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Faculty weighs housing options

By Jean Blomo
Daily Staff Writer

Faculty members face the same high housing prices students grapple with, and for many, making enough to live comfortably is a challenge.

"Many (professional) engineers, especially in management, make \$150,000 to \$200,000 more than instructors," said Haluk Ozemek, a professor in the computer engineering department.

"I stay because of my love of teaching — this was always a dream," Ozemek said.

Noelle Brada-Williams, an associate professor of English and comparative literature, said she and her husband bought a house several years ago to build their equity.

"The only way we were able to buy it was because my husband, who is a high school teacher, earns \$20,000 more than me," Brada-Williams said. "We also were able to get a loan."

For single and newly hired faculty members, it is next to impossible to buy a home, Brada-Williams said.

"We've lost one out of every two or three people we hire because of (the low pay)," Brada-Williams said. "Older colleagues, who bought their houses before (the dot-com crash) don't have as much of a problem."

A newly hired faculty member, Andrew Fleck, rents an apartment and says he enjoys teaching and the San Jose area.

"It's definitely a struggle to make ends meet," said Fleck, an assistant professor of English and comparative literature. "I would get paid the same amount anywhere (I teach), but it just doesn't go as far here."

The 2000 United States Census Bureau found the median rent in San Jose to be \$1,123 and the median mortgage payment to be \$1,717.

see HOUSING, page 6



Shaminder Dulai / Daily Staff

Cryssa Byers, a volunteer with Roadtrip Nation, talks to Jason Nyeh, a senior majoring in business, near the Student Union on Wednesday about grants students can apply for to participate in its program and documentary. Roadtrip Nation encourages students to interview working professionals while traveling cross-country in pursuit of a selected career. "I like what they're doing," Nyeh said, "I may look into it."

Ministry set to honor pope

Three events
scheduled today

By Erin Caballero
Daily Staff Writer

Millions of Catholics are mourning the death of Pope John Paul II, who led the Roman Catholic Church out of the 20th century and into the 21st. To honor his life and legacy, the Catholic Campus Ministry is holding a PowerPoint presentation titled "The Life of Pope John Paul II," from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. today in the chapel.

In addition, two Eucharists will be held in the San Jose State University Spartan Memorial, one starting at noon and one at 5 p.m. today.

"He was a wonderful leader who left an enduring legacy on us," said Sister Marcia Krause, director of the campus ministry. "He raised awareness for our stance on the poor, defenseless and the marginalized."

Krause said that it's ironic that President George W. Bush is attending the late pontiff's funeral, considering the pope's strong opposition to the war in Iraq and to the handling of the Terri Schiavo case.

The Rev. Michael Carson, chaplain of the campus ministry, will host the PowerPoint presentation and preside over both Eucharists.

Carson said about one-third of the San Jose State University campus community is Catholic.

The Pope's legacy is a mixed one — many Catholics and non-Catholics opposed his anti-contraception and anti-war policies. In the early years of his papacy, the Pope was hailed as a "breath of fresh air" for the Catholic Church because of his charisma and intense efforts to reconnect with the people. As the years progressed, his health began to fail and

see POPE, page 6



Special to the Daily

SJSU athletes fail NCAA standards

By Lauren Bosch
Daily Staff Writer

Struggles are continuing to plague the athletic department at San Jose State University, as it is now fighting a report by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which places its Division I teams amongst

the bottom tier of the Academic Progress Rates.

According to the report released Feb. 28, SJSU is one of the 1,198 of 5,720 teams that rank below the minimum NCAA requirement. The APR, the new measure used to track all Division I sports, is a formula devised to determine how many student-athletes are graduating, remaining enrolled

in classes and how they are doing in the classroom.

The report places high emphasis on high profile sports, such as football, baseball, and basketball. In each of these sports, SJSU ranks well below the average of 925, with overall department scores of 874.

see NCAA, page 7

Roadtrip Nation offers students the open road

By Joe Shreve
Daily Staff Writer

A green RV pulled into the Ninth Street Plaza to spread the word about Roadtrip Nation on Wednesday.

Roadtrip Nation is a program that encourages college students to broaden their horizons about what they want to do with their lives. Students head out in groups of three either in one of three green RVs or in individual cars to spend the summer interviewing interesting people that have found success in various industries.

Three previous Roadtrip Nation participants were handing out information to passing students about how to sign up.

The object is to allow the students to see how each of the professions works to see if they would consider doing something similar.

Each group is documented for a documentary series that airs on the Public Broadcasting System.

Groups of students have been doing Roadtrip Nation since it was founded in 2001, and have interviewed famous people such as Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Jim Koch, founder of Samuel Adams brewery; Hugh Hefner, founder of Playboy magazine; and Kimberly Weaver, an astronomer with NASA.

Roadtrip Nation started with a trio of friends who had just graduated from college, Mike Maerner, Brian McAllister and Nathan Gebhard. None of them knew what they wanted to do with their lives, so they bought

an old RV, painted it green and ventured out and filmed the first Roadtrip Nation.

The next year, three more students did the trip. In 2003, three groups of three set out for the trip. Each year the trips are documented to demonstrate the benefits the students get from their learning experiences on the road.

"It wasn't about the spotlight, it was about our generation, this movement and getting out there and asking these questions that a lot of us have," said Gloria Pantoja, a campus tours intern. "It all started out of frustration. Frustration of not knowing what's really out there."

Groups of people can apply for a grant from Roadtrip Nation, for a behind-the-wheel trip, where they take their cars and go out on their own and experience the trip.

The road trips can go along three different routes.

The Northern Route takes the students across the northern part of the country, through places like Oregon, Seattle, Idaho, Illinois, Montreal, Toronto and New York. The Central Route goes through California, Nevada, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania before ending in New York.

The Southern Route travels from California, through Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and Virginia before ending in Washington, D.C.

Interested SJSU students were given a wealth of information to encourage them to apply to be one of the road trip crews.

"Ask yourself these questions, we come to school and we're pushed to hurry up and get a major and get out and get a job," Pantoja said. "But does anyone ever ask 'What do you love to do? What are you passionate about? Do you want to make a difference?'"

WASTED DAYS AND WASTED NIGHTS

Pope selection should be more democratic

Ding-dong, the pope is dead.
Great guy — he blessed a lot of people, denounced a lot of things and was, by far, the most productive pope ever.
Oh dear, looks like it'll be another election year.
Looks like it's another election I won't vote in. Almost wish I was a cardinal — damn you, vagina.
It doesn't matter anyway. I don't care to be there — absolutely no motivation.
Anyone who has ever worked a crappy job knows where the problem lies.
Anyone who has ever questioned organized religion has probably seen it as well.
It's not the difficulty of the tasks — everyone's bound to need help sometime. A lot of dedication, a little talent and five "Hail Mary's" make up for that.
The problem lies within what I like to call management.
This new religious leader, this shepherd, will have a lot of tending to do for his flock.
As it is, some are unhappy with the distant nature of the church.

Some who cannot fit the religion have even gone as far as converting to one that suited them.
Unfortunately, with the Roman Catholic Church, Catholics can't pick a religious leader to suit them.
You won't see any cardinal or bishop perusing through resumes of qualified applicants vying for the position of pope, no.
It is supposedly a decision handed down through divine right after hundreds of hours of praying by the College of Cardinals, members who were chosen by the previous pope.
And the only qualification necessary is that you have to be a man. Of course you'd have to be willing to convert to Catholicism and become a bishop first if you accept, but anyone else can become pope.
Are we not in the 20th century? What ever happened to equal opportunity?
In some countries, prepubescent girls are honored as goddesses. Of course, they get tossed aside at the

first hint of menstruation, but why can't women be religious leaders in the Roman Catholic Church?
If a female pope is too much to ask for, how about a female priest?
The bearers of mankind deserve some kind of gratitude after a few millennia.
Why should we worship men for making us do double-duty and never uttering a single word of thanks?
It was the least that could be done for the great and wonderful omnipotent leader of men. Oops, did I say omnipotent or impotent? They sometimes confuse me, but obviously, a good leader should know the difference.
But wait, you can't mess with tradition. Well, tradition must have had its start



ELIZABETH NGUYEN

one day.
The pope, if elected by small group of people, should be able to get recalled if he is found an ineffective leader. If only we could do that to our own leaders.

To balance it out, he should be recalled by groups of women. See if he still wants to ban birth control after that.
So, beginning today, I'll be running for pope.
Like Ralph Nader, I don't need to win — the funding is enough.
My soul is for sale if anyone wants it. Mom will be proud.
Gold crucifix on a 14-karat gold chain: \$50.
Leather-bound Bible and book of hymns: \$25.
Plastic rosary beads: \$5.
Belittling my own religion, getting excommunicated and at the same time insulting a Catholic Spartan Daily executive editor: priceless.

Elizabeth Nguyen is the Spartan Daily A&E editor. "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights" appears every Thursday.

WORLD OF THE NO BRIAN PEREZ



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

TODAY

School of Art and Design

An art exhibition featuring student galleries will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art building. For more information, call the gallery office at 924-4330.

