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partan ISSUE 45 VOLUME 129 NOVEMBER 19, 2007 // MONDAY

Lt. Gov. Garamendi concerned with tuition

By OSVALDO CASTILLO

Staff Writer

The California State University system's board of trustees voted to approve its budget proposal on Wednesday, said CSU spokesman Paul Browning.

"The CSU will need \$73 million for the upcoming school year," he said. "Student fees and state funding are our only sources of revenue."

If fees increase, it is because the system needs more money to pay faculty and facilities, he said.

Lt. Gov. John Garamendi said in a phone conference Wednesday that he was concerned about the rising cost of tuition in the UC and CSU systems.

"Prior to 1990, schools were funded by public funds," Garamendi said. "Anyone could go to any university regardless of income. Unfortunately, we have taken a turn for the worse."

Garamendi said that 1.6 million high school graduates did not

See **BUDGET**, page 3

- "The CSU will need \$73 million for the upcoming school year. Student fees and state funding are our only sources of revenue." - CSU spokesman Paul Browning
- "Prior to 1990, schools were funded by public funds ... anyone could go to any university regardless of income." - Lt. Gov. John Garamendi
- "Students who have come into these school systems have seen an increase every single year." - Lillian Taiz, president of the California Faculty Association
- "We are not getting what we paid for from our teachers." -Jessica Reyes, SJSU student

A.S. passes disability resolution

Would create a comprehensive advising program for disabled students

By HEATHER NACHT

Staff Writer

Associated Students unanimously passed a resolution in hopes of making advising more accessible to students with disabilities.

Right now, the resolution is only an A.S. endorsement for future improvements, and it still needs to go through a few steps before it will go through com-

rector of campus advising affairs, during Wednesday's A.S. meeting.

Protho-Jones and A.S. President Benjamin Henderson both worked to create the resolution with the help of the director of the Disability Resource Center, Martin

"The resolution encourages SJSU to hire a full-time counselor for G.E. and major advising to be available in the Dis-

pletely, said Lennon Protho-Jones, the diability Resource Center to help students," Henderson said.

> He also said the resolution plans to create an advising hub, or task force, to work with the various colleges on campus in order to help create better major advising for the disability-center students.

> During the A.S. meeting, Protho-Jones and Schulter explained the rationale behind the resolution.

Both said there are 1,100 students reg-

istered with the disability students and only five counselors available to them. That breaks down to 220 students for each counselor. Of those five counselors, only one is trained as a General Education adviser.

None of the counselors work directly with faculty advisors to manage major advising and disability management, ac-

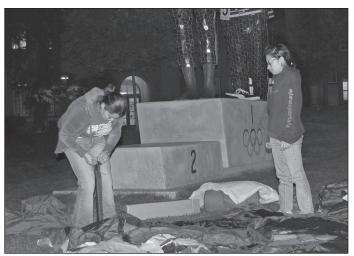
See **DISABILITY**, page 2

SLEEPING OUT FOR HURRICANE REFUGEES



Justine Ouano, a senior sociology major, met friends to set up tents at the Smith-Carlos Statue for the National Campus Sleep Out on Wednesday.

Group pitches overnight advocacy



KATIE S. ALPIZAR // Special to the Daily

Maribel Martinez, program coordinator for the Cesar Chavez Community Action Center, and Justine Ouano, a senior sociology major, set up tents in front of the Smith-Carlos Statue.

By NICOLE LIEURANCE

Staff Writer

Students, activists and community members set up camp in front of SJSU's Smith-Carlos Statue Wednesday evening to raise awareness for a national cause with local roots.

The event was held by the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project, a movement started at SJSU to create 100,000 living-wage jobs for hurricanes Katrina and Rita survivors to rebuild their own communities.

The night of camping, titled "A National Campus Sleep Out: A New Deal for the Gulf Coast," began at 7 p.m., and involved speakers as well as video presentations highlighting the current situation in the Gulf Coast,

where many residents are still living in trailers provided by the federal government.

Students were encouraged to spend the night on campus in tents in support of displaced hurricane survivors.

"We have strayed far off course," said Marcus Kilgore, a junior sociology major, to the crowd. "When people are hurting, we help each other out; we don't sit and think about it."

Kilgore said that had witnessed the devastation of New Orleans firsthand when he and other members of the project traveled to the Gulf Coast in January.

About 150 people participated in the events Wednesday evening,

See **PROTEST**, page 3

Students help clean up oil spill

By TRUTH ESGUERRA AND JOVANNI COLISAO Staff Writers

More than 58,000 gallons of fuel oil leaked into the San Francisco Bay on Nov. 7 as the Cosco Busan container ship swiped one of the western anchorages of the Bay Bridge, said Karen Benzel, public affairs director for the International Bird Rescue Research Center.

She said as of Nov. 16, 970 birds are in care, 1,113 birds have been found dead, 38 birds have been released and more than 30 beaches have been closed as a result of the spill.

Benzel said the oil spill is the most severe spill inside the San Francisco Bay since 1971, when more than 900,000 gallons of oil spilled after two oil tankers collided in the fog near the Golden Gate Bridge.

Professors from around the Bay Area got involved with the cleanup.

William Russell, an environmental studies professor and a resident of San Francisco, noticed the spill two days after it occurred.

