

Just a thought about Chinese New Year
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SJSU baseball leads off
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Circus act
A & E
Page 7

DAY



61° F

NIGHT



48° F

SJSU dean testifies to Congress

Global initiative topic for House Democrats

By Laura Rheinheimer
DAILY STAFF WRITER

San Jose State University Dean of the College of Engineering Belle Wei spoke in front of House Democrats Thursday, Jan. 19, as an expert on engineering education for the "Innovation Forum: A Commitment to Competitiveness to Keep America Number One."

Dean Wei spoke to members of the U.S. House of Representatives on education as part of the Innovation Agenda by House Democrats. She was invited by House Democratic leader, Nancy Pelosi (D - San Francisco), to address the "burning crisis" of the competitive global market. Wei discussed points such as how to teach innovation and motivate U.S. engineering students.

"What is missing in American engineering education is drive and motivation," Wei told members of Congress in a seven-minute prepared speech. She cited San Jose State University's Global Technology Initiative as a successful program to train engineering students to prepare for what she calls "the new world of globalization."

The initiative, started in 2004, takes 25 engineering students (and some business students) to institutions in China and Taiwan to witness how engineering is taught there. She said the program is successful because it allows students to witness global competition first-hand.

Of 345 national engineering schools, SJSU's dean was chosen to inform Democrats in the House on engineering education. Wei said in a phone interview that she feels her "expert account" to Congress is an indication that SJSU can be a leader in engineering education.

She said one congressman mentioned Silicon Valley schools, referencing Stanford and Berkeley, and

SEE WEI • PAGE 6

A piece of history



NEAL WATERS / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Children watch as Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday cake was cut after the children had sung happy birthday during the third annual celebration of Dr. King's birthday at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library. This year's celebration was held after MLK day to allow San Jose State University students an opportunity to participate.

Library celebrates Dr. King's birthday with family activities

By Janet Marcelo
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Despite weather forecasts of rain, nothing could have dampened the laughter and mood of patrons who attended the third annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration this past weekend.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library's first three floors were filled with hustle and bustle as guests of all ages arrived early to kick off the event that had people walking in and out of the library between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

"I heard about today and wanted to bring (my nieces and nephews) to the activity downstairs and I wanted to see what (kinds) of cultural things they were planning to do," said Michael Yohannes, who attended after hearing about the event on the library Web site.

"There are a lot of people here," said library volunteer Kim-Chi Nguyen. "While I was passing out fliers, they said that they

were here especially for the event that was going on today."

Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez and University Library Dean Ruth Kifer welcomed guests as they entered the event.

The Children's Room of the library on the first floor was filled with the energy of rambunctious kids and parents who sat around listening to stories about friendship and diversity. Many guests participated in a sing-along that included Louis Armstrong's "It's a Wonderful Life."

"Story time turned out very well," said Youth Service Librarian Andrea Schacter who led the group in both activities. "We had a whole lot more people than we normally do with some even standing around."



NEAL WATERS / SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Cristina Guerreiro, an immigrant from Portugal, teaches her boys about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library's celebration of his birthday on Saturday. The library had many activities planned for the day including a story time for children, a birthday cake and several performers.

Guests participated in arts and crafts as they constructed multi-colored chains themed with Dr. King's ideals of freedom, equality and diversity. Drawings with different skin, hair and eye color

SEE MLK • PAGE 6

SJSU grad killed in accident

Sakahara excelled in graphic design

By Zeenat Umar
DAILY STAFF WRITER

The death of 24-year-old Shari Sakahara, a former San Jose State University graduate in Graphic Design, on Dec. 21, 2005, has left a void amongst her family and friends.



SAKAHARA

"It is a parent's worst nightmare," said her mother, Susan Sakahara of Sacramento, whose daughter died when she was caught in the midst of a collision between two cars in Los Angeles. "She was supposed to come home for Christmas, but the accident happened two days before," she said.

The memorial was held on Dec. 31, 2005, at Lind Brothers Mortuary in Carmichael.

Sakahara was run over by a car while she was waiting for a bus to go to work. The driver was 18-year-old Daniel Erez of Santa Monica, who was charged with gross vehicular manslaughter, according to Lt. Fred Corral of the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner.

After colliding with another car driven by a 29-year-old female, Erez's vehicle veered off the road, killing Sakahara instantly.

Erez remains in a critical condition, while the other injured driver is expected to recover.

"The last thing we heard is that he is in a coma and is not expected to survive, and to tell you the truth, I don't feel anything for him at all," said Susan Sakahara. "We're just taking one day at a time."

Sakahara is characterized as one of the most ambitious and passionate young individuals known by her

SEE SAKAHARA • PAGE 6

Walking in rain ...



FANG H. LIANG/DAILY STAFF

A student walks in front of the rain-soaked student cafeteria Monday afternoon. According to Weather.com, there is a 20 percent chance of precipitation Tuesday.

Former cheerleader files suit against university

AP — A former San Jose State University cheerleader who was paralyzed in an accident sued the school and a cheerleading coach, claiming they are responsible for her injuries.

Rechele Sneath, who was an 18-year-old freshman when the accident took place in 2004, filed a complaint Friday in Santa Clara County Superior Court accusing the university and coach Jenise Mills of reckless disregard for her safety.

The lawsuit claimed Mills lacked training to coach cheerleaders and refused Sneath's request for additional people to catch her in case she fell during a practice in January 2004.

Mills had directed Sneath and her teammates to deviate from a routine they had

practiced previously and instead try a more complex maneuver, according to the lawsuit.