HIV/AIDS Committee

"In Her Own Words: What It's Really Like to Live with AIDS" will take place from noon to 2 p.m. in the Spartan Memorial. For more information, call Joe Pinheiro at 924-5985.

Counseling Services

An AAAP group meeting will take place from noon to 1:20 p.m. in Counseling Services of the Student Services Center. For more information, call 924-5910.

Catholic Campus Ministry

Daily Mass will take place at 12:10 p.m. "Faith Formation" will take place at 6 p.m. Scripture reflection will take place at 7 p.m. The Alpha Omega Student Fellowship will meet at 8 p.m. in the lounge. All events will take place in 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 1:15 p.m. in the Music building Concert Hall. It will feature a chamber music recital from the Mu Phi Epsilon Music Honor Fraternity. For more information, call the music office at 924-4673.

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.

Mu Alpha Gamma

A meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. in front of room 213 of Dwight Bentel Hall.

Society of Latino Engineers and Scientists

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

International Youth Fellowship

A Bible study and meeting will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Ohlone room of the Student Union. For more information, call Argie Guinto at 504-0384.

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.

Asian Baptist Student Koinonia

A Bible study will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Costanoan room of the Student Union. For more information, call Chantra at 472-2465.

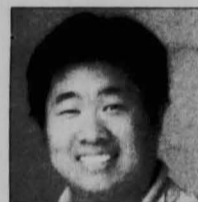
Campus Crusade for Christ

"Nightlife," a time for worship, prayer, fellowship and hearing the word will take place at 8 p.m. at the Spartan Memorial. For more information, call Mark Depoid at 421-9281.

SJSUCK

Adventures in fast-food dining present the press with the finger

Prepare the rim shots.
I ate at Wendy's. Yes, *the* Wendy's.
It all began a couple weeks ago — with the headlines: "Woman finds finger in fast food chili," "99-cent menu surprise." Most of the articles were blurbs, on par with "news of the weird" segments, but some of the stories went into more detail. Astute readers found out that this restaurant was a Wendy's. A Wendy's located in Northern California. More specifically, a Wendy's housed in the Bay Area — in San Jose.
Then came the jokes. Oh, the jokes.
So I guess they would they call that finger food? Ba-dum-chk.
Give that store a hand. Ba-dum-chk.
Finger-lickin' good! Ba-dum-chk.
I'm sure Leno got at least 10 monologue shots out of this one.
It was all I heard for two weeks. Real Time with Bill Maher, Howard Stern, Newsweek. San Jose had its own Terri Schiavo.
The actual Wendy's is located across the street from Denny's, where First Street turns into Monterey Highway, a few blocks from Spartan Stadium. Some students might recognize the fast-food joint. After all, its walls are adorned with Spartan sports jerseys and pictures.
Our own hometown restaurant was being torn down by jokesters. I had to do something.
So I ate there.
It was going to be cool, right? Like flying right after Sept. 11. They wouldn't let anything happen like that ever again. Or at least they *shouldn't*.
Remember when Jack in the Box gave that kid E. coli poisoning and he died? Same thing. What about when McDonalds made all those kids fat? Oh, wait.
I pulled into the Wendy's parking lot, which was way too crowded for a place that had just served a finger in its chili two weeks ago. I had been thinking too much about this. The frog in my throat was welcome, considering the possible alternatives. Images of an ear in my soda or a big hairy toe in my fries haunted me during the long walk up to the counter.
There were about 15 other courageous patrons already lunching when I arrived. However, I saw none of them downing the chili. From the parking lot, I expected a line of people where I could successfully pump myself up before ordering, but there wasn't one. I froze.
"Can I help you?" asked the register lady, decked out in Wendy's garb.



KEVIN YUEN

"Give me just a second," I replied, trying to delay the inevitable. I stared at the menu, biding my time. It was too late to back out now, the whole kitchen staff was looking at me.
I took a deep breath.
"OK, I'll have a ... junior bacon cheese, a frosty — small, an order of chicken nuggets," I saved the best for last, "and a small chili," I said with a half-scared quiver in my voice.
The service was lightning quick. Too quick for the workers to check for loose appendages in the food?
I picked up the tray and looked for a remote corner of the restaurant where I could possibly throw up without anyone noticing.
The rest of the food was a distraction. I was here for one thing — the chili. I consumed the nuggets, the burger and the frosty first, barely tasting any of it as the stew sat in the corner of the tray staring at me, laughing.
Looking around the restaurant, I saw little things that I had never noticed before. The signs and slogans posted up that read "Taste the difference fresh makes" and "Quality is our recipe" rang with newfound irony. The cup of chili read "Rich and meaty." Even on the announcement outside that said, "Open 'til 1 p.m.," the number one looked like a finger.
Wielding my plastic spoon, I stirred the chili, telling myself it was to mix around the cheese on top. But it was really to check for any unnecessary items in the goulash.
It looked OK, so I dug in. Every chomp was careful and tentative and each bite seemed a lot more than what it was. Ugh, a tendon, nasty — nope, just onion. Ew, a joint — nope, just a giant, gross piece of pork (or whatever meat they use). I had my fill of the lumpy, red mess by the time the bowl was half done, but in the name of journalistic integrity, I pressed on.
After conquering the digit-less dreck, I only had one question. Why would anyone order the chili at Wendy's in the first place? It's kind of gross already, finger or not.
So, to recap, Wendy's is cool, Wendy's chili is not and never has been.
I deserve a high-five (ba-dumb-chk) for knocking up (ba-dum-chk) and nailing (ba-dum-chk) this thing.
Kevin Yuen is the Spartan Daily sports editor. SJSUCK appears every Thursday.

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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Editorials are written by and are the consensus of the Spartan Daily editors, not the staff.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications or SJSU.

Strumming a tune ...



Brian Connelly / Daily Staff

Chung Nguyen, a senior majoring in biology, plays the guitar while enjoying the nice weather Tuesday. Nguyen said he was "soaking up some rays" in between classes.

Renowned professor receives President's Scholar Award

By Jean Blomo
Daily Staff Writer

Professor and chair of the justice studies department Inger Sagatun-Edwards began her journey to success in high school aboard a Greyhound bus on a cross-country road trip with 30 fellow foreign exchange students.

As the latest recipient of the President's Scholar Award, Sagatun-Edwards reflected on the inspiration for her current profession.

While traveling aboard the bus, Sagatun-Edwards said she realized her interest in learning about different cultures.

"I didn't know it was sociology then, but I began to wonder on the bus, what makes people different?" Sagatun-Edwards said.

Sagatun-Edwards has come a long way from her roots in Norway to become a leading researcher in several fields, including domestic violence, child abuse and child abductions.

Diana Pennington, a student assistant in the president's public affairs department, said the President's Scholar Award has been given out since the 1973-74 academic year.

Pennington said the award is given to faculty members "who have achieved ... widespread recognition for the quality of their scholarly achievements."

A committee of past award recipients choose several possible candidates and then the president makes the final decision, Pennington said.

Sagatun-Edwards' grant work with Santa Clara County's unique court system was the main reason for recognition, according to a prepared statement from interim President Don Kassing's office.

"Santa Clara County has the only juvenile domestic violence court in the country," Sagatun-

Edwards said.

Sagatun-Edwards said she did extensive research on how the court worked.

"The grant also paid for a study in the comparison of the court systems in three counties — San Francisco County, Santa Clara County and Contra Costa

problems are not to be taken lightly," Sagatun-Edwards said. "It is important to find better solutions."

To find better solutions, Sagatun-Edwards said, she uses her experiences outside SJSU to contribute to theory and research methods.

"I can use these experiences in teaching students, as well," Sagatun-Edwards said. "In a family violence class I taught, I was able to give case examples."

For her sabbatical, Sagatun-Edwards decided to return to Norway for a research fellowship involving the Norwegian court system.

"I specifically researched two areas (while in Norway)," Sagatun-Edwards said. "One was fetal abuse, for instance a pregnant woman taking drugs. The second area was parental child abduction, specifically international abductions."

Sagatun-Edwards has been chair of the justice studies department for 12 years.

"(Sagatun-Edwards) is a good leader for the department," said Ann Lucas, assistant professor of justice studies. "Even when there were schoolwide budget cuts, she moved us forward, even increasing the number of majors and creating a new minor in forensics."

"We take an evaluative critical approach to the field of sociology, and we want to train well-rounded, ethical, thoughtful people," Sagatun-Edwards said.

Sagatun-Edwards said students in the justice studies program have shown an increased interest in law as opposed to a few years ago when more were interested in law enforcement.

"We try to convey (to students) this is not dry subject matter, these are real life problems and decisions are not black and white," Sagatun-Edwards said.

County — which doesn't have a specialized juvenile court," Sagatun-Edwards said.

"An important feature of these specialized courts is that they reach out to the community and form a network of partnerships with a wide range of treatment services," Kassing said.

The President's Scholar Award is one of many awards Sagatun-Edwards has received, including honors of local and national recognition.

Between teaching graduate students and chairing one of the top 10 majors at SJSU, Sagatun-Edwards served on the SJSU Foundation Board of Directors and the academic senate.

Sagatun-Edwards said she has somehow found enough energy to work on various grants amounting to more than \$6.1 million.

