What news is good news?, page 2

Spartan softball splits series, page 4

'Monologues' empower women, page 6

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San Jose State University 150th Anniversary

ARIAN

Fees to go up 'roughly \$300 next year'

LUKE STANGEL

STAFF WRITER

The cost of education for most San Jose State University students is expected to jump by roughly \$300 next year, to cover state budget cuts and the renovation of two buildings on campus, state and university officials said Monday.

The California State University Board of Trustees last week approved a 10 percent tuition increase for the coming school year. The board indicated it would likely raise tuition again next year.

Separately, SJSU President Don Kassing is considering a \$40 increase in campus fees next year, to pay for the proposed renovation of the Student Health Center and the Student Union, Budget Director Cynthia Haliasz said.

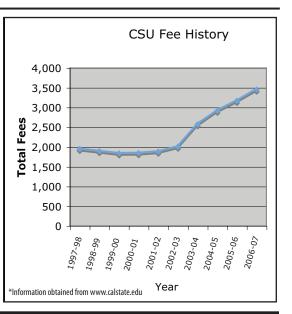
Full-time, undergraduate students at SJSU currently pay roughly \$3,300 per year in tuition and campus fees. If the proposed increases are approved, those students

would pay \$3,588 per year.

"Student fees are part of the overall revenue mix that is needed to sustain our outstanding university system," said CSU Board of Trustees Chair Roberta Achtenberg, in a news release. "... Currently, employee compensation for all employees accounts for 74 percent of the expenditure budget.

"The trustees are committed to bringing all sala-

see FEES, page 5



1st Black Thursday convenes at SU

YAEL REED WACHSPRESS

STAFF WRITER

Although it is open to everyone, about 60 African-American San Jose State University students mingled in the Student Union for the first official Black Thursday of



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIA BEDNAR/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ABOVE: John Ross, a senior majoring in chemical engineering, and Julie LaRoche, an alum from San Jose State University, spend time at Peanuts. BOTTOM RIGHT: Ross pours a glass of beer for himself.

Drinkers earn more, study says

Proposed retrofit may cost students

MARK POWELL

STAFF WRITER

The Student Union faces expansion, renovation and seismic retrofitting over the next five years in a massive campus facilities overhaul that would be paid for by San Jose State University students if it happens, school officials said.

According to the Executive Director of the Student Union, Cathy Busalacchi, SJSU students took part in focus groups and surveys over the last two years to inform university officials of renovations or additions they would like to see for the Student Union, Health Center and Sport Club.

the spring semester.

"Since there is not a lot of black students on campus, this gives us a chance to see each other to meet and mingle," said Zeke Staples, a senior majoring in kinesiology and one of the coordinators for the event.

Pauline Chege, a senior majoring in health science and director of events for the National Pan-Hellenic Counsel Inc., which consists of all nine of the African-American Greek organizations, helped organize and promote the event.

"It's a tradition of SJSU to once a month to have, not just Greek, but all black organizations and students ... to see what black organizations are on campus," Chege said.

Staples said that all of the black organizations on campus were invited, including the Black Student Union, the Black Alliance of Scientists and Engineers and the Nigerian Student Association.

According to Raysean Ford, a junior majoring in sociology and vice president of Delta Rho fraternity, the black community at SJSU in the past was not as strong. The concept for Black Thursday was originally an event created at SJSU for the African-American students to fellowship.

"I want to fellowship with my fellow black students and enjoy meeting new people," Ford said. "I want to make the black community on this campus stronger."

Black Thursday, which occurs every third Thursday of the month throughout the semester, was relocated from the amphitheater at noon to the music room at 9 p.m. for more personal communication among students, Staples said. Also, ROSSA DOÑO

STAFF WRITER

Drinking alcohol or beer could help you earn more money in the business world, according to a study published in the Journal of Labor Research.

Edward Stringham, an economics professor at San Jose State University and coauthor of the social drinking study said, "There are many people who assume that drinking is necessarily bad for you, but our data suggests that responsible, social drinking is a potentially productive activity.

"We found that people who socially drink, on average earn 10 to 14 percent more that non-drinkers," Stringham said.

Stringham and his co-author Bethany Peters surveyed 8,000 people, asking them questions about their characteristics, including marital status and income, Stringham said.

"I heard that you're more social," said

see STUDY, page 3



*Information obtained from "No Booze? You May Lose: Why Drinkers Earn More Money Than Nondrinkers," by Bethany L. Peters and Edward Stringham

Writer shares Mongolian experience

ADAM BROWNE

STAFF WRITER

About 30 people attended the lecture and book signing of Michael Kohn's travels in the country of Mongolia on Wednesday night in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library at San Jose State University.

He wrote two books, "Dateline Mongolia: An American Journalist in Nomad's Land" and "Lama of the Gobi: The Life and Times of Danzan Rabjaa."

Kohn began with a bit of his journalistic background and his reasons for wanting to travel the world following his education at University of California Santa Barbara.

"I wanted to join the Peace Corps, but their first assignment for me was Mongolia," Kohn said. "At the time it was the last place I wanted to go, but then I was offered a job at Mongol Messenger and ended up going there anyway, so I wanted to make the best of it."

Kohn said that although the country of Mongolia is three times the size of France, it has only 2.8 million people, and is one of the least densely populated nations on earth.

He also said that they are trying to encourage people

to marry and have children to increase the population.

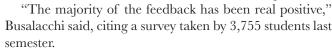
Cesar Serrano, a senior majoring in political science, is part of Global Conversations, a student organization on campus.

