

SPARTAN DAILY



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2006 — VOLUME 127, ISSUE 38 — THEPARTANDAILY.COM

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SJSU golf teams excited at midseason progress, page 4

Guest Column: The two party system limits our choices, page 2

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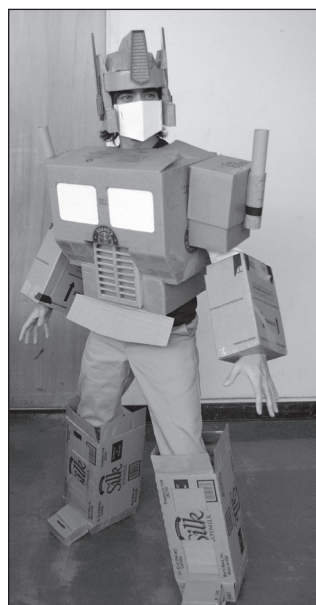
Halloween spirit comes to SJSU



PHOTOS BY PEARLY CHAN/ DAILY STAFF

TOP LEFT: Kirk Meyer, a junior majoring in civil engineering, peers through the telescope of his pirate costume on El Paseo de Cesar E. Chavez on Tuesday. TOP RIGHT: Lantz Warrick, a senior majoring in music, shows off his bear paws on Tuesday. Warrick says he was inspired by the baby clothes he saw at Gap.

ABOVE: Renee Carty, a senior majoring in animation, poses as an iPod billboard in the Art building on Tuesday. RIGHT: Andrew Harkins, a senior majoring in animation and illustration, transformed himself into Optimus Prime of the "Transformers" cartoon on Tuesday. Harkins made his Transformer costume out of cardboard boxes.



Simone Williams, a library assistant at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, does the rounds in her gypsy costume Tuesday. Williams says her mother made the costume for her.

Institute awarded federal grant

SJSU beat out 36 schools for \$8 million

By Adam Browne
Daily Staff Writer

The Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University beat out 36 top universities to receive an \$8 million grant, according to the institute Web site.

Rod Diridon, the executive director of the institute, stated on the Web site that the funding would be used to expand many of the institute's endeavors in the transportation research field.

"We receive \$1 million a year from the U.S. department of transportation and another million dollars from the California department of transportation," said Leslee Hamilton, communications director. "Over a four year period it's going to be \$8 million."

The grant will provide money to continue research of ground transportation that is cars, busses, trains and airport shuttles, Hamilton said.

"One sixth of the national economy is geared toward ground transportation, so it is fitting that the university is involved with the field," Johnson said.

The money will aid transportation programs that will continue services to the institute for instructing students in the field.

"The program enables continued operation of the Mineta Institute," said Peter Hoss, educational director of the institute.

The program is called "Tier One" as part of the nation's innovative technologies research and administration program, according to the Web site.

"Tier one is the United States department of transportation research and innovative technologies administration and they are helping to fund the grant," Hamilton said.

Annually, the grant will provide the institute funding to help with transportation research.

"We also use students on the research projects each year, with a minimum of one student and one professor on ten given research projects during the year," said Trixie Johnson, director of research and development.

Hamilton said that the funds would also aid in security management training for transportation.

"The classes will allow students to learn how to research surface transit programs and transportation security programs," Hamilton said.

Hoss said that the program has graduated 60 students and 70 students are currently in the program.

The program will also offer degrees and certifications.

"A program for the masters of science in transportation is offered through the College of Business and also there is a 12-unit certification program," Hamilton said.

The funding will enable the university to set an example for other transportation programs.

"It has added a new area of expertise and national recognition," Johnson said.

According to the SJSU news Web site, concerns of the institute include traffic related issues, safety with ground vehicles and security management, especially after the recent uprising of terrorism overseas.

"Emphasis on transportation and supporting research will add to an understanding of the issues, such as safety and security," Johnson said.

Hoss said that the grant will help carry out policy research and to help the transportation program.

The funding will help to encourage management in transportation to see its goals and objectives.

"It gives us a sense of focus and direction, making transportation better," Johnson said.

Hoss said that the Mineta Transportation Institute was created in 1991.

Rumsfeld endorses increase in funds for Iraqi forces training, equipment

By Robert Burns
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Tuesday endorsed a proposal to spend at least \$1 billion to expand the size and accelerate the training and equipping of Iraqi security forces.

While the plan still must get final approval from the White House and the money would have to be approved by Congress, Rumsfeld's support underscores the Bush administration's effort to shift more of the burden of Iraq's security to that country's forces.

"I'm very comfortable with the increases they've proposed and the accelerations in achievement of some of their targets," Rumsfeld

told reporters at the Pentagon, noting that the Iraqi government and Gen. George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, both recommended expanding Iraqi forces.

