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Dropped class miffs students

Dean blames budget for cancellation of requisite course

By Elizabeth Nguyen
Daily Staff Writer

A group of a dozen students marched down the hallways of Washington Square Hall on Thursday to protest the sudden

cancellation of their African American studies class.

Shria Watkins, a junior African American studies major, said the class was supposed to start at 4 p.m. and the students had been waiting for an hour for an instructor to arrive.

Since students are expected to pay for classes and show up on time, Watkins said "we're entitled to the same" punctuality and organization from the department.

Perplexed by their instructor's apparent tardiness, the students said they walked to the department office where they were told

their class had been cut.

Iris Jerke taught the African American studies 120 class, Watkins said.

Janelle Casawave, a senior majoring in African American studies, said she needed the class in order to graduate.

"I'm trying to graduate, and I don't have the time to study and look for (new) classes, Casawave said.

According to the College of Social Work's Web site, the 120 class is an area requirement students need in order to graduate with a bachelor's degree in African American studies.

"If they are cutting classes, when do I have time to study?" Casawave said.

Erma Jackson, a graduate student majoring in English, said she does not want the African American studies department to shut down services.

"We demand answers," Jackson said.

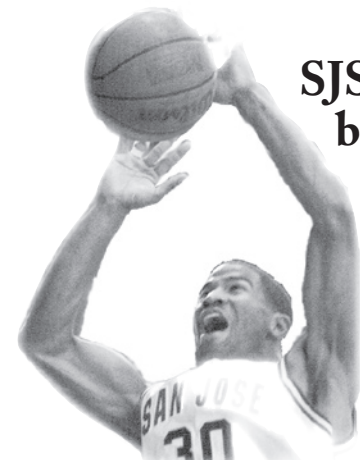
The class is also important to students that are taking it as an elective and not as part of their requirements, she said.

"(African American studies) gives me strength and increases my spirit," Jackson

see CANCELED, page 3

INSIDE

SPORTS | page 6



SJSU men's basketball ends losing streak

Lunching on the forbidden green ...



Andrew Hendershot/Daily Staff

Morgan Chivers, a junior German major at San Jose State University, enjoys a lunch break on Tower Lawn, or as he and his friends call it, the "no-no area." They call the area around the fountain such because it is surrounded by grass with signs that read "Do not walk on grass."

Oracle bid could cost CSU system

By Carly Roden
Daily Staff Writer

Technical support for San Jose State University's student administration software stands to change for better or worse, pending a merger of two Bay Area technology giants, officials said last week.

If successful, Oracle Corp.'s \$9.4 billion bid on PeopleSoft would acquire its contracts with customers like the California State University system. However, the U.S. Department of Justice is considering whether to block the purchase on antitrust grounds, according to a Feb. 11 article in the San Jose Mercury News.

While the fate of the sale is uncertain, Oracle has already begun to reach out to PeopleSoft clients.

"We offer a world-class support organization many times larger than that of PeopleSoft. Technical support would be substantially enhanced," said Jennifer Glass, spokeswoman for Oracle.

In contrast, a spokesman for PeopleSoft said that customers have rallied behind the company since Oracle made its first offer last June.

"Oracle's unsolicited offers have significantly undervalued the company, and the board of directors has decided that the merger is not in the best interests of our stockholders," said Steve Swasey, director of corporate public relations for PeopleSoft.

The CSU system has not taken an official stand on the potential merger, said Colleen Bentley-Adler, director of public affairs for the Chancellor's Office.

"We would hope that, should the merger succeed, Oracle would provide support for the PeopleSoft programs," Bentley-Adler said.

While it has yet to formulate a backup plan, Bentley-Adler said the CSU also has concerns about software upgrades, which are now routinely performed by PeopleSoft.

see ORACLE, page 8

Cash donations lacking at SJSU

School seeks vision to lure philanthropists

By Dan King
Daily Staff Writer

San Jose State University ranks sixth in student population of the 28 California State Universities but is ranked closer to the middle in philanthropic support from the alumni, said one school official.

"SJSU probably ranks at the high middle or the low top in philanthropic support," said Robert Ashton, vice president of University Advancement at SJSU.

According to a memo from Clara Potes-Fellow, media relations manager for the CSU chancellor's office, San Diego State University led CSUs with philanthropic donations of \$60.9 million in 2002-03 and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal State Long Beach each exceeded \$30 million.

According to the SJSU 2003-04

budget report, SJSU received \$10.8 million in cash and in-kind gifts during the same period.

While \$10.8 million is less than three percent of the total SJSU budget of \$379 million, with dropping state contributions, it is an area with potential growth possibilities, Ashton said.

"People talk about campaign goals being a certain dollar figure," Ashton said. "But to really be effective, the goal is to transform the institution, reach the next plateau. Give out more scholarships or hire more faculty, buy new equipment, launch new programs, whatever it is we think we need to be doing."

Ashton said if his department would get sufficient support, they would be able to reach the \$30 million mark within the next six years.