"I love what I do," Sagatun-Edwards said.

Kassing said the research Sagatun-Edwards has done "has had a major impact on the way custody disputes are handled in family courts."

"I work with people who have tragic lives, chaotic lives — these

SJSU provides resources to help students battling drug problems

By Joe Shreve
Daily Staff Writer

In these days of drug awareness and education, some students are still delving into the dangerous world of drug experimentation. San Jose State University students are no exceptions.

A natural negative byproduct of living in one of the largest cities in the country, students can find that a myriad of illicit drugs are available if one were to search hard enough. Because marijuana is easily accessible, as well as comparatively inexpensive, it is the most common and popular drug, said one student.

"Most times, when people are partying and want something, they look for marijuana. Somebody always knows somebody who can hook it up," said Christina Wenger, a freshman majoring in social science. Wenger lived in Joe West Hall during the Fall 2004 semester.

According to a 2003 study by the University of Michigan, 33.7 percent of college students admitted using marijuana on a routine basis within the last year. 5.4 percent admitted using cocaine on a regular basis within the last year.

Sgt. Robert Noriega said the University Police Department handled approximately 108 drug-related cases in 2004, ranging from misdemeanor drug possession to intoxication to drug paraphernalia. Noriega said that besides marijuana, campus police has dealt with cases involving cocaine and methamphetamine as well.

Noriega said campus police has had 23 drug-related cases on campus so far this year. He noted no dramatic increases or decreases in student drug activity.

"We are about on par with years past," Noriega said.

Drug charges vary based on the types of drugs in question, the amount, previous offenses, and whether the drugs were intended for sale.

Noriega said possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, as well as possessing drug paraphernalia, are both misdemeanor offenses, punishable by fines and possibly county jail time. If there is more than an ounce, it becomes a felony offense because it can be argued that there was intent to sell it, which can result in a prison sentence.

Possession of any amount of cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin or ecstasy is a felony offense, whether there were dealing plans in mind or not and will result in prison time. There are also mandatory minimum laws in place, meaning that federal law states that a judge must issue a sentence for drug-dealing offenses no less than five years.

There is another option, though. Proposition 36, passed in 2000, allows nonviolent, first-time drug offenders to enter a rehabilitation program in lieu of prison time. The program has its problems, however. According to a study by researchers from UCLA, only about one-third of those in the program complete it.


Drugs can affect students in many negative ways. Physically,

effects can include sleep loss, dramatic weight loss, memory loss, and in extreme cases, brain damage and death. Also, drugs can put students in danger of becoming addicted. When someone becomes dependent upon a substance, they become physically and mentally enslaved to the object of their addiction and will go to great and dangerous lengths to get their fix. Mental addiction can linger far longer than physical addiction can, and without treatment, it can lead to a life of crime, being taken advantage of, and possibly death.

SJSU has resources available on campus to help students avoid or cope with drug problems. Students who have drug problems and a desire to seek help can visit Counseling Services and speak to a counselor. The Student Health Center offers a prevention education program. The program deals with such subjects as the effects of alcohol and drug use on academic performance, how to make responsible choices, the effects and risks of club drugs such as ecstasy, how alcohol and drug use can relate to diseases, the effects and risks of ecstasy, how gender affects alcohol and drug use, marijuana use and the health effects of steroids and other performance drugs.


Not all students experiment with drugs, but most know that it occurs.

"I just go to class and go home. I'm sure there's people doing what they're doing all the time though," said Mike Ly, a senior majoring in computer science.



Financial Management Association

Presents



Casino Night

poker
blackjack
roulette
craps

Tonight

Thursday April 7, 2005
4:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Loma Prieta Room
Student Union

Prizes Include...

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an iPod
\$300 value

a \$100 Gift Certificate
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a Hundred Bucks @
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Hollywood rushes in with slew of sports tales

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Listen up, sports fans. Whether you're into baseball, football, boxing, basketball, horses, soccer, bowling or even pinewood-derby racing, chances are a movie's coming about your favorite pastime.

A Hollywood staple for decades with such classics as "The Pride of the Yankees," "Rocky" and "Raging Bull," sports flicks are on a winning streak with hits that include 2003's "Seabiscuit," last year's "Miracle," "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story" and "Friday Night Lights" and this year's "Coach Carter."

"I think they'll always come and go in waves sort of like other genres in the business," said Brian Robbins, who has produced or directed such sports movies as "Varsity Blues," "Hard Ball" and "Coach Carter" with filmmaking partner Michael Tollin. "We

always say you can open up the sports section every day and get a great human story. There's great inherent drama in sports. ...

"Even those of us who have made so many sports movies and say we're never going to do another one again, we can't seem to get away from it," said Robbins, who is producing an as yet untitled horse racing tale starring Kurt Russell and Dakota Fanning due out late this year. "There are always new stories to tell."

Baseball probably has been the most popular subject for sports movies over the years, including "Fear Strikes Out," "Bang the Drum Slowly," "Bull Durham" and "Field of Dreams."

"I love the baseball ones," said Jimmy Fallon, who stars in "Fever Pitch" as a math teacher so obsessed

with the Boston Red Sox that it endangers his romance with a business consultant (Drew Barrymore). "There's a lot of emotion wrapped up in baseball. You just get sucked in, no matter how sappy it is."

Fallon recalls watching Robert Redford's "The Natural" with a bunch of hard-nosed college friends and "by the end, there were guys crying. These are some of the toughest guys I know, and they're crying."

Among other upcoming sports tales: "Cinderella Man," on which Russell Crowe reunites with director Ron Howard ("A Beautiful Mind") for the story of Depression-era boxer Jim Braddock; "The Longest Yard," with Adam Sandler updating the 1970s story of prison inmates in a football showdown against sadistic guards; "Rebound," starring Martin Lawrence as a college basketball coach doing penance leading a ju-

nior high team; "The Bad News Bears," a remake featuring "Friday Night Lights" star Billy Bob Thornton as an ex-ballplayer coaching a ragtag Little League team; and "Kicking & Screaming," with Will Ferrell as a dad coaching his son's soccer team to a championship matchup against a squad headed by his overly competitive father (Robert Duvall).

The key to many such stories is the notion that an underdog's perseverance can win the day.

"I happen to like human-triumph stories, and there are a lot of those in sports," said Howard Baldwin, the former owner of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Hartford Whalers and producer of the upcoming "The Game of Their Lives," starring Wes Bentley and Gerard Butler in the story of the U.S. soccer team that won the World Cup against Britain in the 1950s.

Average MLB player earns \$2.6 million

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball's big-money boom pushed the average salary to a record \$2.6 million on opening day, and the New York Yankees' payroll of just under \$200 million topped five teams combined.

Following a rare drop in 2003, the average climbed 5.9 percent to \$2.63 million, according to a study by The Associated Press.

"That means we're going in the right direction," San Francisco Giants outfielder Marquis Grissom said. "When they go up, it's always good."

Three Yankees were among the top five in salary: Alex Rodriguez, at \$25.7 million, was No. 1 for the fifth straight year; Derek Jeter was fourth at \$19.6 million; and Mike Mussina was fifth at \$19 million.

San Francisco's Barry Bonds, who started the season on the disabled list following knee surgery, was second at \$22 million, followed by Boston's Manny Ramirez at \$19.8 million.

While the players on the Yankees' opening-day roster totaled \$205.9 million, cash received by New York in trades, notably last year's deal to acquire A-Rod from Texas, cut the team's payroll to \$199.77 million.

New York is spending more than the \$187 million total of Tampa Bay (\$29.9 million), Kansas City (\$36.9 million), Pittsburgh (\$38.1 million), Milwaukee (\$40.2 million) and Cleveland (\$41.8 million).

"That doesn't mean we're going to go out and give up," Kansas City first baseman Mike Sweeney said. "We have talent and heart, and if you play with heart, you can win games."

While the NFL and NBA have salary caps, baseball does not. The current labor contract expires after the 2006 season.

"Sometimes in baseball it's better being the underdog because you can sneak up on somebody," Pittsburgh outfielder Matt Lawton said.

