

SERVING SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1934 partan ISSUE 43 VOLUME 129

NOVEMBER 14, 2007 // WEDNESDA

SJSU to purchase more evacuation chairs

Same device used to help student get out of King Library after earthquake

By SARAH KYO

Staff Writer

SJSU will purchase more Evacu-Tracs, devices used to help evacuate people from multistoried buildings, thanks to \$98,670 of allocated funds in SJSU's 2007-2008 fiscal budget.

The devices can be found near stairwells in multiple buildings on campus.

Marty Schulter, director of the Disabilities Resource Center, said a plan to install Evacu-Tracs throughout campus has been in the works for four years in three phases.

Besides being used to evacuate people with disabilities from buildings, Schulter said Evacu-Tracs can be used for able-bodied people who might be injured during an earthquake or a fire.

The device grips to the steps of stairs, allowing one person to wheel another person step-by-step down a staircase. They can also be pushed to transport people from one place to another on a more flat surface.

These devices are such that they are very secure and light enough that a person with very minimum training, can operate them, Schulter said.

"In fact we found during the earthquake someone with no training who was a fellow student actually was evacuated by another student," Schulter said.

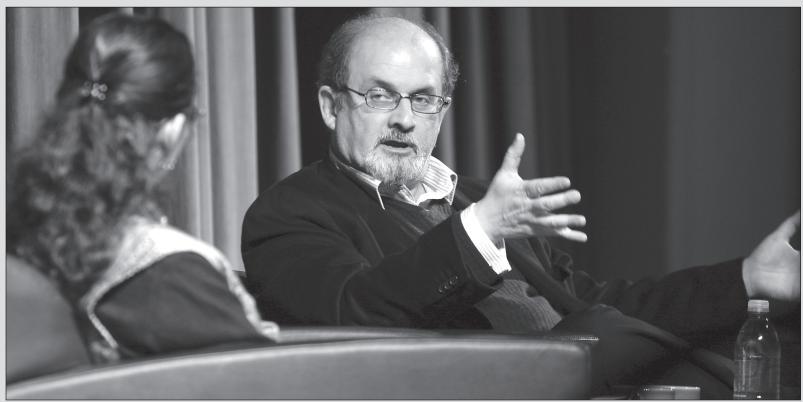
Schulter was referring to an incident printed in the Oct. 31 issue of the Spartan Daily in

which a student, Wilson Kong, helped another student, Abdullah Mojaddidi, evacuate from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library with the Evacu-Trac after a 5.6 earthquake.

Calvin Lee, a senior forensics science major, said before the current Evacu-Tracs, there were other types of evacuation chairs installed on campus, such as one that involved a few people carrying the evacuee and another that ran on an actual track.

"The Evacu-Tracs are kind of the newest type of evacuation chairs available," Lee said. "They have their own brakes and everything. It's a lot safer than having three people carry

See CHAIR, page 4



ERIC AUSTIN // Special to the Daily

Salman Rushdie engaged in a public Q&A session with English Associate Professor Revathi Krishnaswamy, who uses Rushdie's work in her classes.

Salman Rushdie visits campus

Famous author discusses his craft, death sentence issued by Iran

By BRIANA HERNANDEZ Staff Writer

Controversial author Salman Rushdie spoke to SJSU students and faculty in Morris Dailey Auditorium Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Rushdie, writer of such books as "The Satanic Verses" and "East, West Stories," was introduced by Center for Literary Arts co-directors Kate Evens and Kelly Harrison as well as his interviewer, Revathi Krishnaswamy, an SJSU English professor.

After his introduction, Rushdie delivered a 30-minute speech on his journey as a novelist, the subject matter of his books, and his personal style as a writer. This was followed by an on-stage interview with Krishnaswamy and a question-and-answer session that concluded the event at 9 p.m.

During the interview, Rushdie was asked about the death sentence he was placed under by then-Iranian leader Ayatollah Kho-

meini for blasphemy after publishing "The Satanic Verses" in 1988.

"I was shocked," he said. "Of course I was. It was unexpected simply because it had never happened before."

Rushdie spoke of fundamentalism and violence in today's society as well as feminism in his books.

During the interview, the audience was

See AUTHOR, page 2

San Jose: No. 6 most expensive college town

By LEAH BIGELOW

Staff Writer

A recent survey by the Coldwell Banker College Home Price Comparison Index showed that San Jose ranked No. 6 in the nation's most expensive college towns.

"San Jose is way too expensive," said Ashley Visneski, a junior kinesiology major. Visneski said she and her husband own their home, and both of them work to help pay for it.

Colleen Berndt, an economics professor at SJSU, said via e-mail that it is 80 percent more expensive to live in San Jose, based on the Cost of Living Index.

The cost of living in San Jose is calculated at 180 percent, Berndt said. She said the Cost of Living Index is obtained by calculating and averaging prices and then indexing those at 100 percent.

"Cities are always more expensive than small towns," said SJSU President Don

He said he is not surprised that San Jose placed sixth on the list based of the cost of

See **SIXTH**, page 5

Based on a 2,220-foot, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home with a family room and two-car garage.

Most Affordable

\$150,000, Ball State University, Muncie, Ind;

\$151,250, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas

\$153,750, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Okla. \$162,000, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla

\$163,250, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas \$163,278, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio

LEAST AFFORDABLE

\$1.67 million, Stanford University, Palo Alto

\$1.38 million, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Ma.

\$1.3 million, University of Southern California, Los Angeles

\$1.3 million, University of California, Los Angeles \$1.28 million, University of California, Berkeley

\$1.14 million, San Jose State University, San Jose

University responds to more threats By MICHAEL RIZZO

AND CHRISSY RAMONEDA

Staff Writers

Reports of threats and intimidation in the residence halls over the past month prompted a university statement two weeks ago admonishing residents of campus housing to build better conflict resolution skills and diligently report violations of the Student Conduct Code to appropriate officials.

"We take reports of threats and intimidation extremely seriously, with heightened precaution after the Virginia Tech tragedy and other similar cases," Vice President Veril Phillips wrote to campus residents via e-mail.

The statement was quick to differentiate between two reports of threats — one recently in Joe West Hall and one more than a month ago in Lou Henry Hoover

Lolenielou Atienza was arrested Oct. 29 after a male resident of Joe West Hall reported several direct threats made to his life — two in person and one on a voicemail

"You disrespectin', brah. I'm comin'," the message said, according to Sgt. Michael Santos, of the UPD investigations unit.

Santos said Atienza suspected the Joe West Hall resident of prank dalizing her property, which led to two heated verbal encounters where Atienza acknowledged making direct threats to the resident's

Misdemeanor charges were filed against Atienza Nov. 2, and the university filed a "criminal, notrespassing order" against her. She was not allowed on any CSU property until today.

In his e-mail, Phillips said this incident was "substantially differ-

ent" from what happened weeks earlier in Hoover Hall, "which involved two students who allegedly made general threats."

Alfredo Balderamos was accused on Sept. 29 of threatening the use of guns to "go Virginia Tech" on a fellow resident. His roommate, Nathan Oliveira was accused of intimidating a potential witness during an investigation into the accusation.

The results of a judicial conference found Balderamos responsible for making general threats.

Balderamos is still prohibited from entering campus because he chose not to accept the university sanctions proposed at that conference. A judicial hearing is scheduled for Nov. 16.

University investigations found Nathan Oliveira not responsible for threats or intimidation of a potential witness. But UPD's investigation process included a search of his room, where a small amount of alcohol was found.

Oliveira accepted the sanctions proposed for that violation of the Student Conduct Code and was allowed to return to his residence hall Oct. 25.

Phillips' statement alluded to two types of responses the university has to incidents such as these that occur on campus.

Judicial processes were initiated calling her several times and van- in both situations. Phillips said the process gives the accused the "op portunity to respond to allegations." And, in hopes of preventing more instances of threats and intimidation, the SJSU Mediation Center will organize a series of workshops addressing "safety and conflict resolution."