Russell said as soon as he saw the oil on Ocean Beach, he went home, got some rubber gloves and started cleaning up as much oil as he could. Russell, who lives right along

See SPILL, page 2

Committee aims for smoke-free campus

Debate continues over SJSU's current smoking policy

By SARRAH S. NGUYEN AND KRISTIN FURTADO

Staff Writer

In the early 1960s, a high school teacher asked his class if anyone smoked. One fourteen-year old student raised her hand and was asked to smoke a cigarette in front of the class while the teacher monitored her heart rate and blood pressure.

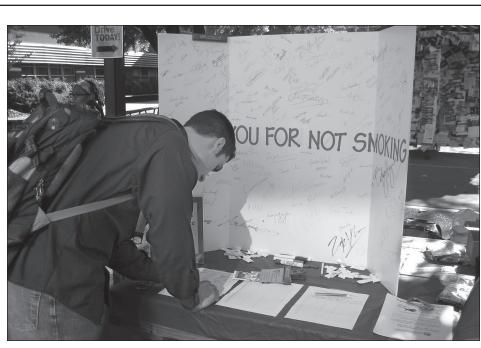
At the time, the dangers associated with smoking were not well understood, said Michele Mashburn, an SJSU masters student in sociology, whose mother had volunteered to be the class guinea pig.

Mashburn, a peer health educator, was one of the organizers of the The Great American Smokeout, an event held Nov. 14 urging students not just to quit smoking for the day, but also for good. Volunteers for the event were collecting signatures petitioning for a smoke-free campus, said peer-health educator Gina

For Mashburn, who said she has watched her mother struggle with cigarette addiction, helping people to quit smoking is an issue she feels strongly about.

"She's tried medication. She's tried the patch. She's

See **SMOKING**, page 3



Matthew Heluza, a freshman management information systems major, signed a petition in support of a smokefree campus on Thursday.

SARRAH S. NGUYEN // Spartan Daily

ONLINE

MULTIMEDIA: CAMPING OUT FOR A CAUSE

Log on to www.thespartandaily.com to watch a slideshow of members of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project lend support through a sleep out.

THESPARTANDAILY.COM

STUDENT LIFE

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

One SJSU student reveals the pros and cons of commuting to and from campus during the daily grind.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL: CHEAPER

HOUSING NEEDED

San Jose is one of the most expensive places to live for college students — and more affordable housing is needed for students in the area.

PAGE 5

SPORTS

STAFF WRITERS STATE THEIR CASE

One SJSU basketball team is winless, the other began with a tournament victory; so the question is: Who will have the better record?

PAGE 6

ONLINE

STUDENTS DISCUSS FREE VS. HATE SPEECH

Kenneth Marcus, staff director of the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights, spoke about cases of anti-Semitism at CSU campuses.

THESPARTANDAILY.COM

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SPILL // Entire ecosystem will be affected for years

Continued from page 1

Ocean Beach, said he felt a very close relationship with the Pacific Ocean. "It's almost like a close friend or

a family member," he said.

Fernando Marquez, a junior political science major and a San Francisco resident, said he loves his city and does not want it to be messed up.

"The overall view is tainted," Marquez said. "I think it's disgusting because it affects the beauty of the bay."

Another junior political science major felt the same way as Marquez.

Phi Nguyen, a junior, said he was disturbed and concerned because her family lives near the San Francisco Bay.

Nguyen said his brother went to beach and was able witness the dead birds and fishes.

"It was disturbing in my part because they had to see that," he said. "Nature is just being screwed

up all over the place nowadays." Russell could not believe the

aftermath.

"When I was out there, that first day picking this stuff up, I looked out into the sea and I saw this little seal, bobbing its head up and down right there in the water," he said. "I got this stuff on my hands, and it's toxic for me, but how much more toxic is it for that

guy who's living in the water?" Russell said the primary production of the ocean is on the surface, such as the krill and the plankton,

He said the creatures that ingest the plankton ingest the oil and the creatures that eat the creatures that eat the plankton ingest the oil

Russell said the oil is now in the food chain and the ecosystem and will continue to remain there for a

"Were going to have whale migration pretty soon," he said. "It's really been heartbreaking to think about how many different creatures are being affected."

Russell said the beach was open last holiday weekend and he saw children swimming in the water.

He said a lot of volunteers wanted to help with the oil spill, which meant a whole lot, especially with respect to the affected birds.

Stephanie Ellis, outreach Specialist for SF Bay Bird Observatory, said she is currently helping take care of the rescued and harmed birds.

Ellis said the observatory and other organizations she is working with — including the International Bird Rescue Research Center, the Golden Gate Audubon Society, and the Don Edwards SF Bay Wildlife Refuge — are doing the

save the birds, but even the ones that get captured and cleaned the majority of those are going to die anyway," Russell said. "They've been preening themselves to try and clean themselves and they ingest this stuff. Once it's ingested, there is not a whole lot you can do."

By the numbers

58,000 gallons of fuel oil leaked into the San Francisco Bay on Nov. 7.

1,113: The number of birds that have been found dead as of Nov. 16.

1971: The year when two oil tankers collided in the Bay, spilling **900,000** gallons of oil into the water.