Mills told Sneath and her team to perform two consecutive "back-tuck basket toss maneuvers," a routine Sneath had never tried before. Mills didn't instruct Sneath in how to carry out the drill, and after Sneath fell and complained she couldn't move her legs, Mills moved her legs back and forth in an attempt to help, the lawsuit said.

Doctors later determined that Sneath fractured a vertebra in the accident.

San Jose State spokeswoman Mansi Bhatia said the university does not comment on pending legal matters. Mills did not return a phone call and an e-mail seeking comment.

The lawsuit claimed (Jenise) Mills lacked training to coach cheerleaders ...

JUST A THOUGHT

Chinese New Year paid for my university education

They say money doesn't grow on trees. No one could ever be that lucky.

They say to work hard now and you will earn the money later. We've known this since our parents introduced us to the terms "chores" and "allowance."

As a Chinese-American born and raised in California, I think I lead my life the same way as many of my friends — I went to school, participated in sports, picked fights with my little sister and celebrated birthdays and holidays.

But once a year, when the new moon emerged, I was never luckier. For money not only seemed to grow on trees for me, it came in bright, red envelopes.

On Chinese New Year my family and I would have dinner at a Chinese restaurant in San Francisco, meeting with relatives whose faces I could never remember. My sole job was to greet all of them with a proper "Gung Hay Fat Choy" and then sit at the "kids' table."

I would wait impatiently for the red packets, called "lai-see," and once I had them in my hand I would

put them cautiously in my pocket without looking at the money, for I learned it was rude to open up all your money on the dinner table.

With each envelope I received, I would graciously thank the person who gave me the money, as if it would be taken away from me if I didn't.

Jan. 29 marks the celebration of this Chinese New Year, which commemorates the Chinese's hard work throughout the year and welcomes the year ahead. It's a significant time for family reunions, visiting with old friends and eating delicious food.

But to me, ever since I was little, Chinese New Year was all about the money.

Go ahead and call me a spoiled brat, but in all seriousness, that's what I was led to believe. The New Year was a time when Chinese children and young adults were rewarded for being, well... young.

When I was younger, holding a stack of more than 50 red packets made me feel like a million bucks — until I found out what happened to the money after-

wards. When I was about seven years of age, I was devastated to find out that my mom would not let me keep the money, after I had so carefully counted my earnings. Instead, it would go straight to the bank toward my college fund.

I never understood it at the time. I felt as if my mom had taken away something that was rightfully mine. It was my money and at age seven I should have been able to choose what to do with it, right? Well, you know who won that battle.

As the years passed by, I began to realize just how huge a role the money I acquired each year was to play in my future. Over the years I earned thousands of dollars.

I may not speak for all Chinese parents, for some may have chosen to let their children spend the money. But I know that the day I was brought into this world my parents had planned to help me obtain the best kind of future possible — one where I had options.



PRISCILLA WOO

I would not be here today had my parents not saved the money. For that I am truly thankful.

Chinese New Year aims to bring good fortune to people, but until recently I always thought it meant wishing people good wealth. In one way it does, but in another, it means more chances to live a life full of great accomplishments.

I was born in the year of the dog, which is being celebrated this year. Not only do I feel this year is especially important because it represents when I was born, but I also know that the time will soon come when I will no longer receive money, but give it away to the next generation of children.

I plan to keep my parent's tradition alive when I'm a mother and help my children save money for their future. I know they'll thank me later.

Gung Hay Fat Choy! (Happy Chinese New Year)

Priscilla Woo is a Spartan Daily production editor. "Just a thought" appears every other Tuesday.

SPARTA GUIDE

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

TODAY

Pride of the Pacific Islands Club
Dance practice from 8-10 p.m. in the Aerobics Room of the Event Center.

Chicano Commencement

General meetings are held Mondays and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union Guadalupe Room. For more info, e-mail Patricia Rocha at patriciarocha31@yahoo.com.

SJSU Career Center

The career center holds resume critiques, Monday-Thursday from 1:30-3 p.m. in the career center, modular F. For more info, contact Evelyn Castillo at 924-6031.

SJSU Career Center

The career center is holding "Bridging the Gap," a social work career and networking fair. Career and internship opportunities for majors in justice, social work, education and psychology. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Student Union Barrett Ballroom. For more info, contact Anita Manuel at 924-6031.

WEDNESDAY

Associated Students

Associated Students is taking entries for indoor soccer. Due Wednesday by 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Dana Moore 924-6228 or log on to <http://www.as.sjsu.edu/ascr>.

SJSU Career Center

The career center is holding an employer table with the global accounting firm Price Waterhouse Coopers, LLC. Part-time and full-time job and internship opportunities for majors in accounting, business and management information systems. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the 9th Street plaza in front of the career center. For more info, contact Anita Manuel at 924-6031.

THURSDAY

Akbayan, Filipino-American organization

Akbayan is hosting a "Welcome Back" meeting in the Student Union Umhnum Room (top floor) at 4:15 p.m.

Write letters to the editor and submit Sparta Guide information online. Visit our Web site at www.thespartandaily.com. You may also submit information in writing to DBH 209.

For more info, log on to <http://www.akbayansjsu.tk>.

The Listening Hour Concert Series

A free concert by the SJSU Jazz Faculty Combo, "featuring the best in straight ahead jazz." 12:30-1:15 p.m. in the music building concert hall. For more info, contact Joan Stubble at 924-4695.

SATURDAY

Silicon Valley Reads, Meet the Author

Meet Julie Otsuka, author of "When the Emperor Was Divine," at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library from 3:30-5 p.m. in rooms 225 and 229.7 p.m. For more information, call 808-2636.

