

SPARTAN DAILY

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City picks up 911 cell calls

New system speeds up response time

By Mayra Flores
Daily Staff Writer

The City of San Jose now takes 911 calls made from cell phones.

"Historically, the state of California had the responsibility over 911 calls made from cell phones," said Cameron Smith, San Jose police communications manager. "Unfortunately, they didn't staff for the volume and were overwhelmed."

The San Jose City Council passed the new law, which changes the way 911 calls from cell phones are handled, in August and put it into effect Jan. 10. The city now receives the calls directly rather than the California Highway Patrol officers taking the call, routing it to Sacramento, then rerouting it back to the corresponding jurisdiction, Smith said.

The emergency communication system support fee has also been included on both individual lines, including cell phone lines and business lines, Smith said.

"Statewide last year, there were 8 million calls made via cell phones, 1.5 million of those were from the Bay Area," said Steve Perea, public affairs officer for the California Highway Patrol San Jose area. "The reason it needed to be streamlined was because of the abuse rate and misuse/error rate."

Some abuse included citizens calling 911 to find out about the weather or traffic on a certain highway, freeway, or interstate, Perea said. Also in this category is geographical misuse, which includes being lost and calling 911 for directions, Perea said.

Misuse and dial by error happen when citizens call 911 from their cell phones on accident because of the one-touch 911 button on the phones, he said.

The one-touch button is the red nine on cell phones that dials 911 automatically.

"During the Christmas season, we sent out press releases to not use cell phones to call 911 to find out if their phones worked," Perea said.

People receiving cell phones for Christmas want to make sure their phones work, so they often call 911 to verify that they work, Perea said.

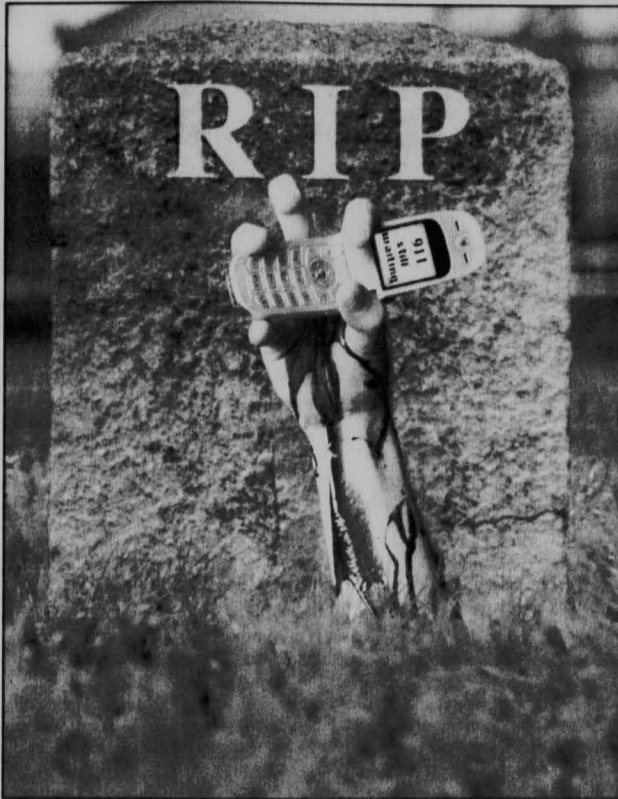


Photo Illustration by Benjamin Favela and Adam Heyman

According to the City of San Jose, the emergency communication system support fee is a monthly charge of \$1.75 for individual lines, including cell phone lines, and \$13.13 per trunk line, which are primarily business lines.

"Now, we can actually pinpoint your location. It used to be we could only locate you through land lines," Smith said.

Wireless carriers have placed GPS chips in the cell phones so that officers can get closer to the cellular customers' location, Smith said.

Not all wireless carriers have changed their systems though. Verizon Wireless, most of Sprint and Metro PCS are already done chang-

see CALLS, page 4

SJSU gets graded

Faculty-student interaction scores 27.6 out of 100

By Mayra Flores
Daily Staff Writer

In its second year participating in the National Survey of Student Engagement, San Jose State University scored low in some categories.

The blue-bubble form that students fill in at the end of the semester is the tool used by NSSE to gather various data from students at different levels in the educational ladder nationwide.

Some students said they felt the surveys were effective.

"I think the surveys are effective because you could say what you want to say without (teachers) knowing who you are," said Jennifer Fernandes, a senior nutrition major.

"The overall generalization, when students are asked questions which have to do with their 'in-the-classroom experience' — how well prepared are the faculty, how interested are the faculty in helping the students learn and so on — on those kinds of items San Jose State does very well just compared to a national sample," said Bob Cooper, associate vice president of undergraduate studies. "As soon as you begin to talk about the experience outside of the classroom — working with faculty on independent studies projects, talking to faculty about intellectual ideas outside the classroom — then compared to the broad

see SURVEY, page 5

Fire safety a concern for many universities

By Erin Caballero
Daily Staff Writer

When some students hear the word "campus safety", they think of making sure their laptop doesn't get stolen or reaching for the pepper spray.

While theft and violence are important safety issues, some forget an equally important one — fire safety.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, about 1,500 fires occur each year in university residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartments.

"Sixty-eight students have died in these fires nationwide since January 2000," said Ed Comeau, the director for the Center for Campus Fire Safety. "The deaths are attributed mainly to students ignoring the fire alarm, thinking it's

another prank."

Comeau added that several factors contribute to fires on-campus.