Source: Karen Benzel, public affairs director for the International Bird Rescue Research Center

which are drifting organisms.

best they can. "It's a heroic thing to try and

DISABILITY // Results will not be immediate

Continued from page 1

cording to the resolution. Right now it generally takes about four weeks for a student in the disability center to see a counselor, according to the resolution.

Schulter spoke during the meeting about how necessary advising and counseling is in order to help

achieve maximum education for students. He said although the disability center does have one G.E. advisor, there are students who need major or graduate school advising, and currently there is no help provided for them at the disability center.

Protho-Jones said he hopes to get the resolution brought up to the Academic Senate in the near

really benefit from another counselor with G.E. and major knowledge."

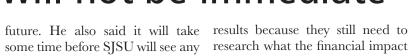
research what the financial impact of these actions would be to SJSU along with other possible impacts to SJSU.

Henderson also mentioned that they will try to see if other CSUs are reporting similar issues within their Disability Resource Centers.

Brittany Shabashov, a sophomore radio, television and film major and disability center-registered student, thinks the resolution will be helpful for students with disabilities.

"I think it's a great idea," Shabashov said. "I think students will really benefit from another counselor with G.E. and major knowl-

Shabashov also said many students with disabilities tend to make their school schedules based on their disabilities, and if advising is to become more accessible, it would be a lot easier to build their schedules.



"I think students will

BRITTANY SHABASHOV sophomore, radio, television and film major

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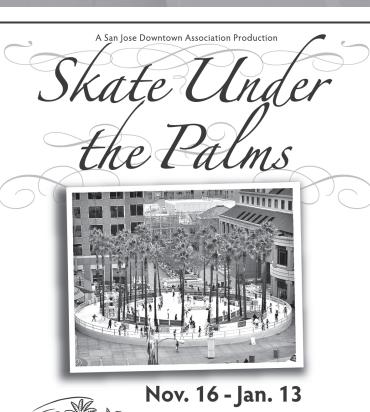
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Write letters to the editor and submit Sparta Guide information online. Visit our Web site at www.thespartandaily.com. You may also submit information in writing to DBH 209.

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

Pride of the Pacific Islands Dance Practice

From 8 to 10 p.m. in the Aerobics room in the Event Center. For more information, contact Lisa at (925) 639-6781.

Book Discussion - Drinking Coffee Elsewhere

From 7 to 8 p.m. in the King Library room 229A. Come to discuss "The Story of a Taliban Captive," by Yvonne Ridley. For more information, contact Annette Nellen at anellen@sjsu.edu.

Taliban-Captured Journalist to Speak

At noon in the Guadalupe Room in the Student Union, third floor. Learn about the experience of award-winning British journalist Yvonne Ridley, who was captured by the Taliban in 2001 but converted to Islam two years later. For more information, contact Raed Hassan at sjsumsa@gmail.com.

Nov. 20

Philosophy Colloquium

Tom Leddy, a professor of philosophy at SJSU, will speak about "The Aesthetics of Junkyards and Roadside Clutter." At 4:30 p.m. in the King Library conference room 255. For more information, contact 924-4513.

Pride of the Pacific Islands General Meeting

From 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Pacifica Room in the Student Union. For more information, contact Lisa at (925) 639-6781.

Listening Hour Concert Series

From 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., there will be a free concert in the Music Building Concert Hall. See a performance by violinists from the studio of Professors Cecily Ward. Tom Stone will perform "The Virtuoso Violin." For more information, contact Joan Stubbe at 924-4649.

School of Art and Design Gallery Receptions

Gallery Shows through Nov. 21 - Gallery 2: Yunan Cao; Gallery 5: Jenny Tsai; Gallery 8: Group Show; Black Gallery: Brian Huntley; Herbert Sanders Gallery: Andrew Hedges. Receptions will be from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m in the Art Building and Industrial Studies Building.

Nov. 26

Marketing Association Meeting

The Marketing Association will be holding its last meeting of the semester at 6 p.m. in the Almaden room in the Student Union. The meeting is wheelchair accessible and snacks will be provided.





BUDGET // CFA: quality of education down

Continued from page 1

attend higher education institutions because they simply could not afford it.

Lillian Taiz, president of the California Faculty Association, said at the phone conference that students have seen their tuition fees double over the past five years.

"Students who have come into these school systems have seen an increase every single year," she said.

Jessica Reyes, a junior psychology major, said she does not understand why the fees have gone up every year that she has attended SJSU.

"I don't think the state or school cares about the student," she said. "I think they are just trying to find an excuse to get money out of the students."

She also said she believes high school graduates are going to start attending community colleges to get their G.E. because they will not be able to pay the fees of a four-year university.

Senait Johanes, a junior finance major from Sweden, said she is also upset about tuition fees.

"In Sweden, we do not have to pay any fees to attend university," she said. "The state owns the school, and we get money for attending. I am actually thinking of going back to finish my studies over there."

CFA president Taiz said that in addition to students seeing an increase in tuition fees, the graduation rates and the quality of education have fallen. SJSU student Jessica Reyes agreed with Taiz's comment.

"We are not getting what we paid for from our teachers," she said.

Paul Fuller, a graduate student working on a teaching credential, said he disagrees with what Taiz said about SJSU academics.

