowed the goal to stand.

"He looked offside to me," St. Clair said. "When the lineman puts his flag up, the players stop playing. Fortunately, it didn't hurt us."

CSUMB coach Artie Cairel, saw the play differently. "(Lackey) took the initial shot and deflected it over the top (of the defense) and then played (the ball)," Cairel said. "At no point was he offside because he took the initial shot."

Cairel said that CSUMB forward Daniel Benito was offside but he didn't play the ball so the goal should have counted.

The Spartans regrouped and got their third goal of the game in the

77th minute on Flores' second goal of the afternoon.

Forward Tim McKinney received the ball inside the goalkeeper's box on the right side of the field. McKinney crossed the ball in front of the goal and Flores headed it past Racz to put the Spartans up 3-1.

"He was open so I got him the ball," McKinney said. "My strategy is that if I don't have an open shot, but I see someone else has a better opportunity, I just pass it off to them."

Cairel said, despite the loss, he was happy with his team's play against SJSU, now nationally ranked in the Soccer America poll.

"Anytime you play the No. 23 team in the nation, you expect a tough game," he said. "You couldn't have asked for a better script, except for us getting the fourth goal instead."

St. Clair said playing on the Spartan Soccer Field as opposed to Spartan Stadium is a challenge for his team.

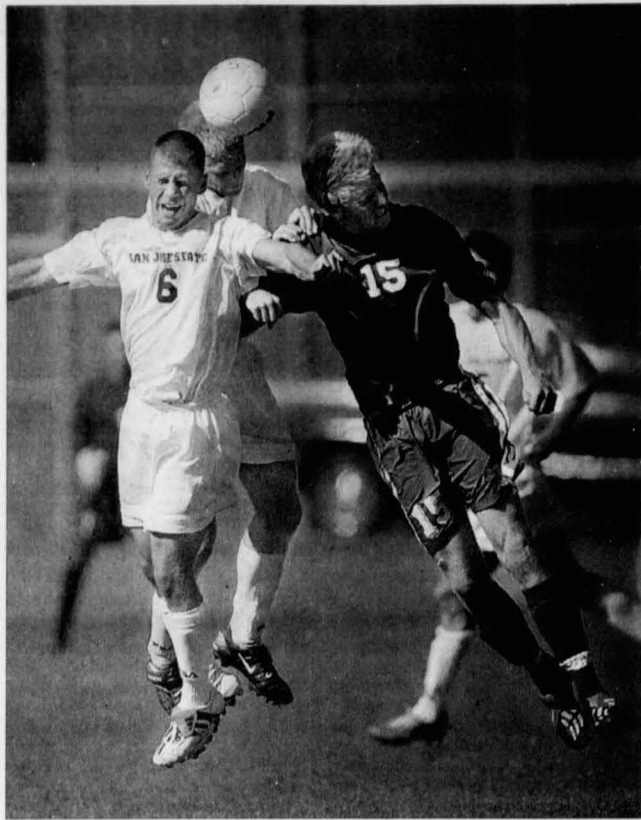
"The first thing you have to do is get the players up," he said. "It's a dead atmosphere out here."

The Spartans only play one more game in Spartan Stadium this season, on Sunday night against the University of San Francisco.

St. Clair hopes to have some of his injured players back on Sunday.

The Spartans were missing several key starters against CSUMB due to injuries and suspensions. The Otters were also missing three starters, said CSUMB head coach Cairel.

Forward Randy Poggio, the Spartans leading goal scorer through the first seven games, missed Wednesday's game due to a red card ejection for head butting an opponent during Sunday's game against Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Poggio



Autumn Cruz / Daily Staff

Spartan midfielder Aaron Perego, left, and defender Dylan Pender go for a header with Cal State Monterey Bay forward Justin Arthur Wednesday during the first half of San Jose State University's game against CSUMB at the Spartan Soccer Field.

will be eligible to play against USF on Sunday.

Midfielder Frank Sanfilippo and defender Artin Rodriguez both missed their second consecutive games due to injury. Midfielder Frank Mata, who played hurt against

Cal Poly, didn't play against CSUMB.

Mata has a quadriceps pull and St. Clair said he hopes that having a game off will allow him to play against USF. St. Clair also expects to have Rodriguez back on Sunday.

