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Valley transit contract still up in the air

By JaShong King
Daily Staff Writer

Final say on the ultimate cost of next year's transit access program will not be decided at Thursday's Valley Transit Authority board meeting, according to Associated Students.

Instead, fee increase discussions will move to a separate meeting mediated by the mayor's office on Dec. 10.

All semester long, A.S. and VTA have argued over the price of the transit program contract.

The A.S. transit access program allows San Jose State University students to receive unlimited rides on all VTA buses and light rail throughout Santa Clara County.

VTA has said a worsening recession combined with increased ridership forced them to raise SJSU's cost-per-student to last decade's rate of \$20. Currently students pay \$11.50 per semester in student fees for VTA access.

A.S. said the fee increases are too much and that the campus is being charged a rate unlike any other organization VTA works with.

A.S. is asking VTA to move SJSU into a business pricing program, which would allow them to cut the fee increase costs in half.

Though every student on campus pays for access to VTA, according to a survey done by A.S. Transportation Solutions, only 13 percent of SJSU students utilize VTA to get to campus. Most walk (18 percent) or drive (44 percent).

The survey was conducted in the fall of 2002 out of a sample of 6,412 students. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.5 percent.

Still, some students said the program is worth paying extra for.

"I don't use it, I live about a mile away, but I think it's a good thing to support public transit," said Mark Sweeney, a graduate student in physics.

Others who use VTA more frequently say the price is inconsequential.

"It's still a good bargain, compared to what it would cost to buy the actual ticket," said Richard Delfs, a sophomore majoring in music.

As for having people pay for some-



Rina Ota / Daily Staff

Studies in American Language student Mim Byune, right, gets on the light rail at the Paseo de San Antonio Station on Second Street to go home Tuesday afternoon.

thing they don't use, Delfs said, "There are a lot of things I pay for that I don't use. I don't use the gym and I have to pay toward that."

Stacy Rapoport, a junior majoring in art, is a big fan of the program.

"I love taking light rail. I love not having to sit in traffic," Rapoport said. "It takes a good 20 minutes to get on

(Highway) 87 from my house, and honestly, 87 is backed up till 10:30, 11 every morning. I get to study for tests and do my homework on the way to school."

If A.S. does not accept the contract with the increased fees, there will not be a transit access program next semester, said A.S. Executive Director

Alfonso De Alba. This would mean each student would have to pay for VTA access individually.

Rapoport said if she were forced to pay individually for VTA access, she would probably not use it.

"I'd absolutely have to drive my car. I can't afford the \$50 a month for the light rail pass," Rapoport said.

Unless the contract is rejected, there will be a fee increase, De Alba said. De Alba is in charge of contract negotiations with VTA on behalf of A.S.

The question is whether A.S. will be able to keep the program going for at least another year before they have to

See VTA, page 7

SJSU banks on lecturers

Sans "professor" title, temporary teachers go beyond general education

By Jenny Shearer
Daily Staff Writer

Some of your favorite professors might be lecturers.

There are more than 900 full- and part-time temporary faculty members and 800 regular faculty at San Jose State University, according to information provided by Faculty Affairs.

Lecturers provide a valuable service to students and to the institution, said Interim President Joseph Crowley.

"Their importance, and don't think I don't know it, has grown considerably over the course of the last 20 years because resource constraints have developed parallel to enrollment growth," Crowley said.

He said lecturers are used to teaching lower division general education courses because they are less expensive than full-time faculty.

"Typically these are people who do it because they love to do it," Crowley said. "So it's a dilemma because you have people who are committed and hired by the institution because of resource constraints and that number grows all over this country."

Karen Fjelstad, a lecturer in anthropology who's taught at SJSU for six years, said there are many myths about lecturers, including that some lecturers don't have doctorate degrees. Fjelstad said she has a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology.

"I think one myth is that lecturers are not as qualified. The assumption is that we don't have the same level of education or the same level of experience or more... somehow we're not as committed, that we're going to move on," Fjelstad said.

She also said lecturers are professionally active and publish.

One student said all his courses are taught by lecturers.

"I believe all of them have Ph.Ds. All of them are qualified individuals," said Yasir Khan, a sophomore computer engineering major.

Khan said he doesn't pay attention to whether his classes are taught by lecturers or tenure-track faculty.

"Probably the styles are different, I mean every teacher has his own style. Some are easy, some are hard, some believe in giving more than others, but that does not mean that they are not qualified to teach the course," Khan said. Another student said she has a lecturer for her English 1A class.

"We call him Mr. Murphy, we don't

See LECTURERS, page 4

University's annual staff art fair begins today

By Rebecca Villaneda
Daily Arts and Entertainment Editor

Need cheap Christmas gifts for loved ones?

The 9th annual "Artique" craft fair is making its way to the San Jose State University Student Union today and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Crochet scarves and blankets, jewelry of all kinds, origami earrings, beaded key chains, wood work, fabric tissue box covers, bookmarks, cards, baby items, pottery and potpourri simmers

will be on sale. All are handmade by a variety of SJSU staff members.

"The fair is for staff from the university to display their art and show that we do more than just work," said Ginny Smith, co-chair of the fair and an informational technology assistant in the geology department.

"Prices of the hand-crafted range anywhere from 50 cents to \$30," she said.

The more expensive items are Native American artwork such as dream catchers or sculptures.

Shoppers can buy a pair of origami earrings for \$10, a 60-inch fleece scarf

(variety of patterns) with the fringe for \$5 and quilted or crochet blankets anywhere from \$15 to \$30, said co-chair John Hawk.

Hawk's wife Diane makes the tissue box covers and he designs them.

"They are houses made out of fabrics and the tissue comes out of the chimneys," Hawk said.

"She's made about 80 so far and we used different fabrics and different patterns from animals to flowers and colorful calico prints."

Phyllis Nakamura, who has been involved with the fair for eight years and is a secretary in the psychology

department, will be in charge of the door prizes this year as well as selling her homemade goods.

"I've made crochet Afghan blankets, flannel diapers and bibs, fleece scarves that are a variety of solid colors and some with Disney characters," Nakamura said.

"I've also made several of items under a dollar, like snowman suckers, origami-pens and gift bags that I recycled from Hawaiian calendars," she said.

She also noted her friend made angel pins out of wire and beads that fit perfectly in the gift bags — hint hint.

Door prizes will be given on an

hourly basis and one need not be present to claim prizes.

Hobbe's and Peanuts gift certificates, handcrafted items and jewelry are just some of the prizes to be claimed.

Free hot apple cider and cookies will be available upon filling out a raffle ticket or just visiting.

Also be aware that some artists may be there only one of the two days and some items may not be available.

"Bring your check books," Hawk said. "We have great handmade items that fulfill your holiday shopping."

For 34 years, Student Union hosts a variety of campus activities

Editor's Note: This is the last profile on a campus building/structure this semester. —F.B.

By Robert Hong
Daily Staff Writer

Directly in the center of campus rests the prominent and integral Student Union. The cement and brick structure contains three levels of facilities and furniture, all targeted at providing resources for students.

However, contrary to some students' knowledge, the actual Student Union is far more complex and extends well beyond the brown and gray building in the center of campus.

The development of the Student Union is a process 40 years in the making.

"In 1963 the idea was first voted upon... then in 1967, the ground was broken and the construction was finally completed in '69," said Terry Gregory, Student Union director since 1995.

Gregory said he has worked with the development of the Student Union for many years.

"The actual Student Union consists of this building and the Event Center and Aquatic Center," Gregory said.

According to "San Jose State

University: An Interpretive History 1950-2000" by former SJSU professor James P. Walsh, the Student Union had been in conceptualization for years, and the project finally initiated in 1963.

Walsh writes that a measure to implement a Student Union was placed on a ballot and voted on favorably by students.

In November 1963, students decided to build a \$5.5 million building that would increase student fees for the next 40 years. Had all factors remained constant, that fee would be drawing to a close just about now.

However, as is common with any developing university, changes and additions were bound to come across.