"Now it's simply a matter of our pressing forward and getting our portion of the funding from the Congress and working to see that it's executed," Rumsfeld said. He did not say how much extra U.S. money would be required.

So far, the U.S. government has spent roughly \$10 billion on developing the Iraqi security forces, according to the latest report released by the Pentagon special inspector general who audits U.S. work in Iraq. One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, described the proposed extra money as more

than \$1 billion, but would not offer specifics.

Rumsfeld "approved going forward" with the proposal, which is intended to be part of an add-on to the 2007 budget, according to Pentagon press secretary Eric Ruff. It will next be submitted to the White House and other government agencies for their review, Ruff said.

The defense secretary's move comes at a time when the Bush administration has been pressing Iraqi officials to agree to benchmarks with which progress in the war-torn country can be measured. The effort has produced strains with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who has resisted be-

see IRAQ, page 3

North Korea returns to nuke talks

President Bush cautious of country's sudden about face

By Tom Raum
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a surprise turnabout, North Korea agreed Tuesday to return to six-nation disarmament talks just three weeks after rattling the world by conducting an atomic bomb test. The breakthrough came after pressure from China and a U.S. offer to discuss financial penalties already in place.

President Bush cautiously welcomed the deal and thanked the Chinese for brokering it. But he said the agreement wouldn't sidetrack U.S. efforts to enforce sanctions adopted by the U.N. Security Council to punish Pyongyang for its Oct. 9 nuclear test.

He said there was still "a lot of work to do" and the U.S. would send teams to the region "to make sure that the current United Nations Security

Council resolution is enforced."

The ultimate goal is "a North Korea that abandons her nuclear weapons programs and her nuclear weapons in a verifiable fashion in return for a better way forward for her people," the president said.

The unexpected agreement to restart the talks — before year's end, U.S. officials said — was announced after envoys from North Korea, the United States and China met in Beijing, at China's invitation.

The move represented a step back from the nuclear crisis and was widely applauded, if with some reservations. North Korea has a history of walking away from the six-nation talks, only to rejoin them, then to bolt again.

"We believe that the sooner talks resume, the faster the tension around this problem will fade," Igor Ivanov, chief of Russia's presidential Security Council, said in Moscow.

Japan's U.N. ambassador, Kenzo Oshima,

see N. KOREA, page 3

Believe those who are seeking the truth. Doubt those who find it.
— Andre Gide

THE SEVEN-YEAR VET

There are times in life when getting older isn't all that it's cracked up to be

A couple of weeks ago, I was hanging out with some of my friends at Dave and Busters in lovely Milpitas.

We were taking advantage of the late night happy hour and playing video games as well.

Yes, I am a nerd who likes cheap drinks.

Although Dave and Busters is a family place during the day, after 11 p.m., you have to be over 21 to stay inside.

But as I was looking around at the people drinking and acting foolish, I swear I felt like my friends and I were the oldest people there.

Everyone else looked 19. They were over exaggerating their drunkenness and being a little too loud.

I made fun of how everyone looked and dressed. They were dressed weird with really baggy clothes or really tight clothes, and their weird hairdos made it that much easier for me not to like them.

It was at that point that I had a weird moment.

I felt too old to be there.

Have you ever felt this way?

I do.

And it is almost on a daily basis that I feel like this.

Considering that most of the San Jose State University campus is full of 18-20 year olds, most of you reading this have probably never thought, "I feel old."

In fact, most of you youngsters probably complain about being too young.

You feel like you aren't taken seriously because you are still looked at as a kid or you are mad because you can't get in to the 21-and-over places around downtown.



ANDREW TORREZ

So to those of you that don't feel this way, well, you can stop reading and go watch your MTV or break dancing or whatever it is you kids do.

To the rest of you SJSU veterans, please keep reading. And I hope some of you feel the same as

me, because I really don't want to be the only one. At school, bars, clubs and even where I work, I always feel too old to be there.

Sometimes I even feel too old to go to the mall. I feel like I should be out at Kohls buying trousers and

suspenders.

OK, that is an exaggeration, but I feel that old sometimes.

I am 24, which isn't really that old. But when I talk to freshmen on campus, I feel like a dinosaur.

I know I am not the oldest on campus or even the oldest on the Spartan Daily staff, but I swear I just feel so old sometimes.

It could be because this is my seventh year here at SJSU, and I am just really sick of coming to campus five days a week.

So I apologize to those reading this thinking I am just another kid complaining about nothing.

I don't feel physically old. I don't need a cane or a hearing aid, and I can still walk, jog and play the sports I love to play.