"Eighty percent of all college fires occur in off-campus residences. Many lack automatic sprinkler systems, some have disabled smoke alarms, and then there's the alcohol and cigarettes factor," said Comeau. The Center for Campus Fire

see SAFETY, page 4

PREVENTIVE FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Never overload extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- Be wary of cords and electrical outlets that are too hot to touch.
- Never pour water on a grease fire — use baking soda instead.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher handy at all times.
- Never disable any smoke alarm.

Source: Underwriter Laboratories

Academic Senate announces new prerequisite for incoming freshmen

By Erin Caballero
Daily Staff Writer

The Academic Senate held its first meeting of the semester on Monday. Senate chair Annette Nellen presided over the meeting, starting with the history of San Jose State University and the events surrounding its centennial in 1957.

The agenda of the meeting ranged from the purpose of SJSU's general education program to an increased focus on information literacy, or the ability to use 21st-century technology in the education process.

"Our accreditations have increased their emphasis on G.E. courses," Nellen said, adding "Do the students understand the guidelines for G.E.?"

To beef up the curricula, Nellen announced the formation of "Freshmen Reading Group," a campuswide reading prerequisite for all

incoming freshmen.

The senate selected the book "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America", by Barbara Ehrenreich, for the new program. The goal of the "Freshmen Reading Group" is to foster unity, dialogue and reading among students and the SJSU community.

Interim President Don Kassing said enrollment dropped 2.2 percent last year, a decrease that he plans to address in one of a series of educational forums this year.

"There's one planned tentatively for October about technology," he said.

Despite anticipating a shift in SJSU's revenue, he was optimistic about future education funding.

"I think it's a good budget, compared to what we've gotten in previous years," he said.

Miriam Donoho, a professor in marketing and decision sciences, shared Kassing's optimism in the future of SJSU students.

Allison Heish, faculty-at-large to the executive committee, warned that the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library couldn't keep up with the demand for materials.

"The libraries are also going to go wireless, and with the Joint Doctoral Program, that will be even fewer resources," she said.

Many senate members shot down the Joint Doctorate Program, which would allow more students to apply for a doctorate degree, citing it would be an added burden to already scarce research materials.

Judith Lessow-Hurley, coordinator of educational partnerships, encouraged a revision of the general education policy, so that students would graduate at a timely rate. However, some senators expressed concern that quality in higher education would be sacrificed for expediency.

Several seats will be opened on

see MEETING, page 5

Sketching it out ...



Shaminder Dulai / Daily Staff

James Pollard helps fellow art major Christina Gonzales with her perspective for a drawing of the rows of lampposts in front of the Event Center on Monday for their Representational Drawing class.

Opposing Views: Should same-sex marriage be legal?

YES Forbidding same-sex marriage is a form of discrimination.

For those against gay marriage, I have a question — How does it affect you? Are marriages in such limited supply that every time a gay couple would get married, a heterosexual couple would lose its chance?

Some say it would compromise the sanctity of marriage. Well, I have news for you — too late. Roughly half of all first marriages end in divorce and that percentage increases after the first marriage. Infidelity is so common there's even a reality TV show about it.

Marriage needs all the help it can get. Therefore, it seems ironic that conservatives who preach the importance of monogamy simultaneously oppose gay marriage.

If two people want to legally and symbolically announce their commitment to love and honor each other for the rest of their lives, then by all means, let them try. There's little chance that they'll be any worse at it than heterosexuals.

Some opponents to gay marriage argue that homosexual couples shouldn't be able to marry because they can't procreate. What about couples that can't conceive? Should the quality of a woman's egg and a man's sperm be checked before obtaining a marriage license to assure that they can procreate? What about couples who simply don't want children? A lack of procreation is the least of the world's problems — overpopulation is much more of a threat than underpopulation.



MARSEA NELSON

Some say marriage is a religious union but it's been a secular tradition for quite some time. People who are not religious get married, many times without the mention

of God. Whether or not someone is religious, marriage provides security and legal benefits that all couples should have the right to enjoy.

In many states, homosexual individuals are allowed to adopt children. These children would benefit from the example of a strong, stable relationship that showcases commitment and the importance of family. Gay children would have positive examples of homosexual relationships.

Sodomy laws no longer exist, homosexuality is not supposed to be illegal, so why deny them marriage? Homosexuals are not second-class citizens and denying them marriage is essentially calling them just that. Some see "civil unions" as a compromise. This is the same mentality that justified "separate but equal" ruling which was ruled to be hypocritical by the Supreme Court in 1954. Even inmates on death row — people who the courts deem so awful that they don't even have the right to live — are allowed to marry, so long as that person is of the opposite sex.

Some people who claim to be OK with homosexuality do not support the legalization of gay marriage. The only reason to oppose gay marriage is if you oppose homosexuality. So face your "in-the-closet" bigotry and focus your energy on preventing something that is actually harmful to society.

It seems unfair that some committed couples who want a secure, long-term relationship should be denied the chance, while Britney Spears can get married whenever she feels like it.

Marsea Nelson is a Spartan Daily staff writer.



Illustration by Alan Bayudan

NO Marriage is an institution unnecessary to prove love.

Since when did someone need a piece of paper, a pair of gold rings, a dress or an expensive tux to prove their love and devotion toward each other? It sounds like Valentine's Day all over again — something created for the sole purpose of making money, not that marriage is like that.

If it's for the ceremony, it's overhyped. If it's for the benefits, you can receive them through most employers and civil unions, depending on which state you reside in.

In California, the Domestic Partnership Registry, created in 1999, gave benefits to gay couples.