All modifications to the Student Union are placed before a board of directors, where the majority are students and includes the president of the Associated Students.

From 1983 to 1985, due to discussion around the Student Union board, another measure was placed on the ballot. This time involving the erection of a \$36 million Event Center and Aquatic Center on campus, said Student Union Administrative Services Manager Kristin Kelly.

"We conceptually moved forward in '88 through '89," Kelly said.

Since the addition of those two structures, the organization has not

had any additional fees until recently.

"We had to raise fees to deal with an emergency project," Gregory said.

Below the main Student Union building, the 34-year-old pipes broke and had to be repaired at a cost of nearly \$3 million, he said.

"It was kind of ironic," Gregory said. "Because the students recently voted down a fee for additions to the Union and there ended up being a fee anyways."

Beyond these alterations, no other major costs were applied to the students.

Although student fees help pay for modifications and additions to the Student Union, their payments do not nearly cover the entire costs. In order to cover the rest of the finances, the Student Union relies highly on renting out space.

"There are actually three corporations in the Student Union," Gregory said. "The Student Union, Spartan Shops and Associated Students."

The revenues drawn from facilities sponsored by these groups allow the Union to function.

Located inside the Student Union are a variety of facilities. The bowling center sits on the bottom floor, and one floor up hosts the Spartan Bookstore. There is also the large food

See CAMPUS, page 4



Yvonne Pingue / Daily Staff

A student passes by the small computer Internet access tables provided for students on the second floor of the Student Union on Tuesday afternoon. This is one of many features the Union offers for students.

opposing views:

Should a candidate's ethnic background be a factor in choosing the next SJSU president?

YES | *Understanding of a diverse campus is vital*

After a long and grueling semester of presidential hunting, San Jose State University will be subjected to yet another six, if not more, months of inquiring in search of a new president.

Like most issues dealing with bureaucracy, San Jose State University's year-long search has turned out to be one not without its own set of controversies.

Assemblyman Manny Diaz, D-San Jose, had raised the issue that the presidential selection process was "not inclusive and open."

"The fact is we are a unique campus in a diverse community that is very much involved in the daily life of SJSU."

His argument, however, leans more toward the lack of community leaders being involved in the selection process.

Diaz had criticized the process for being inclusive and not seeking out the opinion and representation from the ethnic community in order to have a wide range of candidates.

It is a fact that SJSU has an Asian-American population of almost 40 percent.

Although it may or may not have been intended, the three presidential candidates were of Caucasian background.

I think the issue lies not on the matter of diversity but more on the fact that we are a growing campus that has changed its image and direction from when it was first opened.

The fact is we are a unique campus in a diverse community that is very much involved in the daily life of SJSU.

Although "race" should not solely be the reason of selecting the best candidate for the position, the ethnic background or more importantly, the understanding of how diverse our campus community is should definitely be a requirement.



SUNITA VIJAYAN

Being a campus president is no walk in the park and being able to deal with campus issues takes up a lot of time and effort.

Six years ago, former President Robert Caret created three ethnic community advisory councils to "serve as an advisory body" on campus climate. Caret had been aware that with such an ethnically and culturally diverse campus, the university needed the ethnic community advisory councils to aid in creating a campus climate, which is responsive and inclusive of all its community members.

In a letter to the campus community by Gustavo De La Torre, the chair of the Latino Community Advisory Council, he stated that his council had not been consulted or invited to participate in the search for a new SJSU president.

A selection committee that in itself lacks diversity and representation of the community cannot be expected to be culturally fair when it does not understand what the campus community wants and needs in a leader.

It is undeniable that the future president would have to be involved with the council as well as the community's many leaders in order to be effective in his or her duties. By disregarding the ethnic issue or at the very least the understanding of the various backgrounds the community has, the representation of student, faculty and staff would not be entirely embodied.

It has been more than 40 years since the civil rights movement. Is there a need for another one to remind us that being culturally diverse is something not to be taken for granted?

Sunita Vijayan is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



ILLUSTRATION BY TONY ABAD

NO | *Qualifications matter more than a candidate's race*

I'm pretty sure most of you learned this from your teachers in grammar school during student body elections.

You may have voted for your best friend or a girl you had a crush on, but it was the principles behind voting that counted.

Individuals should cast their votes for the candidate most qualified for the job based on experience, present and future goals, leadership and the interview process while pushing all personal biases aside.

Choosing San Jose State University's future president is an important decision, but it cannot and should not be based on ethnicity.

If we hope to keep this campus a fair ground for any election in the future, then it's imperative that we follow the truest and clearest path.

Each one of the candidates who were recently removed from the list came from other universities across the country.

They each made decisions affecting multiple ethnic groups.

They were candidates who held years of experience in leadership roles.

Experience is the key word.

They had experience in finalizing decisions concerning everything from the university budget to the athletic department.

If there is a non-white candidate out there who meets the university's qualifications, then he or she should be elected.

In the weeks past, both the San Jose Mercury News and the Spartan Daily have printed news articles and opinion pieces regarding the ethnicity of the future SJSU president.

Asian-Americans, Mexican-Americans and African-Americans have voiced their opinions on this matter.

The groups do represent 60 percent of the student population and they do express a legitimate point.

They would like someone from inside their ethnicity who understands their problems and can relate to the greater student body.

If we start electing candidates based on racial default, then every position on this campus would be filled with the above ethnic groups.

There is nothing wrong with that, but how does this solve the problem? It doesn't.

The bottom line is it's impossible to satisfy every ethnic group and they will continue to complain.

This is the not the answer to increasing the diversity of high-ranking positions on campus.

Would you rather solve one group's complaints and risk nominating an unqualified candidate?

If we're going to pick a new leader based on a particular ethnic background, then we should stay consistent and fill every office with different ethnicities.

When you start changing basic principles of evaluating government offices at any level, it can create problems.

This campus has been diversified for decades and until recently, few voices had been heard.

The California State University Board of Trustees and the current search committee have already proved they're taking the right steps.

They intelligently rejected the final three candidates names out of the mix before the Thanksgiving break, as a result of not being satisfied with their qualifications.

And the dissatisfaction wasn't based on ethnicity.

It was based on the candidate's merits, experience, goals and the interview itself. Last time I checked, each one of the candidates SJSU pulled out of contention was white.

There was one African-American and one Mexican-American candidate who pulled themselves out of contention in early November.

Those ethnic groups on campus should get off their butts and find out why the candidates voluntarily pulled out or find another non-white candidate and support him or her.

Until then, SJSU needs to select a candidate who is universally qualified and continue to leave race out of it.

David Weinstein is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

"The bottom line is it's impossible to satisfy every ethnic group and they will continue to complain."



DAVID WEINSTEIN

campusvoices



"It has to be based on the skills and the knowledge of what they can do."

Shoua Chang
sophomore,
business management



"Shouldn't it already be based on racial background anyway? The society we live in is diverse."

Ernesto Soto
sophomore,
speech communication



"I don't think it should be based on that. I think it should be based on their skills."

Ana Lukner
senior,
international business



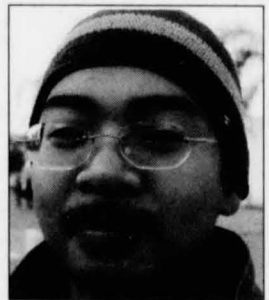
"I think it should be based on their ability to do the job. That's definitely something to consider though."

Emily Jack
senior, ceramics



"As long as they're open-minded it shouldn't matter on their background."

Randall Chan
senior,
computer engineering



"I think it should be a factor but that shouldn't be the only thing they judge the person on."

