

SPARTAN DAILY

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Students rushing to live the Greek life

By April Maramag
DAILY STAFF WRITER

With the start of this Spring semester, Greek organizations around campus have begun "Rush Week," with several events to jump start their recruiting efforts.

According to an Interfraternity Council brochure, "Each organization has several events a week that are free and offer participants the chance to learn about Greek Life and meet new students."

Some of the sororities' and fraternities' rush events began on the first day of instruction.

Alpha Kappa Psi kicked off its rush events with a luau barbecue on Jan. 26, the day after school started.

Justin Dietrich, president of Alpha Kappa Psi, said the rush activities were set up "to get to know the potential pledges and for them to get to know us."

Dietrich, a senior majoring in Management Information Systems, expects to have as many as 20 pledges this semester.

"(Rush) runs the first two weeks of the semester," Dietrich said. "(I'm) most excited to meet new people and figure out who is going to pledge."

Rush events for the semester range from bowling, barbecues, dodge ball, and karaoke to casino nights, bonfires and house tours.

The Kappa Delta sorority opened its house doors to those planning to rush as well as its alumni on Friday in honor of its 50th anniversary at San Jose State University.

"This evening is a 'Mocktail,'" said Vanessa Jacobsen, co-chair for Kappa Delta's 50th anniversary event on Friday. "It's a three-day event this whole weekend."

On Saturday, Kappa Delta held a "women's empowerment" lecture entitled "Stand Up, Stand Out," at



DIANA DIROY / DAILY STAFF

Clockwise from bottom left, Chris Jose, Leilani Valdez, Phan Khamphoucong, Isabel Guterrez and Kyle Tanedo participate in an icebreaker during Sigma Omicron Pi's and Alpha Kappa Omega's joint karaoke night on Thursday.

the Student Union.

"You can see them when you're walking past the Student Union, they're all out there, all the sororities and fraternities," said Andrew Rollins, a freshman majoring in Nursing.

For Rollins, who is rushing Alpha Kappa Psi this semester, Greek life was a vehicle to becoming more involved in school. "I already knew I wanted to get involved and make San Jose State my home," he said.

Greek life also offers students the chance to become involved with their campus and community. "Every woman in this house is an active (member)," said Heather Brown, a sophomore majoring in

Political Science. "That is something we really stress to our women; there is something for everyone here."

Events also include other fraternities and sororities. Some of the Greek organizations hold their events together, such as a Sigma Omicron Pi and Zeta Chi Epsilon. They will be having a barbecue

together this Tuesday.

"We try to participate with everybody, whether it is a fraternity or sorority trying to get involved," Brown said. "It's only fair, and it's so much fun."

Rush week is a chance to relieve any hesitations about Greek life.

"I didn't know I was going to rush," Rollins said, "but I am now."

Sorority turns 50

By Erin Keilah Chin
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Bursts of laughter were heard throughout the Kappa Delta house Friday night as women of all ages filled the rooms. Some were involved with tours of the remodeled house, others were catching up with old friends and others were learning from the different generations of sisters.

The Gamma Iota Chapter of Kappa Delta was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

"Kappa Delta has done so many wonderful things in the community, with leadership on campus and with each other," said Lauren Bosch, 2003-2005 Kappa Delta president and journalism major.

According to its Web site, Kappa Delta was invited to establish a chapter at SJSU in the fall of 1955. By the end of January in 1956, 19 girls were pledged.

"I haven't been back for 50 years," said Jacqueline Portland Higgins, a pre-kindergarten teacher and president of the first Kappa Delta class. "(This event) is a pleasant connection to the past."

The occasion was an opportunity for the present sisters to meet and unite with their preceding sisters.

Bosch and Vanessa Jacobsen, a business marketing major, co-chaired organizing the weekend's events and said that two semesters of planning went into planning this three-day weekend full of events

SEE SORORITY • PAGE 5

Intramural sports to receive more A.S. funding

\$4 fee goes toward club sports

By Jamie Visger
DAILY STAFF WRITER

An agreement drafted and signed by San Jose State University's Associated Students in December will create a pool of funds to help support intramural and club-sports teams.

Neither of these sports programs fall under the scope of the Department of Athletics or receive funding through it, although intramural sports do receive some funding through A.S.

"Associated Students already supports intramural sports financially, so this money will add a significant amount of funds and it will also provide an infusion of money for club sports," said Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs Veril Phillips.

The idea for the special funding came last year after a \$65 charge to be added to every student's tuition fee for SJSU athletics was proposed. A.S. was one of the groups that pushed to have four of those dollars set aside for intramural and club sports, said Alex Ramos, A.S. controller.