The Judicial Process

President Don W. Kassing said

See CODE, page 3

EPA awards CSU-run marine research lab nearly \$86K

By JOVANNI COLISAO

Staff Writer

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently granted \$85,970 to the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories to develop a wetlands monitoring program, said Gage Dayton, a postdoctoral researcher at the laboratory.

"We were very grateful to be awarded the money," Dayton said.

He said that the laboratory was pleased that the EPA recognized the importance of the work they're doing in gathering information on wetlands in California's central coast as well as the need for developing priorities and objectives for a regional wetland freshwater pro-

The Moss Landing Marine Lab-

oratories is operated by seven California State University campuses, which include Fresno, Hayward, Monterey Bay, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose and Stanislaus, according to the SJSU catalog.

Dayton said SJSU students will be teaming up with Cal State Monterey Bay in helping with the program.

He said that in order to receive a grant, a proposal must usually be reviewed first; and the EPA recognized the importance in Moss Landings proposal and decided to fund it.

Cheryl McGovern, EPA Region Nine grant coordinator, said that the United States government has a number of different grant pro-

See **EPA**, page 6

NEWS

A.S. HOLDS THREE-DAY OPEN HOUSE

Members of SJSU's student government invite students into the house to learn more about what they do.

PAGE 4

SPORTS

A sophomore civil enginerring major plays his way onto the Afghanistan National Basketball team.

PAGE 7

STUDENT MAKES

NATIONAL TEAM

STUDENT LIFE

U.S. SETS NEW STD RECORD

Cases of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis are on the rise, and more than one million cases of Chlamydia were reported last year.

PAGE 8

OPINION

GET OFF MYSPACE! THE 12-STEP PROGRAM

Alright, there isn't a program. But MySpace is ruining the life of one Daily writer.

PAGE 9

ONLINE

SLIDE SHOW: SALMAN **RUSHDIE AT SJSU**

Controversial author spoke at SJSU — students saw a different side to the writer and his humor.

THESPARTANDAILY.COM

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

TODAY

Any Soldier Care-Package Drive

The Delta Zeta sorority is sponsoring a care package drive for soldiers on active duty. Donations of personal hygiene products, snacks, and fun stuff like magazines and games would be greatly appreciated. Delta Zeta is working with AnySoldier.com to send the care packages to soldiers who get little, if any, mail. Donations can be placed in the blue and gold box found in the Student Involvement office in Clark Hall, Suite 140 any time between Thursday, Nov. 7 and Tuesday, Nov. 20. For more information, contact Kathryn Linder at kathrynmarie86@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer: A Time of Quiet Prayer and Meditation

Every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m., SJSPIRIT holds a prayer and meditation session in the Spartan Memorial Chapel. For more information, contact Chaplain Roger at (408) 605-1687.

Associated Students Open House

From Nov. 13 to 15, the Associated Students will be holding an Open House at the Associated Students House on the Paseo de San Carlos all day long.

Internship Week - Student Panel

Learn internship strategies from students in a variety of liberal arts fields. Nov.14 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Umunhum Room, Student Union. For more information go to www.careercenter.sjsu.edu.

Feminist & Catholic Mass

Spartan Chapel, 5:15 p.m. Every Wednesday. All are welcome at the table! Victoria Rue, Roman Catholic woman priest, presiding. Fore more information, contact Dr. Victoria Rue at victoria@victoriarue.com.

Nov. 15

Employer Information Session - Southland Industries

Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering students are invited to join Southland Industries for lunch and learn about internship and full-time opportunities from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the Ohlone Room, Student Union. For more information, contact Sherri Bowman at sherri. bowman@sjsu.edu.

Internship Week –Employer Panel

Employers will be on hand to share their tips on how to maximize opportunities and gain meaningful internship experience from noon to 2 p.m. in the Umunhum Room in the Student Union. For more information, go to www.careercenter.sjsu.edu.

National Marrow Donor Program Registry

From 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union, the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) and San Jose State University are encouraging all ethnically diverse students to join in a mission to save lives by joining the NMDP Registry. SJSU and Nu Alpha Kappa is hosting a drive. To find out more about unrelated transplantation as a life-saving therapy, becoming a marrow or blood stem cell donor, donating umbilical cord blood, and other ways to help, please visit www.marrow.org, or call Cynthia Carlson at 510-495-4021.

150th Anniversary Deans' Speaker Series: Silicon Valley Leaders Symposium
From 12 to 1 p.m. in the Engineering Auditorium, Room 189, Dr.
T.J. Rodgers Founder, President & CEO of Cypress Semiconductor will speak. This event is free. For more information, contact Ahmed Hambaba at ahmed.hambaba@sjsu.edu.

Nov. 17

Friends of the King Library Booksale

From 1 to 5 p.m., the Friends of the King Library are having a bag booksale. The revenues from these sales are donated back to the library for use in sponsoring a variety of community and literacy projects. All hardcover books are \$1 and softcover books are 50 cents. A bag booksale will follow Sunday. For more information, contact Jennifer Davis at jennifer.davis@sjsu.edu.

Nov. 18

Friends of the King Library Booksale

From 1 to 5 p.m., the Friends of the King Library are having a bag booksale. Just \$5 for all the books you can fit into a large paper bag provided by the staff. The revenues from these sales are donated back to the library for use in sponsoring a variety of community and literacy projects. For more information, contact Jennifer Davis at jennifer.davis@sjsu.edu.

SISU EMPLOYEES DESERVE TO OWN!

Now there are even more ways to own a home at City Heights. In addition to the SISU Employee Program, City Heights is offering \$50,000 in incentives that can be used for a price reduction (up to \$20,000 off the sales price), interest rate buydown, appliance or flooring upgrades, closing costs, property taxes and more!

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AUTHOR // About 800 people attended event

Continued from page 1

asked to write down its questions on pieces of paper, which were collected and handed to professor Krishnaswamy to direct the audience's questions.

Center for Literary Arts co-director Harrison said questions were dealt within this fashion to avoid a number of problems that come with audience participation. She said sometimes audience questions can be repetitious or irrelevant.

"Sometimes people will ask totally random questions like, 'What is your favorite color?' 'Do you have a dog?'" she said. "It's basically so the event will run smoothly. That's all."

Harrison said both she and co-director Evans collected audience questions and selected and organized the best ones for Krishnaswamy to use. She said in large events such as Rushdie's appearance, it is typical to deliver audience questions this way.

The question that ended the night was, "Can literature change the world?"

Rushdie answered, "No. It can't change the world, but it can change people. I don't want books to change the world. It's hard enough to understand the world."

Dan Vo, a senior English major, attended Thursday night's event as an extra credit assignment for his poetry class.

"I thought it was pretty cool," he said. "I liked the end with the Q&A."

Though Vo attended for a school assignment, he paid the \$10 admission fee for SJSU students.

"It's 10 bucks," he said. "It's not a big deal."

Duncan Lange, marketing and events manager for Associated Students at SJSU, said the Rushdie event was sponsored by Associated Students who mainly had a hand in advertising.

"I thought it was successful," he said. "We had a really good turnout. I think having someone on Rushdie's level on campus was the most important thing."

Lange said, however, that final income figures for the event are not yet available but that 700-800 people attended.

Harrison said, however, "We pretty much know when we bring in somebody like Rushdie that we won't make money off the event. For us, it is never a money-making endeavor."

The Center for Literary Arts uses fundraising and grants to finance an author's fee for appearing on campus, Harrison said. It is when the amount cannot be fully covered by such means that students are then charged to attend.

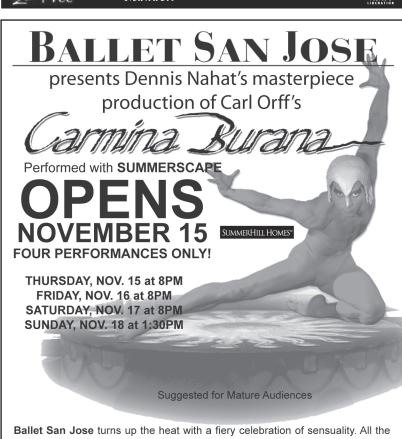
"This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students," she said. "Nowhere else would you be able to see Rushdie for 10 bucks."



