STEROIDS IN THE NEWS // Should an athlete be denied the right to compete? OPINION // PAGE 7

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Bill requires college disclosure

ISSUE 26

VOLUME 129

Banks, credit card companies would be restricted from giving gifts

By MARK ASPILLERA

Staff Writer

A new state bill in the works will require California colleges to disclose any exclusive agreements they have with banks and credit card companies on campus said Chris Vaeth, director of special projects for the Greenlining Institute, a Berkeley-based research institute.

The disclosure requirement would exclude information proprietary to banks and credit card companies, he said.

The bill, titled the College Student Credit Card Protection Act, would also bar compa-

to market credit cards to students.

Cathy Busalacchi, executive director of the Student Union, said SJSU already restricts the use of free gifts in on-campus marketing, but that rules about companies on campus are "very general," with none specifically pertaining to credit card companies or banks.

"Since we are a state university, it is very open," she said.

The act would apply the same rules across the CSU, UC and community college systems, Vaeth said.

A similar regulation was already enacted on

nies from using gifts such as T-shirts and food Jan. 30, 2002 by the CSU board of trustees said Andrew Martinez, legislative advocate and analyst for the CSU chancellor's office.

> "All solicitors must be cleared by the president's office," he said in reference to individual CSU campuses, "so the president can know who exactly is on campus."

> Vaeth said the main motivation for the law was to curb "predatory tactics" by credit card companies who set up on college campuses.

> Jaime Padilla, a senior business major, said that schools are partly to blame for incidents where students unwittingly apply for credit

> > See **CREDIT**, page 2



Legislation aims to stymie executive compensation

OCTOBER 11, 2007 // THURSDAY

ally

Would require accountability at CSU board of trustees meetings

By NICOLE LIEURANCE Staff Writer

Two bills that aim to curb executive compensation in the California State University system are scheduled to become state law Sunday if the governor does not veto them, according to the state legislative calendar.

The bills, if enacted, would require greater accountability in official meetings, according to the bill summaries, such as the recent CSU board of trustees meeting on Sept. 19 at which the board voted to give 28 executives an average of an 11.8 percent raise for this year, according to CSU spokesperson Paul Browning.

The Assembly bill, AB 1413, would also limit benefits given to outgoing executives and restrict transition pay to "actual duties performed," according to the bill summary.

The Senate bill, SB 190, would require all discussions related to executive compensation, including raises, to be discussed in open forum with an opportunity for the public to comment, according to the bill summary.

One organization that supports the Assembly bill is the California Faculty Association, which has launched an advertising campaign called "Sign AB 1413" and on Sept. 26 released a report criticizing executive raises.

"It's absolutely the wrong priority to raise executive salaries right now," said CFA President Lillian Taiz in a news conference call on Sept. 24.

The CSU defends its policies on executive compensation as necessary to remain competitive with other universities and attract the best job candidates for executive positions, spokesman Browning said.

According to a July study conducted by Mercer Human Resources, a global human resources consultancy retained by the CSU, the average salary for CSU presidents lagged significantly behind the average salary paid by comparable institutions, though perks such as housing and vehicle allowances helped decrease the gap.

The report states that, "while other benefits made CSU more competitive, total compensation for CSU presidents lagged the market



ANNE RIGOR // Special to the Daily

Jeannine Slater, the McNair Scholarship director, showcases the San Jose State University McNair Scholars Research Journal Wednesday. All McNair recipients are published in the journal once their research is complete.

Students get help applying for grad school

McNair Scholars Program aids low income, first generation or 'underrepresented'

By LEAH BIGELOW

Staff Writer

The McNair Scholars Program is a nationwide plan to help low income students prepare for and apply to graduate school, said Nisha Gurbuxani, the program's research and academic coordinator.

"I don't think I could do it without their help," said Claudia Lopez, a senior sociology major. "Applying to grad school is like a full- tion students or underrepresented. time job within itself."

Lopez said the program has helped her learn certain skills, such as how to do research and manage her time wisely. The program also provides funding and sends her to conferences where she can present her work, she said.

Gurbuxani said that in order to qualify students must be either low income, first genera-

She defined the term "underrepresented" as including black, American Indian and Hispanic students.

"The overall arching goal of the McNair program is to diversify faculty," Gurbuxani said

Carlos Sanchez, a philosophy professor at SJSU and alumnus of the McNair Scholars

See MCNAIR, page 2

State Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, co-author of the bill, said last month that, "taken collectively, these bills represent the legislature's effort to open up the proceedings of the CSU and UC on benefits packages and executive compensations."

Chancellor Charles B. Reed, the CSU's top executive, now receives an annual salary of \$421,500, not including perks, according to the CSU.

"Damn. That's a lot of money," said Joey Kozina, a sophomore psychology major, upon learning Reed's salary. He also said the raises seemed unfair in light of the hike in student fees this year.

Sophomore art major Alex Holland agreed.

"They could put some of that back in to the students," he said.

by 11 percent.' The report did not analyze the compensation of top-level executives, such as the chancellor or his four chief deputies.

Craig Lore, an English lecturer at SISU, guestioned whether offering higher salaries was really the best way to attract the right kind of people to the university.

"Do you get the people who are the best," he asked, "or the most greedy?'

In a recent letter to Chancellor Reed, CFA President Taiz challenged him to a debate on executive compensation. Reed responded on Monday, declining her request because: "There has been ample time to debate the issue in open forum at the board of trustees meetings."

See CSU, page 2

CEO of DreamWorks SKG Jeffrey Katzenberg scheduled to speak on campus today

By JOVANNI COLISAO

Staff Writer

The big green ogre that is feared by everyone in the woods in the town of Duloc will not be seen on campus today, but DreamWorks Animation SKG Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Katzenberg, who produced the Ocsar-winning movie "Shrek," will.

He will be talking to students and faculty about his experiences and achievements in the feature animation industry.

The event is scheduled to run from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. in the Morris Dailey Auditorium. It will be moderated by President Don Kassing and will cover Katzenberg's contributions to the animation and illustration industry.

"He really led the renaissance in animation in America," said Alice Carter, professor of art and design at SJSU and co-coordinator of the animation/illustration program.

Professor Courtney Granner, professor of art and design and co-coordinator of the program thinks of Katzenberg as a real idol for students.

"He stands almost entirely alone as the person that re-ignited the animation industry in the late '80 s and early '90 s while the CEO of Walt Disney," Granner said. "Some of his most recognized successes are 'The

Little Mermaid,' 'Beauty and The Beast,' 'Aladdin,' and 'The Lion King."

Kassing will be meeting Katzenberg for the first time and is looking forward to the event, he said during a news conference Oct. 2.

"DreamWorks is an amazing company," Kassing said. "The fact that he would take time to stop and visit here is a real reflection of his feelings about the kind of talent that comes out of our university."

Carter said that Katzenberg is one of the main people to thank for recharging the industry.

"In a way, he is directly responsible for the fact that our students have so many job opportunities when

they graduate," Carter said.

One of the main student organizations responsible for coordinating this event is the animation and illustration program's Shrunkenheadman club.