The benefits include health care — even after the death of a partner — stepparent adoption, personal income tax deductions for health insurance costs, property transfer and other benefits from employers.

To qualify, couples need to sign an affidavit that states that they are both more than 18-years old, have been living together for a minimum of six months — this amount of time varies from employer to employer — are not married to anyone else and are not blood-related.

Some employers that offer these types of benefits include Apple and Viacom.

Yes, not all states have similar laws, but it only takes one stone to cause a ripple. Other cities making waves by providing this type of registry include New Orleans, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., and New York City.

Gay activists say that they should be able to express their love toward each other the same way heterosexual couples can, but they do have these rights.

They have the right to live together, show their love, drink coffee together, snuggle in front of the TV and if they live in California, they have benefits protected by the registry as well.

They're allowed to adopt in all states except Florida as individuals and as a couple or domestic partners adopt in about half of the states.

Not all heterosexual couples need a marriage certificate to show their love. Look at Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn. They have been living together for more than 20 years.

Getting past the desire for marriage is important. It is not necessary in order to have a full and happy relationship. All the benefits that come with marriage are already provided to the gay and lesbian community in most states through registries. Employers are facilitating this as well.

Gay activists insist that the definition of marriage is exclusive, and it is. But that's because marriage was not designed with the adults in mind in the first place.

Marriage is an institution designed for the raising and procreating of children. It is designed to protect them and their rights, not the parents.

Therefore, a change in the wording to include gays is unnecessary.

Marriage is also an institution based on religious traditions. If those traditions are negative and do not condone your choice of lifestyle, why be part of them?

In today's day and age, gay couples obviously have other options besides marriage. Why settle for a negative one?



MAYRA FLORES

Mayra Flores is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

campusvoices

COMPILED BY JOE SHREVE; PHOTOS BY COLIN UNDERWOOD



"No. I have no problem with people being homosexual. I just don't think that it's morally right."

Sasha Wallace
freshman,
linguistics



"No. I'm a Christian, so my belief is that same-sex (couples) shouldn't be married."

Arthur Akimoto
senior,
mechanical engineering



"Yes. I understand the religious aspect about a man and a woman, but they should be allowed to."

Kevin Conner
senior,
computer science



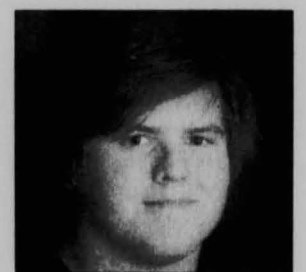
"Yes. There's no reason not to allow it. You can't put laws on who people can love."

Jessica Parker
junior,
history and religious studies



"Yes. It's a basic human right. Regular people get married — why can't they?"

Juan Gamboa
freshman,
political science



"Yes. If two people really love each other and feel like they have that bond, then why not?"

Paul Linggi
freshman,
aerospace engineering

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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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RATED 'R'

FCC ignores more objectionable material

For the first time in five years, my morning commute is about to get a lot more lamer.

Starting in 2006, radio shock jock Howard Stern will pack up his show and make the move to the Sirius satellite radio network.

After 30-plus years of providing raunchy entertainment that has always pushed the envelope, it's a shame it had to come to this.

I don't blame Stern either.

Terrestrial radio has been getting a lot more restrictive since you, Mr. Michael Powell, outgoing chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, decided to wage a one-man crusade to insert morality into the airwaves. It's no secret you decided to sit up and actually do your job after the big flap during the halftime show of Super Bowl XXXVIII — on an election year no less.

Later that year, faced with the commission's heavy hand, Clear Channel Communications, which syndicates Stern's show, opted to drop him from several of its markets after complaints surfaced.

On top of that, there was the commission playing the part of Polly Pissy-Pants after a raunchy pre-game skit that aired during a broadcast of "Monday Night Football."

Give us a break, Mr. Powell. I thought that skit with

Terrell Owens was hilarious. I can't be the only one.

It's disappointing that this renewed vigor on the part of the FCC is reducing the variety of expression in the media.

It's ridiculous to suddenly decide to crack down on a radio performer who has been performing the same schtick for 30-some years and nearly five presidential administrations.

May I kindly remind you, Mr. Powell, that there are much more flagrant offenses on air than radio segments featuring porn stars discussing their sex lives.

An episode of "Fear Factor" shown last year had contestants running through a maze hooked up to an electric transformer. If the contestants made a wrong move, they would be greeted with a nasty shock.

Despite numerous complaints, neither the producers of "Fear Factor," nor General Electric, which owns NBC, were fined. Sure, maybe some people were pissed and some folks at Pacific Gas and Electric thought it wasn't too entertaining. There still weren't any fines.



EMMANUEL LOPEZ

So let me get this straight, Mr. Powell, you find the idea of people running through an electrified maze more palatable than having someone hooked up to an automated spanking machine for the chance to meet his favorite pro wrestler?

Am I missing something here?

What about the 2003 "Oprah" show on teenage sexuality where she got away with discussing a sex act in graphic detail on-air? Somehow, I don't remember picking up the San Francisco Chronicle and reading any news stories on Oprah getting socked with fines for that.

Where's the justice in that, Mr. Powell? I can't be the only who thinks "tossing the salad" is a lot more obscene than fart jokes or bowling for breast implants.

And I certainly don't remember when "nipple" was one of the Seven Dirty Words of Broadcasting.

What you're really doing, Mr. Powell, is scaring people to the point where they don't want to create challenging media products. Instead of pushing boundaries, they're playing it safe, which is boring, unless you live in a red state apparently.