Romeo Lavarias
senior,
computer engineering

Compiled by Lea Blevins | Photos by August Patterson

SPARTAN DAILY

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NOT RANTING, JUST VENTING

Graduation setback minor compared to friend's woes

Monday was not a good day. Amidst all the last-minute homework I was trying to get done, another thought was looming in my head. Graduation. Technically, I will be all done on Dec. 12, but because the admissions office made an error on my paperwork, I will be forced to cross the stage in May 2004. I'm not too big on last-minute planning, so being the anal person that I am, I will walk in the spring. Of course, I had no choice but to cry about it to my boy G.Vo once I got to school. The griping lasted a good 10 minutes. I spent most of the day pouting and feeling sorry for myself. But every time I whine about something, it never fails ... reality hits. Whenever I've felt like life has dealt me a bad hand of cards, there is always someone there to tell me, "Remember, there's always someone worse off than you." I never realized how true that saying was until Monday night. While driving home all I could think about was going into the real world without that little piece of paper confirming that I'm ready to do so. All the while, I didn't realize that my best friend Erika was suffering something I could never fathom. A week ago she found out she was four-weeks pregnant. It was a very exciting and joyous moment for Erika and her husband Raf. I was excited too, especially since I was asked to be the baby's godmother. Not to mention that the thought of my best friend bringing a new life into this world was

thrilling. But reality hit Erika hard early Monday morning. She woke up before the crack of dawn because she felt cramping pains in her abdominal area. When she went into the rest room, she saw she had bled. Being the cautious person that she is, she took herself to the emergency room. It was 6 a.m. and she was all alone. She was scared and she was worried. She had been reading up on pregnancy and she knew that bleeding in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy could mean a possible miscarriage. As I listened to Erika's story on the other end of the phone, I had to fight back my tears. I couldn't stand hearing someone I love in such pain. Erika is a really strong person, so hearing her cry was excruciatingly painful. I didn't know what to say and worst of all, I didn't know how to comfort her. All I could say was, "It'll be OK," and "I'll pray for you." What I wanted to do was guarantee her that her baby was perfect and that she was going to be a mommy and Raf was going to be a daddy. But I couldn't. Instead, I had to listen to my best friend rationalize with herself and prepare herself for the worst. "It's better if a miscarriage happens now," Erika said choking back her tears. "Because if it happened five months into the pregnancy, I wouldn't be able to handle that. It would be worse."



ANNELINDA AGUAYO

I knew she was right, but I knew this was killing her. The possibility of losing her baby was too much for her to bear. The doctors couldn't tell her if she had miscarried. She was forced to wait until Tuesday afternoon when she could get a sonogram done. I couldn't even begin to comprehend what she was going through. The waiting, the thinking ... it was all too much to grasp. One of the worst things to hear was Erika thinking there was something wrong with her, blaming herself for what was happening. I tried to assure her that it was nothing she did and that it's just something that happens. But what do I know, I've never been pregnant. I must've sounded like such an idiot. All I wanted to do was put Erika in a bubble to protect her and her baby from anything bad. I felt awful. Originally, I had called her to moan and groan about not graduating next week. I never expected to hear that someone else was having a bad day — especially not someone I loved so dearly. Graduating in May is going to happen for me, but having her baby — that was something that might not happen for my friend. On Monday night I prayed for Erika, Raf and their baby. I asked God to keep the baby safe and to please let my best friend and her husband be happy because they deserve

it. I knew that she had her doctor's appointment at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday and all I could do was think about her and a baby I didn't even know. The clock kept ticking and I kept waiting. I wanted my phone to ring so I could hear that everything was indeed OK, the way I said it would be. At 4 p.m. — as I wrote this — my cell phone rang and on the screen it read, "Erika." I picked it up and when I heard her voice, I knew what had happened. She didn't miscarry. The baby was perfect. The cheerfulness of her voice was enough to light up the gloomy winter sky. "I'm so happy for you," I shrieked with joy. And I was. I am happy that Erika and Raf are going to have their baby, and most importantly, I'm glad that they are going to be happy. I was really devastated at the thought of graduating next spring instead of this December, but now that I think about it, it's not so bad. On Monday night, I learned a really valuable lesson. I don't need a little piece of paper to confirm that I am ready to go into the real world. I'm already in it.

Annelinda Aguayo is a Spartan Daily senior staff writer. This is the last appearance of 'Not Ranting, Just Venting'.

SPARTA GUIDE

Sparta 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 in Dwight Bentel Hall, room 209. Entries can also be e-mailed to spartadaily@cas.sjsu.edu titled "Sparta Guide." Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

TODAY

SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN

Student galleries will be held today from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the student galleries in the Art building. For more information, call Sam or Bill at 924-4330.

SJSU GRUPO FOLKLORICO LUNA Y SOL

Folklorico dancers from various regions of Mexico perform every Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center in the Student Union. Beginners and advanced students are welcome. For more information, call Malenda Wallin at 247-1220.

SJSU CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

Daily Mass takes place every weekday at 12:10 p.m. in the SJSU campus Ministry Center. For more information, call Sister Marcia at 938-1610.

STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE

A weekly meeting is held today at 4:15 p.m. in the Montalvo room in the Student Union. For more information, visit www.sjsu.studentsforjustice.net.

ASIAN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

AACF meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Costanoan room in the Student Union. For more information, visit the Web site www.aacfsjsu.com.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Weekly meetings are held every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the SJSU Campus Ministry Center. For more information, call Sheryl Hilario at 431-2459.

NIGERIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

A meeting will be held today at 5 p.m. in the Pacheco room in the Student Union.

STUDENTS FOR DEAN AT SJSU

A meeting will take place today at 7 p.m. in room 124 in Hugh Gillis Hall. Meet other supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean and help organize for local outreach. For more information, call Marian at 368-7021.

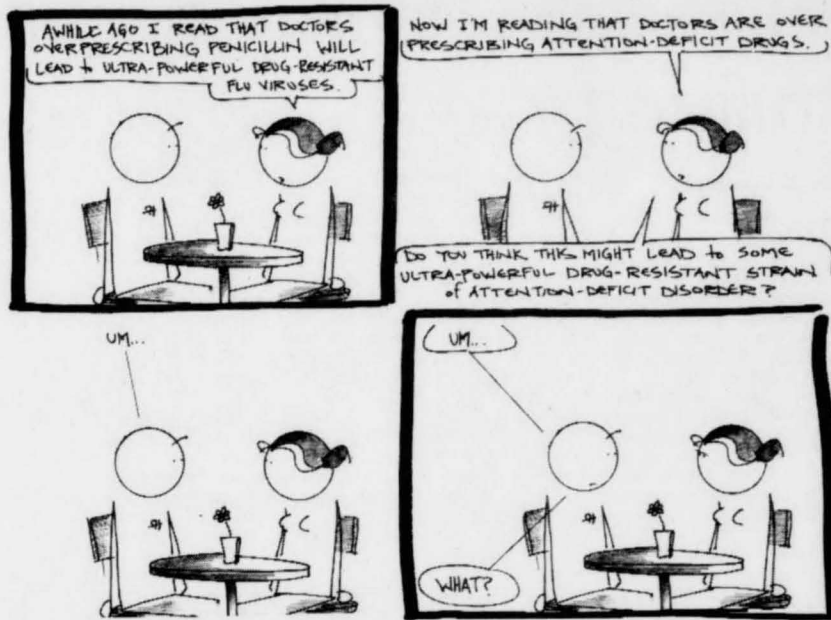
PRIDE OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Win a real live Christmas tree and other great prizes in front of the Student Union today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$1 donation is required to play. For more information, call 924-2221.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Students in ME 106 will be presenting their interactive electromechanical games today from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in room 125 in the Engineering building. For more information, call Buff Furman at 924-3817.

ANOTHER DIMENTION | JONAH PTAK



Viewpoints | Reactions to registration

Dear editor,

My appointed registration date was a few days ago as I planned out earlier several of my alternative schedules just in case I couldn't get my first choice of schedule. I waited until the exact time of my appointment and hurried to schedule for classes. As I logged into my account, I expected to spend at least an hour or two on the schedule just so that I will have that perfect schedule; but I finished in about five minutes. As a junior at SJSU, I was a bit surprised, and am very happy that I was able to enroll in all the classes I need, and that is not to say that most of them only have one class section. Although a lot of classes are being cut back, I was still able to get all the classes I need. Maybe this whole cutting-back-on-class is not so bad after all. I know finals are coming, but just spend some time planning out the schedule for the spring semester and register on the date and time of the appointment. It will be a lot of help for next semester. There are many things we procrastinate as students but this is one of the things we should not because someone might get the last seat in the class we wanted that could have been ours.