Ashton was hired in September 2003 to improve the communication with alumni, community leaders, politicians, and corporate and

see FUNDRAISING, page 8

Retired VTA driver keeps students moving

By Michael Lerma
Daily Staff Writer

The sun shone on students waiting to board a shuttle bus late one Wednesday afternoon at Duncan Hall.

Driver Ann Rentie-Harris flashed her smile to a hesitant student and motioned with her hand for him to enter the bus.

Students streamed onto the bus in a line that seemed never ending until all the seats were occupied and all the space in the walkway was congested with passengers clinging to overhead handles.

Rentie-Harris said, "You guys move in as far back as you can please," but five or six students remained on the sidewalk with no space for them on the bus.

Rentie-Harris said to the passengers left behind, "The other bus is on the way," and drove off to get the bus to its next destination.

In a career spanning 30 years and one retirement, Rentie-Harris has spent the last two years moving San Jose State University students between the main campus and the Park and Ride lot located at Tenth and Alma Streets. Other buses go to the Seventh Street lot.

Parking services coordinator Azzam Qawasmi said shuttle buses move students

see SHUTTLE, page 3



Carien Veldpape / Daily Staff

Lamons Walker, right, steps off the bus at the Duncan Hall shuttle stop. Walker, a sociology graduate student, said he takes the shuttle buses every Tuesday and Thursday and likes the Park and Ride lot more than the garage because, "There's never a space guaranteed in there."

FULL FRAME

Attraction never works like it does in the movies

"So what do you plan to do for Valentine's Day?" a friend asked me last week.
 "I plan to sulk."
 I wonder how everybody else's went.
 Valentine's, like so many other holidays, is rife with expectation. If you're with somebody, you want it to be the perfect day, with romantic dinners, long walks on the beach, that sort of crap.
 If you're single, it's all about complaining.
 My friend from San Diego talked at great length about the lack of excitement in her relationship with her boyfriend.
 "You planning on getting some?" I asked her.
 "Probably," she said, devoid of any enthusiasm.
 She said even though she loved her boyfriend, the relationship — and Valentine's Day itself — seemed more like a process than anything meaningful.
 Next to prom night, it's probably the closest thing to guaranteed nookie any guy will get, and I agree, it makes the day feel cheap. But it certainly underscores the fact that along with other holidays, Valentine's never turns out like you'd want it to.
 I would like to place the blame squarely on the media, of which I'm also a card-carrying member.
 Back when my social skills were even less honed, I was convinced I merely had to follow the three easy steps of Hollywood romances to land myself a date.
 Guy meets girl, guy annoys girl, guy gets girl automatically in the end.

This is the plotline of many movies I've seen, and needless to say I'm still single.
 And I'm not alone.
 I witnessed a firsthand collision of this media/movie expectation and reality one day at a fast-food restaurant.
 A nerdy, slightly overweight guy hunched over the counter, staring at a beautiful Asian girl working the fryer. He's interested in her, but she doesn't make eye contact.
 He tried his best to start some small talk. His voice wasn't forceful. Instead it had the tone of timidity, longing and loneliness.
 "Hey, where are you from?" he asked.
 No answer. She calmly shoveled the fries into their container and walked on, ignoring him.
 He started to shift uneasily, unsure what to do. He walked alongside the counter, trying to keep up with her.
 With a timid internal strength, he mustered the energy to ask what was on his mind.
 "So, what're you doing after work?"
 Again, no answer.
 His shoulders sagged, and he slunk away from the register, his fingers the last to slip away from the counter.
 "I guess I'll see you later," he muttered.
 "Bye."
 His ears perked, and he rushed back to the counter.

She had responded, he probably thought.
 "What did you say?" he asked, his voice brimming with hope.
 Silence. She continued with her job, and with a certain finality, he left the restaurant despondent.
 I think I was the only one who saw that exchange, but it broke my heart watching it.
 I can only guess what he was thinking, but I know what I would've thought, speaking as a nerdy, slightly overweight guy myself.
 He might have been thinking, "She's a cute girl. I'm a pretty intelligent and reasonable guy. Plus all the movies I've watched say, if I just be myself, even I can get the girl. This'll be great. Let me ask her out."
 And on her mind?
 "Who is this crazy guy? I don't know him, and he's trying to ask me out? I don't want to have anything to do with him. It's just like all those movies I've watched about those crazy freaks always trying to kidnap sweet, innocent girls like me."
 It wasn't his fault that he wasn't interesting to her. It wasn't her fault.
 Like Dr. Drew once said on the radio call-in show "Love Line," "You think violence in movies is detrimental to young people? Try romance in movies."



JASHONG KING

We have a whole generation of kids skewed into thinking stalking will ultimately land you the girl.
 Maybe if movies portrayed relationships more realistically, with the complex web of awkwardness, misreads and lost connections, we wouldn't be so fixated on the fantasy of romance. Maybe instead, we can deal with the reality of romance.
 We judge how normal our lives are based upon what we see around us. This is why I seem to have gotten notoriously liberal living in the Bay Area, and why I was an ardent Bush-supporter back when I lived in Wyoming.
 If you are a lonely nerd, or a trendy girl, your expectations of normal are dictated by not just your friends, but by what you see.
 Life's not a movie, and as much as I know to say it, I still have a hard time believing it.
 So Valentine's is over, and I'm glad.
 I didn't hook up with a girl, though I tried. I didn't get a kiss but I got a hug, so it wasn't a happy ending, but it wasn't a bad ending either. It was a real ending.
 Instead I went out afterward and, surprise, surprise, saw a movie.
 Then I got back to sulking.