ERIC AUSTIN // Special to the Daily

Fans of Salman Rushdie line up for a book signing after his speech on Thursday at the Morris Dailey Auditorium.





Ballet San Jose turns up the heat with a fiery celebration of sensuality. All the seven deadly sins of pride, greed, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth; that's CARMINA BURANA. Set to Carl Orff's popular choral-orchestral work of 1937, this tour de force ballet is inspired by bawdy texts from a Bavarian monastery written during the 13th century. The characters run the gamut from monks and lovers, to thieves and prostitutes. CARMINA BURANA is performed with Symphony Silicon Valley, the 100-voice Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale with Cantabile Youth Singers and three featured vocal soloists.

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to Friday 5pm I

www.balletsanjose.org



Advocacy group to hold sleep out as part of nationwide protest

By NICOLE LIEURANCE

Staff Writer

A student group advocating for Hurricane Katrina survivors is scheduled to hold a sleep-out tonight at SJSU's Smith-Carlos

The Gulf Coast Civic Works Project, a national organization founded at SJSU, aims to create 100,000 jobs in the Gulf Coast region through federal legislation, repairing hurricane damage and providing living-wage jobs for lo-

The organization, which was formed in November 2006, was key in the introduction of a Gulf Coast Civic Works Project bill to Congress earlier this month, said Victoria Chavez, an SJSU student and one of the leaders of the project.

"We need to make this a national effort," said Rochelle Jackson-Smarr, another student leader of the project.

At the sleep out tonight, the Works Project hopes to raise awareness of the current situation in the Gulf Coast, where in trailers provided by the federal government after the storm, according to a report by the Institute of Southern Studies.

One such trailer will be on display today in the Ninth Street will be collecting cans of food for the second Harvest Food Bank to aid the local homeless.

The founder of the project, sociology Professor Scott Myers-Lipton, said that while the emphasis of the sleep out is on the Gulf Coast, the project is also aimed at the issue of local pov-



HANNA THRASHER // Spartan Daily

The Gulf Coast Civic Works project will host the "National Campus Sleep Out: A New Deal for the Gulf Coast," along with 10 other college campuses nationwide, today through Thursday near the Smith-Carlos statue.

erty. From 4:30 to 6 p.m., partici-sleep out," Myers-Lipton said. pants plan to serve dinner at the Community Homeless Alliance ing the sleep out, the Works Proj-Ministry on South Fifth Street.

The events planned for today 81,000 households are still living also include a march from the San Jose Civic Auditorium to the SJSU campus at 11 a.m. and a show by Hip Hop Congress at noon in the Student Union Am- dirty," Jackson-Smarr said of the phitheater.

Plaza, where the Works Project are expected to participate in munity and get them pumped up the event as well, Jackson-Smarr about the project. said, including the environmental

> Jackson-Smarr said that students, hurricane survivors and activists from the community will speak at the sleep out, which is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.

"We expect over 100 people to government to be there."

Thursday afternoon, followect plans to hold a barbecue, as well as an information session on "Louisiana Winter 2," a trip to the Gulf Coast the project has planned for January.

"We're going to get our hands trip. "We're going to rebuild hous-Other student organizations es ... talk to people in the com-

"We need to set an example while we can," she said, cautioning that the recent San Jose earthquake could have been much worse. "When it comes to our turn, we want someone to be there to help us. We need our

CODE // President says attorneys are not allowed at judicial hearings on campus

Continued from page 1

the student judicial policy borrows from the state legal system, but the two are not identical.

The university's judicial procedures are outlined in Executive Order 970, a CSU document that provides due process for students charged with violating the student conduct code. Although the document is enforced CSUwide, each university is able to have a presidential directive attached that states specific campus regulations.

"We make a very serious effort to ensure students have due process," Kassing said at a news conference Nov. 6.

According to the executive order, the process begins with the university's student conduct administrator — Debra Griffith at SJSU — who conducts an investigation to determine whether evidence indicates an actual violation of the Student Conduct Code. Part of this process is an informal conference held where witnesses and the accused student(s) testify.

Should the student conduct administrator find the accused to be in violation of the code, the student can sign a document agreeing to the proposed sanctions — without admitting guilt — or request an informal hearing for further investigation.

At such a hearing, the student conduct administrator would present all the evidence collected during the investigation to a hearing officer and the accused student also would present their side of the story again.

Hearing officers are chosen on a case-by-case basis out of a bank of about 10 faculty or staff members, selected by nomination, who have undergone training for the position, according to the Office of Student Affairs.

The president and university staff members make yearly nominations, which are forwarded to the provost for recommendation. The student conduct administrator and the hearing officer are never the same person.

After the hearing, the presiding officer is then in charge of proposing a new sanction, which is issued to the university's president.

The president of each university has the final say on whether to bring forth that sanction.

Kassing has delegated final sanction decisions to Vice President Phillips.

"I use my judgment as to when

to talk to (Kassing) prior to making a decision," Phillips said. "If I were believing a student should be expelled, I would consult the president. And in most cases, if the penalty is suspension for a year or more I would also consult the president."

Executive Order 970 allows for a president's discretion in deciding if attorneys may attend judicial

President Kassing's directive on the matter states: "San Jose State University does not permit attorney's to be present. ... During the conference and hearing the student and student conduct administrator may have an adviser, who is not an attorney, present."

Kassing said, "We have the jurisdiction and the authority in these proceedings and we don't view them as a legal process. It's not part of the judiciary process. It's meant to be a learning pro-

Ray Murillo, the associate director for student programs in the chancellor's office, confirmed that Kassing's directive on the matter is within the guidelines of the execu-

"Executive Order 970 is a blanket policy," he said. "If (the president) wants to make the decision to have no attorneys present that's the campus's decision."

Kristin Ash, a sophomore communications major said that doesn't seem right.

"If I was in trouble I would want an attorney," she said. "I think it's a big deal. I don't think it's fair that they're not allowed to have an attorney.'

Kassing recalled going through the judicial process when he was in college after alcohol, which he said did not belong to him, was found in a residence hall room he shared with a roommate.

"That was distinctly a learning process," he said. "I don't think I would have ever brought a lawyer

In response to some students concerns that the university overreacted with its judicial investigation into the Hoover Hall bound to happen. incidents, Kassing said, "That's not my impression. Occasionally you'll have cases that get controversial like this one," referring to the hearings for Balderamos and Oliveira, "and you'll get called on it. But I think you'll find that historically, (judicial) practices have evolved into a process that stands up well, and I support it."

Conflict Resolution

The university has asked Campus Civility Coordinator Rosie Valdez, who is in charge of the SJSU Mediation Center, to collaborate with the residential life staff on a series of workshops aimed at teaching students conflict resolution skills.

As an alumna of San Jose State University, Valdez recalled living with her roommate in Joe West Hall during the Spring '99 semester. She said the communication between them was so bad, UPD eventually had to step in.

"There was a escalation throughout the academic year of us not being able to communicate needs to each other — use of the phone, how often guests came over," she said. "It basically escalated to the point that it exploded in our face. It led to a physical altercation, and UPD had to get called."

Valdez said the root of the problems between her roommate and her was an inability to resolve normal conflicts that arise out of close living situations.

Current situations in the residence halls emphasize the need for some of that how-to training,

"A lot of students have never lived away from home and have never lived with anyone but their siblings," Valdez said. "They had their parents to mediate, but now they have to do their own media-

Dates have not yet been set, but Valdez said the workshop or series of workshops, if students have enough interest, will be geared around discussing roommate conflict — how to identify it and how to deal with it. She said she hopes it will facilitate conversation and provide "tools, some ways to identify triggers, and ways to learn to actively listen, to help in dialoguing with roommates.'

Emily Chen, a freshman animation major, said that when she started school she thought incidents like those that occurred in Joe West and Hoover halls were

"Students feel they have the freedom to do anything in college," she said. "People are bound to do something stupid, especially since their parents aren't around."

Vice President Phillips said students need to proactively manage their stress levels during the semester.