"I actually haven't noticed anything difference in the quality of education available at SJSU," he said.

Garamendi concluded his speech in the phone conference by saying that the issue of students not graduating affects the state of California significantly.

"We have to change this if we want to have a growing economy," he said. "Individuals with college degrees will help the state by paying higher taxes."

PROTEST // Bill introduced to Congress

Continued from page 1

50 of whom spent the night, said Scott Myers-Lipton, a sociology professor and an originator of the project.

"The support warms my heart," said Rochelle Jackson-Smarr, one of the student leaders of the project.

The event attracted attention from students passing by, and several of them stopped to watch and listen

and listen.

"This is really awesome," said Krishna Yerrapragada, a graduate software engineering major, after learning the purpose of the event.

"I just got out of class and wanted to see what was happening."

Among the speakers at the sleep out was hurricane survivor C.C. Campbell-Rock, a journalist and advocate for Gulf Coast residents.

"This is the greatest civil rights injustice of my lifetime," said

SUBARU

Campbell-Rock. "We still are a people without a home."

Campbell-Rock said many of the New Orleans areas still looked like "a nuclear holocaust" and were still deemed unlivable.

The idea for the works project came during a campus sleep out last November to raise awareness for local poverty, Myers-Lipton said.

Students watched Spike Lee's documentary "When the Levees Broke" and were inspired to help hurricane victims.

Myers-Lipton said the models for the project were the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps, which employed millions during World War II to build public projects, such as bridges and schools.

Since its foundation, the project has gained national recognition with support from college campuses across the nation, and now, a Congresswoman. Earlier this month, a Gulf Coast Civic Works bill was introduced to a committee in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.). If the bill makes it through a series of committees, it will eventually go to the House floor for a vote.

Victoria Chavez, a senior sociology major and student leader of the project, said the project is inviting students to travel to the Gulf Coast again this January for "Louisiana Winter 2." She said they will help build houses, restore greenery and talk to residents and officials about the project.

Myers-Lipton said he felt it was important for students to be aware of SJSU's rich history of activism. From advocating for civil rights to protesting sweatshops, SJSU students have been extremely vocal in the community over the years, he said.

"When you go to SJSU, you're a part of that community," he said.

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SMOKING // Plan calls for designated smoking areas

Continued from page 1

tried the gum," said Mashburn, who estimated that her mother spends \$175 a month on cigarettes.

But over the years she has learned to be more realistic about expecting her mother to quit cold turkey.

"I think it has to be thoughtfully done and carefully done."

> Don Kassing SJSU President

"With her I tend to say, 'smoke less,' as opposed to 'stop smoking," Mashburn said. She added that people shouldn't be discouraged if they "fall off the wagon" trying to quit.

Event organizer, Megan Young, a sophomore political science major, who is also the president of the SJSU chapter of Colleges Against Cancer, said the goal of the event was to "try to get as many people to quit as possible," as well as to reinforce the health hazards associated with smoking.

Colleges Against Cancer is a committee working to create designated smoking areas on campus and eventually make SJSU smoke-free.

But while some believe the conversation surrounding a smoke-free campus is a health issue, others believe it's an issue of individual freedom.

"That's the first question I asked when it was brought up to me. What about the smoker's rights?" said President Don Kassing at a Nov. 6 news conference.

"You've got to visit both sides of it. I think that has to be thoughtfully done and carefully done," Kassing said.

"I think it's unconstitutional ... I really believe we have the right to do whatever we want to our bodies," said Robert Van West, a senior linguistics major.

Van West said he picked up the habit while studying abroad in Germany for a year.

"You can argue that it could be unsafe for people to jog on campus because they could run into people," Van Nest said. "Same thing with smoking. I don't do it around groups of people. I go to areas away from buildings."

The current SJSU smoking policy, adopted in 1993, restricts smoking to areas at least 25 feet away from the windows or doors of any building.

Recently, the City of San Jose passed a new ordinance outlawing smoking in public parks.

"I'm not against a smokefree campus, but I just think that it's fair to compromise and have designated smoking areas," said Melissa Allee, a senior environmental studies major, who believes it would be unfair to restrict smoking on campus altogether.

Holly Tzeletis, a freshman animation/illustration major, signed the petition for a smokefree campus. A few minutes later she changed her mind and crossed

her name off the petition.

Tzeletis said the petition to make SJSU smoke-free went against her moral beliefs

against her moral beliefs.
"I shouldn't have signed it because it's a person decision," she said. Tzeletis said many of her

friends and relatives smoke.

"I don't know the statistics, but in general, I think there are more people who don't smoke around campus than those who do," said Noralee Ortiz and graduate student majoring in Mexican-American studies and special education. "So if we want to vote democratically, then I think we should do that and find out who agrees and who doesn't."

A recent survey involving 647 SJSU students was conducted by the National College Health Assessment in Spring 2007, and it found that 40 percent strongly agreed to a smoke-free campus, and 25 percent did not, said peer health educator Vittori.

"... I just think it's fair to compromise and have designated smoking areas."

MELISSA ALLEE

senior environmental studies major

While Vittori believes a compromise would have to be made regarding designated smoking areas, she hopes this is a step towards making SJSU smoke-free. The petition will be presented to Associated Students.