The chilling effect is spilling outward. This year's

batch of Super Bowl ads were OK, especially the ones with the monkeys. The FedEx one with Burt Reynolds was a hoot too.

But none of them could ever top the Miller Lite cat-fight girls. The GoDaddy.com spot came close, but that only aired once. Who knows how good the ads that never ran might have been. The truth is, we might not ever see that kind of witty, zany humor again, at least not while you're still in charge, Mr. Powell. Nobody wants to get fined. Nobody wants to make anything that even has a remote chance of getting fined, the criteria of which seems to be a precise as an Iraq exit strategy.

Thankfully, I hear you're on your way out, Mr. Powell. That's the best news I've heard to date. But it's too late, you've already done your piece and my morning commute is going to get a lot crappier.

Now I have to shell out \$12.95 a month just to hear my favorite show on satellite radio. Or I could save some money and just listen to 96.5 KOIT every morning. Wait, screw that. KOIT's for old people and catatonics.

Emmanuel Lopez is a Spartan Daily copy editor. "Rated 'R'" appears every other Tuesday.

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

REED Literary Magazine

A book and bake sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in front of the Spartan Bookstore.

School of Art and Design

An art exhibit featuring student galleries will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art building. The "Tuesday Night Lecture Series" will take place from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in room 133 of the Art building. A reception will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call the gallery office at 924-4330.

College of Business Alumni Association

Tickets for the annual corporate student awards banquet will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in room 50 of the Business Tower building.

Catholic Campus Ministry

Daily Mass will take place at 12:10 p.m. "Faith Formation" will take place at 6 p.m. Both events will take place at the Catholic Campus Ministry chapel. For more information, call Father Mike Carson at 938-1610.

School of Music

"The Listening Hour" concert series will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. in the Music building Concert Hall. Today's concert will be a pianist's showcase featuring Gwendolyn Mok and Sharon Brook. For more information, call the music office at 924-4673.

Career Center

A meeting for technical job and internship opportunities will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. A meeting for business job and internship opportunities will take place from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Both events will be in the Umunhum room of the Student Union. A Tower card or a Career Center membership card is required. Attendees will get an Early Bird Pass to 2005 SJSU job fairs.

Phi Alpha Theta

A meeting will take place at 3 p.m. in room 135 of Dudley Moorhead Hall. For more information, call Paul at 247-8973.

SJSpirit

"Techniques of Christian Prayer and Meditation" will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the Montalvo room of the Student Union. For more information, call Chaplain Roger at 605-1687.

Ice Skating Club

A meeting will take place at 8 p.m. at the Logitech Ice rink at South 10th Street and East Alma Avenue.

African American Commencement Committee

A meeting will take place at 8 p.m. in the Pacifica room of the Student Union. For more information, call Tiffany Montgomery at (510) 336-0252.

Victory Campus Ministries

"The Source" will take place at 8:30 p.m. in the Spartan Memorial. Learn about the amazing destiny God has for your life. For more information, call Marla at (510) 368-8239.

WEDNESDAY

Counseling Services

A women's process group meeting will take place from 9 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. in Counseling Services of the Student Services Center. For more information, call 924-5910.

Career Center

A meeting for job and internship opportunities for students with disabilities will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. A meeting for technical job and internship opportunities will take place from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. A meeting for job and internship opportunities for all majors will take place from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. All events will be in the Umunhum room of the Student Union.

Mu Alpha Gamma

A meeting will take place at 11 a.m. in front of room 213 of Dwight Bentel Hall.

Middle Eastern Student Association

A Palestinian cultural event will take place from noon to 2 p.m. in the Loma Prieta room of the Student Union. For more information, call Fatima Aboulchaleh at 391-1726.

Pre-Vet Club

A meeting will take place at 12:30 p.m. in room 249 of Duncan Hall.

Women's Resource Center

A V-Day volunteer sign-up will take place at 4:30 p.m. in the Pacheco room of the Student Union. For more information, call Cindy at 924-6500.

Asian American Christian Fellowship

A meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Pacifica room of the Student Union.

SJSpirit

Candlelight worship will take place at 7 p.m. in the Spartan Memorial. For more information, call Chaplain Roger at 605-1687.

THURSDAY

Chinese Mandarin Bible Fellowship

A meeting will take place from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Montalvo room of the Student Union.

Hip Hop Congress

A meeting will take place from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Pacifica room of the Student Union. For more information, call Wes Kuruhara at 859-6479.

San Jose State Handball Club

Handball games will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at handball court 1 of the Event Center Sports Club.

HSMIAI Student Club

A mixer will take place from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Almaden room of the Student Union. For more information, call David Castro at 439-1872.

Black Alliance of Scientists and Engineers

A meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in the Guadalupe room of the Student Union. For more information, call 644-0572.

ADAM THE BEAVER

NICK SCOTT



Letter: Response to "A.S. efforts insincere"

Dear editor,

This letter is in response to the letter that appeared in the Feb. 14 Spartan Daily, "A.S. Efforts Insincere and Ineffective." It is from my own personal experience that I respectfully disagree with the thoughts and opinions regarding the Associated Students' current efforts.

In the letter, Huy Tran wrote, "The student government is trying to show it has done something besides waste our money on carnivals that no one attends and usurp the president's council as a marketing tool for athletics."

To clarify, the president's council is not a marketing tool for athletics, but rather an opportunity for the leaders of all organizations on campus to voice their opinions of their respected organizations to current President Rachel Greathouse and other members of the current A.S. board.