MONDAY

SJSU Career Center

The career center is holding an information session with Cisco Systems. Opportunity to learn about employment for marketing majors. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the career center, modular F. For more info, contact Sandra Robles at 924-6016.

Pride of the Pacific Islands Club

The club is holding a dance practice in SJSU events center aerobics room from 8-10 p.m.

TUESDAY (2/7)

SJSU Career Center

The career center is holding an employer table with the Santa Clara County Probation Dept. Full-time job and part-time internship opportunities for majors in justice, social work and psychology. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 9th Street plaza in front of the career center. For more info, contact Sandra Robles at 924-6016.

Department of Biological Sciences

Come learn about microscopic critters in "Of Bugs and Babies: A Molecular Investigation of Microbes Associated with Preterm Delivery," with Daniel B. DiGiulio, professor of infectious diseases and geographic medicine at Stanford University. 1:30 p.m. in DH 250. For more info, contact Leslee Parr at 924-4897.

ERIN OUT THE DETAILS

U.S. pushes for democracy until the wrong side wins

America is truly an ironic country — we nag other countries to "clean up their act" environmentally, but we're one of the few nations that have yet to sign the Kyoto Protocol. We like to think of ourselves as secular and democratic and that we are a role model for the world, more specifically the Middle East.

My case in point — the January 25 elections in Palestine, in which the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas, a terrorist organization responsible for suicide bombings that have killed scores of innocent Israelis, won 76 out of 132 parliamentary seats.

The main objective of Hamas, in the words of co-founder Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi, is to "remove Israel from the map."

There is considerable irony in the fact that we in the West pushed for democratic elections in the Middle East and cried foul after the votes were tallied.

Um, it's called democracy and they can choose whomever they want. Unfortunately for us, it happens to be a group on a terrorist watch list, one that wants to destroy a nation (Israel) that we helped establish and that we continue to support.

While we're on the subject of democracy, why is it that we think we are such a great role model that the rest of the world needs to emulate us? We launch preemptive wars on other nations that have NEVER attacked us, such as Iraq and Vietnam. Did these people drop flaming jellied gasoline on us, also known as napalm? Did they steal our resources, or kill our people unprovoked? No, but we did it to them. Basically, we're setting an extremely poor example for the rest of the world to follow.

To this day, I'm still surprised that neither the

Vietnamese nor the Iraqis have launched serious terrorist attacks on our soil.

Instead of being angry at Palestine for electing Hamas, America should just shrug its shoulders. It's like a three-year-old who thinks that a striped shirt and polka dot stretch pants together are the height of fashion; despite wanting and needing to correct them, you need more to let them "express themselves."

The same rule applies to politics; people don't like being told whom to vote for, nor do they like being told that their political party is stupid. If you insist on being right, even if you are right you end up looking like a sanctimonious blowhard and the mismatched toddler in question will throw the world's biggest tantrum. This is something that I've had to learn — despite the fact that some of my friends voted for someone who can't pronounce the word "nuclear" correctly, I must bite my tongue like any civil democrat and love them anyway.

Palestine is growing up fast — the last thing we as a global community need is this young nation throwing a tantrum and a couple of grenades while they're at it. As a country, we need to put our own curtains of violence and religious fundamentalism into the incinerator where they belong. We can't just talk the talk without walking the walk. There is a word for that: hypocrisy.

Erin Caballero is a Spartan Daily co-opinion editor. "Erin Out the Details" appears every Tuesday.



ERIN CABALLERO

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

San Jose State athletics has more than just football

Perhaps I just don't pay enough attention, but I was surprised when two friends of mine who don't attend SJSU invited me to an SJSU hockey game last weekend. We have a hockey team?

We have a kick-ass team, as a matter of fact. I had so much fun at the game I purchased one of the pink wife-beaters, er, um, tank tops.

SJSU focuses so much on football that our other teams seem to be ignored.

If the under worked and overpaid decision makers at SJSU are so concerned with having to cut our athletics program, maybe they should let peo-

ple know we HAVE an athletics program beyond football (come on, do we REALLY need five deans per discipline?).

Contrary to popular belief, not everyone enjoys football and baseball.

I was hoping The Spartan Daily would do a story on some of our other teams. I hear we have many women's teams, but teams of what I don't know.

Carrie Wright is a SJSU behavioral science graduate and San Jose resident

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?
INTERESTED IN WRITING
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Only letters between 200 to 400 words will be considered for publication.

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

Submissions may be placed in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at spartandaily@cas.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

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

Spartan water polo bucks Broncos in season opener

BY ANDREW TORREZ
DAILY STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State University women's water polo team kicked off the 2006 season with a 10-6 victory over Santa Clara University Saturday afternoon at the SJSU Aquatics Center.

SPARTANS 10
BRONCOS 6

The victory was the Spartans' fourth in a row over the Broncos in the Rivalry Series between the two schools. Eight players had goals for the Spartans, including two each from senior defender Katie Morgan and sophomore attacker Alexis Higlett.

"We were a little shaky in the beginning," SJSU head coach Lou Tully said. "But it's the first game and we did better as the game went on."

The game was tied 1-1 after the first quarter. Sara Natalizio had the lone goal for the Spartans.

Both teams combined for five goals in the second quarter with freshman 2-meter Juliet Moss leading

off the scoring with a four-meter goal on a penalty throw to give the Spartans a 2-1 lead.

In the third quarter the Broncos went up 5-4 with two seconds remaining. Spartan junior-utility Rachel Rhodes then took a half-court pass and snuck a goal past Broncos' goalie Randahl Capurro

at the buzzer to end the third quarter with the game tied.