Micah Sibert, president of the Shrunkenheadman club, said he is pleased about the event.

"It's really exciting for me to be a part of this department," said Sibert, a senior animation/illustration major. "It's a big deal to be noticed by somebody like Katzenberg because he's from a major film studio."

Another student thinks that Katzenberg's visit is amazing for SJSU.

See CEO, page 4

GOLD FOLD	SPORTS	STUDENT LIFE	OPINION	MULTIMEDIA	INDEX		
ALUMNUS PROFILE: MIKE KOTOWSKI	PRESEASON POLLS RELEASED	SWEET AND SOUR	SEE THE LATEST	VIDEO: AT HOME WITH MIKE KOTOWSKI	Classified6 Crossword, Sudoku6		
Self-proclaimed "railroad artist" and former mayor of Campbell has been a busy man since he graduated from SJSU in 1967.	The Western Athletic Conference coaches and media polls were released Wednesday, and neither the men's nor the women's teams fared well.	Drink of the week takes a look at a classic dessert, the chocolate cake, and pours it into a glass.	CARTOON BY BRAD VARDE	The SJSU graduate and former mayor of Campbell shows the Daily around his home and shares his passion for trains and art.	Columns7 Letters7 SpartaGuide2 Sports6		
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CAMPUS NEWS

ARTA GUID

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 submission. Entries are printed in order in which they are received.

cameracinemas.com aters -- S.I Merc. Metro and Wave Always Free Validated Parking At All Our Locations eniors & Kids \$6.50 / Students \$7.50 PDCommercia \$6.75 Matinees before 6pm M-F & 4pm Sa-Su, Holiday CAMERA 7 PRUNEYARD 1875 S. Bascom Ave., Campbell • 559-6 ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE* (PG-13)--1:35. 4:10, 6:45, 9:15; + Fri-Sun at 11:05an LUST, CAUTION* (NC-17)-Fri-Sun at 11:00am WICHAEL CLAYTON* (R) + Eri-Sun at 11-10a INTO THE WILD* (R)--2, 3:40, 5, 6:50, 8:05; Fri-Sun at 12:30pm **/THE HEARTBREAK KID*** (R)--1:20, 4, 7:10, 9:40 ✓ THE KINGDOM (R)--9:50; + Fri-Sat at 11:35am IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH (R)--1:55, 6:35 ■ ■ EASTERN PROMISES (R)--(11:45), 4:25, 9:05 LOS GATOS CINEMA 11 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos • 395-020 ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE (PG-13)--Daily (ex Sun) at 4:20, 6:50, 9:20; + Sat a Sun at 7:15, 9:45 ✓FEAST OF LOVE (R)--Daily (ex Sun) at 7; :20; + Sat at 1:50 + Sat at 2:50; Sun at 7.25 ✓DEATH AT A FUNERAL (R)--Daily (ex Sun) at 5, 9:10; Sun at 9:35 MONTE SERENO FILM FESTIVAL--Sun, Oct. 14th CAMERA 12 DOWNTOWN 201 S. Second St., San Jose • 998-330 Added Late Shows Fri-Sat Nights! (1), 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 OUTSOURCED (PG-13)--(1:15), 3:40, 6, 8:15 ✓ JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB (PG-13)--(1:10), 3:55 ✓ EASTERN PROMISES (R)--3:45, 6:35 ✓ 3:10 TO YUMA (R)-6:15, 8:55 ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE* (PG-13)--(1:35), 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 WY KID COULD PAINT THAT* (PG-13)-✓ 3:10 TO YUMA (R)-6:15, 8:55 A ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE* N (PG-13)-(135), 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 N WE OWN THE NIGHT* (R)-(1:25), 4:05, 6:55, 9:30; + Fri-Sat at 12 midnight X MICHAEL (LAYTON* (R)--(1:25), 4:05, 6:55, 9:30; + Pri-Satat + MICHAEL CLAYTON* (R)--(1:50), 4:25, 7:05, 9:40; + Fri-Sat at 12 midnight THE HEARTBREAK KID* (R)--(2), 4:35, 7:10, 9:45 ✓THE SEEKER* (PG)--(12:55), 3:25, 5:45, 8 THE KINGDOM (R)--1:45-(Sat only), 4:55, 7:20, 9:50 THE GAME PLAN (PG)--(12:50), 3:50, 6:25, 8:50

THE GAME PLAN (PG)--(12:50), 3:5 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION (R) -(ex Sun), 9:55 1:30-(Sat only), 5:20, 7:30-(ex Sun), 9:55 SUPERBAD (R)--(1:05), 9 SAN JOSE JEWISH FILM FEST--Oct. 14-Nov. 14 = No Passes () = Sat-Sun only 🖌 = Final Wee

DPENS OCT. 19TH AT C7/LOS GATOS! LIMITED

Upcoming Events at The Event Center



TODAY

Farmworker's Daughter - Author Visit

From 3 to 4:30 p.m. in King Library, second floor. Books for sale at Spartan Bookstore and at event. For more information, contact Annette Nellen at anellen@sjsu.edu.

Book Discussion - Drinking Coffee Elsewhere

From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Clark Hall, room 105H. Coffee served. For more information, contact Annette Nellen at anellen@sjsu.edu.

Bible Study

Acts 2 Christian Fellowship has weekly Bible studies every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Guadalupe room. For more information, contact Justin Foon @ jfoon1@yahoo.com.

Getting Your ZZZ's In: A College Student's Guide to Managing Sleep

On Thursday, Oct. 11 from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m., SJSU Counseling Services will be holding a free workshop on sleep management in the Administration Building Room 269. The workshop is the first part of a free 5-session workshop series. Additional workshops will be held on Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1 and 8. For more information, contact Angela Krumm at (408) 924-5910 or akrumm@sjsu.edu.

Oct. 12

"Deal Me In!" Men's Group

On Fridays, from 11:30 am to 12:20 p.m. A supportive group for men to discuss and explore relationship issues, family and gender expectations, sex, body image, conflict management, communication and other male concerns, while playing a friendly game of cards. For more information, contact Dr. Kell Fujimoto at 924-5910 or mail to: georgette.gale@sjsu.edu.

Oct. 17

Understanding Your Dreams

Students are invited to an event exploring the spiritual significance of dreams. Attendees will learn how to begin to understand their dreams. The event will be held at 4 p.m. in the Montalvo Room in the Student Union.

Oct. 19

Academic Success Center Open House

Need Help with your studies? Want to learn some new technology? This is your opportunity to learn about the different services in the Academic Success Center that are here to help you be a success. Refreshments will be provided. The Academic Success Center is located on the first floor of Clark Hall. The event will be held from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, e-mail: academic.success.center@sjsu. edu.

MCNAIR // Members receive \$2,800 stipend

Continued from page 1

Program, wrote in an e-mail that the program prepared him by exposing him to the rigors and difficulties of a graduate education before he even applied.

Sanchez said the program is, "an eye opening experience for someone who has never thought of continuing academic studies beyond a bachelor's degree."

Gurbuxani said the program begins in January and students attend two-hour seminars every Friday throughout the spring semester. At these seminars students learn how to do research and make a research proposal, she said.