"I heard about this through Aurelia Figueroa," Serrano said. "The discussion was great because you never

see KOHN, page 5



PHOTO BY STEPHANIA BEDNAR/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Michael Kohn, an author and journalist who works for Lonely Planet and the Associated Press, gave a talk on his experiences working in Mongolia on Wednesday in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library.



Student fees would be raised \$40 a semester each semester for four years to pay for the project, with an \$80 per semester increase for the fifth year, Busalacchi said.

"I'm definitely for it. Costs are not going to get any cheaper, you know?" said Robert Griggs, a senior majoring in aviation. "Eventually we're going to have to renovate the buildings and it will cost about the same. Let's get some new buildings while we're at it."

According to Busalacchi, the majority of the funding for facilities renovations projects would need to come from student fees because there are no state funds for repairing buildings like the Student Union.

The Student Union doesn't charge students to use rooms, according to Busalacchi, and 80-85 percent of costs are handled by student fees. A smaller percentage of funds come from concerts and other events held at the Student Union, Busalacchi said.

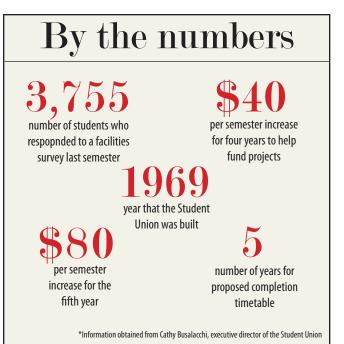
"The Student Union is operated by student fees," Busalacchi said. "And in the late 60s it was built by student fees."

Busalacchi said that the fee increase would cover the cost of seismically retrofitting the Student Union before proceeding with aesthetic renovations.

University President Don Kassing said that the Student Union needs to be brought up to seismic standards.

"We have to retrofit for obvious safety reasons," Kassing said. "And current student fees won't support this need."

see RETROFIT, page 3





OPINION

YOU WRITE LIKE A GIRL:

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

We did not change as we grew older; we just became more clearly ourselves. – Lynn Hall

Don't complain when only 2 percent of SJSU votes during A.S. Elections

the 29,000-plus students of San Jose State University, your vote could make or break the Associated Students election.

You are an intelligent human being, who in some way is getting an education to somehow better the world and contribute to society.

Stop me if I'm wrong.

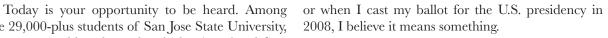
You walk past the A.S. election booth too busy and with too much on your mind to take time to cast a ballot for reasons that range from caring to not knowing to forming a conscience decision not to vote.

Yet simply recognizing that students at SJSU do not vote and the certain apathy with which it coincides, is really starting to influence my whole "think positive thoughts" mantra I've been trying to do ever since I opened a plastic Pandora box two weeks ago in an article on the Greek system.

Gore Vidal, the outspoken author and critic of the American political system, once said, "Half of the American people never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half."

You are half way to voting with this newspaper in your hand or on your computer. Now the simple answer is to pick up the A.S. voting guide at Clark Hall or go online to www.as.sjsu.edu and become a voter today.

I believe in my vote, whether it is for A.S. elections



Winston Churchill, a man I would trade a month of my life to share a single conversation with, said, "The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."

> As college students in San Jose, one of the most diverse universities in the country, we sit and wonder about the government. We discuss in class the changes we would make,

we question authority, we are unable to believe the decisions by our leaders and then on Election Day we see the long line and we walk away.

Sure it is a generalization that all college students do not vote, espe-

cially in terms of the presidential election or at the state level, but all politics are local and numbers do not lie.

May I present my first piece of evidence to the jury — in last year's highly uncontested A.S. election 469 students voted, according to a March 23, 2006 Spartan Daily article.

Four hundred and sixty-nine students represents roughly 2 percent of the population of SJSU.

Imagine it's your birthday and you invited 50 peo-

SPARTA GUIDE

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.

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

PreMed Club Food Drive

The PreMed Club is hosting a food drive until March 21. Barrels are located in Duncan Hall and Event Center Sport Club for drop-off. For more information, contact sjsu_premed_club@yahoo.com.

S7SU Catholic Campus Ministry

The SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry will be holding a "Hour of Power - Rosary Prayer Night," at 8 p.m. in the SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry Center. For more information, contact Kay Polintan at (408) 938-1610.

Women's Weekly Discussion Group

Join Counseling Services for their Women's Weekly Discussion Group from 1 to 2:20 p.m. in the Administration building, room 201. For more information, contact Beverly Floresca at (408) 924-5910.

OTIP

The Queers Thoughtfully Interrupting Prejudice will be holding its general meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union Almaden room. For more information, e-mail mastavic@mastavic.com.

Strong Interest Inventory

Join Counseling Services for Strong Interest

ple for a party at your apartment. The set party time of 23 candidates and three independents will inevistrikes and in walks your dependable and loyal best friend.

Followed by no one else.

Met by disbelief, closely followed by boredom, the party has just become a night on the couch with 2 percent of your party watching Friends reruns.

Your best friend did not suddenly become expendable, he or she is still the same person - the independent variable if you will - yet their importance just suddenly increased.

Amid friends who had made other plans, those who had car trouble or homework or a job they were late for, one person made the difference.

Metaphorically, the A.S. election and the lack of voting that will ensue today and tomorrow work much the same way.

In 2005, 1,627 students voted in the A.S. election, down 284 from the 1,931 who exercised their democratic muscles in 2004.

For the sake of your friend — the one friend who will represent you when it comes to big decisions like rallying at the state Capitol for lower tuition or deciding what encompasses your student fees — show up and vote.