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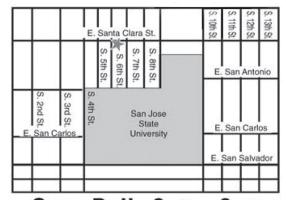
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On the road with one of the 27,000-plus commuter students

By SAMANTHA SALAS Staff Writer

Ninety percent of SJSU's 31,115 students commute to campus, according to Transportation Solutions, a university-based commuter

service organization. One student, Ashley Barber, a senior business accounting major, said she falls into this category.

As part of its annual survey, Transportation Solutions reported that in the fall of 2006, 21 percent of students were employed full-time, and 84 percent of those worked beyond walking distance to SJSU.

"In addition to studying in my car, I sometimes have time to eat my lunch, listen to music and just relax."

> ASHLEY BARBER senior business major

As part of these statistics, Barber commutes to campus on a daily basis and works full-time at a location that is beyond walking distance from SJSU.

Barber works in accounting about 30 hours a week, and with a full-time schedule at school in the business building, she said she spends the same amount of time studying.

"With accounting, you have to

practically know every detail of what you're doing to even get a passing grade," she said. "It takes a lot of work and time."

Waking up at 6:15 a.m. every day, Barber is out of the door by 7:30 a.m., just in time to hit traffic on her way to work at a certified personal accountant's office in San

"I try to relax and prepare for the day by listening to happy and upbeat music so that I can be energized for the rest of the day," she

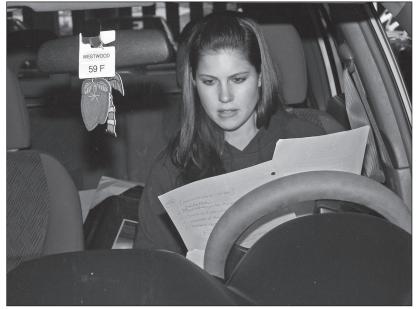
While working at 8 a.m., Barber said she can sometimes find time to study when she isn't too busy.

When she is busy with work projects, it is hard to focus because she often applies what she is learning at school to assignments from her boss, she said.

"It's a constant learning process, and sometimes I wish I had a job where I didn't have to think as much," Barber said.

Her boss, Ed Chiang, a certified personal accountant at Chiang, Cripe, Hammon, Price & Wulftange, CPAs, said Barber is very good about separating her respon-

"I try to work around her class schedule since her work is not time sensitive," Chiang said. "I adjust her workload so work doesn't interfere with her study time. I also try not to give her big projects right before exams. So far, it has worked out really well."



Ashley Barber, a senior majoring in business accounting, looks through her notes in Tenth Street Garage in between her commute to work and a business class.

such an understanding boss who helps accommodate her school schedule with her work schedule.

"I was a student myself years ago," Chiang said. "I can appreciate the demand of school. It is very important to have her finish the degree since it's the first step to qualifying her to be a CPA."

Barber leaves work a little after 12:00 p.m. and heads to school in hopes of finding a decent parking

Her first class, Advanced Accounting, begins at 1:30 p.m., so Barber can enjoy a 45-minute break in her car.

"In addition to studying in my Barber said she's lucky to have car, I sometimes have time to eat

my lunch, listen to music and just relax," Barber said. "I have to get a break. I am so worn out from going to bed so late and getting up early. Coffee helps, too."

Following Advanced Accounting, Forensic Accounting starts at 3 p.m. for Barber.

"These classes are tough being so close together," Barber said. "They can be interesting at times, but they require a lot of attention. Luckily, SJSU is really cool about scheduling all the business classes on the same day."

Business professor David Gilliss, one of Barber's instructors, said he doesn't feel anyone's grade should be based on where they live or how

far they commute.

"I don't discriminate against commuter students," Gilliss said. "But there isn't any special treatment either."

Gilliss said he's heard a few excuses from commuter students about their tardiness, but said he has also been one to blame for showing up late to class because of commuting setbacks.

"I've been late to class before or had to cancel class," Gilliss said. "There are just some things you don't have control over. But I grade and treat everyone the same. Everyone deserves a fair grade."

At about 4:15 p.m., Barber has another break where she gets to spend time with a friend who is a fellow commuter, full-time worker and overwhelmed senior at SJSU.

Richelle Awe, a senior business marketing major, said she has been friends with Barber since they were children, and their relationship hasn't been affected by their equally demanding schedules. Awe said the only things that change are the days and times they are able to see each other.

"We usually only get to see each other some school days and on weekends," Awe said. "I have been going to SJSU for almost five years and have been combining full-time work, school and commuting the entire time, so I'm pretty used to it

"It can be stressful, but I just do the best I can."

Barber ends one of her school

days with an evening class, Financial Auditing, from 6 to 8:45 p.m.

"This class seems really long some days," Barber said. "Sometimes my teacher doesn't even give us breaks."

Barber is usually home a little after 9 p.m. and usually completes a few homework assignments before going to bed. If she prefers a different route though, she just gets ready for bed and watches a little TV to calm her nerves.

"Or maybe I just want to make myself feel better, and I stop to get a milkshake at Jack in the Box," Barber said. "But then I do an exercise video after I get home — even at 9:30 p.m. or so."