Tuneka Tucker, a senior behavioral science and sociology major, said that the seminars are a good place to get feedback from her peers.

Over the summer students work with a mentor on their own research, Gurbuxani said, as well as prepare for the Graduate Record Examination, the standardized test students take to get in to graduate school. She said students also give presentations at conferences across the country.

The McNair program provides funding for access to these conferences, as well as gives fee waivers for most graduate school applications, Gurbuxani said. In

addition, members of the program receive a \$2,800 stipend at the beginning of the year, which they do not necessarily have to use for research, she said.

Tucker said it is unfortunate that some students are unaware of the program and fail to take advantage of it.

She said she attended a three-day boot camp in Los Angeles last summer where she spent her time working on her personal statement that she will send to graduate schools and learning how to approach a professor she would like to have as her mentor.

When students come back to school in the fall Gurbuxani said she helps them apply to graduate schools and look for ways to finance their education. She said that there are schools across the country that offer fellowships specifically for McNair scholars.

To apply for the program students must turn in an application along with three letters of recommendation and a personal statement, said Tucker. Gurbuxani added that there is an interview process with the main staff of the McNair program.

Gurbuxani said she really admires the work that the McNair scholars do.

"We're just so happy to have these students," she said, "They're driven, hardworking, amazing people."

CSU // Governor expected to sign

Continued from page 1

The CSU maintains that both bills are duplicative of current policy, and that discussions of executive compensation are already held in open session at board meetings, CSU representative Browning said.

The CSU's main concern, Reed said in his letter, is that the Assembly bill is "poorly written" and contains a questionable provision involving ex officio members of the board of trustees, the governor, lieutenant governor, the speaker of the Assembly, and the superintendent of public instruction.

AB 1413 would allow ex officio members to designate a representative from their staff to attend board meetings in their absence, according to the bill summary. Reed said that this might discourage ex officios

from attending themselves and that the wording of the bill would leave the authority of their representatives "open to legal interpretation."

Supporters of the Assembly bill include the California State University Employees' Association, Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and the National Education Association, according to a CFA news release last week.

Since California's Constitution allows unsigned bills to pass automatically after a period of time, the two bills will become statute even if Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger takes no action on them before Sunday.

The governor is expected to sign SB 190, a representative in Sen. Yee's office said.

CREDIT // No current opposition to bill

Continued from page 1

cards and end up "thousands in debt."

"The school isn't providing education to the students about these companies but at the same time letting them in to advertise," he said.

Workshops on financial and credit management are given to incoming freshmen as part of orientation, said Busalacchi.

She added that the Student Union requires companies to apply for reservations for the benches around the Student Union and that no bench can be reserved for

companies and banks are allowed on the campus daily, Busalacchi said. They are restricted to standard business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The current bill was drafted by state Assemblyman Joe Coto.

Martinez, with the CSU chancellor's office, said the bill was written by Coto himself with minimal input from the CSU. He said the CSU is in favor of the bill because of its similarity to existing policy regarding credit cards, companies and banks. Vaeth said that the law has no opposition on record. "The banks were originally against it," he said, referring to the section that requires disclosure of arrangements between banks and colleges. The opposition was retracted once the disclosure was amended to exclude proprietary information.



Nov. 2 **Brand New** & Thrice & mewithoutYou Friday, 7:30pm Tickets: G. A. \$23.50

Nov. 10 Kelly Clarkson & Jon McLaughlin

Saturday, 7:30pm Tickets: Reserved Seating \$39.50

Nov. 14

Evanescence & Sick Puppies

& Julien-K Wednesday, 7:30pm Tickets: G. A. \$35.50

Nov. 24 **George Lopez** Saturday, 8:00pm Tickets: \$49.50 - \$54.50

Nov. 29 **Fall Out Boy** & Plain White T's

& GymClassHeroes & CUTE is What We Aim For Thursday, 7:00pm Tickets: G. A. \$30



Student Union, Inc. | San José State University Ticket information: 408.924.6333

SJSU student activism. A stand for change. October 16, 1968

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Tommie Smith & John Carlos '68 Olympians and San José State Student Activists

At the México City 1968 Olympic Games, San José State University student-athletes **Tommie Smith and John Carlos** raised their fists for equality, dignity, justice, and peace.

The University and Associated Students hereby commemorate their legacy.

"SJSU Student Advocacy: Past and Present."

Tuesday, October 16, 2007 Noon to 1:00 pm Sculpture Garden in front of Clark Hall Join us for presentations by guest speakers and a ceremony to follow. Materials will be rovided for students to "Take a Stand" together around the sculpture.

"Fists of Freedom: The Story of the '68 Summer Games"

Showing at: The Associated Students House Fireside room October 15-18 6:30-7:30pm Group Discussions 7:30-8:30pm

A free nightly showing of the film detailing their courageous stand for equality in 1968, followed by a guided public discussion. Seating Limited to 30, first come first serve.

more than five days in a row with a single reservation.

Dawn Pongwat, a graduate student in international tourism, said that no one party could be blamed.

"It's just another way to advertise," she said, referring to companies setting up desks on college campuses. "And it's the consumer's duty to know."

Both Pongwat and Padilla said they had seen credit card companies on campus before, but had not been approached by them.

The bill is "sitting on the gov-A maximum of four credit ernor's desk right now," he said.



GOLD FOLD

EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE: WATCH MIKE KOTOWSKI SPEAK ABOUT HIS PASSION FOR TRAINS

THE DO-IT-ALL MAN

From joining the Air Force, to learning he's colorblind, to becoming mayor, SJSU alumnus Mike Kotowski delves into his many accomplishments and setbacks.

By MANDIE MOHSENZADEGAN Staff Writer

When SJSU graduate Mike Kotowski strolls down the streets of downtown Campbell, he receives waves and hellos at every corner and is known as a prominent figure in the community.

"There is nothing this man hasn't done," said Sally Howe, editor and owner of local community newspaper Campbell Express.

To his family, he is a hard-working and dedicated individual who strives to make a positive difference in everything he does.

An artist, photographer, engineer, Air Force Veteran, former mayor of Campbell and devoted husband and father, Kotowski discussed his many accomplishments throughout the course of his life as he sat back in his Campbell home, which is decorated with his many artistic creations.

The wall across from where he sat in his Campbell home was covered with plaques and awards.

"People give those to you as an appreciative thing for what you've done," he said. "When we decided to put up a wall like this, (my wife) Claire kept saying, 'you've got such a pile, you've got these things in drawers and boxes,' so we decided to hang them up."

He gave descriptions of several of the awards, and pointed to one located on the farthest left side of the wall, which was a proclamation from the Santa Clara County board of supervisors in celebration of his 50th birthday, and said that to receive the awards made him feel as though he had done something right.

Kotowski, who was born in Michigan in 1941, started out with many aspirations in his youth. He had always felt drawn to art, specifically railroad art. "I've been drawing trains all my life," he said.

However, he also pursued engineering, a path that Kotowski may

have been inspired to take after winning several science awards in his high school, including an engineering award for building a rocket.