Two new parties, SHIFT and Social Justice and Success for this University or S.J.S.U, representative tably be chosen to represent you and make decisions which will directly affect, at the very least, how much you pay to attend this college.

Do not relinquish your power to vote as 90 percent have done in the last three years, the way to create change is to be part of the process. And the process is the A.S. election.

For 2007-08 and perhaps beyond, these students will control \$6.5 million for A.S. activity fees. Second to the new student government are two initiatives on the ballot.

The first is a measure to approve changes within A.S. bylaws, something that should not be overlooked, but I believe in the foreground compared to the "CSU-SISU" initiative.

With a simple majority vote, which historically would amount to about 500 students, your SJSU sweatshirt, diploma and everything else near and dear to your SJSU heart will read San Jose State-CSU San Jose.

Make up your mind, make time today or tomorrow and don't walk past another election table.

Believe in your vote and become more than just 2 percent.

Lindsay Bryant is the Spartan Daily sports editor. "You Write Like A Girl" appears every Tuesday.

GUEST COLUMN:

ADAM BROWNE

Comedic news isn't always funny

Fake news can be fun.

The fake news programs on Comedy Central are fun and informative, but they aren't really news programs.

As soon as viewers take the stories on "The Daily Show" or "The Colbert Report" seriously, then it shows a lack of general knowledge on news.

This is not to say that regular cable news really reports the news either. Just

tune in to your Fox Network and hear more inane "News Alerts" about who might be Anna Nicole Smith's baby Danielle's father, and viewers begin to wonder, what is news?

So one network's news might be another network's joke writing material. Anyone who has seen In-

ternet clips of Smith baked out of her mind might wonder what the big deal is.

Fox and CNN have spent hours reporting so-called thunder.

Civil Liberties Union, likening both groups to fascists. The jokes were so not funny that they piped in canned laughter that was painfully obvious.

The lamest joke of all, what would happen if Newt Gingrich was the president of the United States and Anne Coulter was vice president and they solve every problem on earth in 100 days. This was their idea of humor, to have them simply solve everything.

I assumed a joke was a story with a witty climax. Not so with this idea.

I don't think so. Just putting a smart mouthed talk show host or a radically conservative author in the White House would be a disaster because neither person really knows anything about running a country. They never indicate in any skit that there is a joke to be found anywhere.

John Stewart has enough good sense to mock both sides of the political debate, but Fox does not.

Fox is in no danger of stealing Comedy Central's

When Fox used to be edgy with suggestive comedy like "Married with Children" and weird stories about conspiracy on "The X Files," they were actually worthy of note. Now they're too conservative for their own good, and behind the times. This article is not coming from a liberal bias, but if it were in this case it wouldn't be a bad thing. I'm actually conservative. After all, comedy is best when it mocks itself, plays to the silly stuff and makes people laugh.



The Listening Hour Concert Series Join the School of Music and Dance for "Live Music" with Electric Jazz and Contemporary Guitar from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in the Music Building Concert Hall. For more information, contact Joan Stubbe at (408) 924-4673.

Commonwealth Club Silicon Valley Presents: Lalita Tademy

Commonwealth Club Silicon Valley Presents: Lalita Tademy, author of "Red River." Her debut novel, "Cane River" received critical accolades and was selected to Oprah Winfrey's shows book club. The program and book signing is in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library and doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.commonwealthclub.org

Wednesday

African American Faculty And Staff Association African American Faculty And Staff Association present Part II, Ethnic and Racial Diversity Programs on College Campuses: Appeasement vs. Commitment from 12 to 2 p.m. in the Student Union, Costanoan room. For more information, contact Oscar Battle at (408) 924-6117.

Inventory, an event that puts emphasis on self-understanding, as well as career/major applications. The event will take place from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Career Center, Mod F. For more information, contact Deanna Peck at (408) 924-5910.

Thursday

S7SU Catholic Campus Ministry

The SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry will be holding the Alpha Omega Student Fellowship at 8 p.m. in the SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry D Lounge. For more information, contact Kay Polintan at (408) 938-1610.

Acts 2 Christian Fellowship Acts 2 Christian Fellowship has weekly Bible Studies at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Guadalupe room. For more information, contact Justin Foon at (415) 786-9873.

Campus Crusade For Christ

Students from all walks of life find fellowship, cutting edge music, dynamic Biblical instruction and a closer walk with Jesus in the Spartan Memorial at 8 p.m. For more information, contact Natalie Hill at (559) 230-7659.

news on celebrities. If it wasn't Smith, it was Britney Spears or some other famous, yet not newsworthy person. Meanwhile, somewhere in the world, there was likely a more interesting and provocative news story. They were just too busy covering the fluffy "human interest" stuff.

When John Stewart and his writers can come up with a more concise news story each day than regular cable news, and regular television news, it is a sad state of affairs for the news media.

Don't get me wrong. I think "The Daily Show" is a brilliant spoof of CNN and "The Colbert Report" is a dead on spoof of Fox, and they're funny, better than anything from "Saturday Night Live" over the past 20 years.

Fox didn't want to be outdone, so they decided to make their own version of "The Daily Show" and called it "The Half Hour News Hour" which premiered on March 3, but showed again on March 10.

Frankly the new program is indistinguishable from the material Fox normally calls news.

So, really there wasn't a laugh to be had. Fox obviously thought copying a sad old comedy hour gimmick from the mid '90s would be hip with the young people.

