

Editor's Note: This is the final issue of the Spartan Daily before spring break. Daily publication will resume Tuesday, April 5.

SPARTAN DAILY

VOLUME 124, NUMBER 40

Serving San Jose State University since 1934

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2005

A.S. Election Results

President

Alberto Gutierrez, *Stand Up*

Vice President

Sarah Stillman, *Spartan Party*

Controller

Alex Ramos, *Stand Up*

Business Affairs

George Aherne, *Stand Up*

Campus Advising Affairs

Caroline H. Le, *Stand Up*

Campus Climate Affairs

Temesgen Atzaba, *Stand Up*

Communications

Che Angkham, *Stand Up*

Community Affairs

Eppy Santiago, *Stand Up*

Extracurricular Affairs

Samanata Naik, *Stand Up*

Faculty Affairs

Brandon Glover, *Stand Up*

Governing Affairs

Jason Fithian, *Stand Up*

Legislative Affairs

Marcus E. Recchioni, *Spartan Party*

Programming Affairs

Emily Molino, *Stand Up*

Student Fee Affairs

Adriana Garcia, *Stand Up*

Student Resources Affairs

Joseph Estrada, *Stand Up*

Student Rights, Responsibilities

Joel Bridgeman, *Stand Up*

Total number of voters:

1,647

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Stand Up dominates elections

Gutierrez wins by 427

By Sarah Holcomb
Daily Staff Writer

The Stand Up Party won all contested positions of the Associated Students elections and will hold 14 out of 16 positions on the board of directors.

Alberto Gutierrez was elected A.S. president. He received 967 votes, 427 more than Spartan Party candidate Mike Nguyen.

Andrew Weiglein ran independently and received 109 votes.

Despite efforts of the election board and candidates running, voter turnout was lower this year than last.

Election board adviser Greg Wolcott said 1,647 students voted this year, which is 284 less students than last year, according to the numbers released from the election board.

"I'm overwhelmed with excitement," Gutierrez said. "It's time for a change. The students wanted a change."

Weiglein said he was pleased with the results.

"I'm actually happy about it," Weiglein said. "I decided a long time ago that if Alberto wins, I'll be happy because he's a good candidate and he'll do a good job."

Nguyen could not be reached for comment.

Spartan Party members Sarah Stillman, who ran for vice president, and Marcus Recchioni, who ran for director of legislative affairs, won their uncontested positions.

Stand Up Party candidate Alex Ramos was elected A.S. controller and won by 530 votes.

Gutierrez said the Stand Up Party candidates had a lot of outside sup-



Neal Waters / Daily Staff

Alberto Gutierrez, A.S. president-elect, celebrates his victory with Adriana Garcia and members of the Stand Up Party. The Stand Up Party won all the contested positions.

port.

"We definitely had the support from the students, but that's only the first step," Gutierrez said. "We were trying to mobilize our support and that was our strength."

Huy Tran, a Stand Up Party supporter, said the low turnout didn't take away from the victory.

"The turnout reflects the turnout of the last four years, so I'm not disappointed," Tran

said.

After the candidates celebrated, Tran gave an impromptu speech.

"The students' voices have been stifled, but no more," Tran said. "Now our campus has stood up."

After his speech, Tran, who ran for A.S. president last year, described the victory as euphoric.

Gutierrez said he is ambitious to take office

in the Fall semester.

"There are so many things that I'd like to clean up about A.S.," Gutierrez said. "I definitely want to make it more student oriented. We want to make ourselves more visible to students and listen to students' concerns."

Gutierrez said he also wants A.S. to take a stand on budget cuts and oppose any unneces-

see A.S., page 3

Students work, study during break

By Mayra Flores
Daily Staff Writer

Palm trees speckled over white sandy beaches, ultramarine oceans and a cool margarita are all part of the spring break experience, just not at San Jose State University.

This year, many students are staying home for the break. Financial issues, ill planning and work are some of the causes behind the lack of travel.

"I was planning to put together a trip to Reno or Vegas or go snowboarding," said Calvin Wong, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, "but some of my friends go to San Francisco State University and

see BREAK, page 3

Professor designs mural collage in Art building

Editor's Note: Every Thursday in March, the Spartan Daily will profile a faculty member.