There is a Yahoo! Groups message board, where we can each post messages on as well as our events, so that other clubs will not overlap their big events on the same day.

I have personally attended these meetings and think they are a great

idea.

And while it is true that the a representative from athletics did attend and offer each of us, the leaders of different and diverse clubs on campus, an opportunity to fundraise for our clubs as well as help the university by selling raffle tickets, this certainly does not classify the president's council as a "marketing tool."

The Carnival and Spartan Idol which both took place last semester, are just three examples of our current A.S.'s efforts to continue to hype up campus life and get more students involved outside the classroom.

I enjoy the opportunity to get to choose which activities I want to partake in because there are so many to choose from.

For that, we have the current A.S. to thank.

They are very active and involved in what takes place at SJSU — to say their efforts are insincere and ineffective only shows a lack of pride for our great university.

Financial woes are inevitable, Huy, this is college.

I want an A.S. that understands that the experiences we take from college are what last, not the few extra hundred dollars we save.

*Matthew J. Olivieri
President
Italian American
Student Organization*

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Proposed dates: June 6 to 27, 2005

Application Deadline: March 14, 2005

For More Information, please contact:
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E-mail: yeh@casa.sjsu.edu
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SAFETY - 68 student deaths caused by fire nationwide since 2000

continued from page 1

Safety has planned to hold a national summit in Washington D.C., on April 4, to discuss improving campus fire safety, Comeau said.

More often than not, Comeau said, rooms are jam-packed with papers, clothes, curtains, books and bedding, because students live in such close proximity to one another. Add a couple of overloaded extension cords and power outlets and an accidental inferno could happen, he said.

This, combined with pranks and arson, send firefighters running to campus fires five times a day in America, he said.

"Most of those fires have been small and easily contained," said Diana Tran, SJSU community relations coordinator.

Tran added that whenever a new fire captain is hired, the San Jose Fire Department and the new captain tour the campus facilities to better acclimate themselves.

"Next year, we're implementing a new policy where our staff will be conducting health and safety inspection periodically in student rooms to ensure fire safety policies are being followed," Tran said.

The Campus Village and the dorms

have policies regarding what's allowed and prohibited, Tran said. Candles and smoking are among some of the things that are considered contraband in the housing units, she said.

Brian Hayward, a junior majoring in computer science who resides in the Campus Village, said he feels the

said.

If someone dies or suffers great body injury, it becomes a felony offense, upping the penalty to imprisonment and by a fine of \$500 to \$10,000, he said.

"According to our records, UPD responded to 11 false alarms last year. This year there have been two," Noriega said.

According to the Underwriter Laboratories Web site, there are four classes of fires.

Class A, which are most common fires, start from ordinary materials, such as wood, paper, cloth, rubber and plastic.

Class B fires, which start from combustible liquids, such as gasoline, alcohol and fuel spread the fastest and are most often associated with arson.

Class C fires, started by overheated or damaged electrical equipment, are perhaps the most dangerous because they carry both flames and electric shock, according to the Web site.

According to the Web site, the risk of an electrical fire can be greatly reduced if proper operating instructions are followed and the appliances are never left unattended.

To report any suspicious activity, call campus police at 924-2222 or call 911.

"According to our records, UPD responded to 11 false alarms last year."

Sgt. Robert Noriega, campus police

policy is somewhat excessive.

"I think the policy is a little too strict. For instance, they don't let us have small barbecue grills, not even on the porch," he said.

Sgt. Robert Noriega, public information officer for the University Police Department, said there are consequences for false fire alarms.

The penalty for pulling a fire alarm when there's no emergency is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in county jail and a \$1,000 fine, Noriega

Walking tall ...



A student casts a shadow in front of Dwight Bentel Hall and the Faculty Offices building Monday.

Neal Waters / Daily Staff

CALLS - Traffic inquiries, directions commonly encountered calls

continued from page 1

ing over. They've just started with the AT&T network, Smith said. Cingular and T-Mobile are taking longer because of technical difficulties.

Another benefit from this change is better response time.

"If you are within city limits, the average response time is about 3.5 seconds and this compares to response times from over a min-

ute to about 15 minutes in some cases, if CHP had to respond,"

said Andy Heath, deputy director of finance at the City of San Jose. "It's a considerable decrease in the amount of time by allowing 911 calls to be taken by our dispatchers."

Before the change, 100 to 150 calls were transferred daily, and five to 10 minutes was the average wait, Perea said.

But the system isn't without its

flaws, Smith said.

"If you're driving through the freeway or a street near a highway, CHPs will still answer the call," Smith said.

Dispatchers are still overworked, Perea said.

"The call volume has decreased somewhat, but it's still somewhat of an issue," Perea said.

The misuse is still a problem, Perea said.

He advises commuters to know

the jurisdiction they're in and to have the direct line of the police or sheriff in their phone — it will probably be faster to connect if they call them directly rather than the using the 911 system.

He added that the other thing is to know the direction they're traveling. For example, with good intentions, people call to report accidents with bad directions. Make sure to know the directions before making the call, Perea said.

MEETING

continued from page 1

the senate in upcoming elections, Nellen said, who reminded fellow senators that any petitions to run for senate are due on March 11th.

The senate unanimously passed a resolution to implement an Annual Outstanding Lecturer Award. This will reward any lecturer with at least six semes-

ters, or three years, that has gone above and beyond their job description. The reward has yet to be determined.

Resolution AS1273, the Academic Qualifications for Student Office Holders, was left undecided. This resolution would increase the minimum GPA from 2.0 to 2.5, emphasizing that peer leadership shouldn't come at the expense of academic performance.