"Let's all behave in a civil manner." he said. "And let's not let things get out of hand."

INTERNSHIP

Map your road to internship success by attending the following sessions

OPEN HOUSE Food and refreshments will be provided.

Gain the tools to prepare yourself for an internship Location: Career Center

CAREERS IN SOCIAL WORK PANEL Food and refreshments will be provided.

Discussion on career paths within the social work field Location: Umunhum Room, Student Union

STUDENT PANEL

Learn internship strategies from students in a variety of liberal arts fields

Location: Umunhum Room, Student Union



EMPLOYER PANEL

Employers share their tips on how to maximize opportunities and gain meaningful internship experience Location: Umunhum Room, Student Union



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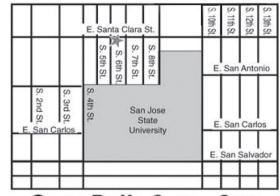
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CHAIR // Evacu-Trac device not available in Campus Village for fear of vandalism

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someone down."

Lee is an instructor with a program through the University Police Department called the Community Emergency Response Team.

Spencer Wong, an emergency services assistant, said the Los Angeles Fire Department formed the Community Emergency Response Team program in 1985 after an earthquake hit Mexico.

"They saw a lot of people were willing to come forward and help, but they weren't prepared, and they were ill-prepared and a lot of them ended up getting hurt," Wong said. "So we now have the CERT program they developed, which is a community emergency response team."

Wong teaches free, three-day CERT classes especially aimed toward students, faculty and staff members. Part of the training is to teach people how to use the Evacu-Tracs, which can be found in white boxes in buildings throughout campus.

Schulter said there are about 45 chairs currently located throughout the campus, while 40 to 50 chairs may be added during the last phase, depending on the prices of the chairs.

In addition, Schulter said there are plans to possibly purchase a Super-Trac, which would cost \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Unlike the Evacu-Trac, the Super-Trac can transport a person and his or her wheelchair during an emergency.

The Super-Trac can also be used in other situations, said Lucille M. Surdi, an American with Disabilities Act compliance specialist.

"In non-emergency situations, when you have an elevator just stuck and broke and you have someone on the third floor, that would be the apparatus that we would use," she said.

Wong said Evacu-Tracs are not displayed in Campus Village.

"The reason the Evacu-Tracs are not available in Campus Village is not really due to a funding issue," Wong said. "It is an issue of abuse."

Wong said some students often tamper with fire extinguishers, hoses and alarms already present in Campus Village.

He said this is the same reason why automatic external defibrillators, devices used on people experiencing cardiac arrest, are also not present in Campus Village.

Wong said these safety devices can cost up to \$3,000.

According to a letter from the Accommodations Review Board, an Evacu-Trac Chair costs \$2,450.

"We know that the very first thing students will do with them is abuse them, like they do with fire extinguishers and other safety devices inside their building," Wong said. Wong said there have been discussions about storing the Evacu-Trac somewhere considered "safe" such as a residential adviser's room, especially if a disabled student is living on that floor.

"But for the most part we haven't been willing to go that far yet because the counterargument is if it's locked away in a RA's room, only the RA has access to it and not everybody else," Wong said. "What happens if the RA is not there?"

Raymond Ho, a junior mechanical engineering major, is an instructor in the CERT program. Ho said more people should be aware of where Evacu-Tracs are located and should read the instructions posted on the boxes.

"People pass by them, but not a lot of people pay attention to them," Ho said. "But those of us who are trained in them actually tend to notice them and know where they are, so we can get to them pretty quickly."





PHOTOS BY HANNA THRASHER // Spartan Daily

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Associated Students opens its doors to students, public

By CHRISSY RAMONEDA

Staff Writer

The Associated Students at SJSU began holding its first annual informational open house Nov. 13, contuining through Nov. 15, at the A.S. House located in front of Duncan Hall, near the Fourth Street Garage.

"It's good for them to see where the student leaders they elected work," said Clifton Gold, the marketing and events coordinator for A.S.

"A lot of people walk by this house and wonder what it is," Gold said. "It's not a big scary house. They think it's either something really fancy or haunted."

During the afternoon of the first day, however, no students were seen taking the tour.

"We hope to make this thing bigger as the years go by," said Christy Riggins, the administrative assistant to the A.S. government. "What we can't do this year, we'll do next year."

Planning for the open house began a month ago and they hope to have more pictures and publicity for the event in the future.

The A.S. House was built in 1904 and was named



HANNA THRASHER // Spartan Daily

The A.S. House is hosting an open house that lasts through Thursday, allowing students and faculty to see board rooms, offices and a display of services the Associated Students provide.

the "The Scheller House" after Victor Scheller, a lawyer who lived there with his sister and her husband.

"My group did some of the research," Riggins said. "We were able to secure some old photos from the History San Jose Museum."

The house was eventually purchased by SJSU, and the campus grew around it. In 1991 it was vacated, and the university put it up for sale for \$1 if the buyer would then move it off campus. No offers came forward

There was an attempt to demolish the house in 1994, but the San Jose Preservation Council considered it a historic building, Gold said.

In 2000, A.S. decided to fund the \$2.3 million to renovate the house, and it became its headquarters, as well as housing for the executive director's office, government administration, the Marketing and Events department, and the Information Technology department.

The tour includes 15 stops, starting with the executive director's office, the many rooms throughout the house and ending with the president's of-



HANNA THRASHER // Spartan Daily

Clifton Gold, a senior public relations major and marketing/event coordinator for Associated Students explains a display set up for the A.S. House open house, showing the plethora of events and services the A.S. provides. The open house is being held through Thursday.

fice. Each stop has an informational sign explaining what the room was before renovation, what it's used for today and the departments that work in it, Gold said

"I think it's a great idea, a great way to have students come into the house," said Benjamin Henderson, A.S. president. "We have information on the legislative branch and the executive branch. We also have directors here. We're all going to be here giving information to students."

There are departmental displays throughout the tour explaining the A.S. affiliated centers on campus and how students can use them.

The "Fireside Room," a meeting room on the first floor, as well as the A.S. boardroom located on the second floor, are open to any students who need a room to conduct meetings. And when the "Fireside Room" is not in use, it is available for students to study, Gold said.

During the open-house tour, the boardroom table is set up with an individual box for all 13 A.S. directors, as well as the president, vice president and financial controller. The boxes have a picture of each officer, as well as a brief explanation of what his or her position entitles.

The boxes have a slot where students can leave comments, questions or suggestions for each officer.

"That way you're able to have direct communication with them," Gold said.



HANNA THRASHER // Spartan Daily

A gavel was displayed at the head of the Associated Students board of directors table on Tuesday at the A.S. House during an open-house tour.



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Colleges Against Cancer club sets up events to raise money for breast cancer research

PHOTOS BY BETH SHAPIRO // Special to the Daily



Maeley Roberts, a junior nursing major, and Brad Kompelien, a junior communications major, sell baked goods to raise money for breast cancer research. The Colleges Against Cancer club set up the "bounce your boobies against breast cancer" event to raise awareness for the disease. The event also included an Astro Jump, a bean bag toss and self-exam demonstrations. Pink ribbons and stickers were also distributed.



Mark Stickler, a junior math major, calls his mother to tell her to get a mammogram. The club members encouraged passing students to call their mothers, aunts and grandmothers to remind them to get checked for breast cancer.



Brian Coughlin, a senior business major, demonstrates how to search for lumps using a silicon breast.



Mark Stickler, a junior math major, and Gabriel Galaza, a senior majoring in radio, television and film, play in the Astro Jump set up by the Colleges Against Cancer club. Students were encouraged to "bounce their boobies against breast cancer" to raise awareness for the disease.

Netflix \$1M prize still available for better movie software

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Netflix Inc.'s system for recommending movies to its subscribers is proving tough to beat, as thousands of engineers and statisticians have discovered after long hours of research.

Hoping to widen its lead in the online DVD rental market, Netf-lix last year dangled a \$1 million reward to anyone who could improve upon the Los Gatos-based company's current movie-recommendation software by at least 10 percent.