JaShong King is the Spartan Daily picture editor. "Full Frame" appears every Monday.

ANOTHER DIMENTIAN | PAUL DYBDAHL



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 spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu titled "Sparta Guide." Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

TODAY

- Career Center**
A resume clinic for business majors will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Career Center. For more information, call 924-6031.
- Black Student Union**
"Save the African American studies department" discussion will be held at 7 p.m. at the Mosaic Cultural Center. For more information, e-mail bsu_sjsu@yahoo.com.
- Black Student Union**
An Afro-Caribbean dance workshop will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in WSQ 204. For more information, e-mail bsu_sjsu@yahoo.com.
- Pride of the Pacific Islands**
A Polynesian dance class will take place from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in SPX 75. For more information, e-mail nisalex88@aol.com.

TUESDAY

Department of Nutrition and Food Science
 Body fat testing offered from 10 a.m. to noon in Central Classroom building 221. Cost is \$5 per student analysis. For more information, contact 924-3362.

- SJSU Catholic Ministry**
Daily mass takes place at 12:10 p.m. in the Campus Ministry Chapel. For more information, call Sister Marcia at 938-1610.
- Department of Political Science**
"Political Transformation in Post-Yugoslavia" will be held at noon in the Costanoan room in the Student Union, featuring guest speaker Dr. Vladimir K. Volkov. For more information, call Dr. Cross at 924-5566.
- School of Music**
The Tuesday Listening Hour Concert Series will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Music building Concert Hall, featuring the vocal studio of Eric Mills. For more information, call Joan at 924-4649.
- History Department**
Dr. Vladimir K. Volkov will give a lecture on the Hitler-Stalin relations on the eve of the German invasion of Russia at 4 p.m. in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library in lecture room B on the second floor.

Associated Students
 Associated Students government candidate applications are now available at the A.S. house and the Office of Student Life and Leadership. Applications are due Feb. 23. For more information, call 924-5955.

IS IT FRIDAY YET?

Kerry is a sure bet for Hollywood, White House

Before reading this column, you must register to vote if you haven't already.
Your last chance is Tuesday.
 If you were a cookie-cutter oily Hollywood producer and had to make a movie about any of the five Democratic candidates, which one would you choose?
 Which movie would Joe and Jane America go see?
 The answer (drum roll) is the one starring some trusty top-billed senior actor stud as John Kerry.
 The plot: sensitive, intelligent man bound by duty serves his country in Vietnam, navigates the Mekong Delta and earns three Purple Hearts, returns to Washington determined to speak out against the war and, in the end, ascends into political office.
 And George W. Bush thinks he's wrapped in the flag. Too bad he took a rich boy's pass during the infamous police action and, as president, launched a unilateral, "no endgame" attack on Iraq.



TONY BURCHYNS

"Plain and simple, more moderate women will flock to Kerry, ballots in hand, than any other candidate in the race."

Uh-duh.
 For shame, draft dodger, for shame.
 Now the Bush administration is on the defensive, releasing stacks of documents to answer criticism that the president went absent without leave from the Texas Air National Guard in 1972.
 Not one of the documents verifies his exact whereabouts.
 Kerry returned from the battlefield decorated and disillusioned.
 He told Congress the war was a mistake.
 Now Rush Limbaugh is accusing Kerry of turning his back on his comrades, like a bad robot, I guess.
 Let's face it. While Bush and Kerry are both Yale University alumni from filthy rich backgrounds, one rose with fellow countrymen to meet a challenge, and one slithered into the Republican old boys' network.
 I'll relish seeing Kerry vs. Bush.
 The patriotic, virile and determined Sen. John Kerry will win the Democratic nomination come July.
 Hands down.
 I predict Kerry can defeat Bush, too, and he'll do it by luring women voters throughout Middle America.
 Could this be another Harrison Ford role?
 Plain and simple, more moderate women will flock to Kerry, ballots in hand, than any other candidate in the race.
 Go ahead and get your mind out of the gutter and ask yourself: who would women (and men, for that matter) rather have their sons and daughters look up to — Bush (cowardly, overzealous hawk) or Kerry (dutiful, deliberate decision-maker)?
 Kerry's zest seems so obvious now, I don't know why we were all so blind to it from the beginning.
 Then again, Howard Dean's campaign buzzed out of the gate like a pack of angry hornets.
 Actually, I saw both men speak last year and was more impressed with Dean's stumping than Kerry's.