After graduating high school, Kotowski moved to Las Cruces, N.M. for college. It was there that he decided to follow his desire to join the Air Force, and applied to the Air Force Academy.

"I found out that I was colorblind, and in those days they graduated only pilots, and that's what I wanted to be," he said.

Despite the setback of not being able to fly, Kotowski refused to give up and was able to join as a flight engineer.

"The next four years I was in the strategic air command. I didn't get to fly the plane, I was the guy who lowered the plane and made sure it didn't fall out of the sky," he said.

He then went on to receive an associate's degree in art at a local community college, where he also became involved in student government as vice president and received a scholarship for Outstanding Veteran. It was around this time that Kotowski moved to the Bay Area to attend SJSU.

Kotowski said that after applying to several state universities, a teacher suggested he come here.

"He told me, 'You have such a great skill for illustrating and you need to go to San Jose State because they have such a great art department," Kotowski said.

them is painting the backdrop and putting the scenery, and it's based either tightly or loosely on something they've remembered growing up. It's whatever they want, I do the research and provide the equipment."

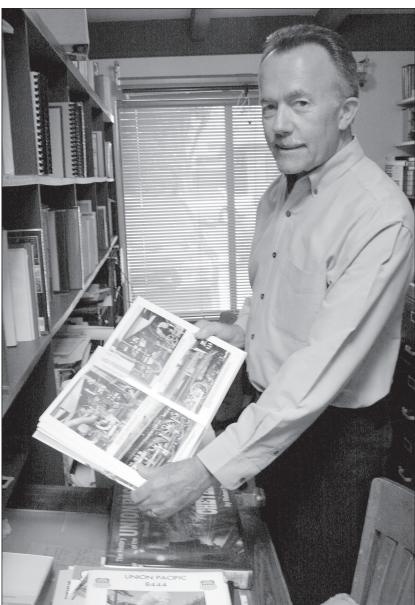
Kotowski has also been a professional painter for 17 years and is the designer for Orchard Supply Hardware, creating their calendars and designing their packaging and labeling.

He moved around in several different offices in downtown Campbell in the '70s and '80s, but now works from home.

"When my wife and I came to Campbell, I got really involved with the Chamber of Commerce and became president in 1979," he said. He then went on to serve on the Planning Commission and City Council and was mayor twice.

Kotowski said that his motivation behind everything he does is the continual support of his family.

"I've had a wife that's tolerated me for this long, which is very impor-



tant, especially in a time when it's tough to raise children, because of what's out there."

Claire Kotowski, who works for the University Police Department, said, "I'm very proud of him, I feel like he has accomplished a lot of things that most people only dream of," she said.

She also added that she believes his biggest accomplishment has been his role as a father.

"The most important thing we've done is raise our two boys," she said. "It's a little difficult when the father is the mayor of the city, but the children always came first, and we always tried to keep them grounded, and we tried to give them a good education."

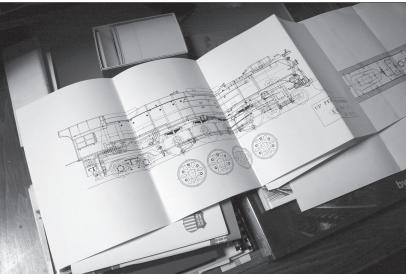
Kotowski said his youngest son Matthew has graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a degree in computer engineering and will be heading back to Iraq this fall. Kotowski's eldest son, Andrew, received his master's at Duke University and lives with his wife and two children in Washington, where he works for Microsoft.

"I have taught my children, if nothing else, you come into life with an empty tool box when you are born," Kotowski said. "As you grow up, everything that you learn how to do from different people become a tool for you to use to grow yourself up further."

Campbell Express owner and editor Howe said, "I've known Mike Kotowski for more years than I care to admit, and I continue to admire that man, because there's nothing that is too much of a challenge for him."

Despite his many endeavors, Kotowski said that there always remains more that he wishes he could do.

"The one thing I would love to do, is to fly in a shuttle, but I understand the limitations I have ... it's just one of those things, like climbing Everest," he said. "Well, I have done [Mount] Whitney." Elevation 14,505 feet.



Plans for one of Kotowski's current projects are sprawled over dozens of books that highlight the history and designs of the original locomotives he paints and helps produce.

He graduated from SJSU in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in fine arts.

"I was working full time as an art director for an ad agency and went on to get my masters in '70," he said.

This January will mark 40 successful years that Kotowski has been managing his own business as what he calls a "railroad artist."

"I have a number of clients who do model railroading," Kotowski said. He explained that these are people who build a model railroad inside their home or in an additional space.

"They hire me to help them design it," he said. "My major talent to

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JENNIFER SKIDMORE // SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Mike Kotowski, an SJSU alumnus, flips through one of his many reference books on locomotives at his home in Campbell.



1565 S. Winchester Blvd., Campbell | www.pleasuresfromtheheart.net | 408.871.1826





First Annual Bench Press Competition Male and Female Categories

October 24, 2007 6 pm, Sport Club, SJSU

First and second place trophies awarded. Sign up in advance at the Sport Club entry desk. Free for Students, Faculty & Staff; \$5 for general public. For more information, call the Sport Club at (408) 924-6368



CEO // Kassing to moderate event

Continued from page 1

"He recognizes us as an animation/illustration program, and that is an accomplishment for the school," said Ellen Michelson, a senior animation and illustration major.

Carter said that it will be exciting to have such a major animation company on campus.

"He's a champion of the industry," Carter said. "He's been kind of a visionary and seems to know where things are going before the rest of us."

The animation/illustration program has worked closely with Dream-Works and is one of its corporate

partners.

"DreamWorks recognized our outstanding students, but saw a dire need for external support," said Granner. "So several years ago, they stepped in to become our corporate partners."

Granner said it has been a struggle, but the animation/illustration program and the students are now getting the attention they deserve.

"This is a grand opportunity for our animation/illustration students and the university community at large," Granner said.

Granner said that Kassing's involvement in the event is a real plus. "It allows our students to see

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Become a health care professional

the president of our university interacting with a major figure from their own discipline," Granner said. "It's a dream come true for our students," Granner added. "And that is ultimately number one for us as professors."

Granner said that such an event represents a milestone for the animation/illustration program.

"DreamWorks will also be giving a sneak peek of their new movie, 'Bee Movie,'" Carter said.

"We look forward to a conversation with him," Kassing said.

Kassing said that he is so excited that he may have to reframe from asking Katzenberg for his autograph.

Cedar Fair says it's willing to sell theme park to 49ers

SAN JOSE – The Ohio-based owners of Great ing Great America, but the talks have been rocky. America theme park in Santa Clara said Wednesday they're willing to sell the site to the San Francisco 49ers instead of waging a bitter fight over parking for the football team's proposed stadium.

Ohio-based owner and operator of Great America and more than a dozen other amusement and water parks, said it offered to sell the park to the 49ers after deciding that traffic congestion and parking headaches from the new arena would severely harm Great America's business and threaten its ability to stay open.