"Club sports have a lot of expenditures, and the amount of money that each member pays can be extravagant," Ramos said. "Through this initiative, we're able to provide finances for needs that can't get funded through the A.S. process."

The money is intended to help cover program costs and needs such as equipment and uniforms, insurance for special events and insurance premiums for the teams, Ramos said.

"Last year the Precision Flight Club hosted an event and they weren't even able to participate in their event and fly because they didn't have the necessary

insurance," said A.S. President Alberto Gutierrez.

"With this new funding they should be able to participate in future events. We don't think any team should miss out because of insurance reasons."

The new funds will be available to intramural and club sports this year. Two of the \$4 from every student will be placed in an account reserved for intramural sports and overseen by A.S. The other \$2 will be placed in another account for club sports and overseen by a director that the student union hired to be in charge of club sports, Phillips said.

The \$2-per-student charge collected by A.S. adds up to \$108,000 set aside to help intramural sports this year alone, Ramos said.

A.S. officials have not decided how much each team will be allowed to receive because that is something that will have to be worked out over time, Ramos said.

Each team that wishes to receive funding must request it through the overseeing department and specify what the money will be used for.

Representatives from the Division of Student Affairs have been meeting with team leaders to keep them informed about the process and what these changes will mean for their team funding, Ramos said.

"The Division of Student Affairs has really been working hard on this and we've done a lot of research over the past year to see what other schools are doing with their club sports," Phillips said. "We think that the extra funding will be a good improvement for intramural and club sports at SJSU."

New group to lobby for CSU interests

By Laura Rheinheimer
DAILY STAFF WRITER

A new political action committee hopes to have more leverage in state issues that would affect California State University students.

The committee, Golden State Action, was started in December and is still in its infancy, according to Rebecca Balderas, Associated Students director of legislative affairs. The idea is to create a student-run committee to raise funds to help elect politicians who favor higher education, Balderas said.

She said each of the 23 CSU's are in-

cluded in the committee.

"This is entirely focused on what's going to be best for the students," Balderas said.

Balderas said she is heading the statewide committee's efforts at SJSU separately from her position at A.S.

Balderas said A.S. is limited from advocating for a particular candidate or issue because of its nonprofit status and partial state funding. She also said the founders of the new committee hope to have more political leverage by donating to candidates who would benefit the CSU system according to four criteria set by Golden State Action. The criteria

include supporting the California Education Master Plan, a mission that has that seeks to improve California public colleges and universities.

The committee would be structured similarly to California State Student Association, a nonprofit organization that focuses on issues that affect CSU students, according to Balderas.

The association is essentially a statewide A.S. and has similar restrictions on advocating for one particular issue or candidate in order keep its nonprofit status. The student association's executive

SEE COMMITTEE • PAGE 5

Strictly ballroom ...



FANG H. LIANG / DAILY STAFF

Rogelio Bernal, a freshman business major, left, and Natalia Kleschevnikova, a senior marketing major, right, practice in their Beginning Latin Dance class Tuesday afternoon.

Women's gymnastics sets school record in tri-meet win

By Dominique Streeter
DAILY STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State University women's gymnastics team had a record-breaking performance Friday night.

The Spartans defeated Seattle Pacific University and the University of Illinois-Chicago during the tri-meet at the Spartan Gym.

The Spartans set a new SJSU record on the vault with 48.875

points, beating the former record of 48.725 that was set against UC Berkeley in 2003. "We set a vault record and tonight they hit it. It was great," said SJSU coach Wayne Wright.

The Spartans beat the Falcons and the Flames with a score of 192.950, defeating the teams in each of the four rotations.

Seattle Pacific placed second with 190.225 points and Illinois-Chicago came in last with 189.675 points.

"I was really happy with our performance tonight," said Wright. "Over the past weeks it's just been coming together. It was just a great team effort and that's all I ask for."

Spartan Michelle Minotti won first all-around in the meet with her season-high score of 39.05.

"I was nervous going up against Chicago because I didn't know what to expect," said Minotti. "Seattle is also a very good school. There are always nerves when you go into a meet, especially at home, because

you want to come out on top."

Spartans Minotti, Shina Cardeno, Renae Moneymaker and Veronica Porte all received career-high scores for their performances on the vault.

"Everyone helps out and I think that's what gives us our depth," said Wright.

Wright said their second home-victory in a two-week span has improved their confidence. "We had the momentum," said Wright. "Our goal as a team is to finish in the

WAC top three in March."

The Spartan team said this victory gave them optimism for the remainder of the season.