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SURVEY - Some feel report compares unsimilar universities to each other

continued from page 1

national sample, San Jose State doesn't look very good."

On the other hand, Cooper said in comparison to other universities that have high proportions of students who work and high proportions of faculty who commute because they can't afford to live in the local area, SJSU is around the average.

According to NSSE's benchmark report for 2004, SJSU scored 27.6 out of 100 in the category of student-faculty interaction, compared to the national average of 33.3.

Low scores result from students rating the school and faculty low on areas such as supportive campus environment and student-faculty interaction.

However, the colleges and universities that SJSU is being compared to are not the same, said Steve Aquino, associate of Survey Research & Evaluation.

Instead, private and public universities, urban and suburban universities, small and large universities are clumped together, he said.

"You're not comparing apples with apples," Aquino said.

Others agree.

"San Francisco State is very similar in terms of student population and constraints on faculty in terms of cost of living near the university, parking, all of those things we have here, they have there. Whereas Chico is not a particularly good comparison university for us," Cooper said. "They're in a region where housing is much less expensive, they have more room to make parking, even Hayward has more room to make parking, because they are up on a hill, and it's not all built in around them. They have all these big, open parking lots whereas we have to knock something over to build a parking

lot."

According to the report, there are five groupings, or benchmarks, that the survey uses — level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interactions, enriching educational experiences and supportive campus environment.

SJSU scores about average in the categories for seniors' level of academic challenge and active and collaborative learning and had average scores in the level of academic challenge for first year students — scoring 58.8 to the national average of 57.6, 50.2 to 51.4 for seniors and 52.7 to 53.6 for first-year students.

"There are a whole set of standard frustrations," Cooper said.

Parking has been a standard frustration for more than 50 years, Cooper said. Having a majority of part-time students that work during the day and university offices that close late in the afternoon make it hard for those students to receive the services that they need, Cooper said.

"A campus in an urban area with the number of students that we have is never going to have the parking so that most of the students can come to campus and find a parking place," Cooper said.

Some faculty members said frustration stems from the high percentage of students and teachers who commute.

"The whole university experience is muted by the lack of affiliate behavior among cohorts," said Cheryl Chancellor-Freeman, a psychology professor at SJSU. "There appears to be reduced bonding and friendship formation among peers for SJSU students. Many students report feeling alien-

ated, not really knowing what and where the resources are and not knowing whom to ask."

"I went to a J.C. before coming to SJSU and the community is very different," said Danielle Genera, a junior graphic design major. "I think SJSU is better though."

Nonetheless, the Strategic Planning committee is dedicated to try to find solutions to these problem areas, said Don Kassing,

but a place where SJSU can provide some services to the nontraditional students, Cooper said.

Although the nontraditional student has been a factor in many student-faculty issues, nontraditional faculty can be added as well, said Cheryl Chancellor-Freeman, associate professor of psychology.

"Commuting faculty and students miss out on much of the university experience because

increasing faculty salaries and providing financial support to the students, affordable campus housing seems to be the answer, she said.

In addition, the university has built the new Campus Village to help mediate the low scores in the supportive campus environment field, Cooper said.

"We hope that (the) new housing facility will help build the kind of campus community that will bring the campus together more and that will then influence the kind of measures on which we don't look particularly good on the NSSE survey," Cooper said.

"Nevertheless, the issue that has been overlooked more than the others is student-faculty engagement."

It is crucial to the student's success, Aquino said.

"We aren't a UC, and most of the faculty is not teaching classes to hundreds of students, so we should be able to know our students by name," Chancellor-Freeman said.

"We should be able to provide additional help to students who wish to succeed, but who are struggling. We should be able to provide higher level scholarship opportunities for those who are interested, and we should be able to identify such students and offer the appropriate assistance."

Some students said they feel faculty members are readily available outside of class.

"I find the faculty quite accessible outside of class, office-hours wise," said Paul Edstrom, first year student in the credential program.

Some said they are concerned

"We aren't a UC, and most of the faculty is not teaching classes to hundreds of students, so we should be able to know our students by name."

Cheryl Chancellor-Freeman, associate professor

interim president.

"Student-faculty engagement is a major part in strategic planning," Kassing said. "There's passion behind student-faculty interaction."

Among other things, the university has opened bids to remodel the Clark Library.

"The bids have been open to remodel Clark Library. The first floor will be an Academic Success Center," Cooper said.

There will be different groups that will provide support services beyond what the Student Services Center provides, he said.

The Student Service Center is primarily records and bureaucratic activities with the exceptions of the Learning Assistance Center, which is tutoring, Cooper said.

The center will also house the Peer Mentor Center, and will have an outpost office for the Career Center, Cooper said.

The idea is to try to get to a single location so that there will

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- Decay
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- Not as wild
- Loose-limbed
- Globe
- Novelist - Zola
- Psal!
- Steam engine inventor
- Humane org.
- Title holder
- Large artery
- Ward
- Flock of geese
- Record player (hyph)
- Four-door model
- Grounds
- Common Market money
- During
- Brief crazes
- Hwy's
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Spartans gear up for WAC tournament

By Lauren Bosch
Daily Staff Writer

Four games and two weeks of losses put the San Jose State University women's basketball team into quite the dilemma.

Doubt and frustration became evident on the faces of the Spartans as the women struggled

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Overall record **16-10** WAC record **9-7**
Spartans are currently in a three-way tie for third place. WAC tourney begins March 8.

to find answers.