This was pre-scream, mind you.
 But somehow an important — no, crucial — element slipped my mind last March as I watched the former Vermont governor electrify delegates at the California Democratic convention and let myself believe he might have a chance — Dean just doesn't have blockbuster appeal.
 In person, he's a red-hot vaudeville act, but on-screen, he's cold and abrasive with no mainstream mythology surrounding his character.
 No matter how salient his points may be about slimy Washington insiders, the man comes across like a bucket of bees.
 Dean wants to shake things up, but America's wired for tingly happy endings (which makes me think perhaps we haven't seen the last presidential run of Sen. John Edwards — another movie with potential that needs development ...).
 At the March state convention, Dean may have been the favorite, but don't forget, we're bit "leftier" out here.
 The March 2 primary is hard to see in my crystal ball, but I still think a majority of voters will end up on the Kerry bandwagon.
 It will be close, though.
 On the issues, Dean's probably more in line with the Golden State's most hard-core Democratic Party faithful.
 He says he opposed the war in Iraq and has lambasted Kerry for voting to allow Bush to use U.S. military force.
 He has no public opinion on gay marriage, which may go over better than Kerry's opposition to same-sex nuptials.
 Dean supports the death penalty and Kerry doesn't, but the issue will hardly take center stage.
 On most other issues involving Homeland Security, civil rights, taxes and the environment, Dean and Kerry take complementary stands.
 But of course Dean shook the rafters at the convention. So did Al Sharpton, who gave the most uplifting and entertaining political speech I've ever seen.
 But reality for geographically and spiritually privileged California Democrats is a bit different than it is for the rest of the nation.
 Further proof of this will come out when vegan Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich, the extreme-least popular of the five Democratic candidates remaining, makes his best primary showing outside of Ohio in this state. Just wait and see.

Tony Burchyns is the Spartan Daily managing editor. "Is it Friday yet?" appears every Monday.

SPARTAN DAILY

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A letter to the editor is a 200-word response to an issue or a point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

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Submissions become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

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SHUTTLE | 'I am paying half-price for parking'

continued from page 1

from the parking lot to the edge of campus between 6:15 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.

"There is a long route which goes to the Park and Ride lot, around campus and back to Spartan Village on the way to Park and Ride," Qawasm said. "The short route goes directly between Park and Ride and Duncan Hall with no stops in-between."

Qawasm said during the peak hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., there should be a bus every five minutes at the Duncan Hall stop.

Rentie-Harris said she enjoys the lack of stress she gets from SJSU students.

"The students are nice and that is a lot different from VTA (for which she worked for 25 years)," Rentie-Harris said. "But the students are young adults, and if you treat them any differently when asking them to move back, they will not listen."

During the sardine can-like ride from Duncan Hall, Rentie-Harris said she was able to squeeze 49 students on the bus.

"The most I got on a bus at once was 55," Rentie-Harris said. "But it all depends on how much cooperation we get."

Animation illustration major Leo Braz da Cunha asked Rentie-Harris, "Was that bus of 55 passengers full

of skinny people?"

Braz da Cunha said he is in class at SJSU five days a week.

"I am happy with the service and have no complaints," Braz da Cunha said. "(The cramped bus) is a small discomfort, but I am paying half-price for parking."

The bus then pulled into the Park and Ride lot when Rentie-Harris said, "Thanks for your help," to the passengers that filed out in search of their cars.

On this day, Rentie-Harris said she had her first case of an SJSU student falling asleep and missing his stop.

"He woke up after his stop and asked me when I would stop there again," Rentie-Harris said. "It was a little suspicious, but I don't see people under the influence. I would know if anyone smelled like marijuana because it gets in your clothes."

Rentie-Harris said her time driving the shuttle is mostly uneventful.

"Some of the students have really tight schedules, so I make sure I get on as many students as I can," Rentie-Harris said. "I have some regulars that are my favorites. Most riders say 'Thank you' on the way out."

"I can tell you stories from now till tomorrow if we are talking about the VTA," Rentie-Harris said. "Luckily, the SJSU students are a little more subdued."

"Some of the students have really tight schedules, so I make sure I get on as many students as I can. I have some regulars that are my favorites. Most riders say 'Thank you' on the way out."

- Ann Rentie-Harris, shuttle driver

CANCELED | 'We're taking it to the next level'

continued from page 1

said. "It just makes me stronger to know what my ancestors fought for. If you don't know about your history, how will you know your future?"

The African American studies department was one of the first ethnic studies departments at San Jose State University, Jackson said.

"There are a lot of unhappy students. For me, it's the lives of these students, and their happiness concerns me."

- Daniel E. Georges-Abeyie, department chairman for African American studies

"It laid the foundation for other ethnic studies," she said.

The students were taken to meet with the department chairman, Daniel E. Georges-Abeyie, and he "explained the politics of the whole situation," Watkins said.

"The department has been very supportive," she said. "This was brought on by the dean of the College of Social Work."

Georges-Abeyie, professor and department chair for African American studies, said the situation was brought on because of budget cuts.

"What has happened is that certain classes have been dismissed because of economic reasons," Georges-Abeyie said.

In the case of the 120 class, the instructor may have been dismissed because she was part-time, he said, and the class had low enrollment.

He said he understands why students are worried.

"Some of (the students) are concerned, especially those hoping to graduate by Spring 2004," Georges-Abeyie said.

