## **MORE BLOOD DRIVE TALK**

Policies, principles, protests ... and Rip Van Winkle

See OPINION, page 5.

VOLUME 130 **ISSUE 12** 

thespartandaily.com

# **SPARTAN DAILY**



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008-

FREE SINCE 1934

TOMORROW in the Spartan Daily

🤲 63° / 39°

# With the grace of a swan

Ballet San Jose prepares to bring a classic to the stage



ARTHUR MARKMAN / SPARTAN DAILY

During the final day of its rehearsal, Ballet San Jose practiced at its local studio for a performance of "Swan Lake." The company will showcase at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts at 255 Almaden in San Jose. See the story on pages 2 and 3.

# University stands alone in blood policy

# Extracurricular

His story in colors

Richard Tuker, 61, a former SJSU student, speaks through oil on can-

vas about his life, love and culture.

Students choose MySpace, fliers over SJSU.edu to post events

#### **By CHRIS BAUSINGER** Staff Writer

Since Sept. 17, 2007 the Student Involvement Web calendar has listed four events.

The lack of student events is not a result of clubs not hosting any events, but instead because student organizations often choose not to post their events on the Web calendar.

Events on the calendar ranged from academic integrity week to student organization fairs.

According to the Student Involvement Web calendar the last event to be posted by a student organization was the Associated Students' barbeque on November 15, 2006.

Instead of using the calendar, organizations use fliers and online groups, such as MySpace and Facebook, to provide information to people interested in their programs. Akbayan SJSU and the Muslim Students Association of SJSU are example of groups with Facebook pages.

Some organizations have their own Web sites but are not the same as those listed on the Student Involvement SJSU Web page.

Information that is on the fliers and organization web pages are events students would miss if they were looking for them on the Student Involvement Web calendar. These events include poker nights, barbeques and cultural dance workshops.

"Student Involvement will be removing its calendar within the next month due to lack of student usage," said Director of SJSU Student Involvement Richard Kelley.

The decrease in usage may come om the way student organizations

have to get their events approved for the calendar. The organization must fill out a one-page form that is subject to review and approval.

"Most students don't go to the SJSU Web site to look for clubs," said Stephanie Jwo, a senior psychology major and member of Tau Delta Phi.

Tau Delta Phi spreads information about its events by handing out fliers in front of a table outside the Student Union as well as through their own Web site.

Other student organizations feel the same way about the Student Involvement calendar and have created and managed their own Web pages separate from the SJSU Web site.

Swaphil Mehta, a graduate student majoring in mechanical engineering and member of the Indian Students Organization said, "We put all our [event] dates on our own Web site and use Yahoo groups," as a way of keeping members informed.

The Akbayan Pilipino American Organization of SJSU also uses online methods to keep students informed of events.

Christine Abriam, a senior interior design major and member of Akbayan said, "We use a Yahoo group, weekly e-mails and our Web site."

The organizations that commented were at tables outside of the Student Union. Each organization has certain times during the week that they are available for information.

The low number of event listings in the last year may be the reason the calendar has been phased out. Student organizations are looking for their own space to develop memberships and inform prospective students of their events

## Other institutions keep quiet about SJSU's decision to suspend donation drives

#### **By JOHN HORNBERG** Staff Writer

Despite having policies with similar language against discrimination, other local universities thus far have remained silent regarding SJSU President Don Kassing's prohibition of blood drives.

No local university or college has taken similar action to address the Food and Drug Administration's lifetime deferral for gay men from donating blood.

Other universities chose not to comment on Kassing's actions, or their own nondiscrimination policies.

Officials from UC Berkeley and Santa Clara University did not return e-mail questions as well as phone calls, while officials at San Francisco State University and Stanford University also did not return phone calls.

Student publications, though, have reported on blood drive suspension, but have not presented an opinion about it.

Despite the steps taken by SJSU, it was never the president's intention to push his values on other institutions, he said at a news conference on Tuesday.

"President Kassing's intention is to take care of the SJSU campus and community," said Pat Lopes Harris, a representative for the university. "It isn't his intention to create a movement."

Paul Browning, a representative for the California State University

system, said it does not have a uniform nondiscrimination policy for its 23 campuses, a fact echoed by SJSU's Associate Vice President of Public Affairs Larry Carr.

"If you look at them, you might find that they are all similar," he said. "But each one is different."