"Especially after the loss to Louisiana Tech, everyone was searching for answers," said guard Jessica Kellogg.

"Everyone was wondering about the reasons, why did we lose? We should have been doing other things to win."

Thursday's 77-64 loss to Rice University brought the team's woes to a climax as it fell to fourth place in the Western Athletic Conference.

Confused by her team's sudden slump, head coach Janice Richard spoke to her mentors, looking for answers, so that Saturday's game against the University of Tulsa wouldn't end up in a similar fashion.

She said she found her answers in a tub of ice cream, laughing and a challenge to her team to "find the fun."

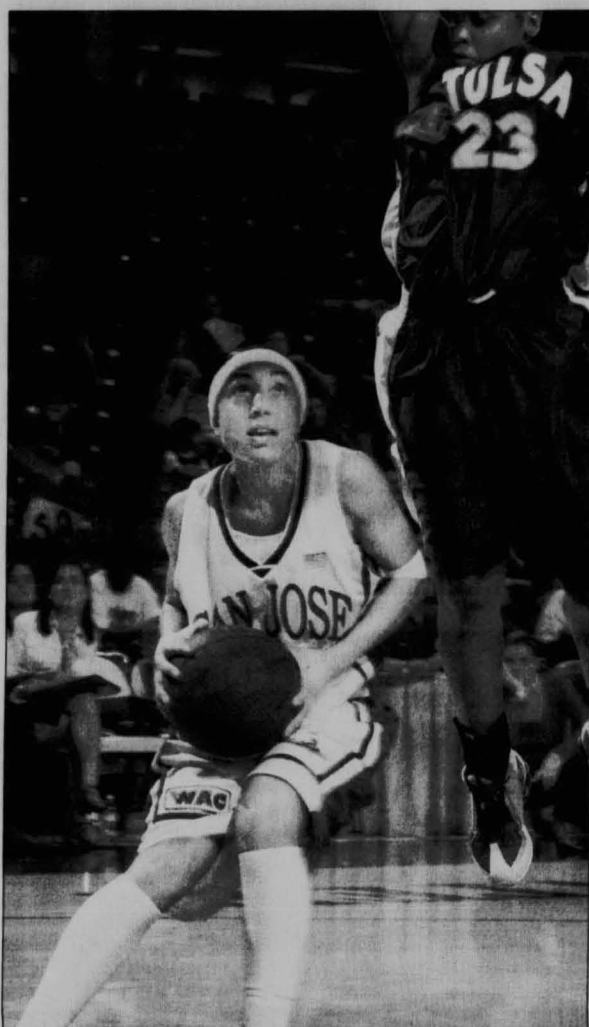
"It took a lot for them to believe in themselves again as a team and a lot of hard work to get over that hurdle," Richard said. "The staff did a lot of adjustments to and then I got ice cream for Friday's practice. I wanted to give them a chance to relax and enjoy each other again."

"I hadn't seen some of them smile in a long time. We were telling stories and laughing so hard some of us were crying. I just hope it will be the push we need to take us into the WAC Tournament," Richard said.

Saturday's 79-70 victory against the Hurricanes showed a team with leadership in several players, namely the five seniors — Erica McGlaston, Nica Gemo, Lamisha Augustine, Kellogg and Kimberly Noble.

"They have been key to our success all season. It's nice to have that kind of leadership in the players," Richard said. "I absolutely believe that this week's game was not just because of senior night. We're playing for ourselves again and we're going to try to finish strong in the WAC."

The Spartans posted one of their best games of the season, with five players scoring in double digits,



Neal Waters / Daily Staff

Spartan guard Erica McGlaston, sets up a shot while Golden Hurricane guard Tandem Mays attempts to block her. McGlaston was named WAC 'Player of the Week,' the third women's basketball player to hold the honor this season.

posting a high free-throw percentage and solid shooting from the field.

Leading the way for the women was McGlaston, who managed to keep the team in the hunt during the five-minute slump at the beginning of the game.

Fifteen points, nine assists, four rebounds, three takeaways and two steals later, McGlaston was on her way to another solid game and the award of the WAC "Player of the Week."

Richard said McGlaston has been a reliable leader.

"Erica has definitely been the glue. Every team needs a really strong point guard to be successful," said Richard.

"Erica has been solid for us this entire season. She feels like this is her team and she's doing a great job," she said.

The third member of the Spartan squad to win the honor this season, McGlaston has capped her college career with her first-ever WAC

honor. She scored 35 points in the past week, has averaged 5.8 points per game and leads the conference with 5.8 assists per game.

She led the Spartans in scoring, posting a career-high 20 points in the loss against Rice University.

"I'm kind of speechless," said McGlaston. "To end it so picture perfect like that win the last game at home, all five seniors scoring, career high that week and to get WAC 'Player of the Week,' that's unbelievable."

The Spartans will travel to Fresno State University on Thursday and face the University of Nevada on Saturday in their final competition of the regular season.

The women hope to build off of their momentum in an effort to gain further ground in the conference before the start of the WAC tournament, beginning March 8 to 12.

Softball team captures Dixie Classic

By Ashley Little
Daily Staff Writer

The San Jose State University softball team spent the weekend in Virginia as a participant in the Dixie Classic.

San Jose State University se-

"She is and has been a great leader from the circle, which is very tough to do because every moment in the game defensively hinges on what she is bringing to the plate," said Enabenter-Omidiji. "But she has taken that responsibility with a great deal of pride and maturity."

Along with Kelley and Forbes, the dynamic of the whole team contributes to everyone's accomplishments, said pitcher Kat Castro.