Morgan scored both of her goals in the fourth quarter as the Spartans dominated the Broncos by scoring five times to secure the victory. SJSU freshman-utility Tanya Torres, sophomore 2-meter Sarah Hovland, and Higlett had a goal each in the final quarter of regulation.

"I think we played good for our first game together," Rhodes said. "We played good on defense, but we can always improve on offense."

Tully said he liked how his team finished the game, but agreed that the team had to improve in a lot of areas.

"Our six-on-five percentage wasn't very good and we need better ball control," Tully said. "That will come with playing together more. We are trying to get more players involved, because we need that depth."

With 11 new players on the 2006 roster, Morgan said that the team is still new and getting to know one another.

"I think once we play with each other a lot, we'll learn more about each other," Morgan said.

"A lot of the incoming people have pulled their weight," Morgan said. "I'm really excited about this year, I feel like we are a lot faster."

First-year players to the Spartan squad include Moss, Torres, Natalizio, Higlett and Julia Moruza all of whom made an immediate impact with the



DANIEL ESCH/DAILY STAFF

San Jose State University defender Katie Morgan blocks a shot by Santa Clara University attacker Andrea Evans during a match Saturday at the SJSU Aquatics Center.

“We were a little shaky in the beginning, but it's the first game and we did better as the game went on.”

— Lou Tully, SJSU coach

team by scoring goals in their first game.

The Rivalry Series between SJSU and SCU started in 2002. The winner of head-to-head matches between the schools in 13 sports is awarded two-to-three points depending on the sport.

A trophy is awarded to the school with the most points at the end of the academic year. The Broncos have won the Rivalry

Series award the last three years and currently lead in points during the 2005-2006 season.

The B-squads of both schools also played on Saturday afternoon with the Broncos, winning 8-6. The Spartans' Moss scored four goals in her second game of the day.

The Spartans will travel to UC Davis on Saturday as they look to improve their record to 2-0.

For more Spartan sports stories and photos, Check out www.thespartandaily.com

SJSU loses in overtime heart breaker to Aggies

BY MASAI DAVIS
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Despite a nine-point first-half lead and a career-high 27 points from forward Alex Elam, the San Jose State University men's basketball team suffered an 81-75 overtime loss Saturday to New Mexico State University.

Aggies' leading scorer forward Tyrone Nelson hit a lay-up to tie the game at 68 with 54 seconds remaining, which forced the game into overtime.

In overtime, New Mexico State slowly pulled away by hitting big shots and capitalizing on the Spartans' turnovers.

Saturday's loss to New Mexico State was one of many close losses for the Spartans this season.

"It's extremely disappointing," SJSU coach George Nessim said. "We have lost so many games in the last two minutes."

At the half, the Spartans established a nine-point lead over the Aggies by out-rebounding their opponent and capitalizing on second-chance opportunities.

"They were killing us on the boards," Aggies guard Mike Mitchell said.

The Spartans had 32 first-half rebounds, 11 of which were on offense.

New Mexico State rebounded in the second half led by sophomore center Tyrone Nelson's 25-point outburst.

"Tyrone Nelson had a monster of a second half," said Nessim. "He's a good player and he's hard to stop."

The Spartans were able to stop Nelson for the first half, limiting him to one field goal on five attempts.

The second half was a different

	1	2	OT	F
New Mexico State (8-10)	20	48	13	81
San Jose State (5-14)	29	39	7	75

New Mexico State 81, San Jose State 75 (OT)

Box Score

Aggies		Spartans	
Pts	Nelson 28	Elam	27
Reb	Nelson 11	Fleming	10
Ast	3 tied at 3	Spencer	5

story. Nelson scored 25 points on 8-10 shooting and 9-12 from the free-throw line.

"I had to adjust to the zone and get the ball down low," Aggies forward Tyrone Nelson said. "State played a tough zone. I just tried to get some easy baskets."

Nelson finished with 28 points and 11 rebounds, Mitchell was right behind him with 24 points and 6 steals.

Spartan center Menelik Barbary matched up well against Nelson, who fouled out with 2:37 remaining. Barbary contributed 13 points and eight rebounds but couldn't match

New Mexico State's frontcourt.

Though the Aggies played better in the second half, their largest lead was by eight with 3:17 remaining in over-time. The two teams were evenly matched with 11 tied scores and seven lead changes in the game.

In the waning moments of regulation and into overtime, the Spartans began to make critical errors that ultimately cost them the game.

"We get under pressure and make the wrong decisions," Nessim said.

The Spartans' next game is Wednesday against Boise State at the Event Center.