I feel mentally old, if that makes sense.

Going to SJSU on a daily basis has drained me. A year here is like aging in dog years.

One school year equals seven human years. It's true, look it up.

Each Fall semester I see a bunch of happy fresh-

man coming to campus. They look so young and ready for their college experience.

They are ready to go to all their classes and get good grades.

I envy them.

I still wish I had that hopefulness.

But no, I am old. I am a seven-year vet here at SJSU.

The glitz and glamour of the college experience has worn off.

I can't even enjoy drinking at bars as much as I used to because I get annoyed of the young people that go.

I can't wait to get out of college and go into the real world.

I want an actual job where I will be the youngest on the staff. And I can go to bars with my older co-workers and they can get annoyed of me for acting young.

But for now, I will tough it out and get over my age.

Now if you excuse me, I am going to finish my can of Ensure and go to the "early bird special" at Denny's.

Andrew Torrez is the Spartan Daily sports editor. "The Seven-Year Vet" appears every other Wednesday.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

In regards to both the Oct. 24 article, "A.S. events have mixed reactions," and the Oct. 26 letter, "A.S. might want to ask students where their money is going before spending it," I have an opinion.

Of the \$73.50 for Associated Student enrollment being paid by each student, only a fraction of a dollar actually goes to A.S. events. If we have roughly 30,000 students, and \$17,000 goes to events, it is obvious that the bulk of the funds do not go to A.S.'s attempt to boost campus unity and school spirit through on-campus activities.

I believe that any individual student would not mind paying a few cents for a noontime show, evening concert or inflatable playground. If anything, they would appreciate it rather than spending large amounts of money downtown, or maybe sitting around in their dorm room.

The activities actually benefit students and campus life. Student employees who are involved in setting up and working these events are benefiting

by having a secure job and earning money, and the actual production of said events works towards the university's mission "to enrich the lives of students."

Just because there maybe a low turnout does not mean that it is a waste. The problem I find with the unpopularity of ev+ents on campus is due to a lack of proper advertising.

How many students walking by the Event Center pay attention to the electronic marquee where Homecoming activities were advertised?

Having previously lived on campus and being surrounded by campus life everyday, I rarely heard of anything happening on campus until I happened to walk by the event.

I am sure that attendance would be greater if students were actually aware of what was going on with proper notice in advance, rather than simply stumbling upon it.

Sarah Armes
English
Junior

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

This letter is written in response to the letter to the editor by Kelley Muldoon published in the Oct. 26 of the Spartan Daily. Out of the \$73.50 of the Associated Students fee, only about \$0.56 from each student went toward the \$17,000 that A.S. spent on Homecoming events.

As stated in A.S. mission statement, we strive "to represent the students of San Jose State University and continually improve the quality of their educational opportunities and experiences."

This means that our special events and marketing department, which organizes Homecoming and other programs such as the Spartan Squad, is just one branch of A.S.

Additional departments and services that are funded by A.S. fees include the Print Shop, Computer Services Center, Child Development Center, Cesar Chavez Community Action Center, Campus Recreation, Transportation Solutions, General Services and Government.

A.S. also provides scholarships, the fund for which was increased this year from \$30,000 to \$60,000. Students may apply for these scholarships through the Financial Aid and Scholarships office.

We also provide funding to student organizations and their events, the budget for which was increased this year to \$200,000 from \$110,000.

A.S. is looking to further improve funding for students by 2007 so that individual students may receive subsidy for professional development such as higher education placement exams (MCATs, GREs, etc.) and conference registration fees.

Student input is sought after throughout every

stage of these funding procedures. Decisions are generally made through committees that have student membership; for example, Homecoming events were approved by the A.S. Programming Board.

Surveying is another method utilized to measure the satisfaction of particular services. We also invite students to contact A.S. Directors and staff directly with their suggestions and concerns, such as speaking during public forum at Board meetings every second and fourth Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the Ohlone Room of the Student Union.

In addition, the annual budget is a public document that is available by requesting a copy at the A.S. House, located by Duncan Hall. The budget process takes several months, and students can provide their input for the 2007-2008 budget by speaking at Finance Committee meetings, which are held every first and third Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. at the A.S. House.

In addition, the Finance Committee has an open voting student position, as do many other committees. Applications are available at the A.S. House or on the A.S. Web site at www.as.sjsu.edu.

Concerns with the cost of course fees or the quality of classroom supplies or cafeteria food should be directed to the various departments or organizations that provide them, such as Spartan Shops, the University, or the State Legislature. A.S. directors can help students in lobbying for these improvements.