The program failed on every level. For starters, they made fun of the Democrats and the American

The hideous Fox version of comedy news was so dull and annoying that it seemed an insult on humor itself. Canned laugh tracks didn't cause me to crack even a smile. They never do.

Stewart and Colbert can laugh at themselves. That's why it's funny. They don't take comedy seriously. But Fox does take it seriously. Therein lies the problem.

Humor must be a difficult thing for stuffy conservative watchdogs. Maybe they shouldn't attempt it then. I'd rather watch paint drying on a wall while sick with stomach flu than watch any more of the Fox version of comedy.

Adam Browne is a Spartan Daily senior staff writer. Guest columns appear every Tuesday and Wednesday.

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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

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

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) 924-3282, e-mail at spartandaily@ casa.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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SPARTAN DAILY

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NEWS TUESDAY MARCH 20, 2007

Thursday- Event creates fellowship among students

Continued from page 1

around that time of the day it was hard to get students to stop and interact with one another.

"I think that people are a lot less intimidated, too, in a smaller room," Ford said.

"We wanted to take the time to make it big, and find alternative ways to make it better," Staples said. "We're having it at night because no one really shows up during the day."

"This is better but it seems like only black people are here, during the day we had a more mixed crowd," said Joe Udeoji, a senior majoring in health science and the president of the Nigerian Student Association.

Kayla Livingston, a sophomore majoring in hospitality management said, "I like it better inside. It's more personal."

"You get to interact with your fellow students. Plus, I haven't been to an event in a long time and it's fun to see everybody together," said Livingston.

In order to get things started Staples, one of the coordinators, initiated an icebreaker, which lasted only for about 10 minutes.

"Bring them all in the same room and now they have to talk," Staples said.

According to Alpha English, the event has lost some of its value. English, who is a member of Delta Rho and a graduate student, came to check out how well the undergraduates are representing the organization.

"Its 2007, not 2001. I'm used to back in the day, this is disappointing to me," said English.

Jenisha McCoy regional chair of the Black Alliance of Scientists and Engineers for the West Coast and a senior majoring in electrical engineering, attended.

"I know they had flyers, but I don't think a lot of people knew about it," she said. "I think it will be successful because not a lot of people have classes at night."

Chenece Blackshear, another member of the Black Alliance and a junior majoring in chemistry, was there for networking purposes among the other organizations on campus.

Anastasia Locklin, a sophomore majoring in psychology running for director of climate affairs, came to campaign and meet new people.

"During the day people are in and out of classes," said Locklin. "When they start having it consecutively and consistently, people will start to attend."

Study- Drinkers have networking advantage in social situations

Continued from page 1

Dean Ramos, a senior majoring in management information systems. "You talk to more people so it opens up opportunities."

People who go to bars and socially drink have the convenience of mingling with potential clients and business professionals, giving them the advantage of networking that non-drinkers don't have, Stringham said.

"If you drink too much and don't know your limits, no one will respect you. You have to find a balance," Ramos said.

One of the variables looked at whether people frequent bars Stringham said, "And people who did, earned seven percent more than people who didn't, so that's seven percent on top of the already 10 percent, more money than the person who does not go to bars or drinks.'

Jose Romero, a senior majoring in justice studies, said that it makes sense because there's more room to network, and when people drink, it's easier to socialize.

"Even though you don't know a person, people ease up when they drink, and you never know, that person may work somewhere that may benefit you," Romero said.

When asked how this study could affect college students, Stringham said that it is much safer for students to drink in a responsible public place than in a private setting.

"Many students are going to drink no matter what, and given that, they should be drinking in responsible social settings, rather than home alone," Stringham said.

Mark Ulanday, a senior majoring in occupational therapy said, "I consider alcohol as medication, right after finals - straight to (the San Jose) Bar 'n Grill. Drinking has its positives and negatives, but everything in moderation."

Stringham was especially concerned with universities banning alcohol at certain school functions.

"One policy that might not be a good idea," Stringham said, "is the recent de-

Retrofit- Planned renovation of SU would include plaza areas

Continued from page 1

Mugsy McCoy, a junior majoring in communications studies, said the current facilities at SISU are more than acceptable when compared to those found at Tuskegee University in Alabama, a college he previously attended.

"Tuskegee has real old-school facilities," McCoy said. "But there's no major,

big need at SISU for renovations." McCoy added that he most likely wouldn't be in favor of a fee increase to help fund the proposed building renovations.

"I wouldn't like that," McCoy said. "The Student Union and the Health Center are pretty decent."

Busalacchi said that the seismic evaluation of the Student Union may be completed by the end of 2007, with the actual retrofitting being finalized sometime nia, San Diego. According to Busalacchi, in 2008. According to Busalacchi, the UCSD's version of a student gathering university has hired "another firm" as a second voice for checking the Student Union's architectural and constructional needs.

Possible partnerships, including donors or sponsors, are also possibilities to help ease costs, Busalacchi said.

In a town hall meeting held at the Student Union last Thursday, Busalacchi, Kassing and Vice President of Student Affairs Veril Phillips administered a presentation that outlined proposed costs and included artist renderings of potential reconstruction results.

Busalacchi said that renovations would expand the Student Union westward and create plaza areas where students could congregate, socialize or run special events.

"Right now, we don't have enough space for students," Busalacchi said.

In referencing possible renovations to SJSU's Student Union at the meeting, Busalacchi showed a slide show of pictures that included an image of a student gathering space at University of Califorspace was constructed in the late 1980s "That's how far behind we are," Busalacchi said. "Students already have that."

DAVID NGUMAN

WILL BRING

SEXY BACK TO

SULLE.