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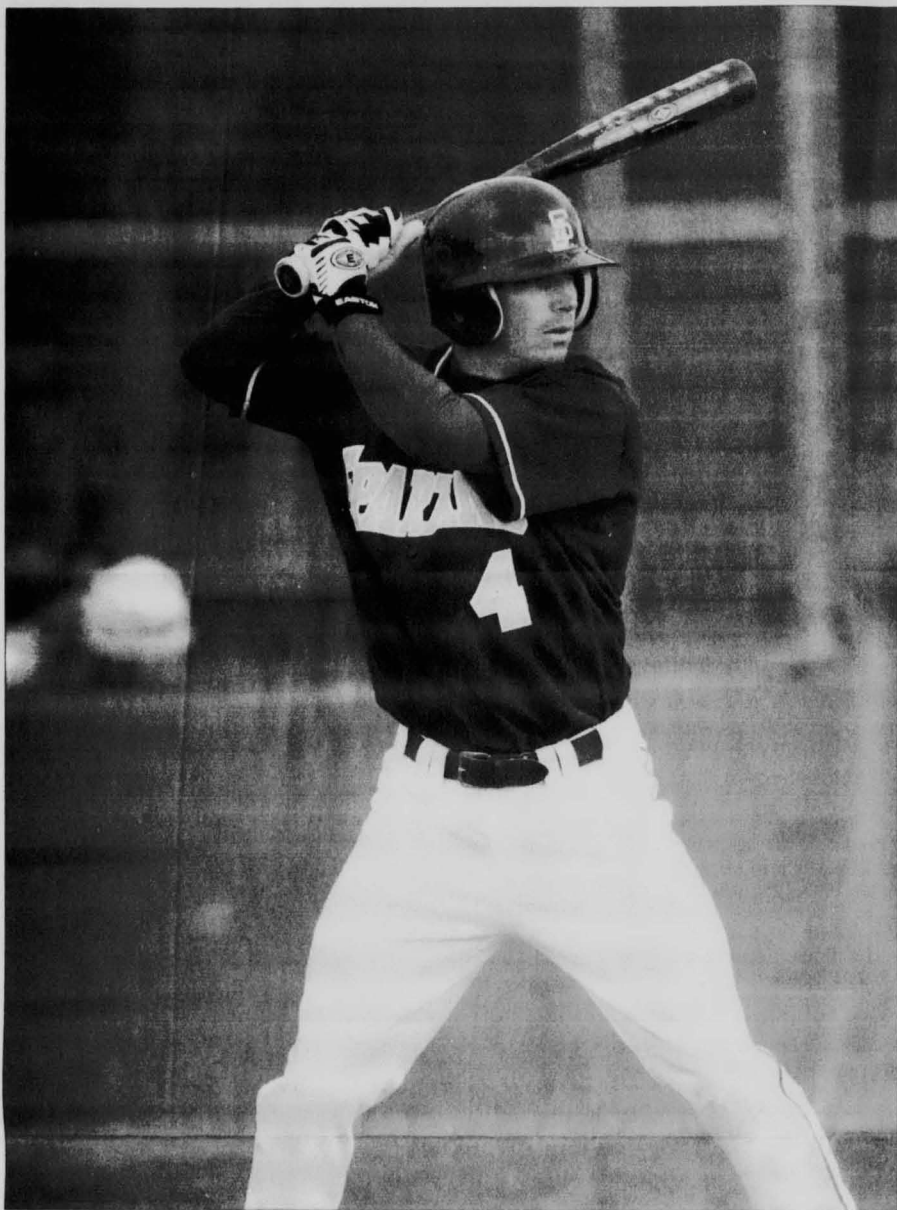
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Baseball veterans to help carry team in new season

San Jose State University 2006 season preview



KEVIN WHITE/DAILY STAFF

Spartan outfielder Ryan Angel bats during an exhibition game against the San Jose State University baseball alumni team Saturday at Blethen Field. SJSU defeated the alumni, 2-0.

BY TATIANA GETTY
DAILY STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State University baseball team will start its season Friday with the first of a three-game series against tough competitor Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

"Cal Poly is going to be a tremendous challenge for us," said Sam Piraro, who is entering his 19th season as the Spartan's head coach. "They're a very tough team to start the season out with, but we're looking forward to that challenge and we're all looking forward to playing."

The Spartans will face Cal Poly and the coming season with 15 returning letter winners, including six position-player starters and two starting pitchers.

"We've been playing since we got back to school together, so everyone's at about the same level right now," said first baseman Brandon Fromm. "But it's nice having returning players, people with experience. That's the biggest part, is the experience they have, but we're all comfortable with one another."

Two of these returning players are pitcher Branden Dewing and outfielder Ryan Angel, both of whom were recently named to the 14-player pre-season all-Western Athletic Conference team.

"I'm honored to be selected," said Angel. "Now I just need to go out there and prove to the league that I deserve to be there, and I need to help out the team wherever I can to help us win."

Defensively, pitcher Dewing is one of the players Piraro says he can count on.

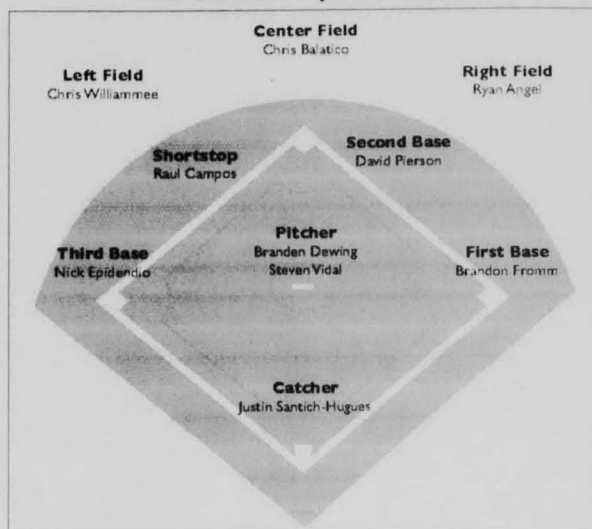
"He'll be a guy that's going to pitch for us a lot, but the rest of the rotation is up for grabs right now," Piraro said.

Piraro names newcomer pitchers to SJSU as Loren Money Penny and Josh Amberson, as players he hopes will "fill the bill."

Offensively, Piraro said he's counting on staple players such as first baseman Brandon Fromm, outfielder Ryan Angel and infielder Ricky Saucedo.

"There's no doubt we're going to need those folks to step up and do well for us," said Piraro.