Around midnight on a good day, Barber would already be asleep. But if she's feeling anxious for the rest of week, it takes a little longer to fall asleep.

"I constantly feel overwhelmed, and I imagine anyone with this kind of schedule would, too," Barber said. "It helps knowing I'm almost done with school, though. I'm willing to put in the time so I can attempt to get straight A's one more time around."

Sharon Willey, the assistant vice president of Student Affairs, said with 90 percent of students commuting to and from campus, it's important for commuter students to be more connected with the uni-

"We are looking for ways to reach out to students who don't live on campus," Willey said.

EMPLOYMENT

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26 Browns 27 Good times 28 Impede 30 Meat avoider

33 Spreadsheet units It may be tidy 37 Lab medium

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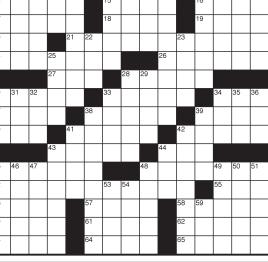
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Comments from our readers

These comments were posted online at the spartandaily.com

King Library shouldn't change policies

About Opposing Views: "Should the King Library censor explicit material online?" from Nov. 8.

With a library being a public place, it is unrealistic to demand such changes. The editor states, "a library is a home for education and learning." If this is so, then why does the library of-

Gus Lease: a good professor, musician

About "Gus Lease: A legend lives on" from Nov. 8 by Ekene Ikeme.

I was one of the lucky students that had Gus Lease as not only my college vocal coach but my private singing instructor. When San Jose State was mostly teaching classical music, which I spent a lot of hours doing, he managed to sneak in some show tunes and such into my lessons. I think he had a keen sense of the individual in all his students. His training and personal interest in my career helped me

fer the option of renting a DVD or CD? DVDs and CDs such as "Spaceballs" and Weird Al's "Alapalooza" are not what one would call very educating to watch and listen to. The library even has Eminem CDs in which he raps about killing his wife. Should we then censor and discard of all his CDs because they are not up to this idea of a "higher standard?" -Posted by Lonnie

achieve a very high level of success in the music business. My proudest moment was as the vocalist in my band with Keith Emerson and Carl Palmer and performing at Madison Square Garden. I could not have been better prepared for a singing career. He gave me the tools to sustain my vocals through years of touring from town to town, state

to state. I owe Dr. Lease a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. I am so glad that you have honored him with this great article. He is one in a million — and one hell of

-Posted by Robert Berry

'No idea he was such a living history book' ...

About "Gus Lease: A legend lives on" from Nov. 8 by Ekene Ikeme.

What a nice story. I feel so honored to be associated with Gus as an "outsider." I work with his wife Lois at Evergreen Valley

College, and their son Jeff is my chiropractic doctor. Although I've never met him, I have heard lots of nice things about Gus but had no idea that he was such a living history book. Now I can't wait to

-Posted by Gene Heck

Stores must make money, morals don't matter

About "A cloud of smoke looms over Walgreens" from Nov. 15 by Lindsay Bryant.

None of the major pharmacy retailers make a significant profit from the sale of cigarettes. It's a business decision to offer them to the public. Should one take the high road and decide not to offer them for sale and volume as the smokers will go elsewhere. They will purchase their smokes, develop their film, buy their makeup and prescrip-

tions, etc., at the most convenient one-stop shop. Your investors will be most unappreciative and it will reflect in your stock price. This piece neglected to mention the other major drug stores, supermarkets and mom-and-pop shops that also sell cigarettes, and some actually make money from it. Perhaps legislation is necessary to prohibit the sale of cigarettes and such at drugstores. Should that initiative be discussed in a national forum then you will see national retailers the competition not follow the rush to push the sale of cigarettes lead, then you have just drasti- to their cigarette competitors and cally reduced your overall sales gladly get out of the business. Retail is all about even playing fields.

-Posted by Sam

Video games meant for fun, not education

About "Games like Halo are turning kids into little devils" from Nov. 7 by Jovanni Colisao.

point there — are you kidding me? "Wheel of Fortune" on the game best-seller lists? Games sell because of their fun factor. Although inventions like the aforementioned for children are great, they just won't do any good on the prepubescent male community. The game play of educational games are often very repetitive and dull, often

regurgitating stuff over and over until it no longer becomes a challenge. Those games also do not have any competition to them in form of "macho-ego." Children should exercise, but playing games is not a waste of time. It has its benefits. Although you have a good Hell, even video games are being more accepted into mainstream as art forms and rival the Hollywood blockbuster franchises. Maybe you want to see this or maybe you want to see that, but it won't happen. It won't sell now. Maybe in the future when there is better game play, but those games just don't sell. No sales equals no money equals no game.

-Posted by William Phung

Standing up and sleeping out

Spending some time with SJSU students advocating change in the Gulf Coast



BY EKENE IKEME Staff Writer

When Hurricane Katrina altered the lives of people in New Orleans and other residents along the Gulf Coast more than two years ago, we all watched in shock at the destruction it left behind.