I hope that you encourage your readers to continue to give A.S. and the university more constructive input such as that provided by Kelley Muldoon.

Che Angkham
A.S. Vice President

GUEST COLUMN

Third-party candidates deserve a fighting chance when running

Last week, the Spartan Daily reported that the Associated Student Body registered about 500 San Jose State University students to vote in the upcoming Nov. 7 election. Two questions come to mind: Will they vote, and, will it matter?

Statistics prove that voters generally shy away from the booths in non-presidential elections, and since pivotal seats in Congress are up for grabs that could empower the flailing Democrats, both parties are encouraging their members to get out and vote on Tuesday.

Democrats are hoping that citizens are so unhappy with the state of the country that they will show up in droves to vote out incumbent Republicans.

Republicans are hoping that the faith that voters put in President Bush in 2004 by re-electing him will attract stalwart party members to keep Bush's team in power.

Do we want to send a message to our lawmakers that underlines our dissatisfaction with their inability to effectively deal with the things that matter?

How many years has Congress been faced with mounting pressure to deal with health care issues, immigration policies and political reform, only to adjourn without any comprehensive action plan for the future? What about Social Security?

How many years did it take to get this country into trillions of dollars of debt, particularly after a budget surplus of \$284 billion that former President Clinton left behind?

Why hasn't Congress called Bush to account for launching a pre-emptive strike against Iraq and deliberately misleading the people of this country?

I can forgive my parents for lying to me about Santa Claus, but when you examine past administrations' creativity with the meaning of truth, there is every reason to question authority as opposed to blindly believing.

So you'll excuse me if I'm not all yippee skippee over an opportunity to send Congress a mixed message — that my vote is a belief in the democratic process and I'm OK with the status quo.

Whether you're angry or satisfied with the system,

the election's outcome will simply create another chapter in the same old story.

Politicians' promises will crumble like piecrusts and voters will forget they ever made any.

The bottom line: This country is split down the middle when it comes to party affiliation, and this chasm has created a power vacuum in Congress — a black-hole of contentious, rich people with minds void of vision for this country outside the scope of official party platforms; nothing gets done because that is the safest way to play politics.

In a recent series titled "Broken Government," CNN political commentator Jack Cafferty has advocated that all incumbents be thrown from office, no matter what party they are affiliated with.

Frustrated by a well paid Congress that met only 94 days in its last session and failed to pass significant legislation dealing with the aforementioned issues, Cafferty said that it's time to fire our representatives and send them a message: If you can't deal with the problems, get out.

Cafferty said that many people disagree that sending new representatives will change anything or improve the inertia that plagues both Houses, but "it can't get any worse."

I disagree. A few new faces from the "other party" are not going to affect change in Congress.

I would go further. Vote out every single incumbent and elect a third-party candidate — dump your two-party ideals and find a candidate whose values really represent your own; a candidate who is not ideologically bound by big-party politics; candidates who can affect change because they're the swing vote on the issues instead of side-lined to what their parties expect of them.

Insist that third-party candidates be included in debates; get to know where they stand; start campaigning for campaign reform to put limits on the deep pockets of the two-party candidates.

Then maybe we'll all have something to be yippee skippee about.

Mary Beth Hislop is a Spartan Daily staff writer. Guest columns appear every Tuesday and Wednesday.



MARY BETH HISLOP

See additional Sparta Guide entries on page 5.

Questions? Comments?
Interested in writing a guest column?
Contact the Spartan Daily at
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A letter to the editor is a response to an issue or a point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

Only letters between 200 to 400 words will be considered for publication.

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N. Korea-Sanctions hot button issue

Continued from page 1

called the development "a welcome first step, but there are many, many other things that we need to closely monitor and watch." Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso was quoted as saying a resumption of talks "is conditional on North Korea not possessing nuclear weapons."

Just a week before contentious U.S. congressional elections, it was a diplomatic victory for Bush. Democrats gave it a qualified but skeptical endorsement.

"It may ultimately be a positive step forward, but it is clearly not sufficient to produce the goal we all want to achieve — a halt to North Korea's nuclear weapons' activities," said Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada. He urged Bush to name a special envoy to Pyongyang and to engage in direct U.S.-North Korean talks.

Republicans cast it as a sign of Bush's foreign-policy leadership. "The president's strategy has effectively isolated North Korea from its neighbors in the region and now appears to have returned that rogue regime to the negotiating table," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.

However, China's leaning on its communist neighbor appeared to be the major factor in the progress, not U.S. diplomacy, and Bush acknowledged Beijing's role in Oval Office comments to reporters.