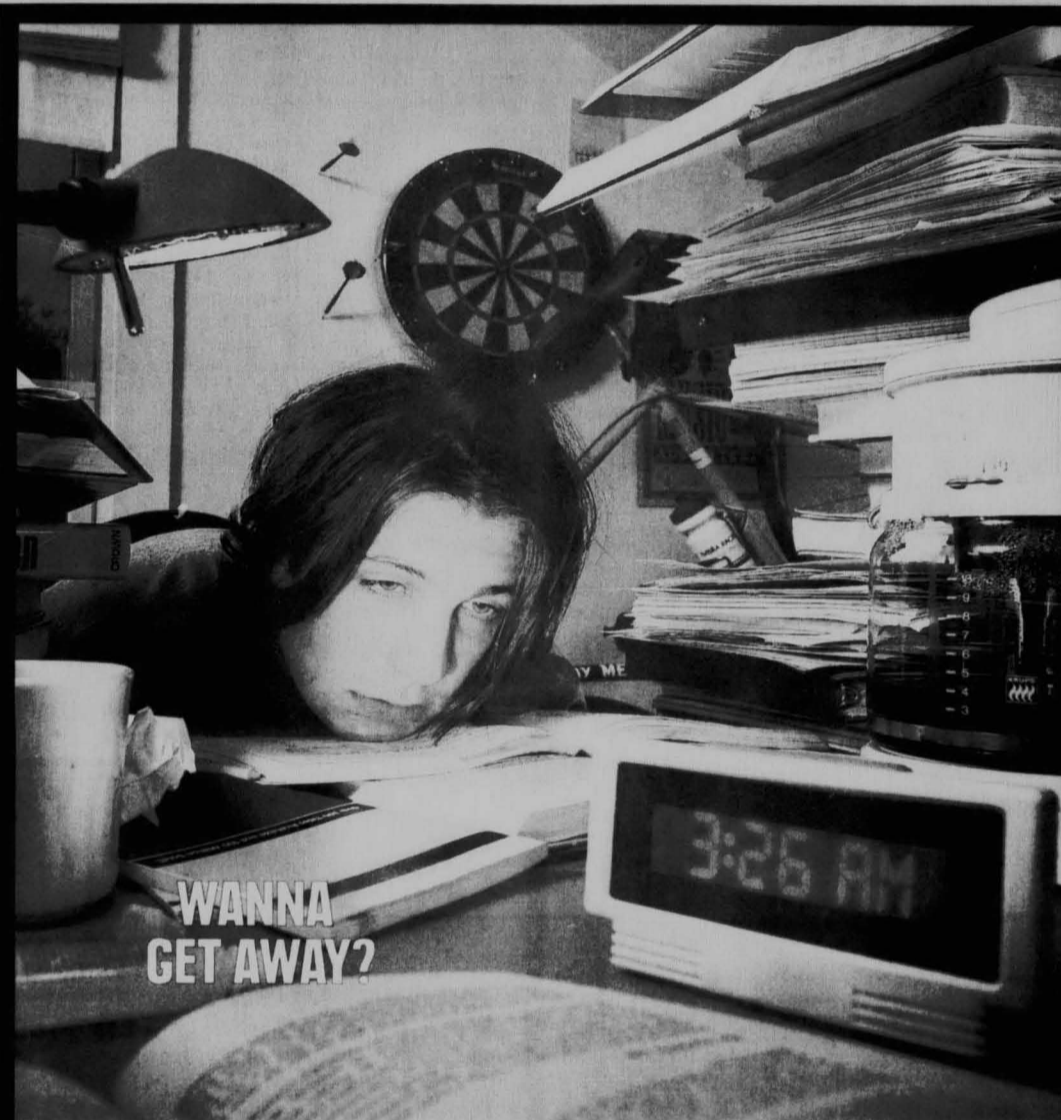
"It's been like this the last couple of years, but the deal's up in 2006 and, hopefully, we can get something done (to make it better) — but without a salary cap. Nobody wants that," Lawton said.

The World Series champion Boston Red Sox were second to the Yankees, with their players earning \$121.3 million.

The New York Mets were next at \$104.8 million, followed by Philadelphia (\$95.3 million) and the Los Angeles Angels (\$95 million).

Last year, the average salary dropped 2.5 percent, the first decrease since the 1994-95 strike and only the third since record-keeping began in 1967.

NBA players averaged \$4.9 million in the 2003-04 season, according to a preliminary estimate by their union, which did not provide a figure for the current season. In the NHL, where a lockout canceled the current season, players averaged \$1.83 million in 2003-04. NFL players averaged \$1.33 million last year, according to their union.



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Strong pitching keeps Spartans atop conference

SJSU a half game ahead of Fresno State and the University of Nevada

By Amber Sheldon
Daily Senior Staff Writer

The San Jose State University baseball team has retained its position atop the Western Athletic Conference standings with a 6-3 record in the WAC and a 16-11-1 overall record despite splitting its last six contests.

The University of Nevada and Fresno State University are tied for

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

Overall record WAC record
16-11-1 6-3

Team went 3-3 during spring break

Next home game:

Friday vs. Fresno State

second place and linger half a game back from the No. 1 Spartans.

SJSU head coach Sam Piraro said there's tremendous parity in the league, with the top three teams jammed together in a close race.

"There are no bad teams on the West Coast, so it's very competitive," Piraro said. "We beat each other up on the West Coast because the competition's good."

In their last two series, the Spartans faced WAC foes University of Hawai'i and Louisiana Tech University.

SJSU won two of its three games against the Bulldogs on March 24 to 26 at home, but managed to secure just a single victory against the Rainbow Warriors this past weekend at Les Murakami

Stadium.

Piraro said it is a bonus to win a series on an opponent's turf.

"When you go on the road, you have to make sure you get at least one win," he said. "That's very significant and we accomplished that."

During the final match Sunday, SJSU dropped the series after suffering a 3-2 loss.

The Spartans left 13 runners on base in the contest — twice with bases loaded.

Both clubs had opportunities they couldn't capitalize on, which produced a low scoring campaign, Piraro said.

"It was a hard-fought series and we were probably one pitch or one hit away from winning all three games," Piraro said. "We just couldn't get the big hit."

After the first game of the series was rained out, the two teams engaged in a doubleheader Saturday.

The Spartans won the first contest 6-2, but the Rainbow Warriors answered back in the second match to end a seven-game losing streak with a 6-5 victory.

During the nightcap, SJSU managed to crawl out of an early 4-0 deficit to take the lead after a four-run rally in the fifth stanza, preceded by a solo home run from Spartan center fielder Travis Becktel in the third inning.

However, the Rainbow Warriors evened the score in the bottom of the fifth and garnered the go-ahead run in the seventh inning for the win.

Spartan second baseman David Pierson said Hawai'i is a really



Spartan second baseman David Pierson prepares to field a ground ball during the Feb. 26 game against Brigham Young University. The game ended in a 3-3 tie.

competitive team.

"They've made adjustments and they came back through their mental toughness," Pierson said.

SJSU came out strong to open the series as right-handed pitcher Shane Brechmann earned his first win of the season after 4.2 innings of shutout relief.

The big bat of the weekend belonged to designated hitter Chris Williammee who went 5-for-9 in the series and hit .625 to lead the WAC.

Williammee said he simply stuck to the coach's game plan.

"(Coach Piraro) felt that I've been attacking the right side really well," Williammee said. "We were hunting fast balls and basically, that's what I got for most of the weekend, though I'd much rather have the win."

Prior to the Hawai'i series, Spartan southpaw pitchers Branden Dewing and Brad Kilby were named to the "National Honor Roll" by the College Baseball Foundation for the second week in a row in recognition of their continued outstanding performances through March 27.

Kilby was named the WAC Pitcher of the Week for the first time in his career for the week ending March 27. His 1.37 ERA currently sits atop the WAC individual standings. Dewing received WAC Pitcher of the Week honors for March 14 to 20.

Kilby allowed just five hits in the 4-0 win against the Bulldogs on March 26 — his first major college shutout.

Dewing surrendered only four hits and authored a single-game, personal-best 10 strikeouts in a 1-0 victory against Louisiana Tech on

March 25.

Dewing said his performance has been eerily similar to Kilby's.

"Kilby and I have had the exact same stats for like two weeks," Dewing said. "It's weird, but we're having fun with it, though."

SJSU opened the three-game homestand against the Bulldogs with a 4-2 loss.

The Spartans are ready to take on WAC rival Fresno State University this weekend in a three-game series. The first match is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. April 8 at Municipal Stadium.

Brain Connelly / Daily File Photo

Saarloos renders Sosa useless, pitches one-hitter in A's 9-0 victory against Orioles

BALTIMORE (AP) — Pressed into service on short notice, Kirk Saarloos dominated the Baltimore Orioles' potent lineup with surprising ease.

Saarloos pitched six innings of one-hit ball, and rookie Nick Swisher hit two of Oakland's four home runs in a 9-0 victory Wednesday night.

The lone hit against Saarloos was a clean third-inning single to right by Brian Roberts. The right-hander struck out two, walked one, hit two batters and permitted only one runner past second base.

It was an impressive performance against a batting order that included two players with 500 home runs (Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro), the AL's reigning RBI leader (Miguel Tejada) and a Silver Slugger that hit .340 last year (Melvin Mora).

"When you shut this team down, you must be throwing the ball well," Orioles manager Lee Mazzilli said. "You would think with this lineup ... But the kid pitched a good game."

Saarloos (1-0) was throwing in place of right-hander Rich Harden, who was scratched with a blister on his right middle finger.

"They told me after Saturday's (exhibition) game against the Giants, 'You made the team. We don't know when you're going throw. It might be Wednesday because of Rich's finger, or it might

be Sunday,'" Saarloos said.

Unfortunately for the Orioles, it was Wednesday.

"It's a great way to start the season," Saarloos said. "I felt like I could've located my fastball a little bit better, but I can't complain."

Not even about missing the chance to throw a no-hitter.

"I came out of the ballgame,

"When you shut this team down, you must be throwing the ball well."

Lee Mazzilli, Orioles manager

and I finally glanced up at the scoreboard and I only saw one hit. It felt like there were a lot more because I hit two guys and walked another," he said. "There were definitely some scoring opportunities for them, so I didn't really look at it and wish I didn't give it up."