They are concerned that they won't have enough units to graduate, he said.

"It is a possibility that it will affect students and graduation dates," Georges-Abeyie said.

The official statement from the dean is that the department is "doing this because of financial reasons," he said.

"There are a lot of unhappy students," Georges-Abeyie said. "For me, it's the lives of these students, and their happiness concerns me."

Sylvia Andrew, the dean of the College of Social Work, said she "can't discuss personnel matters."

"We're facing a period of limited resources," Andrew said. "When courses have very few students, we have to look at the possibility of

combining classes."

A resolution passed by the Academic Senate in April of 2000 directed that when classes don't meet guidelines, they must be canceled before the first day of instruction or as soon as possible afterward, Andrew said.

The faculty needed to be directed to classes with higher demand, she said.

According to the Academic Senate's Instruction and Student Affairs Committee, lower division courses (1-99) require 13 students or more, while upper division courses (100-199; 300-399) 10 or more.

"However, college deans, in consultation with the provost, may authorize the continuance of classes when there is compelling reason for offering them in spite of low enrollments, provided they can be staffed within the existing faculty allocations of the college," the committee stated.

"I have been committed to African American studies and Mexican American studies for years," Andrew said.

The College of Social Work has a "commitment to diversity and a commitment to ethnic studies and has historically broken new ground when it comes to issue of diversity," she said.

Some classes need to be combined for economic reasons, Andrew said.

"If there are classes that have limited numbers, then we ask department heads to call the students in the classes that are small and see about combining them," Andrew said. "We

don't want to lose the students."

Jerke, the former instructor of the African American Studies class, did not care to comment Friday on the situation.

Jerke's students, however, said they are going plead their case to the provost and interim President Joseph Crowley.

"We're taking it to the next level," said Ladetra Williams, a senior majoring in psychology.

Casawave said no one has made an effort to reach out to the African American studies department.

"We want to know that we are valued as African American majors and minors," Casawave said.

Casawave said she believes that all ethnic studies classes may be in trouble.

"If they're cutting one class, what's to stop them from cutting others?" she said.

According to Andre Porter, a graduate student taking the class, Jerke "is another victim of the cutbacks and systematic elimination of African American studies at SJSU."

Jewel Johnson, a junior majoring in African American studies, said the cutbacks are disheartening.

"It's an additional hurdle you don't need right now," Johnson said. "They're throwing boulders, not rocks."

The cuts to the department make things very difficult for students expecting to graduate, Johnson said.

"Only half the classes are being offered," she said. "It makes things difficult if you've already took (the

Depicting the physical world ...



Nicholas R. Wright / Daily Staff

Marshall Moon, right, a junior graphic design major, eyes his subject, while Melanie Panergo, center, a junior graphic design major, and Shin Amemiya, a junior animation/illustration major, work on their sketches during their representational drawing class on Feb. 12.

rest of the classes) and the one that you need is cut."

Johnson said that these students won't be able to fight this situation on their own.

"We're asking for the whole population of SJSU to support us," Johnson said.

The students said they are in danger of losing a department that is very important in their lives.

"We need our culture — our heritage," Jackson said. "And without this, we lose out on our history."

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Calendar

Music

Keb Mo'
Feb. 20, 8 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa. Advance ticket price is \$35. Available at tickets.com.

Enrique Iglesias
Feb. 24 at the Paramount Theater in Oakland. Advance ticket prices are \$35 to \$65. Available at Ticketmaster.

Britney Spears and Kelis coming to the Oakland Arena March 9, 8 p.m. Advance tickets range from \$40.50 to \$76. Tickets available at tickets.com.

Bob Marley Days, headlining Sly & Robbie & The Taxi Connection, costs \$30. This all-ages event at the Warfield on Feb. 20 starts at 8 p.m. Call (415) 371-5500 for more information.

Kuumbwa Jazz in Santa Cruz will feature vocalist, songwriter and producer Cassandra Wilson, Feb. 26. \$26 advanced, \$29 at the door. Call (831) 468-3399.

Misc.

San Jose Planned Parenthood is hosting a dance party fundraiser Feb. 27 at Waves Smokehouse, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$10 per person.

Steinbeck Center in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library will present "East of Eden" at 4 p.m. Feb. 18 and 19.

Armenian Film Festival, co-sponsored by the Film Arts Foundation and San Francisco Cinematheque, will show 32 films at 131 Tenth St. in San Francisco. Tickets for single screenings are \$10, \$60 for full festival pass. Running Feb. 20 to 22. For more information, visit www.armenianfilmfestival.org.

Performing Arts

Multi-Ethnic Theater in San Francisco playing "Dutchman," an award-winning portrayal of conflict leading to violence. 8 p.m. Through Feb. 21. Call (415) 333-6389.

The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie will be performed by the Northside Theatre Company from Feb. 19 to March 7. Tickets are \$10 for students. For more information, call (408) 288-7820.

A Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed at the San Jose Repertory Theatre through Feb. 22. Tickets are \$18 to \$52. Call (408) 367-7255.