The company, which is suffering from an overall attendance

decline at its parks so far this year, said the "operational problems that would be created business strategy is for Great America, which is to by putting the stadium in the middle of Great Ameri- engage in the sale of it," Lang said. "It's good to ca's main parking area are insurmountable and would place the continued operation of the park at risk."

The 49ers don't have enough parking for their proposed \$854 million stadium on 20 acres next to the Great America site. The team has been negotiating with Cedar Fair to use some parking spaces surround-

The announcement by Cedar Fair was not a surprise. The 49ers went public Tuesday night with word that Cedar Fair had approached the team with an offer to sell Great America, and that the Cedar Fair Entertainment Co., the Sandusky, 49ers would entertain the idea as a way to secure more parking for the stadium.

Team spokeswoman Lisa Lang disputed the argument that Great America and a new stadium would clash. She said the team plans to keep the park

open if it buys the park. She added, however, that the 49ers will first try to work out alternate ways to get more parking short of buying Great America.

Cedar Fair's announcement "just confirmed what their real

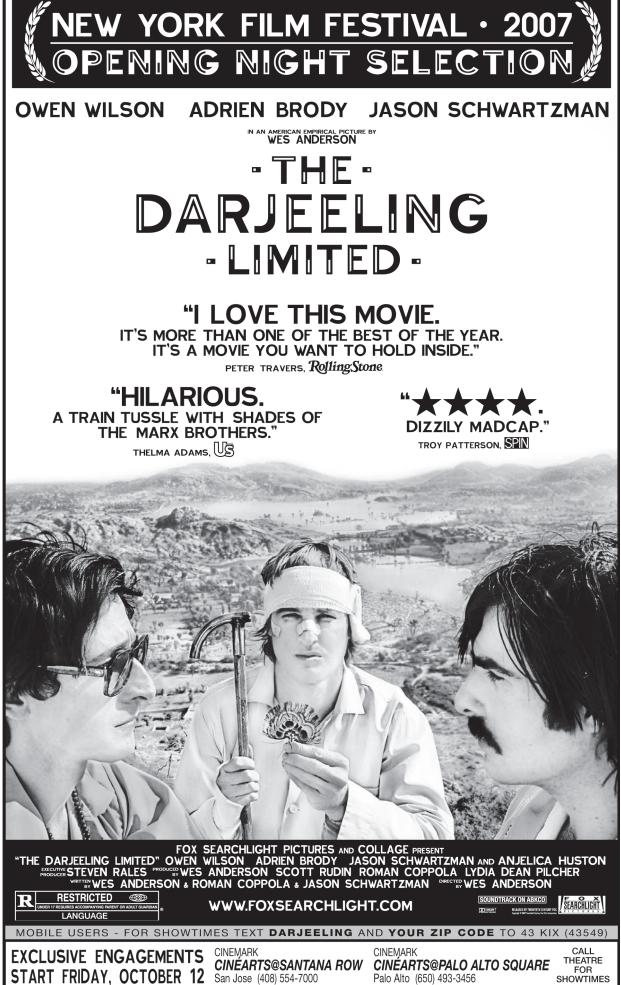
have that out on the table so we can start to work on a real solution."

The stadium plans come as the 49ers have abandoned their decade-long attempt to build a new stadium on Candlestick Point, the team's San Francisco home since 1971.





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NEWS

5

From the people's offerings; A breakfast feast for a studious monk

By MARY JORDAN

The Washington Post

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — As the sun rose over the Mekong River, Senly Lim walked to breakfast along a path used by monks for more than 500 years.

At 6:30 a.m., neighbors carrying white rice, fried noodles and coconuts had begun arriving, leaving food for him and 400 other saffronrobed monks. After rising in the pre-dawn darkness, Lim had been praying and readying for the morning feast since 4 a.m.

According to Buddhist tradition, monks do not eat after noon and rely for their food on offerings brought by the faithful.

"There is plenty to eat now," said Lim, 30, referring to the 15-day Festival of the Dead that ends Thursday. Cambodians give food to monks as a way of honoring deceased parents and other relatives. So in the early morning hours of these hot, humid October days, the 4,000 pagodas dotting this nation of 14 million are packed with people leaving offerings.

In the countryside, where customs last longer, many older people flock to Buddhist temples to be near ancestors whose souls, they believe, come to the houses of worship seeking living relatives at this time of year.

Lim, having fasted for more than 18 hours, happily sat cross-legged on the floor of his temple's dining hall, in front of a dozen bowls filled with rice

porridge, black-speckled dragon fruit, fish soup, coconut juice and more. Hundreds of other monks sat alongside him on bamboo mats, in straight rows.

Even though they were packed so closely, few spoke as they began to eat. The sound of the ubiquitous motorbikes in the streets broke the silence. So did the cry of a baby in the crowd of homeless people gathering at the door. The smells of tropical poverty - uncollected trash, sugary concoctions cooking in the streets — wafted in.

Donors, mostly women, took off their shoes and entered the colorful room inside the 15thcentury Wat Ounalom complex, a collection of

the Tonle Sap River meets the Mekong.

"It is a way of honoring our ancestors," said Phany Sum, 34, a mother of four, as she tossed handfuls of uncooked rice into a six-foot-square blue wooden box at the back of the dining hall. The giant box now had a two-foot-high pile of rice in it. In the leaner days to come, when the monsoons kick in and fewer people bring offerings, this stockpile will be stretched to provide the monks' breakfasts.

At 7 a.m., Lim and the others, unable to eat more, stood up and filed out of the once-beau-



MARY JORDAN // Washington Post

"I like being a monk," says Senly Lim, 30. "It's peaceful." Being a monk is not necessarily a lifelong commitment in Cambodia. Lim, pictured in Phnom Penh, says he will remain a monk for four more years, until he finishes his business degree.

> tiful dining hall, its water-stained walls in sore need of fresh paint. As the monks left, a uniformed guard waved in the homeless - mostly children — to finish up the plentiful leftovers.

The hall is part of a complex that is home to monks ages 16 to 80. They move in near-silence around the towering gold-leaf temple at the compound's heart and an array of smaller buildings, including No. 20, a three-story French colonial structure where Lim sleeps in a single bunk.

With his plump, round face and infectious smile, Lim looks younger than his 30 years. He has lived here half his life, since he was 16,

ornate buildings along the riverfront near where shaving his head every two weeks. "I like being a monk," he said. "It's peaceful."

> Lim said his routine fosters discipline and gives him time to study. He's up before dawn to pray, has breakfast at 6:30, then is in his classroom at the nearby University of Cambodia by 8. He returns by 11 to eat again before the fast sets in at noon. He says he remains celibate, abstains from alcohol and once in a while watches a friend's television, which at present is showing the U.S. baseball playoffs.

Lim said that he chose this lifestyle because he believes in "Buddha's message of peace and harmony" and that spreading that message

> through prayer is good for the world.

Cambodian monks have drawn criticism here and abroad recently because they have mostly remained silent about the arrest and killing of monks protesting against the military government in nearby Burma. But at this temple, an important center for Buddhism in Southeast Asia, several monks said they believed their role was not to grab microphones but to pray silently.