Eric Chavez and Keith Ginter homered for the Athletics, who effectively bounced back from a 4-0 loss to Baltimore on opening day. Swisher had three hits and drove in

three runs in his first career multi-homer game.

Afterward, however, he preferred to talk about Saarloos.

"Hats off to him, but he's been doing that for years now," Swisher said. "I played with him last year in (Triple-A) Sacramento and then he got to the big leagues and then he ran into some injuries. You definitely see what he can do when he's healthy."

Saarloos was followed by Ricardo Rincon, who yielded one hit in seventh before giving way to 21-year-old Huston Street, who allowed one hit and a walk in his major league debut. Street ended his one-inning stint by striking out Sosa with two on and two outs.

"It was fun, it really was," Street said. "You come off the mound and it kind of sets in. People are giving you high-fives and you realize that you were just out there playing against big leaguers. It's pretty exciting."

Street was selected as a compensation pick following the first round of last June's draft, a selection the A's received for losing free agent shortstop Miguel Tejada to Baltimore after the 2003 season.

Sosa went 0-for-4, and the Orioles managed only three hits in their bid to start 2-0 for the first time since 1997.

The Athletics got all the offense they needed in a five-run second inning against Daniel Cabrera (0-1), who went 12-8 as a rookie last season.

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Campus Village parking limited

By Ashley Johnson
Daily Staff Writer

Campus Village, the university's \$200-million housing project that will hold space for more than 2,000 students and faculty members, has allocated 700 parking spaces for residents.

According to the director of University Housing Services, Susan Hansen, 1,300 students have reserved beds in Campus Village as of Friday.

That number is twice that of the number of spaces in the gated underground parking garage of Campus Village.

"Students who live on campus currently park overnight in the campus parking garages," Hansen said. "I don't think an issue will develop."

Student permits differ from housing permits in that parking overnight is not allowed. Also, students with housing permits are guaranteed a space and after the garage closes, they are guaranteed to find a space, said Sgt. Jim Renelle of the University Police Department.

Based on the number of students living in the other residence halls on campus, about one-third, or 450 students, own a car.

If Campus Village fills up and one out of three students own a car, 700 parking spaces would be just enough.

"We're hoping it stays the same in the sense of what's going on," Renelle said.

If that number increases, campus police is looking into putting a cap on the number of housing permits sold.

Because of SJSU's centralized, downtown San Jose location, there are other options to having a car.

"A lot of students use public transit to travel these days since it is so convenient and included in their fees," Hansen said.

The increased number of students with nowhere to park could affect the number of times spaces in the parking garages become available.

Approximately one-third of the student population at SJSU, over the course of a week, drives to school and uses the garages, said Sgt. Tim Villarica of campus police.

"In a typical university environment, you see a turnover rate. The cars come and go throughout the day," Renelle said.

On average, a space becomes available between 1.5 and 1.7 times in one day, Renelle said. With housing permits, students park their cars and leave them overnight.

Students living on campus typically park their cars at the beginning of the semester and don't move it very often, Renelle said.

About 450 housing permits are sold each semester. Although campus police will patrol the new parking structure in Campus Village, they will not be in control of administrative functions.

Housing services will be in control of all administrative functions such as selling permits, collecting revenue and maintaining the grounds, Renelle said.

Campus Village parking is \$75 a month for gated parking and guarantees a space. Housing services will not sell more permits than there are spaces, said Diana Tran, community relations coordinator for University Housing Services.

The purchase of parking permits for Campus Village is on a first-come, first-serve basis, Hansen said.

HOUSING

continued from page 1

Gene Moriarty, a professor of electrical engineering, said it's a tough situation for new faculty members, especially those new to the area.

"If you've been here a long time, you get used to the situation — you learn to live within your means," Moriarty said. "But I don't know how (new faculty members) can afford to pay the bills."

Moriarty, who bought his house 15 years ago, said an assistant professor earns about \$60,000 a year, \$10,000 less than the median household income in San Jose, according to the 2000 Census.

Campus Village, San Jose State University's nearly completed on-campus housing complex, will offer apartments for faculty members as well as students.

"(Campus Village apartments) sound like a really good option, especially for new faculty members," Fleck said. "If I hadn't just moved into my apartment, I would have given it some consideration."

The apartments, which include studio, one- and two-bedroom floor plans, also include several amenities.

High-speed Internet, cable television, available furnished rooms,

and laundry facilities are included in the rent, but it does not come cheap.

A furnished one-bedroom apartment rents for \$1,135 a month and a furnished two-bedroom apartment rents for \$1,385 a month, according to the Campus Village Web site.

The University Club, on the corner of Eighth and San Salvador streets, rents 14 rooms to faculty members.

Moriarty said although the pay is not stellar, and the workload is, at times, a lot to bear, there are several advantages to being an instructor.

"For me, the time off in the summer is worth more than the money," Moriarty said. "I can work on my own projects."

Özemek said instructors see the free time as an opportunity to earn extra money.

"Many faculty members seek other jobs to supplement their income during the summer," Özemek said.

The passion for teaching and working hard to become an instructor is what keeps Brada-Williams going.

"I went to grad school for seven years so I could teach," Brada-Williams said. "Our pay is not fair, but this is what I love to do."

POPE - Conclave to elect a new pope starting April 18

continued from page 1

the world's political situation began to change, yet his policies and beliefs did not.

Hot-button issues, such as the Schiavo case, allowing priests to marry, stem-cell research and the recent sex-abuse scandal within the Catholic Church have brought the 2,000-year-old institution to a pivotal point in its beliefs and history.

"I have a mixed feeling about his passing," said Brent Walters, a lecturer of comparative religious studies at SJSU. "From a non-Catholic standpoint, he has almost let the sexual scandals go unchecked. It's been a time of tremendous crisis in the Catholic Church, and he hasn't seemed to respond to it."

He also said for many Third

World Catholics, the ban on contraception has created a difficult position in which impoverished families have as many as 10 children, but can only afford to care for one or two.

The new pope, whom the College of Cardinals will begin to elect in a secret vote April 18, will need to address these hot-button issues, as well as foster a more open relationship between the Vatican and the millions who attend Eucharist every Sunday.

The first non-Italian pope in 450 years, Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtya in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. He began his religious studies during World War II, and was elected pontiff in 1978. Along with speaking several languages and releasing compact discs of his singing, Pope John Paul II presided over 51

"From a non-Catholic standpoint, he has almost let the sexual scandals go unchecked." Brent Walters, lecturer

canonization ceremonies, which declared 482 deceased Catholics saints, according to the Vatican's official Web site.

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Just beat it...

Franco Imperial, a member of the San Jose Taiko Rhythm Spirit Squad, performs in front of the Event Center on Monday. The Spirit Squad was on campus to perform in front of San Jose State University's World Music class.



Brian Connelly / Daily Staff

Kurdish leader elected Iraqi interim president

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Members of Iraq's new National Assembly elected Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani as president of this predominantly Arab nation on Wednesday and set the appointment of a Shiite Muslim to the most powerful post, prime minister, as his first order of business for Thursday.

In Kurdish-populated northern Iraq, where Talabani led a rebel group that battled the Iraqi military during the rule of Saddam Hussein, Kurds pounded drums and swayed and spun in traditional dances. Iraqi Kurds, who make up 15 to 20 percent of the country's population, were subjected to repression, relocation and attack during Saddam's decades in power.

The appointment of Ibrahim Jafari, a Shiite who also battled Saddam's dictatorship, as prime minister would give Iraq's Kurdish minority and its Shiite Arab majority their greatest measure of political power in a half-century.

Iraq's new leaders made sure Saddam got the message. Jailers set up a TV and video player in the deposed leader's prison cell so he could watch Talabani, 71, sweep the balloting for the presidency.

"According to witnesses, he was unhappy and playing with his beard," said Barham Salih, a Kurd who is deputy prime minister in the U.S.-supported interim administration.

"It seems that it's sinking in that he's no longer president," Salih added.

Saddam has maintained in court hearings since his capture in December 2003 that he is still president and immune from prosecution.

Talabani's election by parliament filled the first of two government posts that have been empty since Shiite and Kurdish slates placed first and second in January elections. Assembly members have been in agreement on making Talabani president for weeks, but behind-the-scenes horse-trading was required to fill the two vice presidencies — with Adel Abdul Mahdi, a Shiite, and Ghazi Yawer, a Sunni — so that Wednesday's vote seamlessly put the three candidates into the three posts in a single ballot.

NCAA - Failing athletic teams could lose scholarships if progress is insufficient

continued from page 1

In a statement released the day after the report, Tom Bowen, athletics director for SJSU, said, "It is our goal to improve this score, exceed the standard, and every year, be above the average for public institutions and above the average for Division I-A members."

According to Bowen's "The Next 100 Days" plan, how the university plans on improving student athlete success is a question that each coach must focus on during the next year. If improvement is not seen by the 2006-07 season, those teams not meeting the 925 minimum, will begin to lose scholarships. However, according to the NCAA, exceptions are expected to be made for those schools that "serve economically distressed segments of the population."