Comedy

The Second Annual Amateur Comedy Competition starts at 8 p.m. Preliminary rounds run through March. Tickets are \$7. Call (408) 736-0921.

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Evanescence brings crowd to life



Stacey Ruesch/Daily Staff

Rock band Evanescence's lead vocalist Amy Lee sings during the band's performance at the San Jose State University Event Center on Friday evening. Evanescence won two Grammys this past month.

By Colin Kutch
Daily Staff Writer

The big question coming into the Event Center Friday night was whether Evanescence could duplicate live what the band released on disc.

REVIEW

The group's debut album, "Fallen," is a densely layered production complete with orchestral arrangements, thick guitar distortion and the operatic vocals of Amy Lee. Think Linkin Park meets a younger, more poppy version of Tori Amos.

Another question was if replacement guitarist Terry Balsamo, formerly of the band Cold, could fill in original guitarist Ben Moody's shoes.

Moody left the band in October with no notice. According to an MTV News report, Moody is currently writing songs with Avril Lavigne.

Evanescence isn't known for complicated riffs or even original guitar tones, so all Balsamo had to do was play the right notes. Balsamo had no problem handling the job.

At times, Evanescence was able to match the sound quality of the album. More important was Lee's connection with the audience.

A little more than midway through the band's one-hour set, the lights were dimmed and Lee appeared alone, playing piano on "My Immortal." By that point, Lee was in full control of the crowd's attention.

Dressed in a black cheerleading skirt and a sports tank top, Lee is often labeled a "goth chick" by misinformed press, but that has more to do with her long black hair and dark eyeshadow than anything musical.

Evanescence has arena-sized hooks in their biggest hits. It's no surprise the crowd pulled out its cell phones and lighters whenever one of the band's power ballads was played.

Then the audience sang word-for-word to "Bring Me to Life" at the same volume as Lee. It's quite a feat to get grown men to sing along in falsetto at a

rock concert. Without missing a beat, the band played "Tourniquet" then left the stage shortly, only to come back for a much-deserved encore. By then, the crowd was so riled up that when Lee tossed a towel into the audience, six people fought for it throughout the entire song.

The band's performance was a little rougher than on the album, but Lee made up for her occasionally raw vocals with pure energy and adrenaline.

However, Evanescence is not immune to poor decisions.

Since the band only has one album to take songs from, Lee and Co. had to pad the set with a couple of bonus tracks. Their covers of both Soundgarden and the Smashing Pumpkins were horrendous.

Lee could not match the distinct vocals of either Chris Cornell or Billy Corgan. It's interesting that Lee would even bother to sing songs that don't compliment her classically trained style.

Then there were the canned drum loops and prerecorded backing vocals on "Going Under."

This was supposed to be a rock show. Britney Spears comes to Oakland next month — save the fake stuff for her.

The Event Center was filled with a wide range of age groups, from preteens to adults. It's a testament to the band's mainstream success that it won two Grammys earlier this month.

After 49 weeks on the Billboard charts, the quadruple-platinum "Fallen" is still in the top 10.

In the end, it was Lee's captivating performance that made the band worth checking out. Her voice is the life force of the band.

Default came out as main support. They blew their typical hard-rock load after two songs then relied strictly on generic ballads, a Led Zeppelin cover and a pair of radio singles to tide the crowd over before Evanescence.

They played with enthusiasm and at least got the crowd into it for a little bit, which is more than can be said for show-opener Atomship, which probably only got to play because they are on Wind-Up Records — the same label as Evanescence.

There was no doubt the audience was there to watch Amy Lee. Everything else was just space filler.

'Dreamers' is a nightmare

By Theresa Smith
Daily Staff Writer

Kissing your sibling on the mouth before going to bed is just gross.

Whatever happened to a simple "Goodnight"?

This kind of erotic behavior is just a snippet of the outrageous sexual activities that take place in the controversial movie "The Dreamers," appropriately rated NC-17 for its nudity and sexual content. This excruciating two-hour experience is unlike no other. It's a waste of time — and film.

REVIEW

Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci teamed up with writer Gilbert Adair, author of the novel "The Holy Innocents," on which the film is based. Together they recreate the novel with Bertolucci's embellishments of an openly incestuous sexual addiction between two siblings, which just makes the movie go a bit over the edge.

The story follows three film-loving students, Isabelle and Theo, a sister and brother who befriend a stranger, Matthew. The three come together and engage in an awkward, sexual, cinema-trivia-mind game where sex is the punishment.

Michael Pitt plays Matthew, a young American student who enjoys watching ancient films and attending the arts museum in Paris. This Leonardo DiCaprio look-alike doesn't necessarily agree with the actions of the two siblings but goes along with them throughout the movie.

Eva Green, who plays Isabelle, is a confused teenager who enjoys re-enacting classic movies and spending time with her brother.

Theo, played by Louis Garrel, is a young French film student who insisted Matthew stay with them while his parents are on vacation. Both Matthew and Theo want to win all of Isabelle's attention, but she is left with the pressures of choosing.