San Jose State University
2006 Baseball Projected Starters



"If not, then (this season) will be very difficult for us."

This season the Spartans will face such tough competitors as Fresno State, the school picked to finish first in the 2006 WAC

Coaches Poll, followed by the University of Hawai'i and the University of Nevada-Reno, which are tied to finish second, and the long-time Spartan rivals, Santa Clara University. Fresno State is the team to beat, Dewing said.

"We want to beat Fresno, I want Fresno. Obviously we want to win conference, but Fresno is at the top of our list," Dewing said.

Piraro said he agrees with Dewing about Fresno, but said that every team in the league knows how to play their game.

"It's a top-to-bottom, very good league," said Piraro. "Hawai'i has excellent pitching and Reno, Nevada is very good, but Fresno I think right now would be the one to beat."

Coming off the 2005 season, where the Spartans went 28-28-1, this team is ready to compete.

"We should be solid this season," said outfielder Angel. "I think we have a great defense right now, we're just getting that hitting going, and as soon as we all get together and start swinging the bats pretty well we should be pretty tough. We've got a shot to win the WAC."

And they just may be able to do that. The Spartans are picked to finish fourth in the WAC this season, just behind Wolfpack and Rainbow Warriors.

But Piraro said he doesn't get caught up in the polls.

"My feeling is you play the game for a reason," Piraro said. "Fresno being picked first doesn't mean they don't have to play, everyone has to go out and win their games. Every game is important to us, and we try to win every game."

This season is a toss up; the first-place spot is up for grabs and the Spartans may be able to take it.

"I think our group is a good group of guys," Piraro said. "We like working with them, they're solid kids. They have a lot of pride and I think they're going to develop over the season, it's just a matter of when."

"But it's nice having returning players, people with experience. That's the biggest part, is the experience they have..."

— Brandon Fromm, SJSU first baseman

"My feeling is you play for a reason...Every game is important to us, and we try to win every game"

— Sam Piraro, SJSU coach

Upcoming baseball games

Feb. 3 Cal Poly San Luis Obispo at Municipal Stadium, 2 p.m.
Feb. 4 Cal Poly San Luis Obispo at Municipal Stadium, 1 p.m.
Feb. 5 Cal Poly San Luis Obispo at Municipal Stadium, 1 p.m.

Feb. 10 UC Santa Barbara at Santa Barbara, 2 p.m.
Feb. 11 UC Santa Barbara at Santa Barbara, 1 p.m.
Feb. 12 UC Santa Barbara at Santa Barbara, 1 p.m.

Feb. 16 Brigham Young University at Municipal Stadium, 6 p.m.
Feb. 17 Brigham Young University at Municipal Stadium, 6 p.m.
Feb. 18 Brigham Young University at Municipal Stadium, 1 p.m.

Alumni blanked by Spartans in preseason exhibition

BY TATIANA GETTY
DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Spartan baseball team swept the alumni baseball team 2-0 Saturday at Blethen field, showing everyone that they're ready for the coming season.

**SPARTANS 2
ALUMNI 0**

The chilly weather and threat of rain didn't stop fans, young or old, from coming out to watch past and present Spartans play around in the annual alumni exhibition game.

The game got off to a slow start offensively with the Spartans and the alumni boasting only two hits a piece into the bottom of the sixth inning. The game picked up quickly, with the Spartans scoring two runs in the sixth inning.

Alumni pitcher Huck Hibberd, a 1983-1984 letter winner, started the second half of the sixth inning by walking Spartan second baseman David Pierson. Pierson

stole second, and then advanced to third on a wild pitch to Spartan batter Donato Giovanatto, who struck out swinging.

Next, SJSU center fielder Chris Balatico struck out swinging then reached first on a wild pitch that passed alumni catcher Scott Niheu allowing Pierson in to score the first run of the game for the Spartans.

Spartan left fielder Ryan Angel singled down the left field line, getting to first base and bringing in center fielder Balatico for the Spartan's second run.

Angel got caught in a run-down between third base and home plate, bringing the team its last out and ending the inning with a score of 2-0, which would remain the final score in the game.

"We're much more productive offensively than I think we showed today," said Spartan pitcher Branden Dewing. "Today didn't really show our stats, or our abilities, but I think we're coming around. We're going to do good in the next couple of games."

Dewing pitched a five-inning shutout and the team allowed only one fielding error, by Spartan shortstop Raul Campos in the top of the seventh.

"I thought defensively, we were okay," said SJSU coach Sam Piraro. "We botched



KEVIN WHITE/DAILY STAFF

Spartan first baseman Brandon Fromm, left, congratulates alumni players after an exhibition game Saturday at Blethen Field.

a routine double play ball, that probably in a real game would come back and bite us in the behind."

The Spartans kick off the beginning of

the 2006 season against Cal Poly San Luis Obispo at 2 p.m. Friday in the Municipal Stadium.

Piraro added, "We still have a week

where hopefully we can put it together and get our selves in the right frame of mind and play like we're capable of playing."


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WEI -

Experts speak on education and development

continued from page 1

leader Pelosi interjected, "and San Jose State." Wei said that she feels confident that SJSU's college of engineering can contend with the two better-known schools.

"Similarly, we can play a leadership role in engineering education," Wei said.

Students in the engineering college echoed the dean's confidence in SJSU's program.

Eric Lipari, an electrical engineering senior who participated in the technology initiative in 2005, said that the trip showed him how serious the competition is.

"They're researching, developing and innovating just as much as we are over here," Lipari said.

Lipari said he is not worried about this global competition but thinks engineers need to consider foreign markets, such as China, when designing new products.