Thao Nguyen
Junior
Mathematics

Dear editor,

I would like to voice my frustration on the new Internet site for scheduling classes, funding, etc. When I first came to SJSU I used the old Internet site and it was very easy to understand and use. But now with the new "MyEducation" site I have had nothing but trouble. The layout of the site is horrible, with many links that make no sense about what they do. What does SA self-service mean anyway? I was hoping that when they remodeled it they would make it more understandable, but no, as expected that was not the case.

It's not just classes that I have problems with — paying tuition on this site is also a huge problem. If I want to use my credit card, which would be the easy thing to do, the site wants to surcharge me. Instead I have to write an 'e-check' which in itself has a whole host of problems. I'm sure that SJSU was hoping to use the Internet to make it easier for everyone to get classes and such. But right now they have a long way to go.

Eric Colton
Sophomore
Industrial Design

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YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ALREADY ATTEND SJSU TO ENROLL.

CAMPUS | Student Union includes Event Center and Aquatic Center



Yvonne Pingue / Daily Staff

continued from page 1

area on the western side of the building.

The Event Center, which hosts a variety of concerts and activities, is the main source of revenue, Gregory said.

It is these facilities and events that Gregory said makes up the atmosphere of the Union.

"It provides a place for people to get together," he said.

The Student Union has a deep history with the university, Kelly said.

"It is definitely one of the oldest in the CSU system," she said. "Our Aquatic Center has the largest outdoor pool in Northern California."

The pool is used for practice by the United States Olympic swimming team, she said.

More of the Union's history can be seen throughout the main building in the form of artwork and design.

"Almost all furniture in the building is a piece of history," Gregory

Left: Patrick Li, left, and Brian Furutani, juniors majoring in industrial technology manufacturing, study on the third floor of the Student Union Tuesday afternoon. The painting above, the "Rabbits Escape," was done by Paul Pratchenko in 1976. Most of the art displayed in the Student Union are student projects.

said.

Although it has been refurbished, most of the furniture in the building is the same as when it was opened 40 years ago.

"There have been subtle changes," Gregory said. "In 1996 the entire building was re-carpeted ... and in 1999 we added a new roof."

The building also has historical significance in its artwork and conference rooms.

"The opening act in the (Barrett) ballroom was the Grateful Dead," Gregory said. "And the Doobie Brothers (who used to attend the university) would practice in here."

The Doobie Brothers also named their fourth album after a painting in the Union, Gregory said.

The painting, which was part of a master's project, still hangs on the third floor of the Student Union. It is one of the many pieces of art that loom throughout the Union walls.

There is also a painting in the administration office made entirely of biodegradable substances.

The dedication to artwork was so emphatic, that on the third floor of the Union, where the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center is now located, there once stood an art gallery.

Along with the many art pieces, the ambience of the Student Union is developed through a grand ballroom and several conference rooms with names reflecting traditional Mexican culture and a bowling center.

LECTURERS | Cost-effective, untenured instructors bring experience to classrooms

continued from page 1

call him Dr. Murphy. He's a good teacher ... I've learned a lot in that class already," said Jessica Loebig, a freshman biology major.

Loebig said she doesn't mind having lecturers for her general education courses but she might want to have tenured professors as teachers for her biology classes.

The academic senate's constitution was recently amended to allow lecturers who had completed one academic year of service at SJSU to become senators, said Annette Nellen, chair of the senate.

Until the amendment, lecturers were only allowed to participate in the academic senate's committees, Nellen said.

Extending senate representation to lecturers made sense, she said.

"Lecturers are a very important part of faculty on this campus ... for the

senate to do its best work, addressing academic matters, seeing to the highest quality of programs and experiences for the students, we need to have senators ... who have all types of important interactions with the students. Lecturers certainly fall into that."

Beth Von Till, a lecturer in the communication studies department, and the first lecturer to also serve on the academic senate, said it's nice for lecturers to be included in the group.

"I think it's a real tribute to lecturers and to San Jose State that this has come to pass, especially in hard budgetary times, when it's an uncertain time for a lot of lecturers and part-timers," Von Till said.

Von Till has taught at SJSU for 17 years and said her experience as a lecturer has been positive.

"The (communications studies) faculty is very supportive. Lecturers are

treated with great respect. Opinions matter, lecturers are encouraged to be active in the governance of the department, as well as active across campus."

Scott Rice, chair of the English and comparative literature department, said lecturers teach freshmen composition classes and some lower division literature classes.

"(They) enable us to teach more courses on our budget — it's more cost effective for the department and the university and exploits the people involved," Rice said. "They are paid less to teach their sections than our tenure-track faculty."

Lecturers provide "a gift" to SJSU and the community through their teaching, Rice said.

"Many of them like the academic environment. Any number of them could have higher paying jobs — some of them have given up higher paying

jobs to come here. They like the environment, being around students and other teachers," Rice said.

In turn, Rice said lecturers are treated with respect in the English department.

He said the English department often hires its former master's students for lecturer positions because they are well trained in the art of writing.

Provost Marshall Goodman said lecturers are the "backbones of instruction, particularly in the lower division GE courses."

Lecturers are critical to SJSU because they have expertise in fields that many students are interested in, such as technology, Goodman said.

"We are in Silicon Valley ... the opportunity to have people from the very industries our students are wanting to join bring that knowledge into the classroom is a great opportunity," Goodman said.

Lecturers also help to maintain a diverse faculty presence on campus, he said.

"And that is diversity not just in terms of ethnicity, it's diversity in terms of experience, it's diversity in terms of gender, it's diversity in terms of political ideology," Goodman said.

The surrounding Bay Area community allows SJSU to draw part-time faculty to teach, which Goodman said adds to SJSU's knowledge base.

"And I think that brings a richness to our program that places like (UC) Davis and (California State University) Stanislaus and Chico (State University) and others that are in smaller communities would die for," Goodman said.

The use of cost-effective lecturers allows programs that may not have an ample supply of full-time professors to keep admitting students, Goodman said.

There are shortages of full-time faculty applicants in areas such as management information systems and nursing, he said. California's high cost of living and budget crisis can also make it hard to attract applicants to these positions at SJSU.

"I really credit the chairs in trying to find enough qualified staff to maintain and to grow some of their programs," Goodman said.

Lecturers may be at risk for layoffs during tight budgetary times, after other cost-saving measures, such as delaying purchases of major equipment and deferring refurbishment projects, are taken, Goodman said.

"The first commitment, of course, is to your full-time hires, especially those that are tenured," Goodman said. "But without question, if the cuts continue, everyone who is not on a full-time contract ultimately becomes at risk."

Goodman said that unlike a UC Berkeley, which relies heavily on doc-

toral graduate students to teach lower division courses, SJSU employs many lecturers with their doctorates.

He said some lecturers have either chosen that path because they didn't want a full-time commitment at a university or budget constraints meant there were not enough positions when those individuals wanted to be hired full time.

Budget constraints have another effect — some SJSU lecturers teach at other local colleges to earn their living, Goodman said.

"I've run into a lot of lecturers who tell me you know they teach at Evergreen (Community College), they teach here, they teach at (Cal State) Hayward. It's a struggle for them, and certainly in bad budget times, there's a lot of uncertainty there," Goodman said.

Joan Merdinger, associate dean for faculty affairs, said lecturers don't have the same kind of job security as tenured faculty and aren't reviewed or recruited in the same way as tenure-

track faculty.

She said lecturers are used to teach sections of additional classes and typically do not serve on university committees like tenure-track faculty because lecturers are not appointed with weighted teaching units to cover such assignments.

A weighted teaching unit is a three-unit course, and a tenured or tenure-track faculty member must have 15 weighted teaching units, Merdinger said.