VOTE FOR HIM AND S.J.S.U. PARTY

og in and vote at my.sjsu.edu

cision by the California State University system to stop serving alcohol at football games."

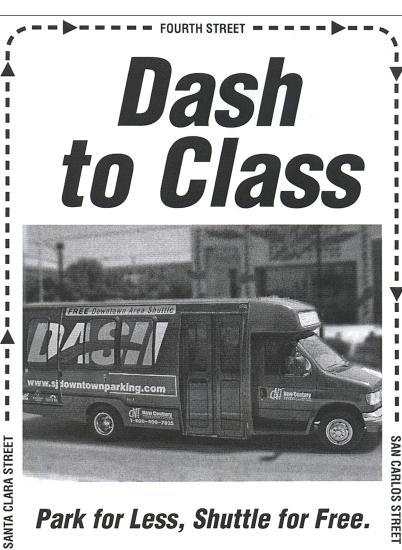
"It's going to remove an area where students can engage in responsible social drinking, and it's going to mean students are going to engage in less responsible drinking."

Although the data did point to a higher income for those who socially drank, Stringham didn't think it was something that could help people financially.

"I had pretty much had just assumed that drinking was something people did just for fun," Stringham said. "I didn't think it increased peoples earning, so I was surprised at the results. But after thinking about it and discussing the ideas, I think this is something that many businesses have known for a long time."

Stringham got involved with this study when his co-author Bethany Peters had the curiosity to run the study. He said it took about two years to complete the survey and the writing for the article.

The article, "No Booze, You May Lose, Why Drinkers Earn More Money than Non-Drinkers." was published in the Journal of Labor Research.



The Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) stops at Fourth Street and Paseo de San Antonio, connecting San Jose State University to the San Jose Diridon Train Station, VTA Light Rail, lots of cheap parking and other downtown locations.

DASH runs about every 10 minutes from 6:17 a.m.

Juane Pruitt, the Black Thursday event chair and a sophomore whose major is undeclared, said that it was a group decision to move the event into this new location.

to 7:13 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on major holidays. For a DASH flier and schedule, call 279-1775. www.sjdowntownparking.com















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Join us at Samuel Merritt College Preview Day



Saturday, April 14, 2007 9:00 a.m.

SMC Health Education Center 400 Hawthorne Avenue Oakland RSVP: www.samuelmerritt.edu/

admission/preview_rsvp



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Camuel Merritt College, a premier **O**health sciences institution, offers an outstanding education in:

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- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Master Physician Assistant
- Master of Occupational Therapy
- Master of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing

College Preview Day is designed for prospective students and their families to learn about the College, including program overview sessions, campus tours and financial aid information.

Low-Cost Home Equity Solution \$50,000 for **\$255 a month!**

Improving your home this spring? Consolidating bills? Make it extra affordable with a Home Equity Line of Credit from USE Credit Union.

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SPORTS

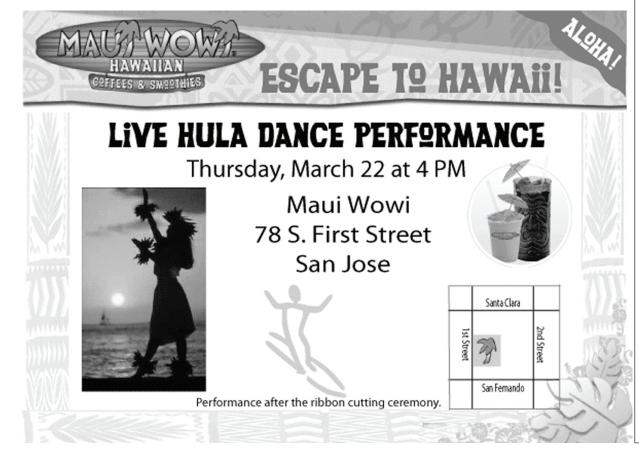
Sports page correction

On Thursday March 15, the sports page ran an article on the lacrosse club team at San Jose State University. The headline read "Lacrosse travels west to California; gains NCAA status" incorrectly inferring that SJSU gained NCAA Div. 1 status. Instead the SJSU lacrosse team is part of the developing Div. B Western Collegiate Lacrosse League.

Alexis Higlett, a senior attacker, keeps the ball away from Jazmin Brown, a senior utility player from Princeton University in Saturday's win over Princeton 22-9. The Spartans beat the University of Maryland the next day 10-6.



PHOTO BY LAUREN SAGAR/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Softball team wins, then loses

keep the Mercer hitters off balance

"Our coaches mixed-up a lot of my pitches and I think that really

Mercer was able to push across

the tying run in the top of the

6th inning, but the Spartans an-

swered back in the bottom half of

stop Elizabeth Robertson belted a

home run over the left field fence,

was just looking for a pitch where

I could hit the ball hard," Robert-

son said. "She hung a pitch over

that I was on it."

the plate, I didn't think

it was gone but I knew

Harrison was re-

placed with one out in

the top of the 7th inning

by pitcher Roxanne Be-

jarano, who promptly struck out two batters,

preserving the win for

the Spartans and pick-

ing up her third save of

Head coach Peter

Turner was pleased with

the way his team was

able to win a close ball-

game, but was less than

enthused about the way

his team played during

the way we are trained

to," Turner said. "For

the last six games we

have been playing to the

level of our competi-

tion, and (Mercer) is not

a team that should beat

"We are not playing

the doubleheader.

the year.

putting the Spartans ahead 2-1.

With two outs, Spartan short-

"We only needed one run and I

out six Bears' hitters.

helped," Harrison said.

the inning with a bang.

the entire game.