In the film, which takes place in 1968, there is nothing wrong with incest and sexual experimentation. The thought of free love and sexual liberation sounds a bit scary in this day in age, but in France during a political uproar where students riot after protesting the Vietnam War in 1968, the three experiment and expand on each other's sexual limits.

The film references classic French and American films, such as "Queen Christina," "Freaks," "Scarface" and "City Lights," by showing the three students re-enacting scenes from the films.

Bertolucci's evident love for film — and flesh — is displayed throughout the film.

Bertolucci is brave in his approach, but the film doesn't assess the incest or homosexuality. These activities sort of just happen as if it's normal to observe your sibling while he/she is being intimate with a total stranger — and to actually enjoy it. In spite of Bertolucci's view of intimacy and the love for skin, his film "The Last Emperor" won nine Oscars in 1987, including Best Picture and Best Director.

"The Dreamers" is his third film based in Paris, with "The Conformist" and "Last Tango in Paris" being his earlier projects.

"The Dreamers" is a great title for this film since the three lived a life unlike any normal person. Bertolucci's message of "dreaming of a life like this" is displayed on the screen. Although the

director is known for his great talents, "The Dreamers" falls short of being as successful as his previous works. Luckily, he was talented enough to include a bit of humor or else he could expect a theater full of people dreaming they were watching another movie.

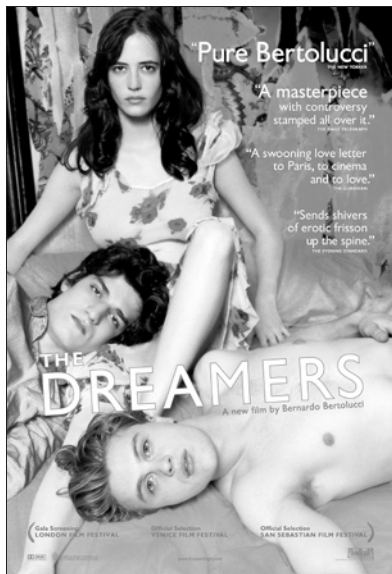


Photo courtesy of Fox

Souls shared with a sober Oasis crowd



Susan D. Reno/Daily Staff

Yari Iari sings soulful jazz tunes Friday night at the Oasis Club at 200 N. First St. during an all-ages, alcohol- and drug-free event presented by Planet Marz Entertainment. Supporting Iari on guitar is Lucien LaMotte. Planet Marz Entertainment is a grassroots organization that works to promote local bands performing at all-ages venues.

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Kappa Delta hosts Battle of the Bands as recruitment event

By John Myers
Daily Staff Writer

Cardboard flames and Christmas tree lights outline the stage, and the band launches into its first song, drilling the crowd with hammering drums and chomping guitars. The audience is timid at first, until a few of its members venture toward the stage and begin to dash against each other with flailing limbs and frenzied smiles.

It all happened in San Jose State University's backyard, at the house of the Kappa Delta sorority Thursday night where eight bands brawled in the Battle of the Bands.

By midnight, the crowd was asked to judge the bands by cheering, and DU Band, the closing band of the night, was chosen as the victor and received a guitar with "Battle of the Bands" emblazoned on the body.

"No sorority had ever really had a party before, so we decided we would be the first," Kappa Delta president Lauren Bosch said. "This was a recruitment event for the house."

Free food and beverages were included with the entire four-hour show for a door charge of \$2, and an announcer provided in-between-band entertainment.

"All the sisters pitched in and made (the food), with help from alumni," said Janell Lessing, a Kappa Delta sister and junior majoring in kinesiology. "Most came from donations, but some of the girls provided stuff."

The sisters set up a stage in Kappa Delta's parking lot, and soon it was shaking with crashing drums and roaring guitars.

Fade'n America

"If any other band wants me to do their levels for them, it's five dollars per band and two beers a minute," said Clint Sobolik, upright-bass player of opening band Fade'n America as he took the stage.

Accompanied by two guitars, a saxophone and a drummer, Sobolik sang along to the band's roadhouse blues-rock that spun tales of scorned lovers and drowning in seas of whiskey. Each band member swaggered along to the beat, and the composition of the songs sounds like Tom Waits' younger and rougher brother wrote them.

The crowd kept its distance from the band and did not engage the band members, causing the band to lose much of its showmanship and charm.

Fade'n America was one of the underrated bands of the night, with few audience members cheering for it during the judging portion. Compared to a few of the subsequent bands, however, Fade'n America had a far more original set and displayed far more creativity and talent.

Eatin' Apple Sellouts

"We started two days ago, so give us some encouragement," said Joey Kilaita, a junior political science major and guitarist of the night's second band, Eatin' Apple Sellouts.

Composed of brothers from the Phi Kappa Alpha and Alpha Tau Omega fraternities, the band started off with a song composed of generic pop-punk power chords. Many of the

audience members began to thrash around, moshing to a song that, while not providing much that was musically new, was a crowd favorite.

For the band's second selection, the band added a trumpet to perform a reggae-style "chill" song, as Kilaita put it. Again a crowd-pleaser, the audience participated by clapping out the beat and saluting the band with raised cigarette lighters.