But SJSU's problems reach far beyond one or two teams falling below the requirements. The athletic department is one of 78 schools that had its entire Division I-A athletic program fail to meet the standard. Teams making the grade are women's golf and women's gymnastics.

"From the first day of the new athletics administration, we knew we had sports like wom-

en's golf and women's gymnastics with perfect APR scores of 1,000 and these programs are to be congratulated for their excellence in academic progress and retention," Bowen said. "Other sports exceeded the benchmark and some did not fare as well."

"It is our goal to improve this score, exceed the standard, and every year be above the average. ..."

**Tom Bowen,
athletics director**

Since the addition of Bowen and head football coach Dick Tomey, plans have been put into action to ensure that high-profile teams realize the importance of academics.

In his "The Next 100 Days" outline, Bowen names the importance of academic excellence as a main priority for all student athletes in any program.

The football team has seen some of the most drastic changes in its academic expectations since Tomey's arrival as he and his coaching staff immediately implemented the "Operation Graduation" plan.

"Operation Graduation" requires each member of the football team to meet every day with coaches at 7:30 a.m. Players are required to maintain a binder — that is the same for each person — which contains note-taking requirements, calendars, assignments, and ways to organize daily activities outside of football.

"I think (the pro-

gram) is very well organized, very well thought out and the players have accepted it very well," Tomey said. "I think they needed to know early on that we were serious about them being here every day. We're serious about them doing things right, and that we see that's all part of the bigger picture in everything that they do, whether it's in the classroom or on the field, and I think once they realized we were serious about it, they did a great job."

Players on the team agree that Tomey has made strides in the program and that it is different from the one that former head coach Fitz Hill presented.

"It's a totally different program," Trestin George, a junior cornerback said. "We have a new coach and he has a whole new staff and switched everything up. Coach Hill was really about giving guys second chances. That was just how he expressed things. Tomey is a little different, he's more about the game play and the person getting better in everything, including school."

According to a report by the NCAA, SJSU is not the only university under scrutiny, as nine of the top 25 football teams in the nation during the 2004 season, including national champions University of Southern California, fell below the requirements.

The NCAA also reports that in men's basketball, 25 of the 65-team tournament field for 2004 did not meet the academic standard, including Connecticut, which won the national championship, and Oklahoma State University, which reached the Final Four.

Film tackles challenges of SJSU football team

Professor's documentary to air Monday on KTEH-54

By Lauren Bosch
Daily Staff Writer

Former head football coach Fitz Hill knows what its like to be the attention of media scrutiny at San Jose State University. Despite his resignation at the end of the 2004 football season, he finds himself at the helm of yet another controversial subject revolving the team he struggled to coach.

One of only four African American head football coaches in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Hill and his coaching practices are the main focus of "Playing for Keeps," a documentary produced by SJSU Professor Bob Gliner. The documentary will be airing Monday on KTEH-54 at 9 p.m.

"I've been teaching here for over 35 years," Gliner said. "I've never done a documentary about San Jose State or sports before and it just seemed like a natural time to do it."

An award-winning producer and sociology professor at SJSU, Gliner said he followed Hill and his team for three years, looking to delve further into Hill's attempt to bring players from the inner city and high crime neighborhoods to college, and thereby give them the full experience of football and an education.

"I wanted to see if promoting academic excellence as well as football could be achieved," Gliner said about why he chose this documentary topic.

During the three years of production, Gliner was given full access to the team, game days, locker room conversations and private interviews with coaches and players in order to present the many issues and struggles the team has faced in recent years.

The documentary shows the struggles and accomplishments that the players go through and includes many of the stereotypes that they face, in and out of the classroom.

"A lot of people view football players through stereotypes. I think it will show them what we go through," said Trestin George, a junior cornerback. "We still have to wake up early in the morning and go to work, no matter what the decision is. I'm sure the film will show in detail the things that we go through and will hopefully do a lot for us."

Hill was only one of several people Gliner spoke with about Hill's theory and method of recruitment, coaching and encouragement of academics. Much of the focus was placed on student athletes Hill recruited from the inner city. Included in this group are members Lamar Ferguson and George.

"It was really different. It was a good experience," George said. "I met (Gliner) when I was first moving into Spartan Village. I kind of felt famous for a minute, but then it was almost as if he wasn't even there after a while. We got used to having cameras follow us around."

Much of the film focuses on the team's struggle for a successful season, student and faculty member's apathy, hostility toward the team and the budget issues that are facing the California State University system.

"I wanted to show viewers the challenges facing the football players — on how to do well in classroom and on the football field and the focus of trying to put together a program off of lower budgets," Gliner said.

During his time at SJSU, Hill was forced to face several challenges, and because of that, some professors and students have expressed their desire to withdraw from Division I-A football. This becomes a major topic in the film when Gliner interviews two professors, James Brent and Don Keesey.

Brent argues in the film that football is not necessary because it drains money from the academic side of the university. He says students are too busy with school, homework, work and families and that driving to the university to give four hours to a football team that has had mixed results the past 20 years is far from a priority.

Keesey takes the approach that football rarely pays for itself as it is. He says it draws nearly \$2 million from the general fund each year, taking away from the classes that are offered to students. He says in the film, "We put out money for a couple of hundred scholarships, for students who are not students. If we have that kind of money, why don't we put it out for scholarships for scholars?"

Today, the football team has a new coach and a new outlook on the program as a whole. Head coach Dick Tomey has, according to George, a different approach to coaching and his players. George said Hill had the right ideas, perhaps just not the time or support needed to carry out those things.

"Coach Hill was a really good coach and a really good person too," George said. "The only thing about coach Hill was that he had a lot of things on his plate, he had a lot to do. I really enjoyed my time with him and wherever he is now, I hope he's doing well."

The film has the possibility of resurfacing many of the issues brought to the table in recent semesters, especially the vote taken by the faculty to remove football from the school's priorities.

Gliner said many feel the university has ignored everything faculty members brought to the table with the hiring of a high-profile coach and athletics director.

Whatever the outcome, Gliner's documentary shows Hill, his team and the time they spent together, and, according to George, Tomey shares some similarities with the former coach, though other aspects are different.

"They're different guys, coach Hill and coach Tomey," George said. "They have some similarities — coach Tomey is for the players, like Hill was. But they do things differently. Tomey reminds me of my old high school coach. He expects a lot out of you, coaches you really hard. He pulls the best out of a player."

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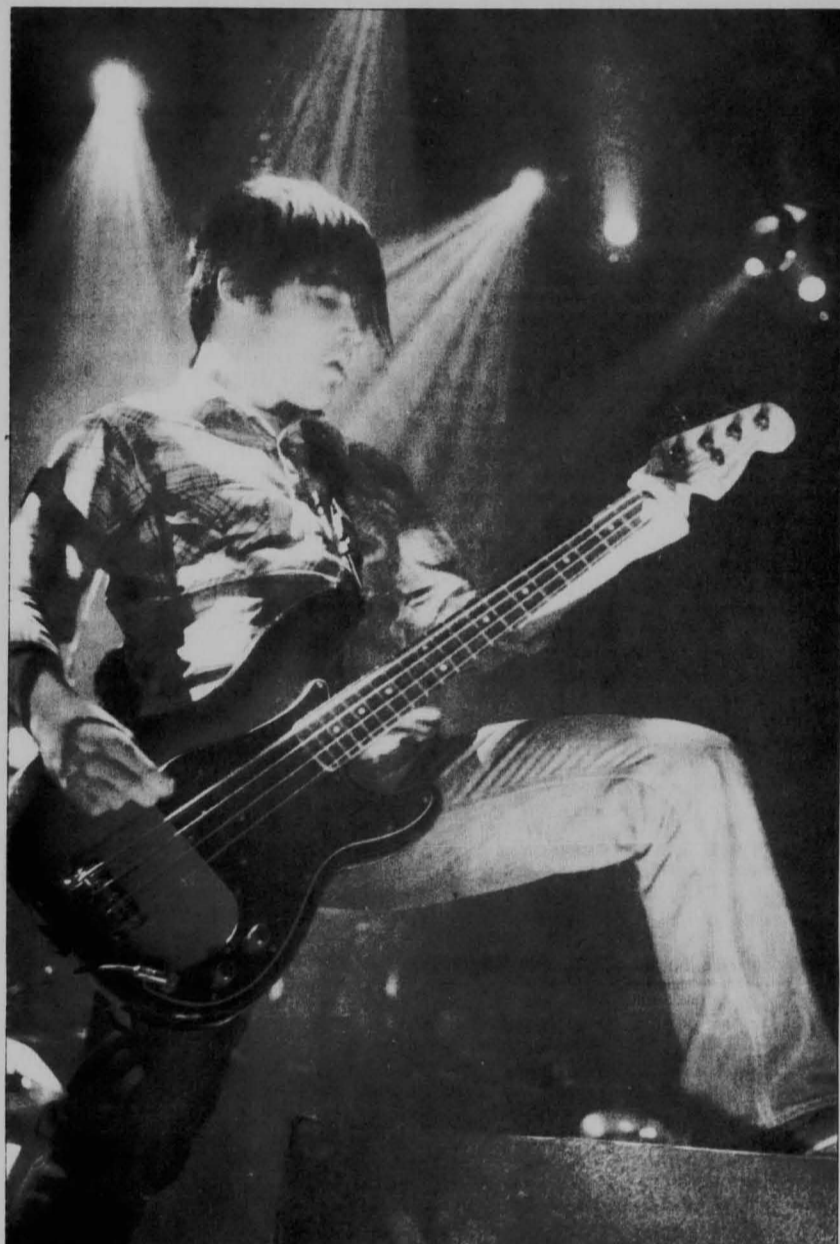
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Getting a

little taste

of chaos



Photos by Adam Heyman / Daily Staff

LEFT: Mike Glita, bassist for Senses Fail, rocks out during the band's set at the Taste Of Chaos Tour at the Event Center, March 28. Senses Fail will play several shows throughout the United States before joining the Vans Warped Tour this summer.