China, the largest supplier of oil for North Korea, has more leverage than any other country with Pyongyang. In a possible sign of Beijing's growing impatience, Chinese exports of diesel and heating oil to North Korea dropped substantially in September from a year ago, though exports of gasoline, liquefied petroleum gas, kerosene and jet fuel rose, according to Chinese cus-

Calcium enriched fright



PEARLY CHAN/DAILY STAFF

Briana Cruz, a sophomore majoring in English and an employee in the Market Cafe, works among Halloween decorations on Monday.

toms data.

The six-nation talks — involving North and South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and Japan — have been stalled since last November. North Korea has boycotted them, largely to protest U.S. financial sanctions that target alleged counterfeiting of U.S. currency and money laundering.

Washington has insisted those sanctions, which include a freeze on North Korean bank accounts in Macau, are unrelated to the nuclear weapons dispute.

For its part, the North stepped back from its demand that the financial restrictions be lifted before it would return to nuclear talks. And Washington agreed for the first time to discuss the financial sanctions at the nuclear talks, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, the U.S. negotiator, told reporters in Beijing.

Hill said the talks could resume as early as November or December. "We took a step today toward getting this process back on track," he said. But, he added, "We are a

long way from our goal still. ... I have not broken out the cigars and champagne quite yet."

White House press secretary Tony Snow sought to play down U.S. concessions. He insisted that the United States made no promises to link the financial-sanctions dispute to the nuclear one, only agreeing that "issues like that may be discussable at some future time."

At the State Department, spokesman Sean McCormack said he was sure there would be "an opportunity for us to have direct talks" with North Korean negotiators in the context of the six-party framework. He said the negotiations would probably take place in Beijing.

The six-party talks had originally been intended to persuade Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear ambitions. But its nuclear test changed the debate and the stakes.

"No one wants North Korea to continue its nuclear weapons program, particularly after the North Koreans tested a nuclear device,"

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in an interview on CNBC. She said the U.S. wanted "concrete steps" toward denuclearizing the Korean peninsula. "It really doesn't make sense again for us just to go back and talk," Rice said.

The Security Council voted unanimously on Oct. 14 to impose sanctions on Pyongyang, including a ban on major weapons shipments and restrictions on sales of luxury goods.

"The big question now is, will we meet and will we have anything new to talk about? The North still doesn't trust us, and we don't trust North Korea," said John Wolfstahl, a former nonproliferation official with the U.S. Energy Department.

IRAQ- U.S. looks to increase force to 325,000

Continued from page 1

ing portrayed as beholden to Washington.

Rumsfeld did not cite a dollar figure or reveal how many extra Iraqi forces would be developed, beyond the 325,000 target that U.S. officials say they expect to reach before year's end.

Two defense officials said Tuesday that the expected increase was far fewer than 100,000, and one official suggested it might be about 30,000. Those officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

CBS News reported on Monday that Casey had recommended expanding the Iraqi security forces by as much as 100,000.

Rumsfeld said the final decision on expanding the Iraqi security forces would be announced in Baghdad.

Asked whether such an increase would mean that U.S. troops would have to stay in Iraq longer to train the extra forces, Rumsfeld said he doubted it. Nor would it necessarily require a higher number of U.S. trainers, he said.

U.S. government approval is required for any plan to expand the size of the Iraqi forces because it could not be accomplished without additional U.S. funds and the provision of U.S. trainers and U.S.-acquired equipment.

Rep. Ike Skelton of Mis-

souri, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said expanding the Iraqi security forces likely means it will take more than the 12 to 18 months Casey has estimated it will take to get the Iraqis fully in control of their own security.

"Congress must have a clear explanation of why these additional forces are needed, what additional American training resources will be put in place, and how this new training plan will allow for a decreased commitment from American forces," Skelton said.

The current plan is to develop 325,000 Iraqi security forces, including the army, police and border control forces. The number trained and equipped thus far is about 310,000, and the final target is expected to be reached by year's end.

However, there are actually fewer than 310,000 Iraqi security forces who are available for duty, since about one-quarter of them are on leave or otherwise not available at any given time, U.S. officials say. Also, their effectiveness has been limited by a lack of heavy weapons and armor, by a high rate of absenteeism, and by an unwillingness of some locally recruited units to fight outside their home areas.

The Pentagon said Tuesday that there are now 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, up from 147,000 last week.



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Spartans golf teams near halfway point of fall seasons

Gomez and Stallworth lead the way for SJSU

By Ryan Berg
Daily Staff Writer

The men's golf team of San Jose State University is almost done with the first half of its season, and coach John Kennaday is pleased with how the team has done so far.

"We're getting stronger," Kennaday said. "We're practicing hard and gaining a lot of experience; we're making steady progress."