The prize remains on the table, Netflix said Tuesday, for the more than 27,000 contestants from more than 160 countries who have entered the quirky coding contest so far.

To keep the programmers motivated, Netflix is handing out at least \$50,000 annually to whoever has come closest to the 10 percent improvement.

Netflix will give its first "progress prize" next week to three researchers at an AT&T Inc. laboratory in Florham Park, N.J.

The team, consisting of Yehuda Koren, Robert Bell and Chris Volinsky, spent more than 2,000 combined hours poring through data to develop a method that improved upon Netflix's movie recommendations by about 8.5 percent.

The judging was done using a program that quantifies how well the recommendation systems predict which movies will be liked or disliked by a profiled consumer. Because the AT&T trio did much of their Netflix work as part of its job assignment, the \$50,000 award is being paid to their company, which plans to donate the money to charity.

Although his team is near the 10-percent target, Koren said he isn't sure the goal is reachable.

"Getting the first 5 percent (of

Netflix is handing out \$50,000 annually to whoever has come the closest to the 10 percent improvement

improvement) is a lot easier than the last 5 percent," Koren said.

Even if they don't continue their work on the Netflix project, the AT&T research team plans to release their findings next week. Their insights conceivably could help other competitors in the contest to win the \$1 million prize.

Netflix plans to blend some of the AT&T research team's suggested improvements into its movie-recommendation software early next year, said Jim Bennett, a vice president who oversees the system.

The current system draws upon about two-billion movie ratings collected from the more than 10-million consumers who have subscribed to Netflix's service at some point during the past eight years.

Netflix ended September with about seven-million subscribers, giving the company a substantial lead over its nearest rival, Blockbuster Inc., which has 3.1 million online customers.

SIXTH // Census Bureau says groceries, transportation, housing more expensive

Continued from page 1

things such as housing and gas.

The Cost of Living Index released by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2005 said the cost of groceries in San Jose was 46 percent more expensive than average, transportation was 7.2 percent higher and housing was 157 percent more expensive.

According to the report, "a 2,220-foot, 4-bedroom, 2-1/2-bath home with a family room and two-car garage would average \$150,000," in Muncie, Ind., home of Ball State University. That city was first on the list of the most affordable college market for home prices.

The price of that same home in San Jose would be \$1.14 million, according to the survey. Berndt said the average apartment rental is about \$1,230 per month.

Some students choose to live at their parent's home to avoid paying the high costs of downtown housing.

"I think it's cheaper for me to live at home than pay for the dorms," said Kathryn Ilagan, a freshman nursing major.

President Kassing said the on-campus housing options are very competitive with rent prices for areas surrounding the school. He said these prices are also very similar to what other California State Universities charge.

According to the Campus Village Web site, a single occupancy apartment costs \$3,994 per person a semester. A November 13 craigslist.com listing had a two-bedroom, one-bath apartment in downtown San Jose available for \$5,375 during that same time frame.

There are benefits to living in a city with a higher cost of living, Berndt said. She said that although it is pricier to live in this area, "our salaries are higher here as well."

The appeal of San Jose's good weather and booming economy are two reasons why people are willing to pay more to live here,

Berndt said.

"San Jose is well located for someone searching for a job," Berndt said.

She said the city has a thriving high-tech industry, and for those who cannot find a job in the area, it's an easy commute to other big cities, such as San Francisco, Oakland and Santa Cruz.

Berndt said some cities have a less expensive cost of living, "simply

to make up for those other aspects of life which it cannot provide."

Stanford's home city of Palo Alto, topped the index for the third year in a row, with housing prices averaging \$1.67 million. Also placing ahead of San Jose were Berkeley, as well as two areas of Los Angeles, where the University of Southern California and University of California, Los Angeles campuses reside.



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Trustees consider 2008-09 budget; CSU fees may rise

By MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press

BERKELEY — California State University trustees have tentatively approved a budget for next year that could mean higher student fees.

Trustees haven't taken a formal vote on fees and won't until next year. But a budget proposal for 2008-09 approved by the board's finance committee Tuesday includes the possibility of a fee hike unless the state provides more funding.

The approval came over the objections of Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who is also a trustee. He urged the board, meeting in Long Beach, not to leave the door open for a fee hike.

"It's time for trustees and this institution to take a different tack, instead of assuming that student fees will continue to be increased," he said.

Leaders of the state's other public university system, the University of California, were scheduled to take a similar step Wednesday with consideration of a budget request that includes a potential fee hike unless there is extra funding.

Garamendi, who is also a member of the UC governing board, is proposing capping fees there, too. As at CSU, UC leaders are not expected to formally vote on fees until next year.

University administrators will get a clearer picture of the funding outlook in January, when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger presents his budget to leg-

However, early forecasts are that the state is facing a deficit of at least \$6 billion.

CSU Chancellor Charles Reed said Tuesday that CSU's proposed budget is the responsible way to go. "I only think it's fair for students to get early

warning," he said.

The committee, whose actions were scheduled to go before the full board for ratification Wednesday, approved a proposed budget of about \$4.7 billion. Last year's budget was \$4.47 billion.

The request includes \$322.7 million more than

The budget includes \$73 million that could come out of extra state funding or through raising student fees about 10 percent.

last year, as laid out in a long-term agreement reached earlier with the governor. In addition, CSU is asking for \$155.2 million above the agreed-on figure to pay for enrollment growth and other priori-

The budget includes \$73 million that could come out of extra state funding or through raising student fees about 10 percent.

Trustees said they will decide on fees no later than the March board meeting.

CSU, the nation's largest four-year system with 450,000 students, now charges undergraduates about \$3,400 a year.

An increase would be highly unpopular since CSU fees have gone up steadily in recent years.

CSU officials note their fees are still among the lowest in the nation.

However, administrators have come under fire for their spending priorities.

A state audit released last week criticized pay and perks given to executives of the 23-campus system, and urged the system's trustees to change their procedures and make future compensation decisions

More college students heading abroad for study as schools beef up programs

By JUSTIN POPE

Associated Press

Growing numbers of U.S. colleges and universities are sending more students abroad for international study opportunities, and to a wider range of countries.

More than 223,000 U.S. students studied abroad during the 2005-06 academic year, up 8.5 percent from the year before, according to the latest annual survey by the Institute of International Education, being issued Monday. The number who get academic credit for study abroad is up 150 percent over the past decade.

As recently as five years ago, although nearly every college was talking about internationalization, many were struggling to develop programs and make them feasible for students, said Allan Goodman, IIE president and CEO.

"A lot of people had the words but not the plan," he said. "In the last five years, more people have put the beef in the sandwich."

The report also contains en-

couraging news for U.S. universities that depend on a steady stream of foreign students, particularly to fill graduate programs. Enrollment by international students rose 3 percent last academic year to about 583,000 — the first significant jump since 2001-02. More encouragingly, first-time enroll-

ments rose 10 percent. Goodman attributed the increase to an easing of visa problems and aggressive recruiting efforts by American institutions.

He said there is capacity for much more growth.

"Half of all the international students that come here go to about 150 schools," he said. "We have about 4,000 altogether. We have an enormous capacity to expand, and almost no other country can do that."

The United Kingdom was again the leading destination for U.S. students, with 32,109 students enrolled there. But that number was flat from the year before, and other traditionally popular destinations like Italy, France and Spain

saw only small gains.

Study in Asia, however, rose 26 percent. The number of U.S. students in Latin America rose 14 percent and 31 percent in the Middle East.

Forty campuses sent more than 1,000 students abroad. New York University sent the most (2,809) followed by Michigan State and the University of Texas-Austin. The University of Southern California was the largest host school for international students.

Much of the growth in study abroad for U.S. students is coming from short-term programs, in which students may get a taste of a foreign culture but less of a true immersion experience. IIE reports that 53 percent of study abroad now takes place in short-term programs, lasting a summer, a January term, or less than 8 weeks. Only 5.5 percent is in long-term programs, lasting longer than one semester.

Still, Goodman says a taste of life in a foreign culture is helpful, and students often return for another program or after graduation.