"I feel so sorry. They are suffering. It makes me sad," Lim said, adding that he had devoted his morning prayers to the Burmese monks. "I pray that the Burmese leaders turn to democratic ways."

Being a monk is not necessarily a lifelong commitment. In Cambodia, many men adopt the monastic lifestyle for a few weeks or months, donning and taking off the saffron robe as they wish. Many do it for spiritual reasons, others to please their parents. Some do it briefly before they

get married; others stay for years, or forever. Lim said his plan is to remain a monk for four more years, until he finishes his studies. Once he has his business degree, he said, he would like to leave the ascetic life inside the centuriesold temple and trade his robes for street clothes. He said his dream is to sell computers.

At 7:30 a.m., Lim excused himself. He walked toward the busy street in his robe and sandals and hopped on a motorcycle taxi. He was late for an accounting exam.

Lawsuit accuses Apple, AT&T of monopolistic behavior with iPhone

plaints over Apple Inc.'s use companies conspired from the restrictions and recent software beginning of their partnership update for the iPhone have erupted in two lawsuits alleging Apple and its carrier partner, AT&T Inc., engaged in illegal monopolistic behavior.

Two separate lawsuits were filed in SanJose on Oct. 5 one in federal court and the other in state court and both seeking class-action status.

Both cases accuse the companies of unfair business prac-

SAN JOSE (AP) - Com- ers to serve the iPhone, the two to maintain a monopoly, the federal lawsuit alleges.

> The companies are unlawfully restricting consumer choice by preventing users from "unlocking" their iPhones, and Apple intentionally disabled unofficial third-party programs or rendered unlocked phones useless with its software update, the lawsuit alleges.

Apple issued the update Sept. tices and violations of antitrust, 27 after warning users that any

The two companies conspired from the beginning of their partnership to maintain a monopoly, the federal lawsuit alleges.

ranty laws.

Apple spokeswoman Susan Lundgren and AT&T spokesman Mark Siegel both declined to comment on them Wednesday.

The federal case was filed by the firms of Hoffman & Lazear in Oakland and Folkenflik & McGerity in New York on behalf of iPhone owners Paul Holman and Lucy Rivello. The state case was filed by Saratoga attorney Damian Fernandez on behalf of California resident customers that have done so. Timothy Smith.

the exclusive carrier in the U.S. for Apple's iPhone.

By not allowing other carri-

telecommunications and war- ensuing damage to iPhones with unauthorized modifications was not covered by the product's warranty.

> It is unclear how many iPhones were disabled or how many iPhone owners have modified their handsets.

Some hacker communities estimated that thousands of people have downloaded their "unlocking" programs, while AT&T's Siegel says the company has heard from "very few"

The federal lawsuit stated it San Antonio-based AT&T is didn't know how large the affected class could be but pegged the number at 100 or more and anticipates "there will be millions."



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SPORTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2007

Campus voices: Will you be at Spartan Stadium Friday?

With ESPN nationally televising Friday's contest against the undefeated University of Hawaii Warriors, the Spartan Daily asks: Go to the game, or watch at home?

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SARRAH S. NGUYEN

"I think I might. For one reason, I have one student on the team, Demetrius Jones. He's in my archery class. I'd like to go see them play and just to support the team. They have a great coach. I like Tomey a lot."



KATHY BRUGA Lecturer, activity classes in kineisiology



"I won't be. I have too many things to do, just busy."

VINH LUU Post-baccalaureate student, pre-med

"I am not. I'm not particularly interested in the game. I don't even know who we're playing."



LAUREN LAU Junior, psychology



"I haven't been to a football game, but I'll probably try to make it."

MARCO ESQUIVEL Sophomore, art

assiter

Polls unkind to Spartan basketball

STAFF REPORT

The preseason Western Athletic Conference basketball polls were released Wednesday, and no SJSU basketball team was predicted to

finish higher than seventh. The media poll slated the men's

team in the eigth spot of the nine

WAC teams, and the coaches picked the Spartans to finish seventh. On the women's side, the coach-

es poll showed the lady Spartans finishing eighth, and the media predicted a last place finish for the Spartans.

No member of either team received All-WAC honors.

The men's basketball team opens its season Friday, Nov. 9 against Notre Dame de Namur University in an exhibition game at the Event Center.

The women's team tips-off Saturday, Nov. 10 against the University of Oregon Ducks in Eugene, Ore.

FROM THE SPARTAN DAILY BLOGS:

So you're saying there's a chance

It's a battle for first place in the Western Athletic Conference under the lights of Spartan Stadium.



JOSH WEAVER

Football beat writer

ESPN, the worldwide leader in sports, is broadcasting the game nationally. The forecast calls for a cool,

early-October evening with possible rain. And the opportunity for the SISU football team to shock 16th

ranked University of Hawaii. If I were 60 pounds heavier and

not as slow as molasses, I would throw on some shoulder pads. This is a statement game for

the Spartans. They have a chance to prove

they belong in prime time. They have a chance to prove to the SJSU community that last year wasn't a fluke. They have the chance to completely erase their disastrous start.

I know I'm pumped. Are you? After their well-publicized 0-3 beginning to the season, the Spartans have rattled off three straight wins and carry a confident, yet far from cocky, attitude heading into the Friday night showdown. Of course this game holds

many challenges for the Spartans and they will need to catch some breaks and capitalize when they have the chance. They cannot afford to leave any points on the field nor give any away to the Warriors.

The first thing the Spartans must do, which is easier said than done, is disrupt the quick-strike Warrior offense led by standout quarterback Colt Brennan.

The Heisman Trophy hopeful has thrown 16 touchdowns thus far but has been slowed the last couple weeks by an ankle injury. The Spartans catch break No.

1 even before kickoff.

The injury will not completely hinder Brennan. It is impossible to totally shut him down. The Spartans must slow him as much as they can by pressuring him with their defensive line and get a hand in his face, perhaps even bat a few balls down.

They must also minimize the big plays Hawaii is known for.

Secondly, the Spartans must continue to win the turnover battle.

The SJSU secondary has picked off 11 passes, and as a team the Spartans have a turnover margin of plus six.

If the Spartans can force three turnovers, whether they are interceptions or fumble recoveries, they will be in position for the upset.

With all the hype surrounding Brennan, some "experts" have overlooked the fact that the Spartans pack a pretty mean punch on offense, anchored by quarterback Adam Tafralis.

Tafralis has completed 73 percent of his passes over the three-game win streak, shredding opposing defenses and throwing for more than 300 yards in each contest.

Look for Tafralis to match Hawaii's aerial fireworks slinging the ball to his underrated wide receivers on his way to a career night passing.

The other thing the Spartans have going for them is the resurrection of the running game coming off their most efficient game on the ground last week when they tallied 134 yards against University of Idaho.

With the emergence of running back James T. Callier, the Spartans have another weapon on offense that will help keep the Warrior defense off balance.

SJSU can win this game. A lot of things must go the Spartan's way, but as evidenced this year in college football, anything can happen.