Kennaday said the men's team has completed three events so far, and are currently in New Mexico for the Herb Wimberly Invitational.

According to the SJSU athletic Web site, sjsuspartans.com, the men's team has a second, a fourth, and a 12th place finish so far this season.

A couple of the men's golf team members to watch out for, according to Kennaday, are Stephan Stallworth and Aaron Conrad.

Stallworth, an 18-year-old freshman in his first year with the SJSU men's golf team, has earned three top-20 finishes so far in the season.

He placed second in the Alister MacKenzie Invitational in Corte Madera on Oct. 9 and 10.

"Stallworth is ranked up there," Kennaday said. "He's doing excep-



JENELLE GOMEZ



STEPHAN STALLWORTH

tionally well for a freshman."

Conrad, in his second season with the Spartans, dominated the Del Walker Invitational in Long Beach, coming in first place.

Once the team is finished in New Mexico, it will be heading to the University of the Pacific for the Pacific Invitational on Monday, Nov. 6 through Nov. 8.

With these two events left in fall, and spring starting in February, Kennaday says that it's hard to predict how the season will go.

"It's still very early in our season; there's so much to happen between now and then," Kennaday said.

The women's team however, has recently finished the first half of their season with exceptional results, women's golf coach John Dormann said.

"We had a very good fall season," Dormann said. "We played four tournaments, came in third three times and fifth once. We beat a few very strong teams."

Dormann said that the team he has this year is very committed and determined.

"They're excited to play," Dormann said. "You don't always have

that." Dormann said the team is on target for where they want to be, which is eventually making it to nationals.

The women's team, which is the reigning Western Athletic Conference champions, will be defending its title in New Mexico at the end of the spring season in April.

Jenelle Gomez, 2006 WAC individual champion on her third year with the women's golf team, said that she isn't intimidated by having to defend a championship.

"It's not pressure," Gomez said. "It gives me more confidence; wins always boost your confidence."

Gomez said that she has improved since last season as well.

"My 'OK' game now, is better than my 'good' game last year," Gomez said.

Gomez trained over the summer to increase her hitting distance and says it has paid off.

"I'm hitting more greens and now I need to capitalize on that," Gomez said.

Gomez said that her and the women's team are doing awesome and they all get along great with each other.

"We realized with the top five win at Stanford, how good we are," Gomez said.

Gomez said the team is not scared of being good and they don't shun away from the spotlight.

"We really want to get to nationals," Gomez said. "We belong there."

VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK: BUMP, SET, SPIKE

SJSU to face Fresno State



San Jose State University senior Kristina Conrad, right, and sophomore Colleen Burke reach to protect the net on Oct. 19 during a game against Louisiana Tech in Spartan Gym.

Lady Spartans to face WAC opponents in last three home games of the season

By Lindsay Bryant
Daily Staff Writer

Last week the San Jose State University volleyball team played in front of 4,000 University of Hawai'i fans, television cameras and the deafening yells and heckling that teams can face when playing an away game.

But the Spartans stole a game from the No. 15 ranked Rainbow Wahine in their 31-33, 30-27, 30-18, 30-24 loss in Honolulu on Sunday.

"They played hard (at Hawaii)," head coach Craig Choate said. "It's easy to get excited over there, but it was meaningful."

The Spartans will take a game win over nationally ranked Hawai'i with them to the Spartan

"The goal is to always win, we don't care in how many games, or how we do it. We just want to win."

—Craig Choate,
SJSU head coach

Gym on Thursday where they will host Fresno State.

In the last match-up of the two Western Athletic Conference teams, SJSU defeated Fresno in a five-game, 30-28, 30-23, 16-30, 25-30, 15-13, rout that the Spartans do not feel particularly proud of.

"Last time we just didn't play up to our ability," said sophomore outside hitter Kelly Crow. "We played at their level instead."

The level Crow refers to, places Fresno in a dismal second-to-last-place in WAC with a 4-18 overall record.

The game Thursday is the first of three consecutive home games for the Spartans.

"We tend to play better here," Choate said. "The goal is to always win, we don't care in how many games, or how we do it. We just want to win."

With Fresno's losing record, the Spartans hope they can pull off a win especially with the home-court advantage.

The Spartans boast a 6-3 home record that senior middle-blocker Dyana Thompson said is attributable to the SJSU fan presence.

"At home we are lot more con-

"Last time we just didn't play up to our ability. We played at their level instead."
—Kelly Crow,
SJSU outside hitter

fident," Thompson said. "The fan support is great. We hope to put on a really great show and come out strong."

The Spartans do hope to play well and beat the Bulldogs, though they will have to do it without Thompson.