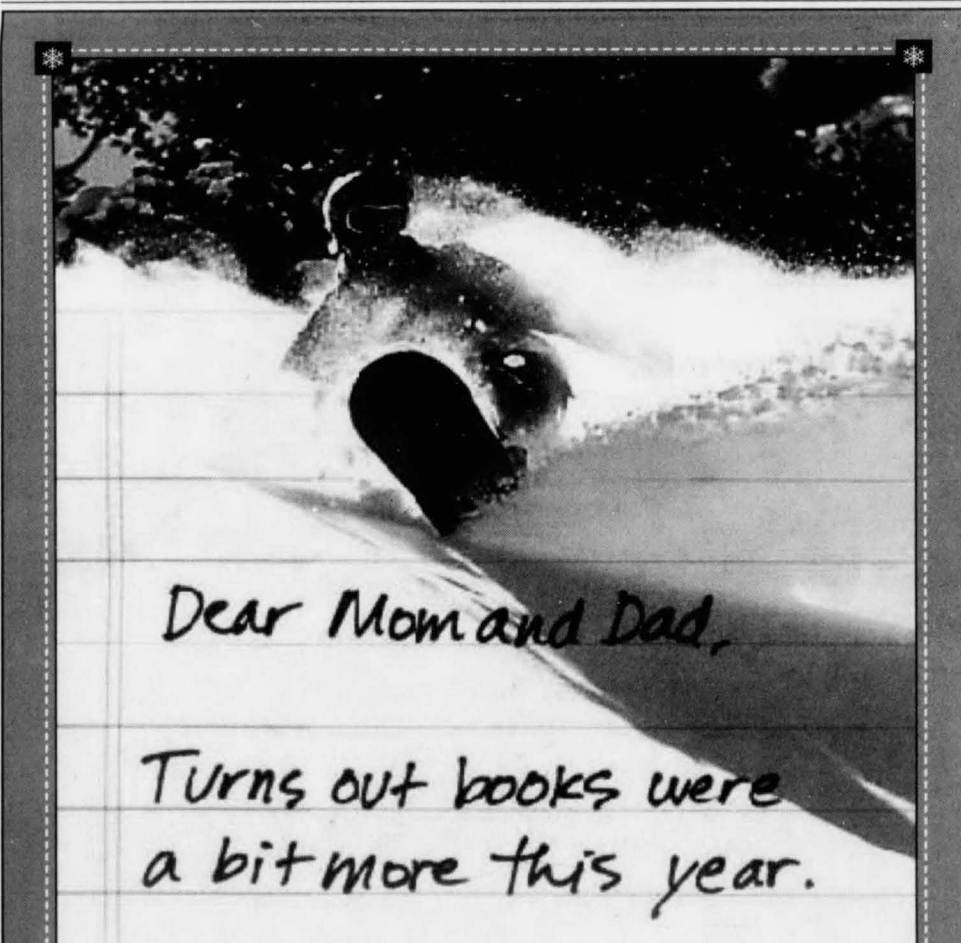
Three of those units are for service, such as sitting on a committee.

Merdinger said if lecturers had to teach 15 weighted units, they would teach five classes, not four.

"We don't have many people who do that. (Lecturers cover) a real wide range, anywhere from supervising a small number of students to teaching four classes," Merdinger said.

Fjelstad said she teaches four classes at SJSU and two classes at Cabrillo College in Aptos — for a total of 300 students.

She said because of budget cuts, her department at SJSU had warned her



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"When there is uncertainty about the budget, it hits lecturers first."
Karen Fjelstad, Lecturer, anthropology

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Holiday decorations adorn downtown San Jose



Above: Lina Broydo, left, director of public relations for the Fairmont hotel, assists Shelia Harada, a pastry chef, in placing chocolate computer-chip-styled shingles onto the roof of a gingerbread house on Monday afternoon. Twenty gingerbread houses will be unveiled at "Simply the Best," the Fairmont's 17th annual tree lighting ceremony on Saturday at the Fountain Restaurant.

Right: The Christmas tree in the lobby of the Knight Ridder building is one of many decorations in downtown San Jose.



Photos by Janean Brongersma / Daily Staff

By Alexandra Proca
Daily Staff Writer

Spreading out its fluorescent ray of lights, the Ferris wheel in front of the San Jose Repertory Theatre whirled through the air carrying its empty double seats toward the gray sky on Monday afternoon.

The jumbo pink and gray elephants that made up the other amusement ride next to the Museum of Art didn't look happy either, in spite of the Jumbos' frozen smiles.

Not a soul ventured through the heavy rain to either of the two Winter Wonderland mini amusement parks set up before Thanksgiving in downtown San Jose.

Green-jacket employees of Butler Amusement were the only people next to the colorful rides.

Although the amusement parks had been scheduled to stay open until 9 p.m., manager Geary Beaudette said he was going to close for the day.

"If the weather sticks like that, it doesn't pay off to keep it open. Plus I don't want my employees to get sick," he said.

People usually start filling the rides about one week before Christmas, Beaudette said, although the opening of Christmas in the Park — the holiday displays at Plaza de Cesar Chavez — boosts the flow of visitors.

This year Christmas in the Park opens Friday at 5:30 p.m. when San Jose city officials light the San Jose Christmas Tree, said Jonathan Noble, chief of staff for council member Cindy Chavez.

About 400 community organizations are expected to come and decorate their own trees as well, said Ed Bautista, marketing events manager for the City of San Jose.

Bautista said there will be entertainment at Christmas in the Park daily through Dec. 23.

On Sunday morning at 8:30, a parade will start from the HP Pavilion and end at Christmas in the Park two hours later, Bautista said. The parade will be broadcast live on NBC starting 9 a.m.

Katie Tomich, a sophomore dance major at SJSU who is spending her second Christmas in San Jose this

year, said she likes the downtown decorations because they get her into the holiday spirit.

"I like the decorations, the music," Tomich said. "I came here last year. I had a lot of fun."

There are 11 rides in Winter Wonderland this year, and three more next to the Downtown Ice skating rink on Market Street and Viola Avenue, Beaudette said. The rides by Downtown Ice are new to San Jose, as are some other attractions, such as the Jingle Jim with a slide and ghost house, Beaudette said.

A couple of bucks will buy people one ride, \$5 for three rides and \$10 buys unlimited fun.

Christmas is not only a time of having fun, but also of caring and giving. San Jose city officials already launched a fund-raising campaign in which PG&E is matching every dollar up to \$50,000, Nobel said. The money will go to Toys for Tots and Second Harvest Food Bank organizations. Local residents and companies already donated \$20,000, Nobel said.

Besides exterior adornments, some downtown businesses have also set an indoor Christmas tone.

Pedestrians can spot an up-to-the-ceiling perfect conic Christmas tree through the big windows of the Knight Ridder building on First Street.

The marbled lobby in the Fairmont hotel also hosts an adorned Christmas tree that adds to the usual coziness rendered by dim lights, elegant furniture and mellow music.

Jim Stuart of Hayward said he and his wife come to San Jose and have brunch at Fairmont hotel either on Thanksgiving or Christmas. Stuart said the Christmas decorations remind him that this is a time of giving donations.

"I enjoy giving every year. It's time I started doing that again," Stuart said.

The Fairmont will hold its official open-to-the-public tree lighting this Saturday at 11 a.m., said Lina Broydo, director of public relations.

She said the event will feature music and ballet. One of the performers is 14-year-old singer Manuel Romero of San Jose. Charity will also be part of the Fairmont event as well, with \$100 gingerbread houses on sale to benefit Courageous Kids of American Cancer Society and Make-a-Wish Foundation, among others.

Some of the gingerbread houses will be adorned with chocolate chip roofs printed like electrical circuit boards, Broydo said.

Winter Wonderland will stay open until Jan. 4, while Christmas in the Park decorations will remain until New Year's Day.