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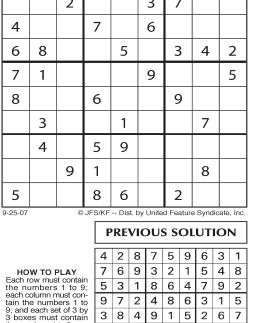
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OPINION

OPPOSING VIEWS

OPPOSING VIEWS

OPPOSING VIEWS

Steroids back in the news:

Should an athlete be denied the right to compete if he or she tests positive?

done.

By CODY HAUETER

Staff Writer

I was raised to believe cheating and stealing are wrong. Don't cheat in school, don't cheat your friends and don't take something that is not rightfully yours.

Steroid use among professional athletes is cheating. It doesn't matter how it's worded to make it seem like it's not a big deal — because it is.

The athletes who choose to cheat to win should be denied competition until they are clean and can prove that they can stay clean.

These people spend their whole lives training for something, and then make a stupid decision to take the easy road by juicing up. Why?

Is it because the competition is just too much? Is it because everyone is using steroids and the only way to keep up with them is by using them too?

I just don't understand.

I remember watching the Olympics when I was a kid thinking: "Wow these people are truly gifted and outright talented." Now I can only wonder if it's all a big hoax. A big lie to make us common folk feel like humans are capable of such feats.

Baseball player Barry Bonds is one of the most talked about "possible" steroid users in the professional world of sports. I know a lot of people think he deserves to keep his home run records, but why?

It's either all or none. Let's juice up all of the players and see what happens. I'm sure that home run record will be obliterated in no time.

Steroids are performance-enhancement drugs. Keyword being "drugs."

Look at what happened to professional wrestler Chris Benoit. He killed his wife, his seven-year-old son and himself during what was described as a steroid-induced depression.

I know that Benoit's case is rather extreme, but it is a case nonetheless, and it shouldn't be ignored.

Some would say Benoit was abusing steroids and that is why he killed himself and his family. This is like saying

By EKENE IKEME

Staff Writer

First it was baseball, then football, then cycling and now the sport to take the steroid spotlight is Olympic track and field.

Last week former Olympic track and field star Marion Jones made a teary-eyed public apology for using "the clear," an illegal performance-enhancing drug, before the 2000 Olympics.

This comes after years and years of lying and denying she took steroids.

Jones was also forced to give her five medals back — including three gold medals — to the International Olympic Committee that she won in the 2000 Olympics, and rightfully so.

If Jones were to keep those medals it would be wrong and unfair. that it's okay to use steroids as long as you don't abuse them.

OPPOSING VIEWS

Well then let's apply this idea to all drugs. Let's tell our kids that it's okay to use cocaine as long as you don't abuse it. Does that sound logical?

Anabolic steroids are known to cause liver damage, possible damage to the cardiovascular system and impotence and sexual dysfunction among male users.

Don't get me wrong though, men aren't the only one's taking these drugs. In fact, just recently track star and Olympian, Marion Jones, admitted to steroid use and returned all of her medals from the wins at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Don't think that everyone on steroids is happy with their wins.

According to a National Public Radio report, Jones said that she used steroids before she competed in the 2000 Olympics. She seemed to be truly sorry for what she had

All those years of hard work, only to lose it in a matter of moments. Jones was actually a gifted track star, but it's possible that she didn't feel gifted enough.

The drugs didn't pay off. The glory lasted for a short while, but in the end the medals were returned. The fame is no longer a positive fixation. All the media cares about now is Jones' steroid use, not her accomplishment.

I would like to know if it was worth it, because from what I've read it was a horrible, horrible mistake that cannot be rectified.

It makes me wonder. How many other athletes are juicing up? Admitting to it is career-shattering, so why would they want to put themselves on the chopping block?

They're making millions of dollars from endorsements and sponsors. Why end the glory?

I still highly respect many professional athletes. I know they have worked very hard to get where they are in their careers.

But let's be real, folks, literally. No more performanceenhancing drugs just to get ahead, because in the end you'll probably get stuck in last place.

All sporting organizations have their own disciplinary actions.

Athletes should be able to man up and apologize, serve their suspension, give up any medals or rewards they received during that season and get back to playing.

I talked to the women's soccer coach Dave Siracusa and he criticized any athlete who thinks using steroids is a good option. He added that steroids have no place in sports. But he did say if they confess to using steroids and serve their punishment, they should be allowed to play again.

"I don't like the fact that Marion Jones used steroids, but I applaud the fact that she confessed to it," Siracusa said. "If you come clean and pay the price of your punishment you should be allowed to return. You should not be ostracized for life, people deserve a second chance."

And Lormon with Singaran these athlates



BRADDON VARDE // SPARTAN DAILY

The demise of the U.S.

By LINDSAY BRYANT

Opinion Editor

First, a warning.

The following information is a theory, not to be confused with truth and facts, which can be instantly found on Wikipedia along with the theory below. And, like Wikipedia, the theory is a very large, scary and manipulative wolf in lamb's clothing.

The theory is this.

The United States, Canada and Mexico will, at some point in time, become one borderless nation: deemed the "North American Union."

But the wolf is the 3-inch tall devil of bad consciousness sitting on President Bush's shoulder, whispering in his ear the plans for the demise of our individuality, freedoms and human rights.

The end of what we know as the United States of America is near. Or so the conspiracy theory goes.

The Security and Prosperity Partnership was schemed and agreed on by Canada's Prime Minister Paul Martin, former President Vicente Fox of Mexico and Bush, and announced on March 23, 2005. As far as I can search online and through the archives of YouTube, the coverage and discussion of the Security and Prosperity Partnership and its framework, I believe to create a North American Union, is next to nothing. For some perspective, Hasselhoff's drunken escapades have received 2,572,449 hits on YouTube and a CNN Lou Dobbs report about the North American Union has received 129,149 hits in its 10 months on the site. The question is not about which topic is more important, because the clear answer is the latter, but rather why many Americans don't know about the first thing about a North American Union.

to following what was its so-called policy on immigration, which has not stopped millions of illegal immigrants from crossing the border each year. Not to mention that the construction of the 700-mile wall along the Mexico border and the increase of 6,000 to 7,000 border patrol officers is nowhere close to being complete. The lack of protection has erupted in the Minutemen Project which sends volunteers to patrol and build the fence on their own.

The slack by Bush in this area seems to be only intentional and perhaps the layout for the North American Union is the reason.

Mirroring the blueprints of negating our sovereignty is current legislation in the House by Kathryn Harris R-Fla. who is proposing securing the *southern* border with Mexico. That is, the border between Mexico and Guatemala and Belize.

The public and press are not and have not been welcome to the three annual meetings by the leaders of Canada, Mexico and the U.S.