Almost 27 months later, there is still a lot of damage and confusion for the victims of the terrible

While the U.S. government, insurance companies and FEMA have turned their backs on most of those affected by Hurricane Katrina, civil rights leaders and college students — that's right, college students — have publicly voiced their displeasure in the relief effort given to Katrina vic-

College students at the University of Colorado, the University of North Carolina and other universities have joined the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project founded by SJSU students — in an effort to provide relief to those

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, the project held the National Campus Sleep Out at SJSU and other college campuses.

still in need.

The purpose of the sleep out was to raise awareness and to get their bill passed that would provide 100,000 living-wage jobs for residents, rebuild public infrastructure — hospitals, schools and housing — and allow residents to return home, accord-

ing to SJSU sociology professor Scott Myers-Lipton, who spoke at the event.

In another Spartan Daily opinion article, I stated that I am not too into public protests that do not voice opinions by using extreme measures, but while I was at the sleep out, I must say I was impressed with some of the things that went on.

With several camera crews on hand, students fought off the cold night air along with microphone difficulties and some trouble setting up tents to have their voices heard.

The event brought together different SJSU faculty and students,

Why would two SJSU students from California care so much about what is going on halfway across the U.S. in **New Orleans?**

children and Hurricane Katrina survivors in front of the Tommie Smith and John Carlos statues.

Though some students got up and spoke, I was most impressed by Victoria Chavez and Rochelle Jackson-Smarr, two student leaders of the Civic Works Project.

During the event the two were a pair of the hardest working people there, helping set up the event, raising awareness to those in the audience and doing several media interviews.

I kept asking myself, "Why?" Why would two SJSU students from California care so much about what is going on halfway across the U.S. in New Orleans?

Why are they doing so much more than most people that are in their same position?

Throughout the whole night, they and the rest of the civic works students explained why it is important to stand up and have their voices heard.

During the event they defied all of the stereotypes given to college students today — those being that we are introverted, selfcentered and do not care about current events and injustices going around in the world.

It is nice to know that there are college students that care so much about an atrocity that is being overlooked by the government.

But the most important people at the event were not Chavez, Jackson-Smarr or anyone that is involved with the project; they were the other students who were in attendance.

They were the around 40 students that attended the event to hear what their peers had to speak regarding what is going on and why they are so involved in the project.

"I learned what they are trying to do and why they are so proud of what they're doing," said Chad Brodie, a senior geography major. "All I see about the situation is how sports teams are going back to New Orleans and how they're trying to get back to normal, but when I see this, it's like there is still a lot to do."

Other students agree with

"To be honest I did not know it was this bad," said Marco Huerte, a senior graphic design major. "It's really important that people know about issues like this."

After talking to those two students I felt the sleep out accomplished one of the project's goals by creating a lot of attention to the subject.

However, while attending the event, I could not help but feel out of place.

Would I be out here if I wasn't covering the event?

Though there were a lot of people in attendance, what does it say about us as a society that the whole campus wasn't there being educated by Katrina victims and activists.

Doesn't that negate everything they are trying to do?

One of the members of the project agreed with me.

Julian Rosenberg, a senior political science major and member of the civic works project, said we need more people wanting to

During the event they defied all of the stereotypes given to college students today.

help out the cause.

"Not enough people care," Rosenberg said. "We are just a minority. I wish more people would take the time to be educated on what's going on."

What those college students did Wednesday night was a step forward for society; but after 27 months, I don't feel as a society we — normal civilians — have done enough to be at least educated, if not help participate, in

Guest columns appear Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Affordable housing options nil in S.J.

San Jose is the sixth most expensive college town in the nation, according to the Coldwell Banker College Home Price Comparison In- buy a home in the area. dex released Nov. 6.

The index listed the 10 most- and leastexpensive cities. Five of the top-10 most ex-

THE OPINION OF THE SPARTAN DAILY **EDITORIAL BOARD**

pensive fell within California, with Palo Alto, home of Stanford University, topping the list for the third year in a row.

California has a commitment to providing affordable education, and even with the surge of tuition increases, it remains accessible to many. But with five of the 10 cities on the highest-priced list, students may be able to afford tuition or afford to live in California - but not both.

And post graduation?

With the high price of housing in California, new college graduates may be priced out of home buying and forced to look to move out of state, however, many people come to school at SJSU specifically for the Silicon Valley job market.

New college graduates, even with Silicon Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the Valley salaries, may not be able to afford to United States.

home with a family room and a two-car garage was priced in San Jose by the index at \$1.14 million, more than seven times the cost of an equivalent home in the least expensive city on the list — Muncie, Ind., home to Ball State University.

Somewhere there must be a resolution to the problem, whether it is at the federal level or at the local level.

Since 1999, more than 10,000 affordable units have been built in San Jose, according to the Housing Department.

San Jose, through the Redevelopment Agency, has a policy of inclusionary housing, which means at least 20 percent of every home development in a redevelopment area must be in the affordable range for low- and low-to-moderate-income residents.

Although this policy has made a commitment to providing affordable housing, much of it ends up being within the rental market.

In October, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to "provide for the construction, rehabilitation and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families," according to a bill summary.

It would establish the National Affordable

A similar bill, the Enterprise Mission Im-A 2,220-foot, 4-bedroom, 2-1/2-bath provement Act of 2007, was introduced in the Senate on Nov. 9 by Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I. and would help finance between \$500 million and \$900 million each year for affordable housing.