By Rachel Hill
Daily Staff Writer

Art Professor Leroy Parker's influence on the San Jose State University campus goes far beyond his classroom.

After 36 years with the university, Parker has left a lasting impression on his department and the campus as a whole. Even if students have not taken

a class taught by Parker, they have still come into contact with Parker's artistic creations in one way or another on campus. Throughout the years, Parker has used his talents and creativity to dress up the university.

After 9/11, Parker created a large 45-foot mural that covered the length of the Art building's hallway. Parker said he used his best handmade paper and rose paintings to construct the collage that made up the mural. Students were able to write their reactions on the collage, allowing students to voice their thoughts, feelings and opinions on the

see PARKER, page 4

KSJS graduates children from crash course in radio

By Ashley Johnson
Daily Staff Writer

Students from Castro Middle School came together Wednesday one last time to celebrate the end to a four-week apprentice program and add the finishing touches to their public service announcements.

The student-run radio station at San Jose State University, KSJS 90.5, has teamed up with Citizen Schools to offer students at Castro Middle School a crash course in what it means to be part of a radio station.

Citizen Schools is a national organization designed to prepare students for leadership roles and offers 12-week programs where people from the community teach kids different vocations, said Ramon Johnson, public affairs director for KSJS.

Students participating in the four-week

program at KSJS, which began Feb. 23, come to SJSU every Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The idea for the program began to take shape after Veronica Salenda, program director for Citizen Schools, approached Johnson with the idea.

"I thought it would be great at this institution of higher learning to have some sort of buddy or mentoring program," Johnson said.

Salenda came to Johnson on Feb. 21 to discuss a potential monthlong program.

"I wrote it out, sent it to her and, over the course of a week and a half, we put that together and she sent me a list of the names," Johnson said.

Before the six children could come to SJSU to participate, concerns regarding

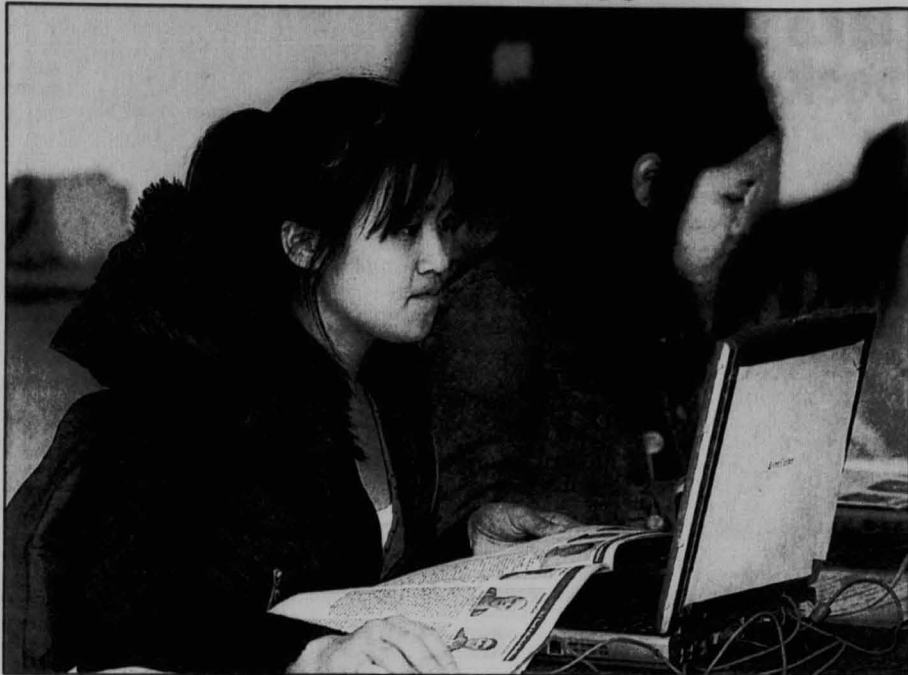
see KSJS, page 4



Shaminder Dulai / Daily Staff

Ghazaleh Fakhrebadi, left, and Isabella Gigliello, both sixth-graders at Castro Middle School, record a public service announcement promoting Citizen Schools, an extracurricular program that has partnered with Castro Middle School to give students the opportunity to apprentice in areas that interest them. Wednesday was the last day for Fakhrebadi and Gigliello's apprenticeship at KSJS 90.5.