The UC system has a nondiscrimination policy that covers all 10 of its campuses, according to the media relations office at UC Berkeley. Last updated by the UC Board of Regents in 2004, the UC policy covers "admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities."

Discrimination based on gender

See **DISC**, Page 6

## FDA POLICY

Men who have had sex with other men, at any time since 1977 (the beginning of the U.S. AIDS epidemic) are currently deferred as blood donors. This is because men who have had sex with other men are, as a group, at increased risk for HIV, hepatitis B and certain other infections that can be transmitted by transfusion.

The policy is not unique to the United States. Many European countries have recently reexamined both the science and ethics of the lifetime deferral and have retained it.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS: Spartan Squad Spring Sports Kickoff Get a fresh start on the 2008 Spring semester! Wednesday, February 13, 2008 7:00pm - 8:00pm Campus Village Quad Contact: 408.924.9269,

mpowell@as.sjsu.edu YES!+: A YOUTHFUL MOVEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL CHANGE SJSU Art of Living Club Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 6:00 a.m. at San Jose State University

Contact: yesplusSJSU@gmail.com

Crusade for Christ NightLife (Valentines Celebration) Every Thursday, students from all walks of life unite for worship, prayer, Biblical teaching, and fellowship. Thursday, February 14, 8pm at Spartan Memorial sjDANCEco's Choreo Project Awards:

A great Concert of original works Friday, February 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, February 23, 2008 at 9:00 p.m. SJ\$U Dance Theatre, SPX 219, SJ\$U, 1 Washington Square Contact: 408.924.5041, dance@sjsu.edu

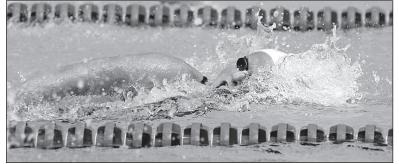
SPARTAN DAILY

Facebook contains listings, such as the ones above, of student events that have not been posted on SJSU's Web site.

# inside the

## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Records, medals and a chance for more. Standout swimmer Brie Marhenke leads the swimming team into the WAC championships. See SPORTS, page 4



COURTESY OF SJSU ATHLETICS

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## **HUNGRY AND** POOR

Students point to the cheapest (and tastiest) restaurants near campus. See CAMPUS NEWS, page 6

## President fields questions from campus media

## NOW ONLINE

- Watch the news conference at thespartandaily.com and leave comments about what SJSU president Don Kassing said Tuesdav.
- Kassing addressed campus building updates for the Student Union, Spartan Complex and other projects. • The ban on blood drives dominated the conference, as Kassing and staff explained the reasons behind the decision and what ignited the conversation.

• With his retirement set for this summer, Kassing chose not to comment on the search for his replacement.

## **STAFF REPORT**

TOWER HALL — San Jose State University's President Don Kassing answered a variety of questions from the Spartan Daily and SJSU's "Update News" at a conference in Tower Hall on Tuesday.

## Q: How easy of a decision was it for you to suspend blood drives on campus?

A: We approached this thing, I think, in a very thoughtful way. We felt that based on what we learned (researching) that our discrimination policy needed to be adhered to. And that the FDA position on this has been controversial for at least 10 years — and that there is a pretty interesting scientific argument out there that the FDA needs to take a look at the policy. That's been advocated by a number of agencies and groups that I think need to be respected. ...

... And what's been so interesting

about this debate is that we get drawn in, or they draw us into, an argument about the blood supply. We're not telling anyone not to donate blood. In fact, I think we would say the opposite, 'Please donate blood.'

We would hope the FDA would change its policy at some point. The scientific arguments are considerable

... they need to get on that and take a look at it ... because we would argue it's discriminatory

The experience we're having on this has been ... a very strong anti-gay set of responses that are ugly, nasty kinds of things. We'll get people accusing us of being politically correct, which I would argue is a very shallow view of what we've done. The blood supply argument: that has substance. And people engaged in that side of the argument really, really care about it and are concerned. And then you would get what I would label as a very informed opinion and that's

*See* **Q&A**, *Page* 6



"I think we would say the opposite. 'Please, donate blood'," Kassing said at the conference.