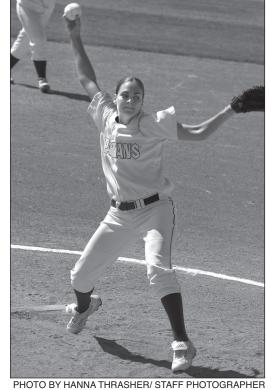
JOSH WEAVER

STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State University softball team split a pair of highly contested games with the visiting Mercer University Bears on Monday, winning the first game of the doubleheader 2-1 before dropping the second game 5-4.

The Spartans went ahead 1-0 in the bottom of the 3rd inning of game one when Elizabeth Perez, who led-off the inning with a walk, scored on designated hitter Sarah Smiths' sacrifice fly.

Spartan starting pitcher Kelly Harrison pitched 6 1/3 innings allowing only four hits and striking



Kelly Harrison, an undeclared junior, pitches against Mercer University yesterday at the Municipal Stadium

us. It is that simple, we are not ex-Harrison said she was able to ecuting."

Bejarano pitched seven strong innings in game two for the Spartans striking out three and giving up five unearned runs.

The Spartans struggled on defense during the second game committing four errors, leading to the five Mercer runs.

"Four errors is not what we are built around," Turner said. "We are built around solid defense and that didn't happen. We made some mistakes and that cost us."

Trailing 5-1 in the final inning the Spartans had runners on first and second with nobody out.

After plating one run, Brittnay McConnell doubled to center field driving in two runs and cutting the deficit to a single run with only one out in the inning.

The rally stopped there as Robertson grounded out — stranding the tying run on second base.

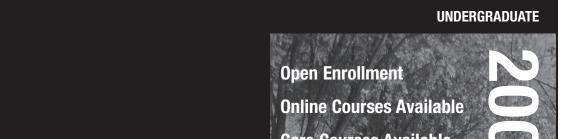
"We came out thinking we had it in the bag," McConnell said. "The first game we got lucky, we found a way to win.

"The second game we weren't there to back up our pitcher, I mean four errors is ridiculous," she said.

Turner plans on tightening up a few loose ends in practice this week before heading into Western Athletic Conference play.

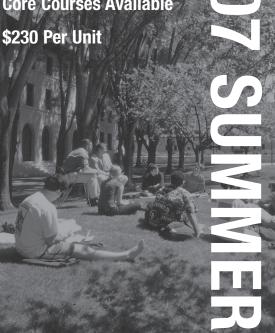
"My concern right now is the way our approach is at the plate, we have to make adjustments," Turner said. "We also need to shore up our defense and be a lot sharper there."

The Spartans (14-12) begin conference play this weekend when they host New Mexico State University at SJSU Field. Game one of the Friday doubleheader is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.



Arab Journalist Khaled Abu Toameh "One year after Hamas' victory, where are the Palestinians headed?"

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NEWS MARCH 20, 2007

Kohn-Mongolia 'went through four prime ministers' in 20th century

Continued from page 1

really hear about Mongolia or other central Asian countries. It's a great opportunity to inform people about them, and other countries struggling to transition from Soviet influences, and from communism to democratic government."

Mongolia is situated right in the middle of Asia and borders two of the world's prominent nations, Russia and China.

"Mongolia borders the former Soviet Union, now called Russia, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and was once connected to the Silk Road where ancient people traded goods," Kohn said.

Uyanga Jigjidsuren, a marketing major from De Anza College, will be transferring to SJSU in the fall.

"I am from Mongolia, from the capital city of Ulaan Bataar," Jigjidsuren said. "I have been here two and one half years. I thought the talk was awesome and it was accurate. A lot of negative things go on in Mongolia, but he chose to mention the positive things too."

Genghis Khan conquered most of the Asian world in the 13th Century, Kohn said, after ending a civil war that had lasted between nomadic tribes for 25 years.

"The Great Wall of China never kept them out because they found ways of getting over it, bribing guards at the gates or breaking through it in weak spots," Kohn said. "Eventually the Mongolian

warlords influenced and conquered China and parts of Russia."

However, Genghis Kahn's descendants continued the legacy of his empire.

"His ancestor, Kublai Khan, expanded the empire from the Pacific to Poland," Kohn said. "He founded what was called Beijing."

John Doherty, a junior majoring in history, thought that it was an interesting history lesson.

"From a history student's standpoint, it's very interesting to hear about cultures, going to that culture and immersing yourself into that culture," Doherty said.

Aurelia Figueroa, founder of Global Conversations, is the executive director of the American Youth Scholarship Foundation and she said that it was the most interesting event Global Conversations has had thus far.

"It's amazing how Mike (Kohn) manages to weave history, religion and politics seamlessly in one presentation," Figueroa said.

According to Kohn, in 1911 the Manchu Dynasty collapsed, leading to communism in 1921, which took hold in Mongolia until 1990 when democracy was adopted.

"The Mongolians have a nomadic culture that clashes with Russian culture, so there are a lot of artifacts from the era of Stalin there," Kohn said.

The communists outlawed religion and destroyed many Buddhist temples, Kohn said, but after communism ended, missionaries from

other countries brought Buddhism in counseling education, thought back. The country is mostly Tibetan Buddhist with a little Christian and a smaller amount of Muslim influences.

"Ironically, a large movement of Buddhism came from Australia," Kohn said.

According to Kohn, it took awhile for democracy to work in Mongolia. They went through four prime ministers late in the 20th Century. Then the Socialist party emerged and gained influence.