A.S. - Elections officer reports no voting problems



Zach Beecher / Daily Staff

Serieann Sajareo, left, a junior majoring in microbiology engineering, votes next to her friend Jeannette Truong, a sophomore majoring in biochemistry, in an Associated Students tent near the Event Center on Wednesday.

continued from page 1
sary fee increases. Gutierrez described the election as a battle.

"There were a lot of incidents that were outrageous," Gutierrez said. "We were keeping the integrity of individuals and the slate by not lashing out at them for things that were inappropriate."

Gutierrez filed a complaint Tuesday against Greathouse, a Spartan Party member, in regards to a batch e-mail she sent out via the A.S. mailing list.

"I am writing this e-mail in the climax of the Associated Students General Elections to dispel some untruths during campaigning and encourage all to become educated voters," Greathouse wrote in the e-mail.

Election board adviser Wolcott said Gutierrez's complaint has

been forwarded to Veril Phillips, the interim vice president of student affairs.

Wolcott said the election board looked into the situation, but was

unable to do anything because the A.S. election regulation manual does not give it the power to take action against someone who's not a candidate, including the A.S. president.

"There were a lot of incidents that were outrageous."

Alberto Gutierrez, A.S. president-elect

"I felt that her use of the e-mail addresses was inappropriate," Wolcott said. "The references she made about the Stand Up Party were also inappropriate."

Wolcott declined to comment on whether the election board should be given jurisdiction over members of the student government.

Stephanie Lazarowich, A.S. chief elections officer, said the final day of elections went smoother than the first.

"Yesterday, people didn't know about the elections or didn't have their IDs. They weren't prepared," Lazarowich said. "We've had a steady flow today."

Lazarowich said that there have been no complications with the electronic voting since voting began Tuesday.

For a complete list of election results, go to <http://www.thespartandaily.com>.

Executive editor Ken Lotich contributed to this report.

Engineering department sponsors robotics competition for high schoolers

By Angela Forte
Daily Staff Writer

San Jose State University students can watch local high school teams battle it out robotically at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Robotics Competition, starting today through Saturday.

The event, co-sponsored by SJSU's College of Engineering, will be held at the Event Center and will feature more than 36 teams, including San Jose High Academy, Pioneer High School and Los Gatos High School.

The teams are able to enter after they raise about \$6,000 for the entry fee, said John Camp, chairman of FIRST Silicon Valley regional and a research scientist at Lockheed Martin.

According to the FIRST Web site, the multinational nonprofit organization, founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, aspires to transform culture, making science, math, engineering and technology popular with kids.

FIRST was founded on partnerships with businesses, educational institutions and government as well as the work of 14,000 volunteer mentors, professional engineers, teachers and other adult volunteers.

According to its Web site, the FIRST robotics competition has teams of students and their

mentors solve a problem in a six-week time frame using a standard kit of parts and a common set of rules.

After the robots are built, teams enter their robots in a series of competitions designed by Kamen and a committee of engineers and other professionals.

Camp said the teams received standard kits, consisting of motors and electronics from FIRST in January.

"The teams pour all their energy into building these robots, and at the end of six weeks, the teams literally have to box their robots in wooden crates and ship them away to their regional locations," Camp said.

John Hodgson, a field supervisor for FIRST and an SJSU student majoring in engineering, said the robotics competition gets students experienced in electrical engineering, computer science, building and designing machines by working with professionals from Lockheed Martin, NASA, Raytheon and Equator Innovation.

"The competition gives students hands-on experience by getting them interested in the field of science technology — hopefully this will flourish for future generations, especially female students," Hodgson said.

Hodgson said the teams are divided between two alliances — blue and red.

The alliances compete against

each other and those teams on the same alliance work excellent together, Hodgson said.

Camp said the event itself is the "Super Bowl of smarts" and has all the elements of a sporting event, including lots of action and noise.

Camp said that each match consist of two teams, with three robots on each team.

In the beginning of the match, the robots control themselves for the first 15 seconds, Camp said.

"After 15 seconds, the team members control the robots on a playing field where nine pyramids are arranged in three rows of three," Camp said.

The robots, Camp said, pick up the smaller pyramids and place them on top of other pyramids.