## STUDE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2008

## SPARTA GUIDE **EVENT CALENDAR**

#### Today

### SOCIETY FOR COMPUTER ENGINEERING CLUB **ROOM GRAND OPENING**

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Engineering building, rooms E294 and E285/287. Contact: Sampath Gadamsetty, 806-6314, sampathq4@yahoo.com

## **RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOP**

*Counseling Services' "The Dating Game." Topics include the* first date, healthy relationships and surviving breakups. *1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Administration building, room 269.* Contact: Jennifer Naumann, Mariika Felberg, or Ashley Tate de Lara, georgette.gale@sjsu.edu

### **CAREER CENTER PROGRAM:** THE INTERNATIONAL JOB SEARCH, SECRETS TO SUCCESS

A program for students considering going abroad to intern, work, teach, study, volunteer or travel. *3 to 5 p.m. at the University room.* Contact: Laurie Morgan, laurie.morgan@sjsu.edu

## WORKSHOP: ARE YOU HITTING THE GOAL MARK?

Learn how to achieve your educational goals by creating an effective plan and hitting the center of the target. 3 to 4 p.m. Administration building, room 269.

Contact: Deanna Peck, 924–5910, georgette.gale@sjsu.edu

## **AKBAYAN PILIPINO-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION** PCN INFO NIGHT

4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Student Union Pacifica room. *Contact: Angelo, 925–768–7052* 

### **LECTURE: BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN A GLOBAL WORLD**

Eminent Speaker Series: Information on the sixth-annual Silicon Valley Business Plan Competition will be provided. The event is co-hosted by the Lucas Graduate School of Business. 6 to 8 p.m. at Boccardo Business Complex, room 202. Contact: Dr. Anu Basu, 924–3593, basu\_a@cob.sjsu.edu

## **COUNSELING SERVICES STUDENT WORKSHOP**

*First-Generation College Student Workshop.* 6 to 7 p.m. at MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center. Contact: Veronica Mendoza, 924–5921

## LECTURE: NETWORKING THROUGH PEOPLE, **THROUGH A MENTOR**

Delta Sigma Pi Professional Event: Sharon Preston, project specialist and university relations and college recruiting from CISCO Systems, will talk about the importance of networking and having a mentor before graduating. 9 to 10:30 p.m. at the Student Union, Almaden room *Contact: christopher.lozano@dspsjsu.org* 

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 the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.



Karen Gabay performs the role of Odette in Ballet San Jose's rehearsal of "Swan Lake." ARTHUR MARKMAN / SPARTAN DAILY

## "Swan Lake"

**Who:** *Ballet San Jose* 

What: "Swan Lake"

## Where:

San Jose Center for Performing Arts

# 'Swan Lake' tiptoes to San Jose

#### **By KATE TAYLOR** Staff Writer

in blue tulle skirts with toes

pointed and chins held high.

where the lighting and score were

adjusted to the choreography, in one

of the company's many studios Fri-

ballet is attributed to its dramatical-

ly moving score written in 1875 by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, who died

believing his music to the produc-

tion was a failure, according to an

e-mail from Dennis Nahat, the

artistic and executive director for

Nahat said the contemporary

version of the ballet is from 1894,

"My instinct in preserving great

works is to strengthen that which

is already visible and bring out that which is invisible," Nahat wrote.

"The choreography for this production of 'Swan Lake' is original, ex-

cept portions of Acts II and III."

when Marius Petipa and Lev Iva-

nov redid the choreography.

the company.

The success of the 130-year-old

day.

The company held the final technical rehearsal of "Swan Lake,"

Rothbart's spell can only be broken More than 20 by true love. poised ballerinas Enter, Prince Siegfried. pirouetted across the Siegfried falls in love with Odette, floor of Ballet San Jose

causing the baron to create an evil Odette look-alike, the Black Swan, in order to trick Siegfried into declaring his love to her instead of the real Odette, negating the true-love loophole.

Dwight Oltman, the conductor, has worked with Ballet San Jose on every production for 32 years.

He said the rehearsal was an opportunity to refresh his memory on the notes he made for the score during the company's last "Swan Lake" performance.

The dancers rehearsed sans costumes or backdrop, and with only a few props to supplement the performance.

Grand jumps and leaps and impressive consecutive turns were performed by all of the main roles, wowing Friday's rehearsal audience and emphasizing the company's athleticism.

Maykel Solas played Prince Siegfried, Jeremy Kovitch played the baron and Karen Gabay played the lead part of Odette in Friday's runthrough.