Putin adviser rules out Russian ratification of Kyoto Protocol

Associated Press

MOSCOW — In what would be a mortal blow to the accord aimed at halting global warming, a top Kremlin official said Tuesday that Russia won't ratify the Kyoto Protocol limiting greenhouse gas emissions because it will hurt the country's economy.

The United States rejected the accord for the same reason. Without Moscow, the protocol cannot come into effect even if approved by every other nation because only Russia's industrial emissions are large enough to tip the balance.

The pollution cuts required by the treaty would slow the economic growth that President Vladimir Putin has made a major priority, said top adviser Andrei Illarionov.

"In its current form, the Kyoto Protocol places significant limitations on the economic growth of Russia," Illarionov told reporters in the Kremlin on the sidelines of Putin's meeting with European business leaders. "Of course, in its current form this protocol can't be ratified."

Earlier this fall, Putin cast deep doubts on Moscow's willingness to ratify the protocol, but he had not ruled it out entirely.

A Russian Economics Ministry spokesman, Konstantin Bogdanov, told Dow Jones News Wires on Tuesday he was unaware of any change in Russia's official position, which has been that it is still considering the protocol.

However, Illarionov said it would be unfair for Russia to curb emissions and stymie its own growth while the United States and other nations, which account for the bulk of global emissions, refuse to join the pact.

Putin laid out Russia's objections in what Illarionov called a "very energetic" discussion with the European industrial leaders.

The Kyoto Protocol, signed by many of the world's nations at a conference in Japan in 1997, sets targets for coun-

tries to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which are seen as a key factor behind global warming.

To take effect, the pact requires ratification by a minimum of 55 countries, which must include the industrialized nations that accounted for at least 55 percent of that group's carbon dioxide emissions in 1990.

So far, industrialized nations that have signed on account for 44.2 percent of the 1990 emissions. Russia accounts for 17.4 percent, so its ratification would push the group over the top.

Attention focused on Russia after the Bush administration announced it would not ratify what it called a flawed pact that would unfairly harm the U.S. economy. The United States is responsible for one-fourth of the world's man-made carbon dioxide emissions, and its March 2001 decision angered environmentalists.

Russian officials initially suggested Russia would ratify it, but remarks by Putin and Illarionov at a climate-change conference in Moscow two months ago indicated the opposite.

Putin has called for the doubling of Russia's gross domestic product by 2010 — a goal officials fear might conflict with the Kyoto Protocol, which would require the Kremlin to overhaul Russian industries to cut emissions.

Russia's emissions have fallen by 32 percent since 1990 amid the post-Soviet industrial meltdown, but they have slowly started to rise with the

economic revival of the past five years.

Putin puzzled his audience at the Moscow conference this fall by remarking that Russians "could spend less on warm coats" if the country warmed up by a few degrees, while Illarionov questioned the pact's feasibility and scientific foundation.

At a climate change conference that began Monday in Milan, Italy, the news from Russia left participants pondering strategies in the absence of a global treaty.

Steven Guilbeault of Greenpeace said Illarionov's remarks appeared to be "a political comment" ahead of Sunday's elections for the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament.

Philip Clapp, president of the National Environmental Trust, an advocacy group based in Washington, also mentioned the elections and pointed out that Illarionov has been one of Russia's strongest critics of the protocol.

Clapp speculated that Moscow might be jockeying for more favorable terms when rules are worked out for a mechanism under which countries that are under emissions target levels can sell credits to nations that still need to reduce.

Putin and other officials often make fiery comments meant largely to show Russians that the Kremlin is standing firm against foreign pressure, but the Kyoto Protocol is not seen as a key issue for Russian voters.

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Silicon Valley Classic teams named

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Fresno State and UCLA will play in the Dec. 30 Silicon Valley Classic in San Jose, bowl officials said Tuesday night.

UCLA (6-6, 4-4 Pac-10) lost its last four games but was picked over Washington (6-6, 4-4) to represent the Pac-10 in the game, said Greg Jamison, the bowl's chairman.

The Bruins' 46-16 win over the Huskies on Oct. 4 was a factor in the decision, Jamison said.

Fresno State (8-5, 6-2 WAC) will be making its fourth consecutive appearance in the bowl. The Bulldogs beat Georgia Tech 30-21 in last year's game.

"We couldn't ask for a better matchup," Fresno State coach Pat Hill said during a conference call. "We've had a couple of good games, since I've been head coach, with UCLA. When you're playing a school like UCLA, it's a school rich with tradition, the kind of matchup you want."

First-year UCLA head coach Karl Dorrell was out of state recruiting, but said in a statement that he was pleased the Bruins were invited.

"This bowl will give our seniors the opportunity to leave UCLA on a good note," Dorrell said. "For our younger players, they can gain valuable experience with additional

practice time."

The Bruins finished Pac-10 play with lopsided losses to Washington State, Oregon and USC.

"We certainly wanted to continue our season, and the opportunity to play in this bowl was important to us," UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero said.

"It's the first time two California schools have played in the Silicon Valley Bowl. For UCLA, it's an opportunity to continue to move forward and we're just excited to be in it."

The Bruins have 20 players from Northern California, including senior defensive end Dave Ball, recently named the Pac-10 defensive player of the year by the conference's coaches.

The bowl matchup is contingent on the Big 12 conference having two teams play in BCS bowl games, but Jamison said that likely will be accomplished this weekend.

The Bulldogs and Bruins last faced each other in 2000 and UCLA won that regular-season game 24-21 at the Rose Bowl. The Bruins are 6-0 against the Bulldogs, with all six victories at home.

Fresno State finished tied for second in the WAC, and five of the Bulldogs' losses were against teams going to bowl games, including No. 1 Oklahoma and No. 7 Tennessee.

San Jose State University 66, the University of San Francisco 53 SJSU drives home second win

By Daniel Lopez
Daily Sports Editor

Spartan forward Tatiana Taylor scored a game-high 20 points as the San Jose State University women's basketball team defeated the University of San Francisco 66-53 Tuesday night.

"We wanted to go to Tatiana," said SJSU head coach Janice Richard. "We wanted to attack their post player."

Taylor was 9-of-14 from the field while going 2-for-5 from the free throw line.

Taylor's twin sister Teoma also helped lift SJSU to victory in the team's home opener, scoring 14 of her 16 total points in the first half.

"I thought the girls executed our game plan very well," Richard said.

The Spartans were able to find the success they sought in the post throughout the night.

"We had to work," Richard said. "I think we got most of what we were looking for every trip down."

SJSU dominated the Lady Dons around the basket out scoring USF 48-12 in the paint.

"They definitely took it to us inside and we didn't have an answer for that," said USF's head coach Mary Hile-Nepfel.

The Lady Dons did try to answer the Spartans with forward Carey Sauer, but her team high 18 points weren't nearly enough.

With the strong inside game of the Taylor twins, the Spartans took a 31-22 lead into the locker room at the half.

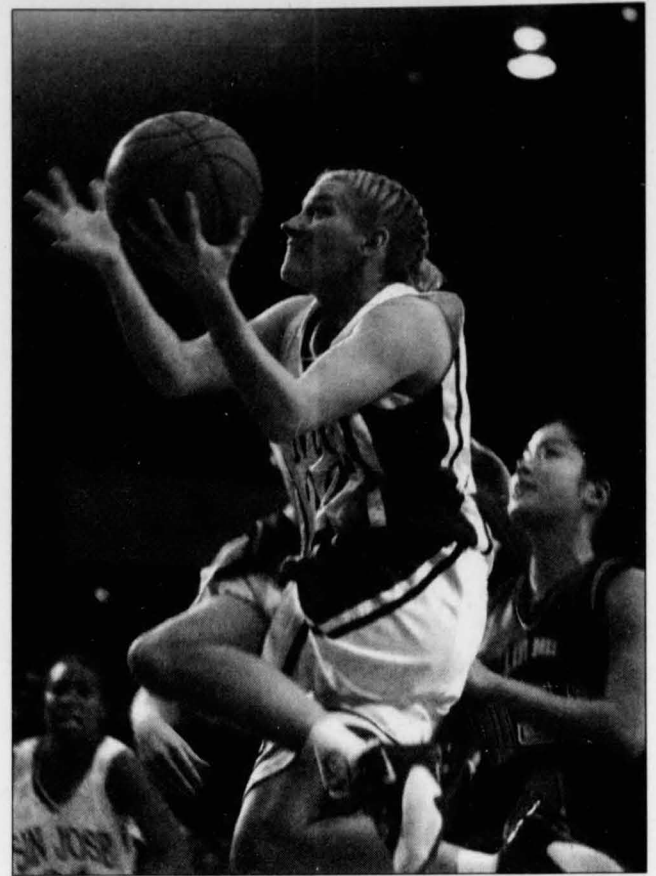
The Spartans continued their dominance inside and began to spread the offense in the second half.