"The socialists were formerly communist," Kohn said. "They lured young voters and newlywed voters through big elections that were like a national holiday. The opposition in these elections wins always."

That is, until the last election in 2004, Kohn said. It was a tie, so they decided to split the government evenly, half democratic and half socialist.

Kohn explained about Mongolian lifestyle, about their tent like vurts, and mobile cities, as they never quite stopped being nomadic.

His book, "Dateline Mongolia: An American Journalist in Nomad's Land" details much of his experiences in the country.

"Nomads move three or four times a season when it is bitter cold, sometimes as low as 20 degrees Fahrenheit," Kohn said. "They have to find pastures for their grazing animals. In 1999, five million head of cattle died because it was a very bad winter."

Otilia Ahad, a graduate student

that it was very informative.

"I liked the landscapes (from the slideshow) and the pictures of hills and mountains, and how he was informative about different cultures," Ahad said

During the winter months, the nomads have something called the eagle hunt, Kohn said. They use giant eagles to stalk foxes on the ice and catch them.

"An eagle can see 10 times better than a man," Kohn said. "They use them to catch game. I was on an expedition once and it took 10 days to find a gold fox, but when they did, there was a big celebration, and one of the trappers got a fox fur hat out of it."

In the summer, they have festivals where young men and even children ride bareback on horses and they have rodeos and horse races across the steppes, Kohn said.

"The horses are half wild," Kohn said. "They catch the horse and tame it enough to ride, and then bring it to the celebration. Even young children can ride and perform in their version of a rodeo. They are quite skilled horsemen."

Mongolia has a large abundance of minerals and copper, Kohn said, but the rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer.

In terms of education, Kohn said, Mongolian children are well educated in English and the literacy rate in the cities is 97 percent for men and 99 percent for women.

Fees- CSU Board of Trustees raised tuition 91% since 2002

Continued from page 1

ries up to market rate in order to remain competitive. We cannot move forward on this effort without either a larger portion of the state general fund or an increase in student fees."

Here at SJSU, the Associated Students has organized a letterwriting campaign opposing the tuition increase, said Jessica Loebig, director of extracurricular affairs.

"I believe that all students have the right to an education,' Loebig said. "It shouldn't just be a privilege for those who can afford it."

A.S. also plans to lobby state senators next month to reverse the tuition increases, Loebig said.

The CSU Board of Trustees has raised tuition in five out of the last six years — totaling a 91 percent increase in tuition since 2002, said Nadir Vissanjy, chairman of the California State Student Association, a group that lobbies for the interests of the 417,000 students in the CSU system.

"What's happening is that the

state is balancing the budget on the backs of students," Visanjy said. "There is a lack of investment into higher education. There must be a cultural shift. We must value higher education."

In recent years, the CSU Board of Trustees has approved tuition increases to offset state budget cuts totaling \$524 billion, CSU spokesman Paul Browning said.

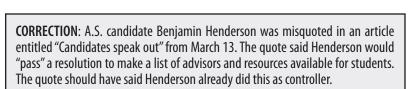
Still, the cost of attending a CSU school remains less than the cost of attending a comparable university, Browning said.

"CSU students will pay, on average, \$3,451 with the increase," Browning said. "The average fulltime fee among universities that are comparable in the U.S. is about \$6,600. ... We're still a great deal. The best deal in town."

SJSU's Associated Students will hold a meeting tonight at 6 p.m. in the recreation center in Campus Village's Building B on how students can lobby lawmakers, Loebig said.

"It's hard for one student to do something by themselves," Loebig said. "But if we come together, that's when we'll have the strongest voice."





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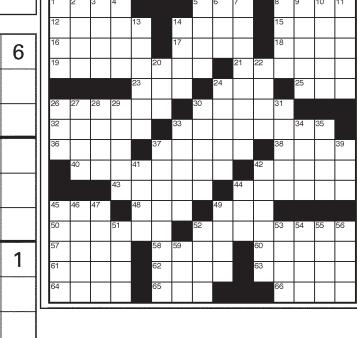
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FROM AN ENTERTAINMENT PERSPECTIVE:

'The Vagina Monologues' offers a piece of mind

MEGAN WOOD

STAFF WRITER

If your vagina could talk, what would it say? If it wore clothes, what would it wear? These were just two of the questions raised at the Women's Resource Center's benefit performance of "The Vagina Monologues," which came to a close Friday night in Morris Dailey Auditorium.

"It was very informative and interesting - I liked how it brought humor but also dealt with serious and important issues," said Lydia Avelar, all feelings of being a woman. a senior majoring in psychology.

The performances were showcased Thursday and Friday night to raise funds for Asian Americans for Community Involvement's Asian Women's Home, Young Women's Christian Association Rape Crisis Center and Casa Amiga in Juarez, Mexico.

"This cause is very important to me, there are far too many people that think it's OK to treat women poorly," said Candy Price, a senior

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majoring in theatre and one of of "butt-floss," or thongs and gthe volunteer actresses. "I love strings, and how regular cotton performing, so to raise awareness through performing ties two major loves together."

The show is a compilation of many women's experiences with puberty, sex, rape and their over-

"Women should not forget their vaginas or be ashamed of their bodies ... this year lets focus on empowering women and recognizing strong vaginas," said Nancy Del Castillo, this year's volunteer coordinator and active member in Santa Clara University's Women's Resources.

Both men and women attended the show, including Eduardo Higareda, a sophomore majoring in music education, who came to support his girlfriend and felt that the performance was "a great way for women to speak their minds and be heard, and supports a good cause."