Each pyramid is worth either three or 10 points and the team that accumulates the most points by the end of the match wins, Camp said.

Hodgson said those teams who receive top place in regionals attend the nationals held in the Georgia Dome in April.

"However, everyone walks away a winner," Hodgson said.

Admission is free and practice rounds will be held on Thursday from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Opening ceremonies followed by matches will take place Friday and Saturday, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

S.J. Wendy's serves woman a finger

SAN JOSE (AP) — A woman's meal at a Wendy's restaurant brought a whole new meaning to the term "finger food." The woman bit into a portion of a human finger while eating a bowl of chili Tuesday night at the San Jose restaurant, Santa Clara County health officials said Wednesday. The woman, who asked officials not to identify her, immediately spit out the finger and warned other diners

to stop eating, witnesses said.

"Initially she did put this object in her mouth and did bite down on it and wasn't sure exactly what it was," Santa Clara County Health Officer Martin Fenstersheib said. "She's doing OK. Initially she was a bit grossed out it was described to me, and vomited a number of times."

Officials said the fingertip was approximately 1.3-8-inches long.

They believe it belongs to a woman because of the long, manicured nail. Health investigators believe the finger got into the chili at an earlier stage.

"We have no evidence of any accident within the employees at the facility itself," said Ben Gale of the Santa Clara County Health Department. "We asked everybody to show us they have 10 fingers and everything is OK there."

BREAK - Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, Mexico, Hawaii popular vacation spots for students during spring break

continued from page 1

their break was this week, so that doesn't help."

Poor planning and poor preparation don't make things any easier, he said.

"Now we only have three days left, so we're probably gonna end up staying at home," he said.

Other reasons students stay at home include trying to catch up on homework and studying for classes.

"There's a lot of work to do and it needs to be done," said Sheryl Paulma, a freshman majoring in nursing.

If the chance had presented itself, Paulma said she'd go to Las Vegas.

"I haven't been there in a long time. I'm not gonna gamble, but it would still be fun," she said.

Mike Wong, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, echoes that wish.

"I would go to Vegas for everything — the drinking, gambling, everything — but my friends are lagging."

Some people said they just

haven't decided on a place.

Jerold Aoy, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, said, "I have a lot of options. A group of my friends are going to Las Vegas, another group are going to Tahoe and another is going to Monterey."

"I'm still thinking about it, but I'll probably do the one that costs the least," he said.

Las Vegas is definitely a popular place for the break, but there are other places to consider as well.

"This year, students are hitting up the amusement parks," said Lenora Porcella, owner of Computerized Travel on Park Avenue. "Disneyland and Magic Mountain are two popular places. People are staying closer to home."

This year marks Disneyland's 50th anniversary and the people at Disney have added some goodies to celebrate.

"I'm driving down California's coast, down to southern California," said Eric Mak, a junior majoring in business administration. "I'm probably going to stop in Burbank,

travel agencies are noticing a shift in preferred spring break locations.

"Traditionally, Mexico and Hawaii are popular places," said Charles Brigolin, manager at the

"I would go to Vegas for everything — the drinking, gambling, everything — but my friends are lagging."

Mike Wong, student

go on the Jay Leno show, go to Disneyland and maybe go across the border for a day."

Students aren't necessarily staying in California though. Some

STA Travel office located in Palo Alto. "But students are branching out — Costa Rica, Belize and Peru. Students are also taking advantage of the exchange rate in Argentina."

"They are also going to Europe because spring break falls on the low season — it's actually cheaper to fly to Europe than to Mexico at this time," he said.

daughter in England. "My oldest daughter is there, working on her master's degree in English so I'm gonna go over for a

D o u g Martin, a junior majoring in business, is one of those students taking advantage of this break in price. He's using the break to visit his

visit," he said.

Martin said that he's leaving Thursday because he only has one class that day.

"I already talked to my professor and turned in the paper that's due that day," he said.

"In some ways, I'm kind of kicking myself because it's cold in England right now," he said. "If she wasn't there, I would be going south."

Other students have prior responsibilities. "I'm staying home and volunteering to teach swim lessons," said Lauren Stheli, a junior majoring in recreation and leisure studies. "I work at the (YMCA) and we offer free swim lessons for the whole week of spring break."