SJSU's star guard Cricket Williams only had three points in the first half, but found her touch in the second half.

Williams said an old injury to her right shoulder, suffered during the 2000-2001 season, hampered her shooting at the free throw line where she finished 3-for-7.

Her shoulder didn't seem to bother any other part of William's game as she almost made history.

Williams finished the game with 14 points, 11 assists and just one



Janean Brongersma / Daily Staff

Spartan guard Jessica Kellogg scores a basket while Jennifer Katsuyama of the University of San Francisco attempts to guard her during the women's basketball game Tuesday night at the Event Center. The Spartans defeated the Lady Don's 66-53.

rebound shy of recording a triple-double.

Had Williams pulled in one more rebound, she would have recorded the first triple-double in Spartan women's basketball history.

"You should have told me," Williams said joking after the game. "I would have got that."

What mattered most to Williams and Richard was getting the win.

"It was nice to get this big win," Richard said.

With the victory SJSU improved to 2-1 on the season while the Lady Dons slipped to 3-2.

The Spartans next tip-off is scheduled for Saturday at 7 p.m. against New Mexico State University at the Event Center.

Sharks fall to Flames, but retain share of first place

Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — Shean Donovan on a penalty shot in the second period, and the Calgary Flames stopped the San Jose Sharks' five-game winning streak with a 3-1 victory Tuesday night.

With the game tied 1-1 and 54 seconds left in the period, Donovan was awarded the penalty shot when defenseman Scott Hannan took out his feet as he skated in on Vesa Toskala.

On the penalty shot, Donovan faked to his backhand before pulling the puck to his right and slipping it under Toskala's left pad.

It was Donovan's fourth goal in three games, moving him into a tie with rookie Matthew Lombardi for the team lead with six. Donovan had only five goals in 65 games last season.

Jarome Iginla scored his first goal at home this season and Martin Gelinas added one into an empty net for Calgary, which earned 10 of a possible 12 points on a six-game homestand (4-0-1-1).

Jonathan Cheechoo scored for the Sharks, who lost in regulation for the first time in 10 road games (5-1-3-1) and just the second time in 16 overall (7-2-5-2).

After a scoreless first period, the Flames took the lead at 11:22 of the second.

Off a faceoff in Calgary's own end, Flames defenseman Jordan Leopold neatly banked the puck out to center ice off the boards. The loose puck was picked up by Iginla, who had bowled past flat-footed defenseman Rob Davison at the Calgary blue line.

On a breakaway, Iginla squeezed a shot through Toskala's pads.

San Jose tied it six minutes later when Marco Sturm stepped around defenseman Toni Lydman and set up Cheechoo in the slot for his seventh goal.

That was the only one allowed by Mikka Kiprusoff, a former Sharks goalie who won his third game in four starts since joining the Flames in a Nov. 16 trade.

His best save was a pad stop off Patrick Marleau on a two-on-one early in the third period after a set up by Sturm.

After selling out the previous home game against Vancouver on Saturday, the Flames drew only 13,059. That was nearly 800 fewer than their earlier attendance low of 13,839 against Minnesota on Nov. 7.

Trail Blazers power forward Randolph arrested

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Trail Blazer forward Zach Randolph was arrested and charged Tuesday with driving under the influence of intoxicants, authorities said.

Randolph was released a few hours later. Police wouldn't say what substance he is accused of using.

The misdemeanor charge is punishable by up to one year in prison and a fine between \$1,000 and \$5,000, according to Multnomah County sheriff's Lt. Mike Shults. Randolph's first court appearance is Dec. 30.

A team spokesman did not return a call seeking comment.

Randolph, who became a starter

this season, leads the team with an average of 20.7 points and 11.2 rebounds a game.

The Blazers have been plagued by a series of arrests and infighting the past few seasons. Bonzi Wells was stripped of his co-captaincy and suspended for two games after cursing at coach Maurice Cheeks. Damon Stoudamire is facing drug charges.

Spartan volleyball overcame early season struggles to make surprising tournament run in 2003

By Michelle Meier
Daily Staff Writer

Spartan volleyball player Kimberly Noble said the 2003 season was full of ups and downs.

SPARTAN VOLLEYBALL FROM THE BACK ROW

NOTEBOOK

"It was like a roller coaster ride," Noble said.

As a young, inexperienced team with only one returning starter, the Spartans were unable to keep a winning streak going beyond two matches and finished out the season 10-20 overall, 6-7 in the Western Athletic Conference.

Head coach Craig Choate said he was fully aware the season was going to be a struggle.

"It went pretty much the way I thought it would go," he said.

After losing to the University of Hawai'i on Sept. 26, the Spartans dropped to 2-10 overall. Over the next 18 matches, they showed improvement, going 8-10 down the stretch.

The team's first back-to-back wins came on the road against the University of Texas-El Paso and Boise State University, upping their overall record to 5-11.

With its fifth conference victory, San Jose State University secured its spot in the postseason WAC Tournament with a 3-1 road win against the University of Tulsa on Oct. 23.

Entering the tournament as the sixth seed, qualifying for the championship round was a long shot.

Despite all of the inconsistency during the regular season, the Spartan volleyball team persevered and proved that it could contend with every team in the conference.

Libero Jessie Shull said the fact that they were the underdogs made them play harder.

"I think we had that nothing-to-lose feeling," Shull said.

In two major upsets, the Spartans knocked off the No. 3 seeded Fresno State University in the first round and the No. 2 seeded Southern Methodist University in the second round.

The Cinderella Spartans took on Hawai'i in the championship round.

SJSU's journey to the top ended there, but not without a fight, as they stayed within five points of the Rainbow Wahine in the first two games.

Although the season had its share of low points, the team's success at the tournament demonstrated what the Spartans were capable of.

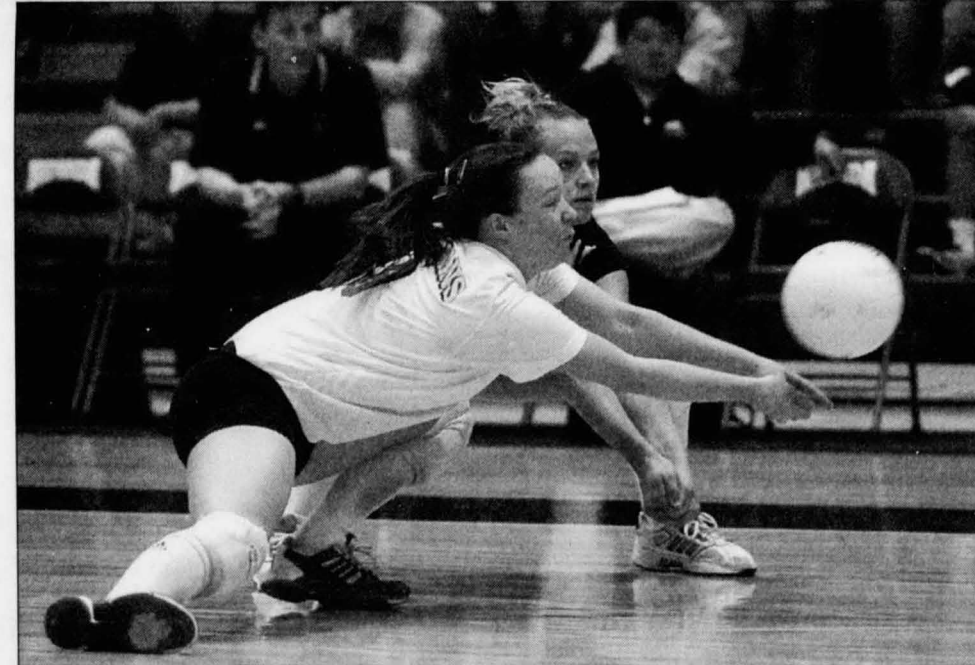
"I think they finally started to figure it out," Choate said.