"Before the season started nobody knew what was going to happen, but then this happened," said Minotti. "Our main goal is to make regionals and to keep improving with each meet because we've been so close these past years. This year it's practically in our backyard at Stanford. We really want to go there."

"We were like yo-yo's in the beginning and now we're more consistent," said Porte. "I'm just really happy everyone pulled together and did their part. Everyone came together as a team."

The Spartans will face off against Seattle Pacific again on Feb. 10 at Seattle.

"I expect to compete at this level every week just as long as we continue to go out there and do our best and continue to improve," said Wright. "I'll be happy with that."

SJSU swimmers tie in home finale, seniors honored

By Jeremy Barousse
DAILY STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State University women's swimming and diving team ended its final home meet of the season on Saturday with a 150-150 tie to the University of Nevada-Reno.

Family and fans packed the SJSU Aquatics Center to watch six SJSU seniors swim for the last time before a home crowd against their Western Athletic Conference rival.

Kelly Thoni, Stephanie Carter, Lisa Covey, Nicole Green, Annette Halloran and team Captain Alli Adams were recognized in a ceremony prior to Saturday's meet.

The Spartans won nine of 14 races on the afternoon and achieved eight lifetime-best marks for the meet.

SJSU's Brie Marhenke finished the dual-meet season Saturday with a perfect 12-0 record in the 50-yard freestyle with a first-place time of 23.66 seconds.

She also finished first in the 100-yard freestyle in 52.78 seconds.

Spartan Amanda Carr also won two events, taking first place in the 1000 (10:29.19) and 500-yard freestyle (5:05.89).

Adams was SJSU's third double event-winner with first-place finishes in both 100 (1:05.91) and 200-yard (2:22.47) breaststroke.

"I've seen so much heart in our girls today," Adams said. "There



CHANTERA GUNN / DAILY STAFF

San Jose State University seniors Stephanie Carter, Kelly Thoni, Annette Halloran, Nicole Green and Alli Adams were recognized during their last home swim-meet of the season Saturday morning at the Aquatics Centers.

(have) been some awesome finishes from our team."

The Spartan foursome of Thoni, Covey, China Cho and Marhenke grabbed 11 points in a first-place finish of the 400-yard relay with a final time of 3:31.

Interim Head Coach Sage Hopkins said he was sad to see his seniors compete in their final home meet.

"It's tough to see the leadership go, but that is part of college athletics," Hopkins said. "(The seniors) have contributed a lot to San Jose

State leadership in and out of the pool."

Four of the six seniors have competed in all four of their years in college.

"I'm going to miss being at team events," said senior Nicole Green. "(The team) has always been fun to be around."

Saturday's tie with Nevada moves SJSU's overall record to 6-5-1.

The Spartans will take two and a half weeks to prepare for the 2006 WAC Championship on Feb. 22-25 in San Antonio, Texas.

Baseball team drops series to Cal Poly

By Tatiana Getty
DAILY STAFF WRITER

San Jose State University baseball fought hard, but couldn't overcome Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the Spartans' season-opening weekend, losing the series 2-1 at Blethen Field.

There was no stopping SJSU baseball Friday as the team blanked Cal Poly with a 6-0 victory.

Pitcher Branden Dewing, in his fourth year with the Spartans, helped grab the win, pitching nine shutout innings and allowing the Mustangs four hits.

"He had good command of his pitches," said SJSU Head Coach Sam Piraro. "Basically he used his fastball, located it and took the sting out of (their) bats and we played very well behind him."

But Dewing did not carry the team alone. The Spartan defense allowed only one error in the top of the eighth inning.

The Mustang's defense, which already had three games under its belt, faltered early in the game, allowing four errors in the third inning and six total by the game's close.

The Spartan's offense, already off to a quick start with two hits in the first inning, took advantage of the Mustang's errors.

The Spartans scored two more runs in the fourth inning, bringing the score to 6-0 where it stayed for the duration of the game.

"Offensively we showed our bats, and I think we took a good step in the right direction this weekend," said senior pitcher Matt Winck.

The series continued on Saturday at Blethen Field where Cal Poly edged out a 3-2 victory, bringing the Spartans their first loss of the season and tying the series at one game apiece.

It was a whole new game, with the Mustang's de-

fense more composed and the Spartans testing out a new pitcher, junior Loren Moneypenny.

Moneypenny got off to a rough start in the first inning, hitting the Mustang's second baseman Brent Walker with the first pitch of the game. But soon after, Moneypenny pitched five non-consecutive shutout innings and allowed only four hits until being replaced by senior, Brandon Hennessey in the sixth inning.

Defensively, both teams remained consistent. The Spartans had no errors, but allowed the first run of the game in the third inning, followed by the final two in the sixth inning — off a home run by Cal Poly right fielder Matt Cooper.