San Jose State University (1-3) at Rice University (0-4)
5 p.m., Saturday at Rice Stadium, Houston, Texas

SJSU football team faces alternatives in Houston

By Mark Cornejo
Daily Staff Writer

The Spartans defense will have plenty of options when they face off with Rice University Saturday night.

SPARTAN FOOTBALL IN THE RED ZONE NOTEBOOK

The Spartans (1-3) will meet up with the Owls (0-4) and their triple option offense at Rice Stadium in Houston.

Kickoff is slated for 5 p.m. "It's a unique offense," said Ken Hatfield, who is in his 10th season as head coach of the Owls. "We run it as an equalizer."

The triple option gives the quarterback the "option" of 1) handing the ball off to the fullback for a rush up the middle, 2) keeping the ball on a quarterback sweep to the outside or 3) can pitch the ball to the running back who follows the quarterback on the sweep.

Hatfield said he began running the triple option when he was became head coach at the Air Force Academy in 1980 as a way to recruit athletic quarterbacks.

Spartan head coach Fitz Hill said because the Owls depend on rushing yards it's important to stop Rice on first and second downs to put them in passing situations.

"We need to get them into third and long (situations)," Hill said. "They want to control the ball and the clock. We just need to stop them."

Hill said the Spartan defense will have to be more disciplined to stop the option.

"Everyone has an assignment on defense," Hill said. "If one person breaks down it can cost you big time."

Linebacker Paul Okumu said it is essential for each defender to stick to the plan the coaches have come up with.

"You can't make plays outside of your assignment," said Okumu, who is third on the team this season in tackles with 32. "If everyone doesn't stick to their assignments, you're screwed."

Spartan defensive end Philip Perry understands that stopping the triple option can be a difficult task, but it all starts with the quarterback.

"It's going to be pretty tough," said Perry, whose job it will be to stop the Owl ball carriers up the middle. "We have to be on top of the quarterback with our line and our linebackers."

Hill said he saw the extra week off as an advantage for the Spartans to get ready for the Owls.

"Last week we had three great practices," Hill said. "Our game plan has been done since last week."

Hatfield agreed the off week gave the Spartans an upper hand.

"The 16-day rest they've had is certainly going to help them out," Hatfield said.

Hatfield said he is planning on using both junior Greg Henderson and freshman Joel Armstrong at quarterback, even though Henderson leads the team this season in both passing yards (247) and rushing yards (275).

"We run our quarterbacks a lot and need both to be ready to play," Hatfield said.

Clearance

The Spartans offense received good news on Sunday when wide receiver and kick returner Kendrick Starling was medically cleared to play against Rice.

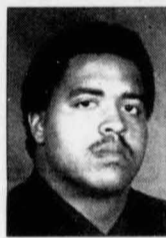
Starling, who suffered a concussion on Aug. 30 against the university of Florida, did play wide receiver Sept. 6 against Stanford University, but did not return kicks.

"I shouldn't have played against Stanford," Starling said.

Still feeling the effects from the concussion, Starling was forced to sit out the Spartans Sept. 18 meeting with University of Nevada-Reno, but said he is now healthy.

"Rice is going to be a great opportunity for me," said Starling, who is still ranked fourth in the nation with 33.17 yards per kick return.

Joining Starling and the Spartans offense against the Owls will also be last



Walker

season's starting center LAMons Walker.

Walker said on Sept. 19 that the NCAA told him he would be available for the Rice game.

Walker had appealed to the NCAA to be able to play this season after he

was required to complete his undergraduate degree in four years to gain his fourth year of eligibility.

"It feels great," said Walker, who will be the starting center on Saturday. "I'm

ready to be back on the field."

Walker was supposed to be available for the Nevada game, but the NCAA held its decision over until the day after the game.

"That was pretty devastating," Walker said. "I kind of wondered if it would ever happen, but I didn't let it get in the way of preparing for the game."

Reunited

Hatfield was the head coach of the University of Arkansas in 1989 when he brought on a new graduate assistant for the offensive coordinator — Fitz Hill.

Hill was working on his doctorate of education at Arkansas when he was added to the Razorbacks staff.

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