EPA // Grant will go to research for protecting California wetlands

Continued from page 1

grams, and this particular grant involves the protection of wetlands.

Under the grant, SJSU will develop a framework for the assessment and public reporting of wetland resources on the central coast of California, she said.

The EPA receives about \$1.5 million from Congress each year, and this year the Moss Landing teria for a grant, she said.

for grants to be considered, and that ing forestry, agriculture, grazing historical ecology program, the the EPA usually publishes requests and urbanization.

for proposals in January, and final awards are given in July and August.

One student thought the grant represented how important Moss Landing Marine Laboratories is to

"I think it's good recognition for our campus," said Hamed Eghtesad, an undeclared junior. "I think the grant will be useful, especially since it involves our environment."

In a recent article published Laboratories proposal met the cri- by the U.S. EPA, the central coast wetlands have been impaired by Coordinating Committee and Sci-She said the process takes a while various land-use practices, includ-

The article said urbanization can cause permanent wetland loss and impacts to water quality, and that wetland areas provide habitat for endangered wildlife and are valuable in cleaning the water that recharges groundwater supplies and reduces flood risks.

The main objective is to participate in the development of the overall State Wetland Monitoring Program by establishing the Central Coast Wetlands Workgroup ence Group to create a regional

Bay Area route dispute threatens California high-speed rail line

By STEVE LAWRENCE

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — The state board that is planning California's 700-mile high-speed rail system is facing a politically sensitive route decision that could make or break the \$40 billion project.

The nine-member board of the California High-Speed Rail Authority is scheduled to decide next month how to get the bullet trains through the coastal mountains between the San Joaquin Valley and the San Francisco Bay area, and the debate over the options has become fierce.

Five members of Congress representing districts from the Bay area to Monterey have threatened to oppose federal funding for the project if the board chooses a northern route that generally would follow Interstate 580 through the Altamont Pass.

Supporters of the Altamont Pass option have raised the possibility of a lawsuit if the board picks a southerly route following Highway 152 through Pacheco Pass.

"I think it's going to be very contentious whatever they choose," said Alan Miller, executive director of the Train Riders Association of California, a group of 1,200 rail enthusiasts that supports the Altamont route.

The authority is proposing a rail system that would carry passengers between California's largest cities on trains that run at top speeds of more than 200 mph. Supporters see it as an important third option to freeway and air travel as the state's population heads toward 60 million by 2050.

Board members are looking for a combination of state, federal and private funding to finance the system. A nearly \$10 billion bond measure on the November 2008 ballot would help pay for a first link of the system between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area.

The rail board has generally settled on routes for most of the system, which also would stop in Sacramento, Fresno, Anaheim, San Diego and other cities.

Francisco Bay area segment after the three cities. initially ruling out an Altamont route as too costly, inefficient and environmentally damaging.

The Pacheco route would come west from cutoff points near Merced or Chowchilla through the Pacheco Pass and then turn north to San Jose. It would then split and run up either side of the bay to San Francisco and Oakland.

Under one possible Altamont alignment, tracks would begin heading west between Stockton and Modesto before splitting into three segments at Fremont. One branch would go south to San Jose, one would run north to Oakland and a third would cross the bay to Redwood City and then turn north to San Francisco.

Another option would link San Francisco to the Altamont route through a transbay tube to Oakland.

Some supporters of the Altamont route say the trains could simply go around the southern end of the bay instead of going across or under it. But that would add 39 minutes to the travel time to San Francisco, said Laura Stuchinsky, director of transportation and land use for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, an advocacy organization for the area's computer industry.

Pacheco Pass supporters say that route would be more efficient, allowing one train to serve San Francisco and San Jose or San Jose But it has held off on the San and Oakland instead of just one of

> "We think it's the fastest way to serve Northern and Southern California and to serve the major cities in this area," Stuchinsky said. "It makes more sense to come through one of the three major cities and then serve the other two rather than come through a fourth point and then serve the other three."

> Rep. Zoe Lofgren, a San Jose Democrat, said an Altamont route that crosses the southern bay would damage the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is 30,000 acres of mudflats, marshes and vernal pools that were named after former Rep. Don Edwards.

> "If there is a plan to degrade the wildlife refuge, I will do everything I can to make sure there's no federal funds for this project," she said. "I don't think I'll be alone."

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SJSU student chosen to play for Afghanistan National Team

Sophomore Safi Mojadiddi takes pride in playing basketball for his country

By MICHAEL RIZZO

Staff Writer

He's not an NCAA athlete, but basketball is his life — and now he's living his athletic dream.

Safi Mojadiddi, 20, donned the No. 6 jersey for the Afghanistan National Basketball Team last week and made his debut as point guard in an exhibition game against Holy Names Uni-

Mojadiddi got 15 minutes of game time — and played through a nervous rush of adrenaline, he said — but the team lost in overtime.

The national team, made up of Afghan-Americans from across the U.S., is making its comeback to the world scene and working its way to international

With overseas competitions becoming a reality for Mojadiddi, a sophomore civil engineering major at SJSU, he's been training like crazy and working to get ahead on his school work.

The Spartan Daily got the chance to talk with Mojadiddi about his devotion to the sport and the honor of playing for his country, just before he headed out to Holy Names.

> EDITORIAL NOTE: Answers have been edited for clarity.

SPARTAN DAILY: Tell me a little about how you got into the sport of basketball and how your love of it grew over time. How old were you when you started playing?

Safi Mojadiddi: I've been playing basketball since the second grade. I was playing for this outside league at second grade, and right off the bat playing on the fourth grade team.

So that motivated me in work-

Have a new idea for the sports section? Contact us at: sports@ thespartandaily. com

I've been playing since junior high, and not only have I been playing for my school teams, I've been playing on other leagues. I'm still in contact with my high school coach, too.

I have a lot of basketball experience. It's just been around. Basketball's pretty much my life.

SD: Tell me a little about what the Afghanistan National Basketball Team

Safi: The Afghanistan basketball team was assembled a long time ago, but since then, all these wars that happened — it just disappeared — and nothing was happening. Sports in Afghanistan just went away.

In December, they rebuilt the team; had tryouts in Virginia and Anaheim for all the players, which I attended.

They got a new coach, who coached at Idaho State and played at UC Davis.

California has a big population of Afghans.

This is actually the first time the Afghanistan National Team has ever played on U.S. territory.

From now on, we're probably going to go overseas for tourna-

SD: What's the process that you had to go through to make the team?

Safi: Since high school year I've been playing on a traveling

It was a team that I built with players I picked that were Afghan that I knew from all over Califor-

You just travel everywhere. You have tournaments in New York, tournaments in Virginia, Los Angeles, the Bay Area.

And from there, you got re-

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ally good exposure. I was getting ranked up there, in the top 20 point guards.

From there on, people just knew who I was, and then I got invited to come try out.

There were probably around 65 people there. It was a two-day tryout. There was guard coaches, big man coaches, and I did pretty good.

From there on, they told me that, "We want you to play on the

SD: Tell me more about this team that you started when you were in high school. What was that like?

Safi: Our team's been together now for two or three years. It's a traveling team where you play three or four times a year.

Our whole team was pretty much in high school, and we were all from different places.

There were a couple people from Sacramento, Walnut Creek, and there was a few from my high school that I grew up with.

We played in our first tournament, and we lost in the semi-fi-

We went undefeated until there. I mean, we came into that tournament, and nobody knew who we

But now it's been three or four years I've been playing in these tournaments, and our team's probably ranked one of the

We've been sponsored by different companies, so everything's paid for. We have a good time.

SD: When did you first make this team, and what are some of the experiences you've had with it so far?

Safi: This week is going to be when I debut for my national

I've been working really hard, and if I get a couple minutes or if I get a lot of game, I'm going to be ready to go.

I'm looking forward to it. I don't

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know what to expect, though. We only have two games offi-

cially under our belt. We're 1-1. After this tour, they're planning on going overseas, hopefully

sometime in December.