To finish off its set, the Eatin' Apple Sellouts smashed through a metal-influence, hard-core number, with chunking chords and wailing vocals stirring the crowd into a bowl of spiraling limbs as the moshing continued.

Even though the band was put together last-minute and the music regurgitated the sounds found on nearly any rock radio station, the crowd's enthusiasm added a lot to a show that some of the other bands of the night lacked. The Eatin' Apple Sellouts ultimately placed second in the competition.

Mystidoid

"We have a couple of covers to play for you guys, but only if you guys wanna rock with us," said Forrest Cerato, singer of Mystidoid and Theta Chi fraternity brother.

Mystidoid began its set with a cover of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" before continuing on to tease the audience by improvising lines as well as playing two more covers by Zebrahead and the Lost Prophets, respectively.

While playing only covers, the band did work to engage the audience. The crowd moshed during the last song, despite missed notes and an obvious lack of practice.

"We just formed this band here a week ago," bass player Myles Shaw said. The sophomore administration of justice major also added, "We had one official practice."

Cerato's vocals did not fully display his talent until the end of the band's first number. The band could have made a much larger impact by playing original pieces.

Diamond Lane

Wrapped in leather jackets, bandannas, boots and studded belts, the three-piece Diamond Lane had the look of arena-metal gods. Wearing one Kiss T-shirt was not enough for bass player Brandon Baumann, as he removed it to show a second one underneath while he and the other members prepared the stage.

The members added police lights and a fog machine to the stage's decorations, and Baumann placed a Kiss figurine on his amplifier. The

guitarist placed two milk crates at the front of the stage and covered them with a black sheet.

And none of the band's image or stage show would go to waste.

Sounding like Aerosmith meets hair metal, Diamond Lane illustrated the meaning of "putting on a show" with onstage interaction. The guitarist taunted the audience with bowlegged thrusts, using the milk crates as a platform. Timed jumps punctuated riff changes, and the lead members constantly whipped the air in beats.

After three songs, the crowd demanded an encore, and Diamond Lane was quick to please with a cover of Metallica's "Enter Sandman," but when the judging came, the band's original arena metal was discarded in favor of pop-punk covers.

Two of Diamond Lane's members attend Santa Clara University, while the third attends West Valley College.

Insignia

"I call it too much money. Or the mothership," Insignia bass player A.J. Weizmuller said as the band's drummer constructed a drum set that took up half the stage.

With two bass drums and more cymbals than actual drums, drummer Tetsu Watanabe's arms dance around each and every one of his massive kit, pounding out a mountain of sound that fits in perfectly with the rest of the band's layers of riffs.

The band is five members strong, consisting of Watanabe on drums, two guitarists, Weizmuller on six-string bass and a screaming vocalist who stares at his shoes during the entire performance.

At first, it sounds like a wave of crunching rocks, but as the band's songs progress, the elements of the band come together in synchronized chaos.

"We want to see the evolution of music," guitarist Bobby Bryan said. "We want to see more crazy stuff and less simplistic pop."

Once again, the moshing began, and the band was presented with a pair of panties that were draped on an unused microphone stand at the foot of the stage.

However, during the judging, Insignia did not prove to be a fan favorite.

The band's next performance will be Wednesday at B Street Billiards in San Mateo.

The Shadow State

Kicking out key-boarded metal, the Shadow State's set was cut off by the sorority before the band finished its third song.

After the second piece, Kappa



Nicholas R. Wright / Daily Staff

Justin Levin, a freshman kinesiology major, dances around in the mosh pit during Eatin' Apple Sellouts' performance on Friday. The Battle of the Bands was a recruitment event for the Kappa Delta sorority.

Delta president Lauren Bosch told the band that their time limit was up, despite the audience cheering for an encore.

"If we play another one, will you get up here and kick me off?" Shadow State guitarist Dan Kutzkey asked through the microphone.

The band then began to play another song, but the public-address system was shut off by a house member.

"I had to cut it short because the cops came," Bosch said. "I have to be sure to get the rest of my

DU Band

DU Band, the last band of the

evening, proved to be the crowd favorite. Composed of members of the Delta Upsilon fraternity, which occupies the house across the street from Kappa Delta, this band had the largest fan following.

Crowd-surfing became a regular part of DU Band's show, as it played a range of styles from power-chord pop-punk to reggae to surf. Even though Parmley informed the crowd the audience had to calm down and stop moshing in order for the performance to continue, the singer still crowd-surfed over the bobbing heads.

The judging ultimately came down to DU Band and Mystidoid, with DU Band emerging as the winner. The fans voiced support for the bands by

cheering, and a Kappa Delta sister judged which band had the loudest applause.

"I think it went really well," Bosch said. "It was a good way to show that Greeks can have fun on a Thursday night without any alcohol involved."

Bosch estimated the attendees to have been 300 throughout the night, with 150 in the audience at the night's most-crowded moments.

The Battle of the Bands was a successful recruiting event, according to Bosch, and she plans to keep it as an annual event.

"It will most definitely happen again next year," she said. "It's too big to put on more than once a year, and the sisters did an awesome job putting it together."

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