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Kappa Delta hosts eighth annual Shamrock Showcase

By Shannon Barry
Daily Staff Writer

During pop princess concerts, lip syncing for audiences has become commonplace for entertainment — but one San Jose State University sorority is not going to charge you outrageous ticket prices to enjoy the fiasco.

Kappa Delta will host its eighth annual Shamrock Showcase lip sync contest from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. today at Morris Dailey Auditorium. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Miranda Alaniz, a junior majoring in public relations and chair of the Shamrock Showcase, said every Kappa Delta sorority across the nation will produce a shamrock project throughout the month of March.

"This is the only event that gets the whole Greek system together and gives back to the community," said Cristi Long, a senior majoring in graphic design and a team captain for the showcase.

Along with proceeds by the other shamrock events held by Kappa Delta sororities, 20 percent of the proceeds will benefit Prevent Child Abuse America. The remaining 80 percent will benefit local organization Child

Quest International.

Both of these nonprofit organizations aim at searching for missing children, relocating abused children, and creating educational programs to prevent future situations.

The Shamrock Showcase brings the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council together in a two-part event.

The first is a three-minute lip-syncing dance choreographed in a team effort.

"There are 10 teams participating with five members on each team," Alaniz said. "To get extra points they will have their two Kappa Delta captains in their routine."

She added that each house is responsible for selecting its team.

As a team captain, Long said she helped decide what her team was going to perform and practiced with the team members.

Before the second part — an impromptu competition — a raffle will be held during the first intermission of the event. For \$1, Alaniz said, students can buy a raffle ticket with prizes ranging from gym memberships to restaurant gift certificates.

"Almost everyone walks away with something," Long said.

Sarah Wright, a senior major-

ing in nursing and vice president of public relations for Kappa Delta, said each team will be scored by a panel of judges. The judges range from Bobby Strickler, a 104.9 FM disc jockey to alumna Lindsay Brooks from Child Quest International to Mark Linder, the assistant city manager of San Jose.

Alaniz said prep work for the showcase began in September as a collaborative effort between all 45 sisters in the sorority.

"Each sister raised \$125 in monetary or raffle donations," Wright said. "This could include funds from family and friends or raffle prizes."

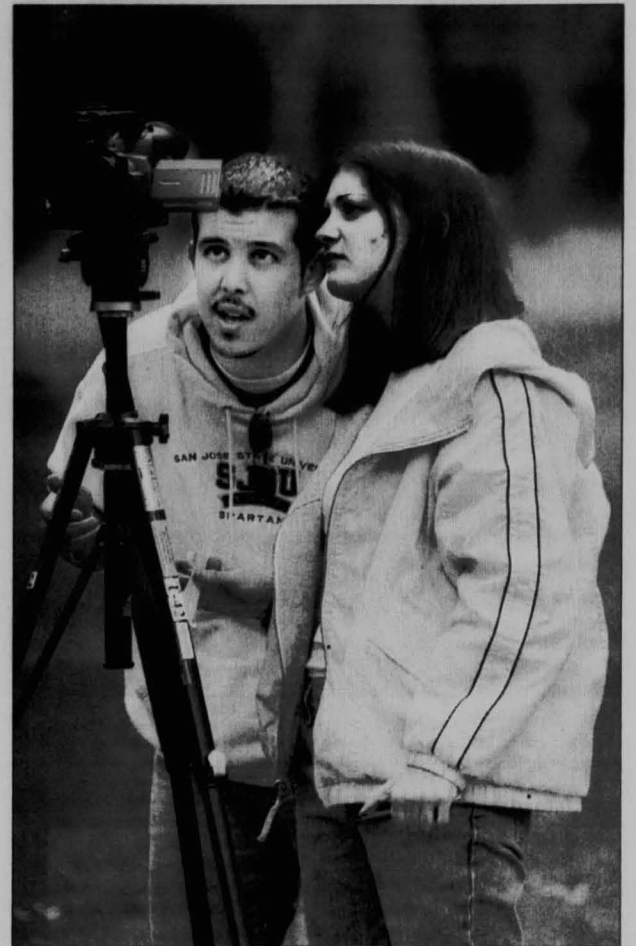
Although Wright has been a part of the showcase for three years, she said Alaniz is one of the most organized people she has worked with. As vice president of public relations, it is her goal to oversee the showcase.