In a home match against Louisiana Tech on Oct. 19, Thompson ran into the announcer's table adjacent to the net. She was trying to avoid getting in the way of a play, when she felt her kneecap pop in and out of place several times.

Thompson says that she has an appointment with her doctor in two weeks, but will remain on the injured list and on crutches for the next month.

"They said I have a slight tear in my meniscus and ACL," Thompson said. "So I will be in this lovely brace for a month."

The Spartans must trek on to their goal of making the NCAA tournament at the end of November.

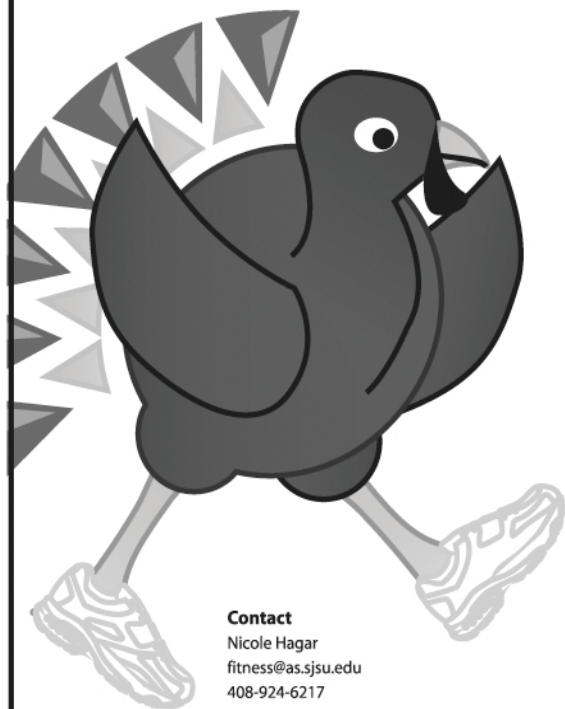
And if they build their record with wins at home to better their seed at the WAC tournament, that goal can become reality.

"We're going to take a shot at the NCAA's," Choate said. "I believe they want to make it too."

The Spartans host Fresno State in the first of three home games on Thursday in the Spartan gym at 7 p.m.

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Room with a view



CHANTERA GUNN/ DAILY STAFF

Cheu Wong, a senior majoring in art, admires the paintings on display at Pernilla Andersson's Master of Fine Arts exhibit in the Art building on Wednesday.

Governor's promised loan check is still in the mail

By Paul Elias

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A highly publicized \$150 million state loan that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger promised California's cash-strapped stem cell agency in July has yet to materialize, a delay apparently caused by red tape and election year politics.

Schwarzenegger's announcement on July 21 that "they need the money now" came the day after President Bush vetoed legislation that would have expanded federal funding of stem cell research, which many political conservatives oppose because days-old embryos are destroyed. At an emotional August meeting of the committee that manages the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, members praised Schwarzenegger for his political courage and were told by an aide to expect the money by the end of that month.

"This is a unique and extremely complicated financial transaction

with a lot of moving parts," said California Department of Finance spokesman H.D. Palmer. "It has taken a little bit longer than anticipated, but nobody has been slow on this."

The loan can't be authorized until a stem cell finance committee headed by state Treasurer Phil Angelides, Schwarzenegger's Democratic opponent in the gubernatorial race, convenes and approves it. No meeting has been scheduled.

But state officials said politics has nothing to do with the delay. Instead, they said they're working out a payment schedule among the stem cell agency's lenders, which include six philanthropic organizations that have ponied up a combined \$14 million.

A spokesman with the treasurer's office said he expects the finance committee to meet and approve the loan later this month, after the Nov. 7 election. He said the finance department gave no indication that the money was need-

ed immediately.

The stem cell agency was created by Proposition 71 in 2004 and is authorized to borrow \$3 billion to pay for human embryonic stem cell research that Bush blocked from federal funding. But two state court lawsuits filed by conservative groups challenging the agency's constitutionality have prevented it from borrowing any of that money.

An Alameda Superior Court judge earlier this year ruled in the agency's favor, but the loans from Wall Street bond buyers still can't be made until appeals are exhausted.

Meanwhile, it has been getting by on philanthropic donations.

The stem cell institute's spokesman Dale Carlson said the delay isn't surprising because of the unprecedented bureaucratic and legal channels the loan has to navigate before approval. He said the stem cell agency has enough cash to carry it through the end of the year.