Engineering graduate student Harbik Parikh said that he has confidence that SJSU will prepare him for global competition. He said that SJSU's program offers many specialized courses that aren't available in programs in India.

"Many of the courses are taught by industry professionals," Parikh said, which he said gives him a more practical, rather than theoretical, education.

Wei said Pelosi invited her to give her testimony after she heard Wei speak at an innovation panel in Silicon Valley in early December.

Wei said she was excited to speak in front of so many members of Congress. She was one of five experts speaking on the main points of the Innovation Agenda: education, research and development, accessible broadband, energy independence, and entrepreneurship. She was the only expert from California.

SJSU is taking wide steps to focus more on preparing students for global competition, according to Nancy Stake, director of media relations for SJSU.

The College of Business also took part in the Global Technology Initiative. According to the office of Assistant Dean of the College of Business Nancie Fimbel, three SJSU business students joined engineering students on the 2005 summer trip.

Vietnamese community showcased

Spring festival celebrated in the streets of downtown San Jose



GAVIN MOCHESNEY/DAILY STAFF

Clockwise from left to right: Red paper is thrown in celebration of San Jose's Vietnamese Spring Festival and Parade Sunday. A dragon, an uncommon sight in downtown San Jose, was seen at the parade. A lion makes his way through downtown. A performer carries part of a dragon.



SAKAHARA - Graphic Design alumna had passion for artwork

continued from page 1

friends and family.

Shortly after her graduation in 2005, she accepted an internship position with Yahoo! in Sunnyvale. In November, 2005, she was offered a permanent position as a visual designer for the Yahoo!igans! division - a web guide for children - in Santa Monica.

"She was the kind of person you want to have in a class; a student with great curiosity who challenged the usual way of thinking about things," said Professor Joe Miller of SJSU and Sakahara's former graphic design teacher. "I and most of us from her class will miss Shari like she was a member of the family."

While attending SJSU, Sakahara was a resident at Markham Hall for three years, during which she received the annual "Joker Award."

"She was one of the most hard-working (people) I've ever known," said Gene Aquino, a Radio-Television-Film major at SJSU.

Aquino maintained daily contact with Sakahara until her death, and describes her as his sister.

"She was everything you would want in a friend," Aquino said.

"I don't think she left anything unfinished," said Karen Hsieh, a childhood friend in Sacramento, who was in China when the news of the sudden death of her friend arrived. Hsieh said Sakahara was one of the most "real" and honest people she knew and had the courage to stand up for her principles.

Hsieh said her friend always had a passion for artwork—Sakahara's creativity is noted in the jewelry, purses, ceramic sculptures, and personalized sweatshirts she designed and sold to satisfy her knack for fashion.

Professor Miller said, "on top of her class work, Shari was always making things; clothing, buttons, purses. She made buttons for the entire class... Right now I'm wearing a jacket with the name of the typeface Helvetica that she hand cut and sewed the lettering onto."

Sakahara is survived by her mother, Susan Sakahara; her father, Jerry Sakahara; and an older brother, Aaron Sakahara; all of Sacramento.

"We miss her, and will always miss her," said her mother.

MLK - SJSU graduate student leads community discussion at King Library

continued from page 1

drawn in crayon provided a picture of the room's own spanning sea of ethnicities.

"It's a mixed group and that's exactly what we had in mind for this event to bring people of all backgrounds and cultures together," Lorraine Oback, an event-planning committee member, said.

Loud chanting and drumbeats echoed around the second floor as several San Jose State University clubs danced to entertain attendees.

A large cake decorated with a message wishing Dr. King a happy birthday was provided by Aki's Bakery.

Adults had a chance to voice their own opinions during a

community discussion led by sociology graduate student Elgie Hurd III on the concept of privilege, which included a viewing of the film "Out of Obscurity."

"It seems hard coming to downtown on the weekend and finding parking, but there's something about this event that is definitely making them think it was worthwhile to take that extra step," Oback said.

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'Corteo' offers exhilarating entertainment

By Rachel Hill
Daily A&E Editor

Under a gigantic blue-and-yellow circus tent, spectators were treated to the San Jose premiere of Cirque Du Soleil's newest production, 'Corteo,' earlier this month.

Amidst the show's carnival-style atmosphere, virile actors performed spectacular superhuman acrobatics and tantalized the eyes of audience members with whimsical theatrics and graceful dancing.

'Corteo,' the latest touring show to be put on by the world-renowned circus company is named for the Italian word for Cortège, a ceremonial funeral procession.

'Corteo' depicts a clown imagining his own funeral amid a circus-like setting and playful festivities. The dead clown, played by Mauro Mozzani, is an imaginative character caught up in the elaborate celebration of his own demise.

In mid-air, angels floated as a parade of performers lit up the stage with mouth-dropping acts. The joyful procession included performers bouncing back and forth on mattresses and using the thin bed railing to perform tricks and summersaults in the air. Other performers used oversized hoola-hoops to hurl their bodies around the stage as they twirled and spun inside the metal circles, like a coin that just hit the ground.

The chandelier scene was the best in the whole production. Three women danced and gracefully maneuvered their bodies in and out of the giant chandelier's golden spokes as it rapidly spun around,



dozens of feet in the air. The aerial spectacle overwhelms the eyes by keeping them in constant motion in the attempt to view all three magnificently engaging performances.

'Corteo's' creator and director, Daniele Finzi Pasca, introduces a different approach in this Cirque production, placing more emphasis on style, the plot, and minor details in the show. Pasca, for the first time in Cirque history, places the play in the middle of the tent so the audience is split in half, mirroring each other during the performance. This set-up allows viewers to 'have a performer's eye-view of the audience,' according to Cirque's press material.