"Miranda is a strong leader," she said. "The event is locked in and secure."

While Shamrock Showcase has been a lot of work getting the event together, Alaniz said she likes to stay busy and constantly needs something to do.

"The event is open to everyone and goes to a good cause," she said.

Take a peek ...



Omar Alsheikh, left, a senior majoring in creative arts, and Kaitlyn Boyle, a junior also majoring in creative arts, work on a class project for a film class Wednesday.

Zach Beecher / Daily Staff

14 dead, more than 100 injured in explosion at Texas oil refinery

TEXAS CITY, Texas (AP) — A thunderous explosion tore through a BP oil refinery Wednesday, shooting flames and billowing smoke into the sky and showering the area with ash and chunks of charred metal. At least 14 were believed dead and more than 100 were injured.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known.

Workers searched through rubble for survivors or bodies into Wednesday night, several hours after the 1:20 p.m. blast.

An undetermined number of workers were unaccounted for; most of the injured suffered broken bones, cuts, concussions and other injuries.

Refinery manager Don Parus said BP was waiting on an offi-

cial death toll confirmation from the medical examiner's office, but added, "it's my deep regret that we believe we have 14 losses of life."

The blast left a gaping hole in the earth, mangled nearby offices, and was so powerful that witnesses said it rattled homes as far as five miles away. Cars and trucks in an employee parking lot were coated with soot and debris.

"It was real scary. Have you ever heard the thunder real loud? It was like 10 times that," said plant worker Charles Gregory, who was with several co-workers inside a trailer tank when the floor started rumbling.

The explosion occurred in a part of the plant used to boost the octane level of gasoline. BP

spokeswoman Annie Smith said terrorism "is not a primary focus of our investigation."

The plant in Texas City, about 35 miles southeast of Houston, sprawls across 1,200 acres. About 433,000 barrels of crude oil are processed a day, producing 3 percent of the U.S. supply. The plant employs about 1,800 people in Texas City, a city of about 40,000 people.

Gasoline prices could rise slightly because of the explosion because the plant is such a large gas producer. Gasoline futures rose nearly 2 cents in late trading on news of the explosion.

It was not immediately clear how production at the plant would be affected by Wednesday's explosion.

PARKER - Professor attributes success to positive attitude

continued from page 1

incident.

"I invited people to write their comments and feelings," Parker said. "Students and people from outside the department wrote all over it."

Parker created a papermaking course, which he currently teaches, 25 years ago. Students are able to make paper through a process involving cooking plants.

"The course is mostly based upon cooking plants like irises, gladiolas," Parker said. "It's a long process, but we can make paper like they do in the Far East. ... Students get really excited about it."

Former student Gertrude Turner enjoyed the papermaking course so much that she gave a \$500,000 endowment to the School of Art and Design Art department and donated a few

thousand dollars directly to the papermaking class. Parker said his former student attributed her large donation to the good experience she had while taking his papermaking class.

Parker said he receives a lot of positive feedback from students taking his courses.

Bill Emeritt, a senior majoring in animation, has taken classes with Parker since 2001, including papermaking and watercolor classes.

"He works from his soul," Emeritt said. "He tries to bring down students' inhibitions and make it a more comfortable environment to express themselves."

Parker is also responsible for making over the manhole covers. While walking to work 10 years ago, Parker said he came up with the idea to beautify the street covers.

"When I saw the manhole cov-

ers on the street, I thought how exciting it would be to paint them on our campus," Parker said.

Parker's creative idea was met with opposition from his employer and colleagues when he was told that the Art department would be charged for the damages he had caused by painting the street covers.

"They tried to shut me down and charge the Art department for extra money," Parker said. "A campus committee was called and I met with them to show them my photos and documents. They unanimously approved what I was doing."

Parker said he has learned to laugh at things. The art professor attributes his success and longevity at SJSU to his optimism.

"Overcoming opposition through a positive attitude to me, that's what creative art is about," Parker said. "Art uplifts the mind and the imagination."

KSJS - Program hopes to increase interest in college

continued from page 1

liability and risk management had to be considered, said Nick Martinez, general manager for KSJS.

"Anytime that you have people who are under age and need to be chaperoned on a college campus, there's always concerns," Martinez said.