Four Spartan players were among those chosen for the All-WAC Tournament Team.

Noble, Shull, outside hitter Carrie Nash and setter Allison Dillon received the honor.

In her fourth and final season as a Spartan volleyball player, Noble broke former Spartan Brianna Blaire's record of 4,567 career kill attempts with 4,724.

With 604 single season kills, Noble also ranks third behind former Spartan All-American Joslynn Gallop, who had 630 kills in 2000.



Ryan Balbuena / Daily File Photo

"It's a good feeling to be right under an All-American," Noble said.

Choate said the team won't be the same without Noble next season.

"Four years as a starter ... that's always a sad thing," he said. "How do

you replace her? I don't know."

Shull, a freshman, broke the school's record for digs in a single season with 473.

Shull tied the previous record, held by Kim Hicks in 1988, when she exe-

cuted her first dig in the championship match against Hawai'i. She went on to add 15 digs.

Choate said Shull surpassed his expectations.

"She came in and just did a fabulous

job," he said.

Following winter break, the team returns to the court to train for the 2004 season.

Choate said he is currently looking into recruiting an outside hitter from Hawai'i and a middle blocker from Southern California for the upcoming season.

Although the team will be losing seniors, Noble and defensive specialist Danielle Lewis, a number of familiar faces will be returning.

"I think we have a lot of solid players that are coming back," Shull said.

Noble, who will be traveling overseas in January to pursue her career in volleyball, said although it was rough, the team learned a great deal this season.

"I expect them to step up and take charge like I did," she said. "Now that I'm gone, it's someone else's turn to shine."

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University bids farewell to Capt. Lowe

Governor, Democrats clash over budget



Photos by Autumn Cruz / Daily Staff



Above: Capt. Bruce Lowe of the University Police Department laughs at his retirement party in the University Room on Tuesday as a speaker jokes about the good times they had at work. Lowe is retiring after 18 and a half years with the department. After one more semester taking classes at San Jose State University Lowe plans to move to San Diego to "paint, go to school and learn to boogie board," he said.

Left: Guests at Capt. Bruce Lowe's retirement party signed and wrote well-wishing notes on several sheets of paper that were colorfully decorated with pictures of him throughout the years.

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — After meeting with Assembly Democrats for an hour Tuesday, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he was optimistic his budget package would be approved eventually.

"We had a terrific meeting," Schwarzenegger said after the closed-door meeting. But he left unanswered whether the Legislature would be able to make a Friday deadline for placing a bond financing plan and a spending cap proposal on the March ballot.

The new Republican governor wants to trim \$3.8 billion in spending from this and next year's budgets in the coming months but also wants to borrow up to \$15 billion this year to pay off the state's existing deficit.

The borrowing would replace about \$12 billion in bonds already approved by the Legislature in the current budget — loans that have been challenged in court because the debt was not approved by the voters.

Schwarzenegger wants the bonds on the March ballot, but to make that happen, lawmakers must pass the proposal by a two-thirds margin by midnight Friday to give election officials time to print the ballots. He also wants voters to approve a spending cap that will impose hard limits on state agencies.

Democrats who control both chambers of the Legislature have not embraced any of Schwarzenegger's proposals. Instead, they're concerned his \$3.8 billion in cuts fall too heavily on the poor and disabled and that the spending cap would hurt programs in the future, especially education.

Some, led by state Treasurer Phil Angelides, have attacked the \$15 billion bond plan, saying a 30-year repayment schedule will cost taxpayers \$30 billion.

The bonds included in this year's state budget would have been repaid over five years, not 30, which would save billions in interest payments.

Incoming Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, wouldn't comment on specifics of the meeting with Schwarzenegger but said the governor and legislators covered all aspects of the budget plan.

Calling it a "fruitful discussion," Nunez wouldn't say if any compromise plans were discussed.

Schwarzenegger left the meeting to fly to San Diego for a noontime rally aimed at generating support for the budget proposal. He has said he will travel up and down the state between now and Friday looking for support for his plan — an effort that has offended some Democrats.

But the statewide tour isn't aimed at "trying to jam the Legislature," Nunez said. Schwarzenegger told the Democratic caucus.

Meanwhile, Angelides announced a television campaign and statewide barnstorming tour to derail Schwarzenegger's bond plan. Angelides plans stops in Los Angeles on Wednesday, San Diego on Thursday and Monterey Bay on Friday.

He said 30-second television commercials begin Wednesday in Sacramento, the Bay Area, Bakersfield, Los Angeles and San Diego. Angelides said he has raised \$350,000 so far for the effort, including money from his campaign fund and more from Stephen Bing, a Hollywood producer and Democratic activist.

He called it "just the start" of an offensive against the bond plan if the Legislature votes by Friday to put it on the March ballot.

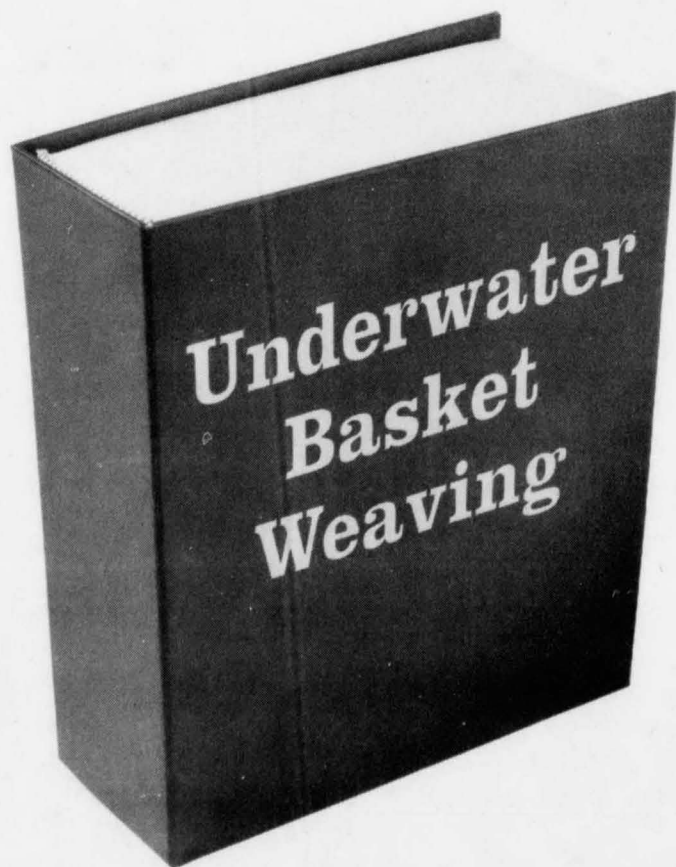
Calling it "an illusion" and akin to "kiting a check," he said, "This plan asks not what we can do for our children, but what our children can do for us."

In a conference call with reporters, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell added his concerns about the Schwarzenegger budget plan, noting that if the governor's spending cap is imposed schools would receive a cut of about \$2 billion next year.

Barbara Kerr, president of the California Teachers Association, added that Schwarzenegger had promised during the campaign to protect school funding.

"This isn't protecting the funding," she said.

For more information on the governor's proposed budget cuts, visit the Department of Finance Web site: www.dof.ca.gov
Treasurer Phil Angelides: www.treasurer.ca.gov



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