During the meeting at Montebello this summer, an 18-mile security border was established to keep the public, protestors and the press out. The signing of an agreement for a "secure and prosperous" North American community is what has been called a coup d'etat and just the prerequisite to one North American Union, much like the European Union. The future of "one" looks bleak: one government, one justice system, one currency, one flag, one anthem. And the change or complete elimination or at the very least a compromise of the status quo will follow. The countries now stuck in the European Union saw their rights, especially the British, twist and turn and transform into less freedom and limited liberties. In a discussion with my colleague Wednesday, we talked about the future of the United States and its inevitability to mold and conform to the "ideas of the consensus" as he called them. And he is right. This country will change as globalization increases, wars trudge on and the citizens', leaders' and oppositions' ideas grow and change. But I refuse to sit back and watch my country transform into a unionized conglomerate, with no borders, fewer rights and a compromise, I believe, of our safety and security. To get heard, to increase your knowledge, to stay informed and to spark a concern about the future of our country can be done. Policy is being made behind our backs without transparency and the American people should know what is happening. The Security and Prosperity Partnership and the decisions within, of which most are not even known, have come without any votes by Congress and without votes by the American people. Go on YouTube and type in "Lou Dobbs North American Union." Then write our congressmen and women and representatives. Think about a question posed to the American viewer by Dobbs on an earlier newscast. "Do you think maybe somebody should take a vote if we're going to merge with Canada, Mexico and the U.S.?" Go, create results.

However to deny Jones, or any other athlete that has tested positive for illegal performanceenhancing drugs, from playing their sport forever is unethical, un-American and one big contradiction of what we expect from athletes today.

We expect too much from athletes.

We want our athletes to be Superman-like; faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

But we don't look at the work that goes into competing at the highest level. Despite what you may think, athletes live stressful lives.

The pressure that comes from sports is undeniable: from training and practices, to the injuries and the feeling of defeat after a loss, just to be booed and taunted by people for not performing well.

Not to mention that not performing well can get an athlete benched or cut from their team, leaving them without a paycheck.

Look at the San Jose State football team, before their 9-4 2006 season if you asked students on campus how they felt about the team, most people would say they suck. Not to say they use illegal performance-enhancing drugs, but after a while that takes a toll mentally and emotionally on an athlete.

And I agree with Siracusa, these athletes deserve a second chance.

People get second chances all the time. Why not athletes?

Look at the CEOs of Enron and WorldCom, Lindsay Lohan or even President Bush. He gets away with lying about a lot more serious stuff than any athlete who got caught using illegal performance-enhancing drugs.

Athletes who do get caught and still play, live with a worse punishment than a lifetime ban anyway: being labeled a cheater.

No matter how many homeruns Barry Bonds hits, all of his records will be considered tainted and he has been considered guilty in the court of public opinion.

I know some might say these athletes are sending a bad message to younger people. But what is worse, the accused athletes or the parents and trainers who push these kids to be better by working them so hard that they believe winning by any means is the only option?

Also, if they do confess, that is sending a message that they did make a mistake and don't want others to make the same.

In no way do I condone what Jones or any other steroidusing athlete does, but looking at the big picture, what is the real reason they do this? The more I think about it, the more I believe the pressure and expectations we place on them is the reason they use steroids. Now, questions.

On spp.gov, a White House Web site, a news release from August 2007 outlines the accomplishments in accordance with the "agreement" after a meeting between the three leaders in Montebello, Quebec, Canada.

A discussion of providing greater protection for the *North American* border was at the top of the list.

The Bush administration has not committed

Lindsay Bryant is the Spartan Daily opinion editor. "Agree to Disagree" appears every Thursday.

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By HEATHER NACHT

When it comes to drinks, I tend to stick to my favorites and rarely stray out of my safety zone. Going out with friends, I usually don't vary drink orders very far from my beloved margarita or a tasty lemon drop.

Staff Writer

I like my drinks how I like my life: a perfect mix of sweet and sour.

This past weekend a few friends and I went to BJ's at Westfield Oakridge and had some drinks at the bar while we waited for a

table. I was in a curious mood so I allowed my friend to pick a drink for me to have.

"We'll have two chocolate cakes," my friend, Alicia, said.

I was shocked, and a bit skeptical,

to hear about a shot named "chocolate cake," but as a chocolate lover, I was also eager to try it out.

I watched intently as the bartender mixed vanilla vodka and Frangelico hazelnut liqueur. He poured the drink into a half sugar-rimmed shot glass and pushed the drink, garnished with a lemon wedge, in front of me.

A lemon wedge? I was baffled. Why in the world would a chocolate drink need a lemon? Just the thought of the combination made me uneasy.

The bartender could see my hesitance and told me to drink the shot then suck the lemon right away.

"Oi vey," I remember thinking. I glanced at my friend, shrugged and took the shot.

The shot went down extremely smooth. The Frangelico softened the harsh aftertaste that most vodkas seem to have. The two alcohols mixed well together for the sweet drink, which also had a gentle zing from the alcohol.

And the lemon? As soon as I got the last drop of the drink from the glass I bit right into that lemon, and somehow the drink turned from one with only a

hint of chocolate into a piece of chocolate cake — in liquid form.

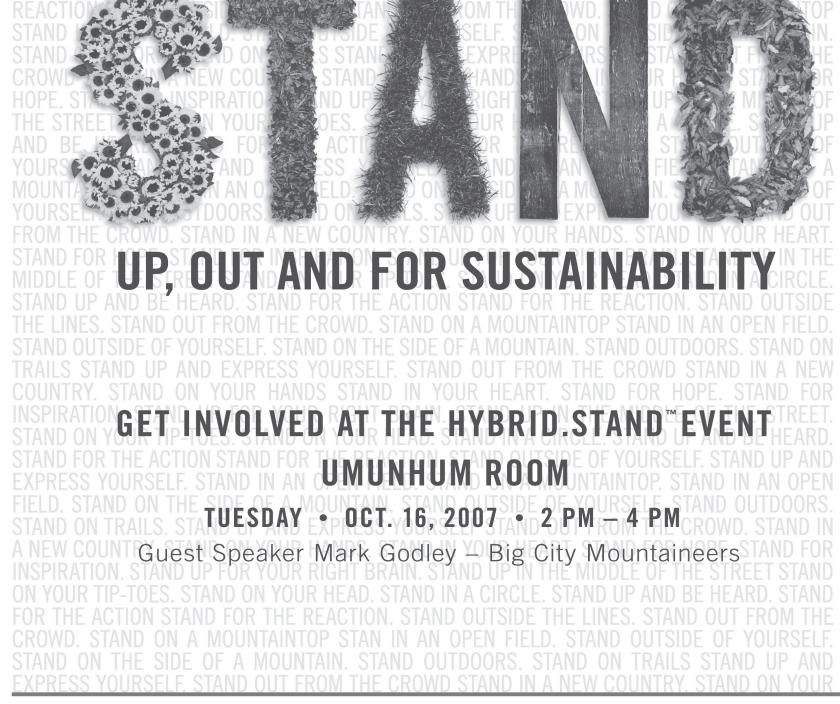
I finished the drink in absolute awe. The "chocolate cake" shot is the most decadent drink I've come across. Maybe it was the alcohol talking, but the drink could definitely give my favorite baked chocolate cake a run for its money.

I guess now I can have my chocolate cake and drink it, too.

HANNA THRASHER // SPARTAN DAILY

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STAND FOR.

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