We're planning on playing in a lot of Asian tournaments. ... We're looking forward to getting out there overseas, playing as many games and getting good experience — the team's kind of

SD: Do you have any aspirations for the future as far as basketball is con-

Safi: It's like a dream come true because you're going to put a jersey on with your country name. You're wearing a jersey to represent your whole country - and not only your country, the Afghans that are in America.

You're going to represent

Even if you get in or out of the game, I'm going to wear that jersey with a lot pride.

I'm looking forward to hopefully playing overseas after I'm done with basketball or just keep playing with my national team; try to get as many games as I can while I'm in school and just continue — try to make the team

Visit www.thespartandaily.com to hear an audio transcription of Mojadiddi's interview with Spartan Daily staff writer Michael Rizzo.

SJSU WEEKEND SPORTS STATS AND SCORES

FOOTBALL

Conference play, Sat., Nov. 10

SJSU 51 New Mexico State 17 - Kevin Jurovich, 10 rec.,

233 yds., 2 TDs. WAC Offensive Player of the Week.

- Adam Tafralis, 19-31, 317 yds., 2 TDs.

- Jared Strubeck, 3-3 FGs (42 yds., 41 yds., 38 yds.) 7-7 PATs

MEN'S SOCCER

Conference play, Fri., Nov. 9

SJSU 3 UNLV 1 - Efrain Burgos Jr., 2G

Conference play, Sun., Nov. 11

- Lewis Sweeney, 6 saves

SJSU 1 No. 22 New Mexico 5

- Ismael Ibarra, 1G

- SISU (9-9-0, 4-5-0)

Conference play, Thurs., Nov. 8

VOLLEYBALL

No. 10 Hawaii def. SJSU:

- 30-25, 30-27, 30-14 - Keri Anglin, 9 kills

- Niki Clement, 8 kills

Next game: vs. Utah State in the WAC Tournament. Thurs., Nov. 15, 5 p.m. Las Cruces, N.M.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Exhibition, Fri., Nov. 9

SJSU58 No. 22 New Mexico38

- Tim Pierce, 9 pts., 10 reb. -Jamon Hill, 10 pts., 5 reb.

- Justin Graham, 6 pts., 4 asst., 3 TO

Next Game: vs. Middle Tennessee State in the First Shot Exempt Tournament.

WOMEN'S BBALL

Non-conference play, Sat., Nov. 10

SJSU 32 **Oregon** 67 - Natalie White, 18 pts.

Non-conference play, Tues. 13

SJSU vs. UNLV

- Alisha Hicks, 7 pts.

Game not completed at time of deadline.

CROSS COUNTRY

NCAA West Regionals, Sat. Nov. 10

Women's team 25th of 31

- Erica Sahli (22:27.25) 6K, 105th. Top SJSU female score

Men's team 24th of 24 - Chris Hart (33:37.10) 10K. Beat his personal best by over one minute.

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Protect yourself; chlamydia stats reach an all-time high

By MIKE STOBBE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA (AP) More than one million cases of chlamydia were reported in the United States last year — the most ever reported for a sexually transmitted disease, federal health officials said Tues-

"A new U.S. record," said Dr. John M. Douglas Jr. of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

More bad news: Gonorrhea rates are jumping again after hitting a record low, and an increasing number of cases are caused by a "superbug" version resistant to common antibiotics, federal officials said Tuesday.

Syphilis is rising, too. The rate of congenital syphilis — which can

Chlamydia infection rates are more than seven times higher in black women than whites, and more than twice as high in black women than Hispanics.

deform or kill babies — rose for the first time in 15 years.

"Hopefully we will not see this turn into a trend," said Dr. Khalil Ghanem, an infectious diseases specialist at Johns Hopkins University's School of medicine.

The CDC releases a report each year on chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, three diseases caused by sexually transmitted bacteria.

Chlamydia is the most common. Nearly 1,031,000 cases were reported last year, up from 976,000

the year before.

The count broke the singleyear record for reported cases orrhea, set in 1978.

Putting those numbers into rates, there were about 348 cases of chlamydia per 100,000 people in 2006, up 5.6 percent from the

CDC officials say the chlamydia largely a result of better and more

25. Meanwhile, urine and swab better and are used more often, for men as well as women, said Doug-Prevention.

About three-quarters of women infected with chlamydia have no symptoms. Left untreated, the infection can spread and ultimately can lead to infertility. It's easily

as 2.8 million new cases may actually be occurring each year, he

Chlamydia infection rates are more than seven times higher in black women than whites, and more than twice as high in black women than Hispanics. But it's a risk women of all races should consider, CDC officials said.

"If (health care) providers think young women in their practice think again," said Dr. Stuart Berman, a CDC epidemiologist.

The gonorrhea story is some-

of a sexually transmitted disease, which was 1,013,436 cases of gon-

329 per 100,000 rate in 2005.

record may not be all bad news: They think the higher number is intensive screening.

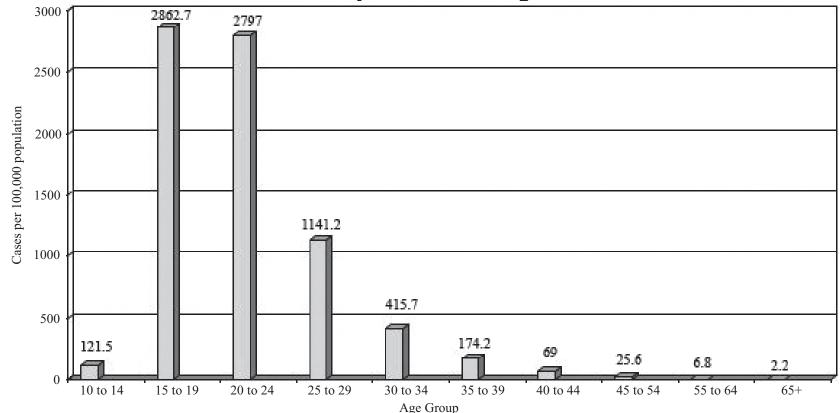
Since 1993, the CDC has recommended annual screening in sexually active women ages 15 to tests for the bacteria are getting las, director of the CDC's Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease

treated if caught early.

Health officials believe as many

don't have chlamydia, they should

Chlamydia rates among females, 2006



SOURCE: WWW CDC GOV

what different.

In 2004, the nation's gonorrhea rate fell to 112.4 cases per 100,000 people in 2004, the lowest level since the government started tracking cases in 1941.

But since then, health officials have seen two consecutive years of increases. The 2006 rate — about 121 per 100,000 — represents a 5.5 percent increase from 2005.

Health officials don't know exactly how many superbug cases there were among the more than 358,000 gonorrhea cases reported in 2006. But a surveillance project of 28 cities found that 14 percent were resistant to ciprofloxacin and other medicines in the fluoroquinolones class of antibiotics.

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percent were resistant to those anti- overall, but they're not sure what is biotics in 2005, and 7 percent were

About three-quarters of women infected with chlamydia have no symptoms. Left untreated, the infection can spread and ultimately can lead to infertility.

resistant in 2004. The appearance of the superbug has been previously reported, and the CDC in April advised doctors to stop using those drugs against gonorrhea.

Douglas said it doesn't look like the superbugs are the reason for gonorrhea's escalating numbers driving the increase.

Other doctors are worried. The superbug gonorrhea has been on the rise not only in California and Hawaii, where the problem has been most noticeable, but also in the South and parts of the Mid-

"Suddenly we're starting to see the spread," Ghanem said.

Syphilis, a potentially deadly disease that first shows up as genital sores, has become relatively rare in the United States. About 9,800 cases of the most contagious forms or syphilis were reported in 2006, up from about 8,700 in 2005.

The rate rose from 2.9 cases per 100,000 people to 3.3, a 14 percent

For congenital syphilis, in which babies get syphilis from their mothers, the rate rose only slightly from the previous year to 8.5 cases per 100,000 live births.

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SOURCE: WWW. SA.SJSU.EDU/STUDENT_HEALTH

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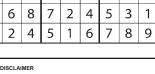
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Comments from our readers

TV lacks substance, worthwhile programming. I, for so watch PBS

About 'A long time ago, TV was not so sexy" by Jovanni Colisao from Nov. 7.