The sixth inning gave the Mustangs their first run as designated hitter Ricky Saucedo, scored on a fly ball to center field by third baseman Nick Epidendio. The next and last run would come from Spartan first baseman Fromm, bringing the score to 3-2 where it would stay for the remainder of the game, and tying the series at one win a piece.

In the series decider on Sunday, Cal Poly defeated SJSU 9-6 taking the three game series from the Spartans.

SJSU once again tried out a new member of its pitching staff, junior Josh Amberson. Offensively the Spartans got an early start, with second baseman Pierson bringing the team their first hit in the bottom of the first inning.

Offensively and defensively, both teams were neck and neck with the Spartan defense error free and the Mustangs committing only one error in the game.

"We were the number-one ranked defensive team in the country last year, and that's something we'd like to think we're decent at," Piraro said. "We spend time on it, we ought to be good at it and it held this weekend."

Offensively, the final game brought the most hits for

SEE MUSTANGS • PAGE 4

Valentine's Notes

In the Spartan Daily

Buy a Valentine's note in front of the Student Union
Mon-Thurs (2/6-2/9) 1:15-4:15pm
or drop by DBH 209 Mon-Thurs 9am to 5pm

To: Cindy Jones
I have noticed you in class and I have a really big crush on you. I think that you are the most beautiful woman in the universe. I hope that I will get the courage to ask you out.
From: Your Secret Admirer

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Dear Jack,
You rock my world.
Love, Jill

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Love, Ryan

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Spartans bounced by Wahine, 76-61

By Sophia Seremetis
DAILY SENIOR WRITER

After a slow start to the first half, the San Jose State University women's basketball team was never able to regain its footing against the University of Hawai'i.

Saturday's 76-61 loss at the Event Center to the Rainbow Wahine (13-7, 4-5) makes the Spartans 10-9 overall and 5-3 in Western Athletic Conference play.

SJSU senior Anetero Uiagalelei, who scored 11 points in the night, said the pace dictated the game, and though the Spartans tried to overcome the seven-point deficit at halftime, they couldn't close the gap.

"We didn't come out with any intensity and they came out ready to go," Uiagalelei said. "We tried to pick it up, but it's kind of hard playing catch-up the whole game."

Sophomore Amber Jackson left the game with an injury after playing only 31 minutes. She collided with Hawai'i center Brittany Grice while attempting to block a shot. There is no official word on Jackson's condition as of Saturday.

Senior Lamisha Augustine



San Jose State University forward Amber Jackson sets up a shot during Saturday's game against the University of Hawai'i at the Event Center.

scored 17 of her 22 points in the second half, including 9-10 from the free-throw line.

But SJSU coach Janice Richard said shooting percentage was key in the team's loss. During the first half, both Augustine and Jackson were struggling at the net.

"Going into the half, I thought Amber and Lamisha both were shooting the ball kind of poorly, and all season this team has gone as those two go," Richard said. "We needed (Augustine) to step up her effort offensively and I think she tried to get to the basket a lot more the second half."

But with Jackson out, the Spartans needed more than Augustine to pick up the pace. Junior Brittany Imaku helped on defense by adding three steals and four assists and also went 3-4 from the free-throw line.

"My team needed me to pick up my defense," Imaku said. "So (in) the second half I put some more pressure on the point guard and tried to force some turnovers."

Hawai'i's up-tempo game was focused on keeping the ball away from Augustine and Jackson and kept the Spartans' points in the paint to only 18, compared to the Rainbow Wahine's 22 points. They also out-rebounded SJSU 45-36.

"When you can afford to guard two people with three or four and limit their touches, you're going to have a higher success rate," Richard said about the Hawai'i defense.

MUSTANGS - Cal Poly offense out hit SJSU 16-10 in finale

continued from page 3

each team in the series with the visitors boasting 16 hits and the Spartans trailing with 10.

The fourth inning brought in a new pitcher for the Spartans senior Steven Vidal. It would also bring four more runs for the Mustangs as shortstop Brent Morel smashed a homerun high over left field bringing the team two runs.

The Mustangs would score two more runs in the game against the Spartans, who would score three more

in the fourth, sixth and ninth innings respectively bringing the final score to 9-6 in favor of the Mustangs and ending the three game show down.

"Our goal was to win every home series, and we didn't do that, so we know we have to take care of business on the road in Santa Barbara, and we'll just put this behind us and build on what we learned," said first baseman Fromm. "It's a long season, and a learning experience and we'll learn from everything."

This series leaves the Spartans with a 1-2 record after its first series of the season.

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