To ameliorate these concerns, students were chaperoned by Monique Salas, a teaching associate at Citizen Schools. Prior to the program, students had to fax permission slips to Martinez.

"(My public service announcement) is about Citizen Schools and why you should join and we need some volunteers to teach us things like apprenticeships," said Ghazaleh Fakhraabadi, a sixth-grader from Castro Middle School.

The students received a tour during the first week of the program and became honorary members of KSJS.

"I took them in and we did the tour, we gave them T-shirts and made them honorary members of KSJS and then did a basic rundown over radio in general," Johnson said.

The students were introduced to public service announcements in the second week and were asked to prepare a public service announcement for production including choosing music for the music bed.

The music bed is the music playing in the background when someone is speaking and can help convey an emotion for the public service announcement, Johnson said.

"The standard rule of thumb in radio is that you don't use

lyrics in a music bed, but that rule is broken all the time because sometimes some of the messages can actually reinforce your text," Johnson said.

The students began to produce their public service announcements in their third week at KSJS and completed them during their last session in the fourth week.

"I liked being able to have the chance to go on the air and sending out a message," said Johnny Hartman, a seventh-grader from Castro Middle School.

Additionally, students learn the terminology and techniques associated with production.

"We just learned that it takes a longer time to put the music in when you're recording because they have to fix everything to where it's just music behind it instead of the words," said Kelli Stone, a sixth-grader from Castro Middle School, in reference to the production of her public service announcement.

There are four important objectives for students' success at Citizen Schools — strengthen academic skills, develop personal leadership skills, facilitate access to resources and build community connections, Salenda said.

"Our goal is to prepare students for leadership roles in the 21st century," she said.

The program was also designed to spur excitement in the children

about college.

"The program was an opportunity to get these kids on college in an after-school program," Martinez said. "When I was going through grade school and high school, everything was pushed toward college, so I like to do programs and support programs that support that."

Although the program was just four weeks, there are hopes to either continue the program or build on it so that students can possibly do their own shows, Martinez said.

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Sequel a sin to miss, congenial to watch

By Sarah Holcomb
Daily Staff Writer

Between a Dolly Parton chase scene and a performance at a drag queen club, "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous" takes viewers on another adventure to save Miss United States — Las Vegas style.

Gracie Hart (Sandra Bullock) leads the way and this time she has a reluctant and

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bitter sidekick, Sam Fuller (Regina King). Fuller is a small, angry woman who was just transferred from the Chicago bureau because of anger management problems and quickly begins to hate Hart.

The opposing dynamic has a comedic aspect, but it's been done before.

The movie picks up three weeks after the first movie ends, with the slightly cuter, but still disheveled, Hart whom viewers met at the beginning of the previous film.

The movie is a sequel, but doesn't feel like one. It picks up right where the first film left off, but redundancy isn't an issue.

The situations in the movie are unique and the characters' reactions make them hilarious.

After an undercover field operation is ruined because Hart's cover is blown by a woman who saw the pageant, her supervisor then tells her that her days in the field are over. But, he gives her a choice between a desk job and being the new face of the FBI.

She begrudgingly takes on the task of making the FBI look better.

The movie then fast-forwards 10 months and shows the beauty queen transformation.

She finds out that Cheryl Frasier (Heather Burns), who is still Miss United States and Stan Fields (William Shatner) have been kidnapped in Las Vegas.

Hart's natural field agent instincts soon kick in and she can't keep herself out of the investigation despite being told many times to stay out of it by her supervisors.

Hart, Fuller and Hart's styling team end up running around Vegas looking for clues.



Sandra Bullock stars in "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous."

Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures

Among Hart's antics are a chase after Parton, a performance in a drag queen show and dressing up and speaking like and old Jewish woman named Ida.

Overall, the movie was funny.

There were a lot of funny jokes and one-liners that kept the audience laughing throughout the movie. The actors did a good

job with their characters, especially Deidrich Bader, who played Hart's stylist Joel. Joel was a hilarious flamboyant gay guy, but not annoyingly so.

King did a great job portraying Fuller as well with her all-telling looks of resentment and annoyance with Hart.

Bullock's performance was as good as the

first, but was so convincing as the made-up beauty queen that she didn't portray the insecurities that Hart felt that when she decided to revamp the FBI's image, and in turn, her own.