And speak they did.

One part of the performance that, seemingly, had women nodding their heads was "My Angry Vagina" about the woes of womanhood.

First to be addressed was the discomfort of "dry, stiff tampons" and "would it kill someone to lubricate them?'

Next was the joy of the annual Pap smear, a pelvic examination that women endure to detect cancer and other abnormalities.

From the harsh metal stirrups to the nurse's encouraging, albeit laughable, "scoot down further dear, and RELAX" and finally, the frosty duck-lip calipers that aren't supposed to hurt, but do.

No stone was left unturned. The women then shared their confusion over the fascination

panties should be installed with "French Ticklers."

You know, for happier vaginas. "I hope people realize that while it is a very entertaining show, these are real women's stories and real experiences ... it's serious too," Price said.

While the evening was mostly lighthearted and humorous, there were definitely somber moments that dealt with issues of rape and domestic violence.

One such experience was of a 13-year-old-girl who had been raped by her father's friend while he was over for poker night. The girl's father shot the man while he was raping his daughter and due to the incident, the girl's mother refused to allow the girl to see her father again.

Another monologue detailed the acid burnings of girls in the Middle East who lost their virginities or had been raped and therefore dishonored the family. The story described the fiery burn and the smell of melted skin, as well as the pain of being a hated member of the community.

It was monologues and stories like these that spoke truth to the statistic that every two and a half minutes someone is sexually assaulted in America, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network.

One in six women will be victims of sexual assault, compared to one in 33 men. Meanwhile, only 41 percent of these crimes will be reported.

"Until the violence has stopped against women and girls, V-Day will continue and this show will continue," Del Castillo said.

MOVIE QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"In telling the story of my father's life, it's impossible to separate fact from fiction, the man from the myth. The best I can do is to tell it the way he told me. It doesn't always make sense and most of it never happened ... but that's what kind of story this is." -Billy Crudup, 'Big Fish,' 2003

MOVIE REVIEW:

South Korea creates a big scare on screen

RANIER RAMIREZ

STAFF WRITER

"The Host" is more than a typical horror-thriller monster movie — it also tosses together elements of comedy, social-political commentary and melodrama.

Released in South Korea in the family gets separated. 2006, "The Host" is the topgrossing movie of all time from that country.

The movie begins with a U.S. scientist on a military base dumping toxic chemicals down a drain that flows into Seoul's Han River.

Years later, a giant mutated amphibious creature crawls out of the river, hungry for humans. The ensuing mass-panic scene is intense and humorous at the same time.

The monster is agile, yet clumsy for being about the size of a truck and looks like a mutated tadpole with legs. It has a nightmarish mouth that can open wide enough to swallow a human whole and has four sets of teeth lining its insides with a lizard-like tongue to top it off.

A slow-witted food stand worker, Park Gang-Du (Song Kang-Ho) watches in horror as his daughter, Hyun-Seo (Ko Ah-Sung), is snatched away by the monster.

The South Korean government, working under information from the U.S. Military, is led to believe that the monster is the "host" of a new virus that infected and killed an American soldier after a skirmish. All the people who came into contact

with the monster were forced to be quarantined, including Gang-Du, who had helped the soldier.

Later in the movie it seems like the monster is the least of their worries, as world organizations start to intervene, virus paranoia spreads to the local populace and

Several times throughout the movie, suspense is raised as Hyun-Seo is seen trapped in the lair and trying to find a way out while the monster is away.

There are a couple of things that make this different from any other monster movie. One is that they don't delay and tease us by not fully showing the monster until far into the film — the initial rampage is about 12 minutes in.

Also, instead of showing largescale reactions to the monster and having main characters that are scientists or soldiers, it focuses how one normal family is trying to fight against everything.

During some serious scenes, you can't help but to laugh at what's going on, such as when the monster chases down a slowmoving, plump man to eat, or when someone is handed an empty gun to fight. At the same time these things do not seem completely out of place and do not ruin the mood.

It's nice to see something different and new in theaters from time to time, but it is sad that many people will expectedly pass on this movie due to being from a foreign country and having subtitles.



the race is **On**

the time is **NOW**

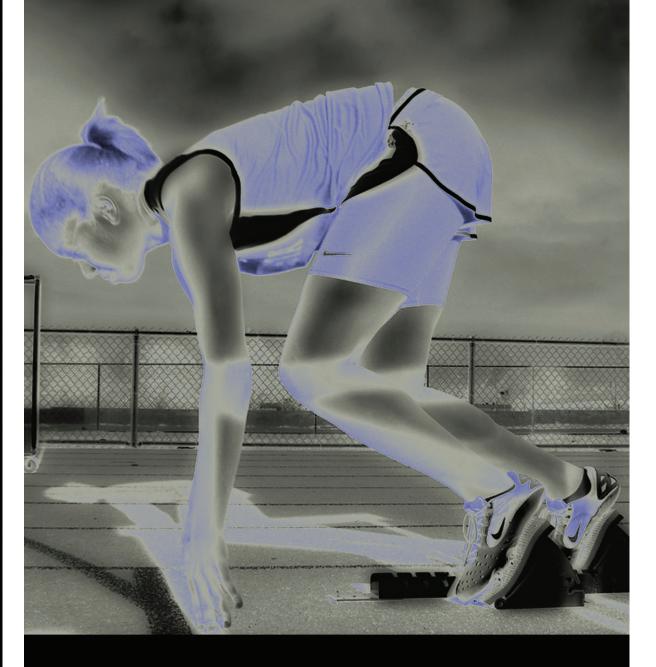


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