ABOVE: Gerard Way, lead singer of My Chemical Romance, jumps while onstage. The band will be touring around the United Kingdom and North America before returning back to the Bay Area with the Vans Warped Tour on July 2 at Piers 30 and 32 in San Francisco.

RIGHT: Bert McCracken, lead singer for The Used, sings with his hand on his heart during the band's headlining set. The last show of the tour was Saturday at the Mesa Amphitheater in Phoenix.

San Jose band wins spot in tour

By Elizabeth Nguyen
Daily A&E Editor

While some students prepared for a relaxing spring break in Mexico or some sandy resort, a group of young San Jose rockers spent the beginning of the week getting ready for the sold-out Taste of Chaos Tour, the Vans Warped Tour brought indoors, at the Event Center on March 28.

The rock festival featured 11 sets, all which drove the crowd crazy, and included metal and post-hard-core bands such as Senses Fail, Killswitch Engage, My Chemical Romance and The Used.

The tour also gave local bands an opportunity to participate in the festival by holding a competition for a spot which San Jose band Story Told won, playing third on the acoustic stage.

"It was a good experience," said Kevin Rinerson, the 19-year-old guitarist of Story Told and a freshman majoring in computer engineering at San Jose State University.

The band found out about the contest while surfing on the Internet, Rinerson said.

"I just saw a banner for it on Myspace," 20-year-old Story Told bassist Sean McCauley said.

According to the festival's Web site, the band that collected the most votes earned a spot on the acoustic stage at a local show during the tour.

As the band began to play, hundreds of teenagers dressed in various degrees of black stood on the floor, trying to push their way toward the front of the stage.

"It was pretty great," said 19-year-old Story Told drummer Gary Jones. "Even though it (the audience) was giant, you could only see 10 feet in front of you."

But earning a spot on the tour did not come without its difficulties, McCauley said.

"It's hard to get in a paid tour like that," Jones said.

The usually pop-punk band only had about a week to accommodate for the contest's acoustic requirement.

"We pretty much had to rewrite our whole set because it was acoustic," McCauley said.

The band had to take out the screaming parts, which softened the sound of songs like "High Tides" without overly butchering the song's intent.

After finishing sets from the acoustic stage, the stage was switched to prepare for the faster and heavier post-hard-core bands.

As Senses Fail began playing, a

ished playing, the members of Story Told went up to the band to explain the situation.

"He was really understanding," Jones said. "He was fighting sexism and homophobia (in the rock scene) for the last two years. So when something bumps him out, he just has to go onstage and talk about it. I support what he's about and we all feel terrible."

As the night wore on, the tour's headliner, The Used, got up on stage and people sitting in the seats moved down to fill the floor.

After sustaining bruised ribs, arms and legs, an audience left with ringing ears, some said they are looking forward to seeing the same kinds of bands in the Vans Warped Tour to come around in the summer.

"We pretty much had to rewrite the whole set because it was acoustic."

Sean McCauley,
bassist for San Jose band Story Told

mosh pit began forming on the Event Center's floor.

Hundreds of screaming teens began climbing over people and pushing their way to the front.

Crowd surfing, jumping and head banging continued on as Killswitch Engage rocked its way onto the stage.

But what's a rock concert without controversy?

After My Chemical Romance got up on stage, spitting water onto a sweaty and grateful crowd, lead singer Gerard Way asked the audience, if a band asks people to flash them for a backstage pass what should people do?

After a short pause with a few screams of "take it off" among some in the audience, Way answered with, "Slap them in the face!" setting off cheers and screams throughout the entire audience as the band moved on to rock out the rest of the night.

Unfortunately for the band members of Story Told, the reference was about them.

"When we got there, we met up with a band we knew from a previous show," drummer Jones said.

Story Told had met with another band they knew from a previous show whose record label representative influenced them with an idea for a contest for a backstage pass, he said.

The members of the band asked a girl to take off her shirt and do jumping jacks for the pass, Jones said.

"It was totally innocent," Jones said. "(Way) blew it out of proportion. It was never meant to degrade anyone."

After My Chemical Romance fin-

Exhibit captures family album

By Vaishali Kirpekar
Daily Staff Writer

In the bustling downtown of San Francisco, where even the birds quickly went about their business, artist Robert Bechtle's paintings,

REVIEW

on display at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art offer a refreshing stillness.

"Robert Bechtle, A Retrospective," showcases 90 works in the genre of photorealism. He links the realism of the snapshots with the strokes of his brush. The subject is the mundane such as stucco houses, rows of palm trees and ubiquitous parked cars.

"Focusing attention on the mundane is an extraordinary talent and is very interesting to see," said Tony May, an art professor at San Jose State University.

"Nancy reading" shows Bechtle's wife studying on a table. Items as routine as tea cups, salt and pepper shakers cover the table surface. The desert scene in "Agua Caliente Nova, 1975," which shows his wife and children standing next to their car on a hot day in the canyon, brings his love for cars and his family together.

Bechtle referred to "46 Chevy" to say, "I don't need to hire models!" The painting shows his brother Kenneth sitting in the Chevy and grinning in the backdrop of the charming row of Alameda houses where he grew up.

The mundane, reminiscent of the American middle class life in the 1960s, lends itself open for interpretation for everyone — even those who haven't grown up in America in that period, can relate to it.

His paintings remind some students of sepia-toned photo albums from the past.

"It is like seeing a photo album," said Gwen Reyes, a senior majoring in pictorial arts. "Bechtle's work shows the stereotypical 'ideal' family — a daughter and a son.

"His work is very nostalgic and has a lot of narrative, for example the 'Agua Caliente Nova' makes me wonder if the family is going to walk down the canyon or take pictures or drink water," she said.

"I want to go to this exhibition. His paintings remind me of my relatives who came to America," said Gregg Conde, a senior majoring in photography.

Conde added that Bechtle's work is more significant now than it would have been in the '60s because "it reminds us of a bygone era, it is interesting to see their clothes and cars."

"Alameda Grand Torino, 1974," shows a deadpan image of the family wood-paneled station wagon, the symbol of American middle class.

"My grandfather had a similar station wagon, in Santa Rosa where I grew up," said Maureen Mayes, a student of Sonoma State University. On a student trip to the museum, she said, being 33 years old feels too old, making it possible to recall the charm of the '60s.

Paul Staiger, Bechtle's student and a former professor of art who taught for 33 years, explained the difference between a photo and a painting.

"The experience of a Bechtle painting is not like seeing a photograph," he said.

"A photo captures the instant moment. But his paintings transcend it, so that I am not aware of the moment but the continuum of reality."

At 73, Robert Bechtle, a Bay Area artist, commands the attention of both the young and the old.

He described "Watsonville Chairs" where "the eye races through the row of chairs on the sun-bathed deck only to stop at a man on the right corner of the canvas," he said.

He gets even more excited when explaining how the geometrical element in his paintings remain balanced, even when turned upside down.

"Robert Bechtle: A Retrospective" is on at the museum until June 5.

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A&E

Woody Allen comedy pulls in serious laughs

Drink of the Week

By Angela Forte Daily Staff Writer

For those who want to sip away at something sweet and alcohol free, the lemongrass soda at

REVIEW

Straits Cafe in Santana Row is just the thing. With similar qualities as a traditional Mojito, the lemongrass soda boasts lemongrass syrup (an infusion created at Straits), soda water and mint leaves.

The lemongrass — an herb common in Southeast Asia — balances out the mint nicely, resulting in a luscious citrus taste with a hint of sharpness.

The drink looks just as hip as any other cocktail, especially when the patron clad in couture and oversized sunglasses, guzzles it on the patio.

At \$2.50 a pop, patrons can choose from other flavors including ginger, passion fruit and black currant.

The ginger — a natural soother for the belly — is extremely spicy and tart — nothing like a can of ginger ale.

The latter two flavors are not too exciting unless one loves the generic taste of Italian sodas.

Straits is located at 333 Santana Row and is open until 10 p.m. Sundays through Tuesdays and midnight Wednesdays through Saturdays.

Enjoy your beverage in the evening while partaking in karaoke Wednesdays or listening to live jazz and hip-hop groups Thursdays.

By Peter Clark Daily Staff Writer

Jerry Lewis once told James Lipton there was no difference between comedy and tragedy.