These programs, however, are designed to assist the lowest income brackets and may not assist income levels of college graduates.

Most students at SJSU maintain at least a part-time job to help with either living or tuition expenses, or both. With tuition on the rise, as well as rent and mortgage prices, students have to work more hours and commute farther to make ends meet.

Gone are the days when most students could focus on their education and not worry about how they are going to afford to live.

Taxpayers spend a lot of money to educate students in California, and the state should spend that money wisely by assuring that those students have a future, including jobs and housing, within the state.

Monday editorials are written by the Spartan Daily editorial board.

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Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a letter to the editor. A letter to the editor is a response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan

Only letters 200 words or less will be considered for publication.

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

Submissions may be placed in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3282, e-mailed to spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San José State University, One Washington Square, San José, CA 95112-0149.

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Quote of the day

"I personally am opposed to the death penalty. But my research shows that there is a deterrent."

NACI MOCAN

An economist at Louisiana State University and an author of a study finding that each execution saves five lives.

SPORTSSJSU football falls to La. Tech 27-23, record now 4-7 THESPARTANDAILY.COM Spartans bounce into action: Which team will have the better season?

Women's Basketball: that had only five wins her first A winning attitude

By TRUTH ESGUERRA Staff Writer

Despite its 0-3 start, the SJSU women's basketball team still has a chance of having a better record than the men's team.

First-year head coach Pam DeCosta comes to SJSU after spending four seasons as the head coach at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla.

She was able to take a program

year and produce double-digit wins each of the next three seasons.

DeCosta brings a winning perspective to a Spartan program that returns all five starters.

Scoring should not be a problem for the Lady Spartans as the team's top-four scorers at the end of last year return this season.

Junior guard Natalie White and sophomore forward Brittany Powell each averaged 11.6 points

White, in her third season at SJSU, is one of the Spartan's top 3-point-shooting threats, leading

best 89 assists. Hicks, in her third season as a Spartan, averaged six rebounds per game, second to Powell, and is

one of the team's best defenders. She also led the team with 74 steals.

last year's team with 41 3-pointers.

career 3-point shooters, ranking

Powell, in her second season

with the Spartans, was selected to

the Western Athletic Conference

All-Freshman Team last season.

rebounding during conference

play, scoring 12.1 points and pull-

ing down 6.9 rebounds per game.

Senior guard Alisha Hicks

brings scoring potential on the

court. Last year she averaged 8.9

points per game and had a team-

She led the team in scoring and

ninth with 65 in her career.

She ranks among the best SJSU

Junior guard Myosha Barnes averaged 8.4 points per game last year. She also had 85 assists and grabbed 40 rebounds.

Junior center Jaime Hall returns for her third season as a

She was second on the team with 24 blocked shots and averaged 3.5 rebounds last season.

Looking to provide depth at the guard position is Brittany Imaku, who returns to the team after a red-shirt season.

Imaku is a playmaker DeCosta can use to run the ball on offense.

She had a team-high 117 assists and 57 steals in the 2005-06 season with the Spartans.

Imaku started in both the season-opener against Oregon and the home-opener against Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Men's Basketball: **Versatile Offense**

By SAMUEL LAM Staff Writer

With both the men's and women's basketball teams rebuilding, I think the men will have more options on offense and a better chance at achieving more wins.

The SJSU men's basketball team has struggled the past two seasons under head coach George Nessman.

This year, the team looks ready to improve upon its 6-25 record from a season ago.

I went to the exhibition opener last Friday, where the team took on Notre Dame de Namur University. It took a little time for the team to get adjusted to its first game, but from what I saw, a .500 record is very possible.

They have started the regular season 2-1 this year, with two nailbiting victories in the First Shot Exempt Tournament over the weekend against Middle Tennessee and Appalachian State.

The Spartan's performance earned them the tournament title. Freshman point guard Justin

Graham has been tremendous so far, leading the team in scoring with 16 and 13 points respectively in the team's first two games.

He looks to be maturing much more quickly than most first-time starters do. His turnover totals are a little high, but that comes with a player learning the ropes.

The team looks to be feeding off the leadership of junior forward Tim Pierce and sophomore center C.J. Webster. Both have stepped up their games with efficient play.

Webster, a transfer student from Texas State University, has given the team great depth inside to compliment freshman Oliver Caballero.

Nessman has emphasized a faster running style of play during this new campaign, and he has said he looks for leadership in returning seniors, forward Lance Holloway and guard Jamon Hill. Starting every game last season,

Hill averaged 9.7 points per game and might be seeing up to an average of 32 minutes per game this

The weakness of the team may be pass distribution, as it might hinder them from finding easier scores.

With Nessman trying to implement an up-tempo game, the as-

Senior forward Lance Holloway looks to provide leadership to a young team.

sists will eventually come around.

The team is entering uncharted territory. I believe, however, this team is prepared to take on this new task. Their challenges will lie within the Western Athletic Conference, where opponents like University of Nevada, Reno and Utah State will be the toughest games.

If they can stay close with the likes of Boise State University, the University of Hawaii and Santa Clara University, the team can get to a .500 record and a possible NIT berth.

The Spartans are looking sharp, but more importantly, they have that desire to win.



Senior Alisha Hicks averaged 8.9 points per game last season.

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