"They help me feel successful," Castro said.

Many players on the team can learn from Forbes' example, Enabenter-Omidiji said.

"She has been successful here because she is self motivated and a very proud person," Enabenter-Omidiji said. "No matter what obstacles she has had to face here, whether it's the team win-loss record or the lack of offense, or at times defensive support, she will still give you her best effort."

Coming off of the Dixie Classic, the Spartans clenched the Dixie Classic on Sunday afternoon with a win against Radford University, defeating them 5-1 to make their tourney total 3-1.

Forbes pitched a complete game against Radford and improved her record to 7-6.

Earlier in the day, in a match against Norfolk State University, the Spartans won 11-0, with two hits each by pitcher and outfielder Courtney Lewis, infielder Carlie Hill, and Kelley.

In its first games in the tournament, SJSU gained a win against Villanova University 5-3, but lost to Radford in their first meeting 2-1.

Forbes pitched in the Villanova game for her fifth win of the season, and came in for the

second game to finish it off for pitcher Lewis.

Finishing the tournament, the Spartans improved their overall record to 12-7.

After they make up the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo game that was postponed to Wednesday, the SJSU will head to Sacramento State University for a double-header on Saturday. Sacramento State has an overall record of 9-6 and beat the Spartans the last three times they faced each other last season.

"I expect to continue on the roll that we began this past weekend at the Mardi Gras Classic," Enabenter-Omidiji said. "The bats started to make some noise and if we can be better on the bases and continue to hit we should be OK."

Kelley said practice could only help.

"As a catcher, working in the bullpen is important. We always work on our bats and defense," Kelley said.

"All sides to the game are equally as important, they all make us one unit," she said. "Our coaches try to balance their attention on all aspects."

With practice all week, the Spartans have a chance to work on all areas of improvement.

"The team now needs to want to build on their recent success. You are only as good as your last game," said Enabenter-Omidiji.

"They need to know there is room for improvement and they will need to fully understand there are different ways to win."

After going to Sacramento, the Spartans will have a long stay home. Their first match will be against Connecticut University on Saturday at the SJSU field and will play locally until the beginning of April when they head off to Texas.

SOFTBALL
Overall record **12-7**
Won the Dixie Classic, Forbes named WAC 'Pitcher of the Week'

nior pitcher Carol Forbes was named the Western Athletic Conference "Pitcher of the Week" for her success during the University of Louisiana-Monroe tournament.

Making this her fourth "Pitcher of the Week" honor, Forbes was able to break records and head into this week's games with 465 strikeouts in her career.

Forbes has booked a perfect game and second career no-hitter.

"Not too many pitchers throw a no-hitter, let alone a perfect game," said head coach Dee Dee Enabenter-Omidiji. "She deserved to be chosen 'Pitcher of the Week' because it's a rarity in baseball and softball to do what she did."

Not only did Forbes have great success, she did it against an opponent that beat the Spartans all four times they faced each other last season.

In last week's games, Forbes allowed one run in 25 innings.

"We have so much trust in her as a pitcher, as a person, and as a leader," said catcher Monique Kelley.

Forbes is influential to the team, Kelley said.

career center presents

EXPO

2005

Career and Internship Fair

Wednesday,
March 9
SJSU Event Center

EARLY BIRD PASS

Early Bird Pass Holders Enter at Noon

SJSU Students/Alumni with current SJSU Tower Card and Early Bird Pass enter at noon

SJSU Students/Alumni with current SJSU Tower Card enter at 3:30 p.m.

EXPO ends @ 5:00 p.m.

Early Bird Pass for SJSU students/alumni who attend a Job & Internship Search Workshop (March 1 - 7)

Job Seekers Dress professionally and bring targeted copies of your resume.

Career Explorers Bring yourself w/lots of good questions.

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Workshop Schedule & Employer List at www.careercenter.sjsu.edu > click Sign In > Follow Instructions

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Water polo team finishes eighth

The Spartan women's water polo team fell to Loyola Marymount 9-8 on Sunday at the Daktronics Gaucho Invitational

SPARTAN ROUND UP

to take eighth place at the tourney.

Spartan goalies Krissy Hansell Kendra Adama combined for nine saves.

Spartan Mary Beth Cox scored three points, Laura Scott posted three and Katie Morgan had two.

San Jose State University will travel down south to face Long Beach State University on Friday.

Film and Lecture
Sergio Arau
also featuring Yareli Arizmendi
Director of...
a day without a mexican
Sponsored by MOWAC Cross Cultural Center, Mexican American Studies, and MEX Cultural Heritage Center
California is in shock. The economic, political and social implications of this disaster threaten the Golden State's way of life. We delve into the lives of four characters: Mary Jo Quintana, teacher and housewife; Senator Abercrombie, suddenly upgraded to Governor; Louis McClare, ranch owner and agribusiness representative; and Lila Rodriguez, reporter and apparently the only Latina left behind. For all of them, "the disappearance" forces the cracks in their private lives wide open. Experts pose questions and offer theories: Could this be a UFO kidnapping? Biological terrorism? The Apocalyptic and Latines are the chosen ones? Or perhaps they just left because they were tired of being taken for granted. Misunderstandings and humorous situations abound, making this a comedic satire... a modern fable lesson included.
Thursday, March 3rd, 2005
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
San Jose State University Student Union, Ballroom
*Free to SJSU students with Student ID \$2 for faculty and community members
This event is wheelchair accessible. For special accommodations, please contact 408.924.6255.