The director adds a touch of comedy and elegance to give 'Corteo' its own unique flare, setting it apart from the company's other shows. The use of humor allows viewers to become more entrenched in the plot and makes the

burly clown more likeable.

One funny highlight of the show was when a diminutive female performer was attached to huge floating balloons that set her soaring above the crowd.

The audience was able to help her flying scene by pushing her back into the air when she descended upon them.

In 'Corteo,' Pasca tests the boundaries of the human body through acrobatics, offering performances that are beyond imagination and awe-inspiring to watch. This Cirque production makes for a wonderful evening of lively entertainment and is well worth the price.

'Corteo' will run through March 5 and is located in downtown San Jose at the Taylor Street Bridge on the corner of Taylor St. and Highway 87.

Tickets start at \$31.50 for children and \$45 for adults.

'Big Momma 2' is small on jokes

By Tandra Madison
Daily Staff Writer

For 'Big Momma's House 2,' Martin Lawrence revived his roles as FBI agent Malcolm Turner and, of course, Big Momma. It's a shame the sequel was only marginally better than the original.

Nia Long returns as Sherry

MOVIE REVIEW

Turner, now married to Malcolm and expecting their first child. For this reason, Malcolm has downgraded his high-risk field job for a low-risk desk job.

After his former trainer is killed and national security is threatened, Malcolm drags Big Momma out of retirement to go undercover. He ends up as a nanny/housekeeper for the suspect's family. What ensues is typical Martin Lawrence: chaos, confusion and a few laughs.

The kids he baby-sits are bratty, initially, and pretty typical. The youngest, Andrew, doesn't talk. Carrie, the middle child, is attention-starved and the oldest, Molly, is a rebellious teen.

The kids end up loving Big Momma and Big Momma ends up caring about them.

The plot isn't very well developed and seems pretty unrealistic in general, but that was the problem with the original 'Big Momma's House.'

There are some truly funny moments that redeemed the movie. When Big Momma has a show-down at bingo, the result is hilarious. Something else that tickles is when Sherry, who is eight months pregnant, looks like she's carrying



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

Big Momma (Martin Lawrence), an undercover 'nanny,' seeks tips.

a basketball. Another entertaining thing is that Andrew is constantly catapulting himself off high places. Each time, he hits the floor, sits up, shakes it off and goes to do it again. Slightly disturbing, though, is that no one seems overly concerned at his behavior.

Big Momma's unconventional methods of housekeeping had the audience laughing as well.

The movie has an interesting take on today's two-parent families. Tom Fuller (Mark Moses), the father/suspect, is hardly ever home because he's always working.

Leah Fuller (Emily Procter) is the mother and homemaker. One would think she'd be the one giving love and attention to the children, but that's not the case. She keeps them so busy that they're rarely home before dinner, which means she isn't spending any time with them either.

It's a great example of a dys-

functional family in what appears to be a perfectly functional situation.

Admittedly, the movie is much more enjoyable than the first one, but that's not saying much since the first one wasn't very funny.

It isn't Lawrence's acting that makes the movie so predictable, it's the plot. The jokes are weak and the plot is unbelievable.

Seriously, what family in their right mind would hire a nanny like Big Momma to take care of their children and trust in their home?

In the real world, it would never work.

In a nutshell, Malcolm goes undercover as Big Momma to save the day. Along the way, he befriends the suspect's wife and children. He also irritates his own wife. Finally, he saves the day and everyone lives happily ever after.

Still, you may want to make this one a matinee, or maybe save it for a rental.

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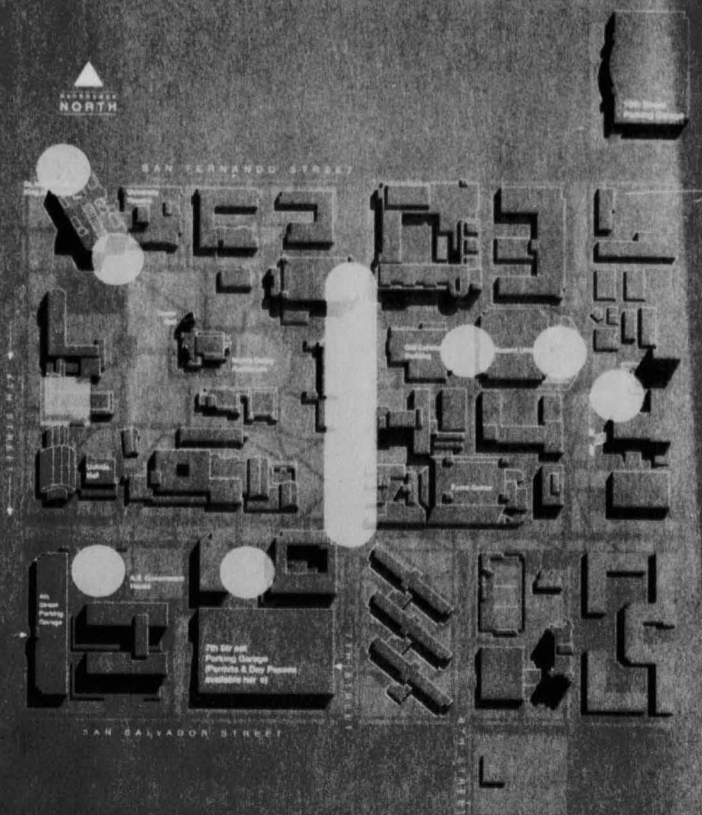
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