I heartily agree that the commercial TV stations have all but caved into the lowest common denominator of entertainment sex and violence — and have all but abandoned any sense of public interest.

However, has Jovanni ever watched PBS, KQED in particular? He would find much more

one, view nothing else. But I also read a lot, probably more time spent on books, newspapers, NY Times online, than following the

Even KQED shies away from certain more controversial topics, particularly those that their sponsors would object to — the oil, mining and auto interests. And you will find no programs that require more than third grade math to follow.

-William Barrett

War multifaceted; veteran speaks up

About "Coping with the aftermath of war" by Mandie Mohsenzadegan & Nicole Lieurance from Nov. 8.

Concerning Professor Roth's statement;

He also added that those who do not suffer from this disorder can still be deeply affected. "Those who are put in the position to kill or see their friends kill ... it can be disturbing," he said.

I believe Professor Roth might have more correctly said: "or see their friends killed." Please don't emphasize so much on what the soldiers had to do to survive, give some consideration to what the enemy was doing to them.

-Dr. Charles Rogers USAF Officer, Korean War Vet

The day MyLife ended: the creation of MySpace



By CHRISSY RAMONEDA Staff Writer

Oh, MySpace. What would I do without you? Have a life

March 22, 2005: The birth of my MySpace page and the day my life ended.

It was gradual, of course, but looking back, it feels like it happened overnight.

Did you ever imagine the day when your friends would be transported into a tiny square, and then arranged in the order of your personal preference for all to see?

Having top "friends" is not only stressful, but for some, it's even a constant game of musical chairs.

If I was a guy, I would start protesting MySpace. Trust me, it's ruining your game.

One minute you're checking out your friend's page and the next you're wondering what you must've done last week that made you move from No. 4 all the way to No. 7. Was it the comment about her bangs? The night you took too long at the gym and were late for drinks?

Top friends cannot be taken than K-Fed. lightly. And while deciding whom you like a lot, more, or most, don't think reciprocity isn't required. If they have you as their No. 2 "friend," start rearranging, or the guilt will set in.

You know things have gotten out of hand when friends tell you about comments in the MySpace-sphere regarding your photos. If you haven't had girls you've never met talking about you on their page, give it time. They're out there, and they have too much time.

They'll find you.

After you break up with someone, forget about the pain and agony of ending a serious relationship — you have an entire Web page to reorganize. There are photos and captions to delete, songs to change, wristslitting blogs to create, and an emphatically single "about me"

Remember to remove the "ex" from the gratuitous No. 1 position on your top friends. That's the first step to recovery. For the truly bad breakups, you may want to completely disinfect your MySpace page (hopefully there's an HTML code out there for that). And with the roller-coaster ride many college romances are trapped on, MySpace alterations could become a part-time job.

Viewing the MySpace page of the guy you're interested in can only be compared to opening up Pandora's box. And let me tell you, once you click, you can never go back.

It may end up being a visual warning sign that he has more baggage than LAX or less class

Here's a tip: if his MySpace is a shrine to his previous relationship or his top friends all happen to be half-naked lingerie models, you may want to dodge that

If I was a guy, I would start protesting MySpace. Trust me, it's ruining your game.

Whether the evidence of your Web reputation is right in our face or it takes a little searching, we'll find it. To top that off, you can't think you're safe if you use the option of accepting all your comments before they're posted. The minute an attempted comment is denied, we're on the

Soon MySpace will put private investigators out of business. Why pay for something we can easily do ourselves?

Two Halloweens ago I started dating a guy and was quickly swept off my feet. He pulled out all of the stops. He cooked amazing meals. He made me mixed CDs with adorable titles, bought me gifts for no reason, called continually to ask about my day, and of course, none of my friends liked him.

Everything was perfect.

Then he went on a snowboarding trip with his best friend. The minute he returned, a picture of him lip-locked with his ex-girlfriend "surfaced" on MySpace. He assured me it was from months ago. The problem? In the picture he was wearing the snowboarding jacket I had picked out for him before the trip.

Without Tom and his cyberworld creation, I could still be dating this guy. And apparently I wouldn't be the only one who is.

Has MySpace changed the concept of dating? Or really, has the opportunity to see too much ruined our ability to fully trust

Is it fair to judge someone you barely know based solely on a Web page, labeling her a promiscuous party girl because of her photos? Or deciding he's a coldhearted player because of comments left from months past?

If people do take MySpace so seriously, should we think twice about the keg-stand photos, the comments that advertise our lives

Has MySpace changed the concept of dating?

and feelings, and the "in-yourface" icons we post to represent

Maybe all this time spent investigating could be spent working at a youth center, helping someone plant a garden, working towards that much-needed internship, or cleaning up the environment — perhaps even picking up a book and studying for those numerous finals approaching.

Maybe MySpace is just a superficial cyber network to help us avoid our own lives and pay too much attention to others'.

Maybe I could tell you, if I could ever stop logging in.

Guest columns appear Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Games like Halo are turning kids into little devils



By JOVANNI COLISAO Staff Writer

Playing video games has always been a passion of mine.

From gobbling dots and fruits with Pac-Man, to racing in Mario Kart for Nintendo 64, to fighting in Halo 3 for Xbox 360.

Throughout the video game era, however, the violence in video games has kept increasing.

The limits to what will be shown has expanded into a world of deadly weapons, blood and gore.

Just one example is a 2004 game that involves recreating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and can be purchased on JFKReloaded.com for \$9.99.

Student Life & Gold Fold Editors

Assistant Advertising Director

Who would want to re-enact such a horrific turn of events?

In an article published Nov. 22, 2004, on Vnunet.com, Kirk Ewing, managing director of Traffic, and the creator of IFKReloaded.com, said, "We've created the game in the belief that Oswald was the only person that fired the shots on that day, although this recreation proves how immensely difficult his task was."

The article said the company dismissed allegations that the game could be deemed offensive, insisting that its aim is to pro-

Who would want to re-enact such a horrific turn of events?

mote the title "respectfully whilst encouraging as many people to play the game as possible."

buy the Grand Theft Auto game for Play-

The game involves drugs, dangerous weapons, sex and multiple forms of vio-

I remember when I saw demos for the game, I was oblivious to the amount of graphic content.

But as technology increases, so does the "reality" in video games.

The Nintendo Wii is a video game console that involves a remote control that you can imitate as a weapon to kill zombies and monsters with a striking force using

I would like to see more playful games instead of violent games.

Recently, I saw a commercial for a video game that teaches children how to count while pedaling on a stationary bike.

This demonstrates how a child can learn and exercise at the same time.

The invention is a smart idea.

More children should be physically Growing up, I remember I wanted to active instead of sitting down and letting

their fingers do the exercising.

Many people play video games for hours without going to sleep or even eating.

The hours of valuable time that can be spent on something productive are wasted

More children should be physically active instead of sitting down and letting their fingers do the exercising.

on non-educational video games.

I want video games to keep up with technology, but at the same time, I would like to see more word puzzle or geography

Every game that has a mature rating on the front cover, either represents a game that has violence, cursing or even partial

I would want to see a Jeopardy game, or a Wheel of Fortune game on today's list

of top selling games, instead of games that involve drugs and violence.

So many children play video games, but what lesson is there to be learned from a game that has no educational value?

What is the point in shooting hundreds of zombies and aliens?

Why not have a game where you can twist as many letters in one word to see what other words you can create?

"Text-twist" is the game that I play when I'm on my laptop.

The game can be played for free at Yahoo's Web site under the "games" cat-

Although the game is pretty simple, I've been able to expand my vocabulary simply from playing.

Less violence and more educational value are what I want to see.

Guest columns appear Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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Only letters 200 words or less will be considered

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.

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Quote of the day

"Our priority must be getting the oil cleaned up as quickly as possible, rescuing all marine life and most importantly protecting the public health."

GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER

In a statement Tuesday. Last week, 58,000 gallons of oil were spilled into the San Francisco Bay by a container ship.

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