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A recognized technology innovator who has authored 15 U.S. patents thus far, Dr. Cambou brings more than 21 years of industry leadership experience to his position as Spansion President and CEO. It is Dr. Cambou's unique insight that defines Spansion's strategic direction and brings focus to the company's ultimate objective: redefining the Flash memory market with solutions that will enable a more mobile, digital, media-rich global society. Dr. Cambou has also held executive and management positions at AMD, Gemplus and Motorola. He holds an engineering degree from Supelec, Paris, and a doctorate in electronics from Paris XI University.

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Black dissatisfaction toward GOP key to Democratic election hopes, poll shows

By Nancy Benac

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — So much for the Republican charm offensive toward minorities.

Black voters are far less likely to approve of the way President Bush is doing his job than voters generally and they are more likely to feel that the country is on the wrong track, disheartening news for a Republican Party that has been trying to curry favor with minority voters in recent years.

In what could be a particularly bad sign for Republicans in next week's midterm elections, black voters also are more likely to say that the Iraq war was a mistake and that recent disclosures of scandal and corruption in Congress will be very important to their vote, according to an Associated Press-AOL Black Voices poll conducted Oct. 23 through Monday.

Black voters have historically voted Democratic, and their votes are critical to Democratic hopes to win tight Senate contests in Tennessee, Missouri and Virginia.

Unhappiness among black voters is reflected by L.C. Washington, a 41-year-old Democratic graduate student from Montgomery, Ala., who says Bush is "the worst president in history," not to mention "the dumbest president I've ever seen — he's the devil." Washington lays blame for a laundry list of ills at the Republican Party's doorstep.

"Republicans are trying to win over black voters," says Washington, but "not doing a good job. Doing a poor job — the war, gas prices, job losses and the layoffs."

Even among black Republicans, there clearly still is work for the GOP to do.

"I don't think Republicans are doing any kind of reaching out to African-Americans," said 71-year-old L.D. Harper of Springfield Gardens, N.Y., who's been a Republican since he was 18.

While black voters say Republicans have done a poor job of representing their interests, they also have misgivings about the Democratic Party. Almost half of black voters said the Democratic Party takes their vote for granted; about a third said the party has done a poor job of representing their interests.

About a fourth of blacks said they weren't confident their votes would be counted accurately.

On the issues, black voters were most likely to rate the economy and health care as extremely or very important to them personally.

The AP-AOL Black Voices telephone poll of 900 black adults, 361 of whom are likely voters, was conducted by Ipsos. The margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, 5 percentage points for the black likely voters. The overall likely voter results are from an AP-AOL poll released last week.

About nine of 10 black voters have gone for the Democrats in recent elections.

Republicans, particularly party chairman Ken Mehlman, have tried to reach out to minority voters in recent years. Bush's draw on the black vote inched up to a still-anemic 11 percent in 2004. But since then the party has taken a hit because of widespread dissatisfaction with how the Bush administration responded to Hurricane Katrina last year.

Only 38 percent of blacks are confident the federal government would help them in a major disaster, according to the AP-AOL poll.

And while the Republican Party has strongly pushed the candidacies of black Republicans in the coming elections, the survey offers little hope that black GOP candidates hold special appeal for minority voters. More than eight in 10 black likely voters say the race of the candidate makes no differ-

ence to them.

"It just depends on their platform," said Cassandra Williamson-Moore, a black Democrat from Indianapolis. "You can't just vote strictly by race."

Prominent black candidates this year include Republican gubernatorial hopefuls Kenneth Blackwell in Ohio and Lynn Swann in Pennsylvania, GOP Senate candidate Michael Steele in Maryland, and Democratic Senate candidate Harold Ford Jr., in Tennessee. Republicans Steele, Blackwell and Swann are behind in the polls; Democrat Ford is running about even with his opponent.

Blacks are disproportionately unhappy with Bush, 89 percent of likely voters disapprove, compared with 61 percent of all likely voters.

But blacks' approval ratings for Congress — disapproval ratings, actually — are roughly similar to those for all likely voters. Some 83 percent of likely black voters disapprove of the way Congress is doing its job, compared with 75 percent of all likely voters.

David Bositis, of the Washington-based Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, said there's little variation in congressional approval numbers by race because Congress is so widely viewed as being "in the trash."

Overall, Bositis said, the Republican courtship of black voters sometimes looks like a case of "one step forward, two steps back."

"They're never going to succeed in attracting more African-American support until the party has some level of catastrophic failure and then decides to go back to the drawing board," he said.

Curtis Gans, director of American University's Center for the Study of the American Electorate, said voter turnout among blacks tends to be lower than among adults in general, but in 2004 they, like Americans overall, turned out in higher numbers.

He said voter discontent could boost turnout similarly this time, adding that: "The group that is the most uniformly anti-Republican at this time is African-Americans."

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