Woody Allen reassesses this notion in his new film, "Melinda and Melinda."

As four friends dine in a dark New York restaurant, a conversation de-

REVIEW

velops about whether stories could be inherently tragic or comedic, or if these values were subjectively assigned to a set of chronologically linked facts by a story's author.

Two of the dinner guests are playwrights, one a writer of tragedies and the other of humor.

To further fan the flames of the conversation, they are both told the same story and asked whether it is a tragedy or a comedy.

Both perceive the story in their respective artistic styles and begin to weave separate narratives that yield very different results.

The two variations on the same story is the catalyst for the bulk of the film, which is about a woman named Melinda with a tumultuous past and who unexpectedly drops by a dinner

party full of people which she is in some way connected.

The movie then examines how this event changes the relationships of everyone at the party.

The film effortlessly flips back and forth between the two imaginary plays that parallel one another yet greatly differ in style.

Different actors are used to represent the same characters in order to trigger the desired emotion, although the title character, played by Radha Mitchell, remains constant throughout the film.

Allen expertly employs cinematic rhythms to distinguish between the comedic Melinda and the tragic Melinda.

The characters in the tragedy are very physically inactive and the camera focuses on their still facial expressions to convey their dark feelings, as they seem to float in and out of view like lost spirits looking for a body to possess.

The comedic characters flail their arms, stutter around and get themselves into situations that only slapstick can lighten, such as when Will Ferrell's character catches his wife in bed with another man and is relieved, since he can freely be with another woman.

The irony of "Melinda and Melinda" is that regardless of the



Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

Will Ferrell and Radha Mitchell in "Melinda and Melinda."

tone is during the film, laughs are still ushered in by using different shades of comedy.

The tragic parts of the film are trying to mask the absurdity of life where the comedic strands are blatantly pointing out the absurdity of life.

After some sub-par pictures, it is nice to see Woody Allen back in full stride with "Melinda and Melinda."

All of the trademarks of a classic Woody Allen comedy are in place — urbane Manhattanites waxing

philosophy and classical music, desperate neurotics trying to kick drug addiction, dinner parties where each guest either wants to listen to themselves talk or leave, and the brittleness and bitterness of uncommunicative love.

"Melinda and Melinda" is a perfect movie for the type of filmgoer who enjoys laughing at scenes in movies that aren't funny, but just too real to be taken seriously.

It is currently playing at select theaters.

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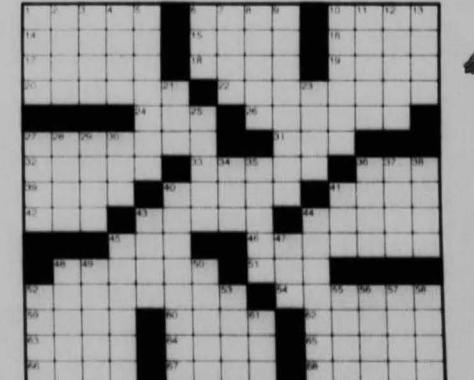
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Steinbeck fellows to share novels, memoirs at SJSU

By Sarah Holcomb
Daily Staff Writer

Two of the three budding writers who are participating in the Steinbeck Fellowship at San Jose State University will be presenting their projects and answering questions from the audience at 7:30 p.m. today in the Engineering building auditorium.

Diana Spechler and Roxanna Font will be reading from their works in progress and then taking questions from audience members regarding their books and the fellowship. Louise Freeman-Toole, the third fellow, said she had to drop out of the fellowship early because of health problems and will not be at the forum.

Font earned a master of fine arts degree from New York University, according to information from the English department. She is currently an editor of the Bellevue Literary Review and also an editor at Avalon Publishing Group.

Spechler has had her fiction and non-fiction works appear in various publications and has won prizes for her fiction and short stories, according to information from the department. Spechler said she finished her undergraduate studies at University of Colorado, Boulder and earned her MFA in creative writing at the University of Montana.

Freeman-Toole has received numerous fellowships for her projects. According to information from the English department, her current project is also being supported by a \$20,000 fellowship from Brown University, in addition to the Steinbeck Fellowship.

The Steinbeck Fellowship pro-

gram began five years ago, said Paul Douglass, who is the coordinator for the program.



FONT



SPECHLER

Applicants have to submit a written proposal to a committee and when the committee chooses the finalists, they are reviewed and approved by Martha Cox, a professor emerita from SJSU who funds the program. Douglass said. Out of 30 to 100 applicants, three or fewer are chosen each year, he said.

Cox founded the Steinbeck Center at SJSU and the fellowship is affiliated with the center. However, the Steinbeck Fellows' projects do not need to be related to the author.

When the applicants agree to participate in the program, they commit to the program for one year and receive a \$10,000 stipend and, in some cases, subsidized housing.

Douglass said event attendance varies from year to year.

"The most we've had is 150 people, but it varies on what is going on with the projects and how much word gets out," Douglass said.

Spechler will be reading from her novel, titled "Who By Fire," which is a story about a brother and sister set against the Palestinian uprising in Israel in 2002.

The novel grew out of a short story she wrote from the sister's

point of view of her brother, Ash, leaving the United States to go to Israel to be an Orthodox Jew, she said.

Spechler said she encountered various challenges in writing this novel, including the typical writing challenges of out-of-control plots and consistently lively dialogue.

"The biggest challenge, however, has been writing about Orthodox Jewish men," Spechler said. "They don't really want me around, which has made research difficult."

She said she tried to check out some yeshivas, which he said are institutes for the advanced study of Jewish texts, but because of the strict rules regarding male and female contact many yeshivas would not let her in to the facilities because she was an unmarried woman.

Spechler said she is not nervous about the forum because she loves to read aloud and wishes she could do so more often.

Font said her project, titled "The Fig Tree: A Cuban-American Memoir," has been a memoir of her family history that explores the experience of living in Cuba while her great-grandmother was alive.

Font said the memoir is based on her great-grandmother's poetry and prose, which her grandmother passed down to Font while she was in college.

The memoir begins by exploring a story her great-grandmother wrote about a fig tree in which the tree has various metaphorical purposes. Then the piece focuses on her family in Cuba and includes

interviews about her great-grandmother and life in Cuba.

"I thought it would be interesting to see what was going on in my family while she was writing the poetry," Font said. "I had my family tell me their stories and it organically grew out from there."

Unlike Spechler, Font said she is nervous about reading from her manuscript at the forum.

"There's a sense of exposure because it's about me and about my family," Font said. "And I want to make sure I'm not boring people."

Font said that her work is still in progress, which adds to the nervousness.

"The work is still in development, and because it's a work in progress, you never know how it will affect people," she said.

Freeman-Toole is also working on a project that reveals part of her family. Her nonfiction piece, titled "Smoky and Johnny," is based on

prevent anyone from reading it.

Freeman-Toole found the diary and was able to decode it in about a month, she said.

"I looked for three letter patterns which were repeated and figured that was 'the,'" she said. "She used apostrophes too, so I knew those were S's. I had to use a magnifying glass because some of the squares were about a quarter of the size of a pencil eraser."

In decoding the diary, Freeman-Toole said she learned many previously unknown things about her grandmother, such as a secret marriage and addiction to opium.

The second half of her grandmother's life was spent in Alaska and was vastly different from her life in Pasadena. Freeman-Toole said her grandmother was a writer and faithfully documented events in her life. In Alaska, her grandmother's nickname was Smokey, hence the title of the book.

Each of the fellows said they are grateful for the opportunity the fellowship has given them and have found their newfound camaraderie productive and enjoyable.

Douglass said the program is designed to support writers who are at the beginning of their careers, regardless of how old they are.

"She has a driving goal to leave her mark," Douglass said.

Each of the fellows said they appreciate Cox's generosity and determination to keep the arts alive.

"We're so lucky to have people like (Cox) in this world who contribute so much to the arts," Font said. "Without her, none of this would happen."

Fewer migrants cross U.S. border

AGUA PRIETA, Mexico (AP) — The number of Mexican migrants trying to sneak into the United States through southeast Arizona has dropped by half since hundreds of U.S. civilians began guarding the area earlier this week, say Mexican officials assigned to protect their citizens.

But that doesn't mean the migrants have given up. Most remain determined to cross and say they will simply avoid the 23-mile stretch of desert between Agua Prieta and Naco, where volunteers from the "Minuteman Project" are guarding the U.S. side of the border.

Grupo Beta, a Mexican government-sponsored organization that tries to discourage people from crossing illegally, began patrolling that area along with state police officers on Sunday, when Minuteman anti-immigrant activists began showing up.

Before the volunteers arrived, Grupo Beta encountered at least 400 migrants daily. On Monday, the second day Minutemen were present on the border, they spotted 198, said Bertha de la Rosa, Beta's coordinator in Agua Prieta, a town across the border from Douglas, Ariz. De la Rosa said that doesn't mean most have decided to stay home.

"The fact that we're not seeing them here doesn't mean they are not trying to cross," de la Rosa said. "They say they will look for another place or wait awhile — but they are not giving up."

"There's a sense of exposure because it's about me and about my family."

**Roxanna Font,
author**

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