The movie was funny with the typical sappy ending, and great for a night out after midterms.

Film festival celebrates Asian American art

By Shannon Barry
Daily Staff Writer

Subtitles, swordplay and cherry blossoms may evoke images from Asian cinematography, but this year the Bay Area offered a new look into the outside world.

The National Asian American Telecommunications Association

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held its 23rd Annual San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival from March 10 to 20.

"This is the fifth year the festival has been in San Jose," said Eddie Wong, executive director of the association. "We used to be an eight-day festival, but now it is 11 days."

Alice Wu's humanitarian comedy, "Saving Face," opened the festival following an opening night reception at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum. Movie buffs from everywhere came to celebrate another year of groundbreaking cinema emerging from Asia and the Asian Diaspora, a dispersion of Asian people from their original homeland.

This year's festival offered 131 films of diverse genres, including 12 shorts programs and 25

feature narrative films, up from the thirteen films presented in the festival's first year.

During the 11-day festival, the AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres and Castro Theatre in San Francisco, the Pacific Film Archive Theater in Berkeley, and Camera 12 Cinema in San Jose welcomed audiences with appreciation.

"What makes us unique, is the stories we tell," said festival director Chi-hui Yang. "Other festivals' missions are to present films and connect them to audiences but we also exist to support Asian Americans."

Wong added that the festival was developed to exclusively show Asian American work, but this year the work spanned from many places around the world like Britain, Germany and Iraq.

Often, the movies launch their screenings at the festival, Yang said, as there were 15 world premieres, seven North American premieres and three U.S. premieres.

Wong said more than 100 industry professionals joined the audiences for the festival in panel discussions and film workshops aimed at bringing the community together.

"This festival is unique because it is occurring in the

(association's) 25th year," Wong said. "We celebrated some of the achievements for work that has been funded and distributed by NAATA."

Steven Okazaki, best known for his documentary work with a career spanning 25 years, was one of the filmmakers honored during the festival in "An Evening with Steven Okazaki." Screenings of some of his past and newer work included "The Mushroom Club" and "Living on Tokyo Time."

"On one hand we celebrated past work, but we also saw exciting new work from this generation of Asian cinema," Wong said.

The festival wasn't just home to big-name directors and actors, it also showcased many up-and-coming directors and included work by graduate film students.

"I believe that the best way to educate people about others' experience — the Asian American experience in this case — is to

have a breadth of images available," said Mai Le, sponsorship coordinator of the association. Le added that the festival had its first juried competitions, where films were selected by three judges for each competition.

"I enjoy being a part of something that I can wholeheartedly throw myself into philosophically," Le said.

Following each screening, Q&A sessions with directors, crew and cast members gave the audience an opportunity to voice their reactions to the films and hear directors speak about the process of filmmaking.

"(The association) and the (festival) portray some of the widest variety of the Asian and Asian Diaspora through the lens of film or video cameras," Le said. "Film is both highbrow and lowrow and both academic and dealing with the lowest common denominator."

Check out the crossword puzzle on page 5.

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SPARTAN DAILY

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A&E will resume publication Wednesday, April 6. Have a great spring break.

- E.N.

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MELINDA AND MELINDA (PG-13) No Passes!
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Daily at 11:30, 2:45, 7:15, 9:45

THE CHORUS (PG-13) No Passes!
Daily at 12:10, 2:10, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25

ROBOTS (PG) Daily at 11:10, 1:35, 7:9

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Daily at 11:15, 1:10, 3:15, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

THE SEA INSIDE (PG-13) Daily at 12:35, 4:55, 9:15

BORN INTO BROTHELS (R) Daily 3:05, 7:25

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Daily at 11:20, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:25

SCHULTZE GETS THE BLUES (PG)
Daily at 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

WALK ON WATER (Unrated) Must End Soon!
Daily at 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40

PAPER CLIPS (G) Daily at 11:15, 5:20

D.E.B.S. (PG-13) No Passes!
Daily at 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:35, 9:40

MISS CONGENIALITY 2 (PG-13) No Passes!
Daily at 11:20, 2:40, 7:30

GUESS WHO (PG-13) No Passes!
Daily at 12:10, 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 9:45

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