Most dancers get about 15 to 20 years of professional dancing, depending on the age they start, said Akua Parker, a dancer in her second season with the company. Gabay, 46, has been dancing for the Ballet San Jose for 27 years and is still being cast as leads in the ballet's many productions, Parker said.

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## When: Feb. 15 to Feb. 24

Student rates are available at the door one hour before the performance with a school ID.

*Student rate performance dates: Friday, Feb.* 15 @ 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 @ 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22 @ 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23 @ 1:30 p.m.

For tickets, call (408) 288-2800

choreography, specifically the dance of the Four Cygnets, Nahat said.

Some of the scenes are still danced

by modern companies in the original

This ballet is so demanding for the performer, said Publicity Director Lee Kopp, that there are three to four castings of each main role, and the performers never dance the same lead two nights in a row.

"It's like basketball, or any sport, really," Kopp said. "If you play tired, you're going to get hurt."

The ballet is a classic, romantic tale of Odette, called the White Swan, who is under the spell and control of the obsessed Baron von Rothbart, an evil sorcerer who turns women into swans.

Typical to any fairytale, von

"She must be hiding an aging portrait of herself in a closet," Kopp said of Gabay.

In addition to Gabay, Maria Jacobs and Alexsandra Meijer also play Odette.

Nahat added that, when choreographing the ballet, he tried to "make the ballet and its plot clearly understood by a first-time viewer."



## JDEGULTURE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2008 thespartandaily.com



# IN MOTION

Prince Siegfried (Maykel Solas) declares his love to the Black Swan (Karen Gabay) before the court. "Swan Lake" will run Feb. 15 to Feb. 24 at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. The ballet will be danced to a live performance by the Symphony Silicon Valley.



ARTHUR MARKMAN / SPARTAN DAIL











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SPORTS WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2008

**Spartan Sports Update** The SJSU softball team split a doubleheader on Tuesday with Sacramento State. The Spartans were upended in game one 5-2, but won game two 6-5.

Coming off of its 7-0 win over Sonoma State, the SJSU women's tennis team was blanked by UC Davis 7-0 on Tuesday in a nonconference match.

# SJSU's record-setting swimmer

Brie Marhenke is favored at next week's WAC tourney

#### **By KATE TAYLOR** Staff Writer

Standing by the pool at the Aquatic Center, hair sopping wet and goggle marks imprinted on herforehead, SJSU swimmer Brie Marhenke spoke of her love for swimming.

"I just like going back and forth in the pool," she said.

In 2005 Marhenke became the university's first swimmer to compete in the NCAA championships since 2000, said Doga Gur, San Jose State University's assistant sports information director.

Marhenke set two individual school records in 2006 in the 50and 100-yard-freestyle and is seeded first in both events heading into the Western Athletic Conference championship meet next week in San Antonio.

> 11 It's just really fun to watch her swim and beat everyone ...

> > AMANDA CARR Senior, distance swimmer

Marhenke has medaled at previous WAC championships five times - three have been gold.

"One of things that we talk about is, especially somebody of her ability and goals, we don't want to overcomplicate it," said head coach Sage Hopkins of his expectations for Marhenke. "We just want her to get in there and go for best times."



In addition to her individual records, Brie Marhenke has participated in three SJSU record-setting relay races. She was named to the 2005-06 CollegeSwimming.com NCAA Mid-Major All-American team.

The senior health science major swam recreationally in high school before she enrolled at Oregon State University. She transferred to SJSU in 2005.

"Brie's career certainly has been sort of unorthodox to say the least," Hopkins said, referring to the fact that most college swimmers usually start their careers at early ages, swimming competitively year-round for local club teams.

"She didn't have the typical swimming background," he said. Marhenke did not practice serious-

ly, or on a regular basis, until she came to San Jose State, Hopkins said. "Her improvement was dramatic

to say the least," he said. Though she red-shirted last season

due to back and rib injuries, she was one of three tri-captains for the team and is a co-captain this season.

"Mentally, red-shirting last year was really tough for me because I felt like I was a senior but that I wasn't done," Marhenke said. "The support from the team was probably the best."

Hopkins said Marhenke is a natural leader and a role model for the rest of the team.

"It's always a good thing for the rest of the team to have somebody next to them that is swimming at that level," he said. "And it's a good example of what they can really achieve.'

Seniors Amanda Carr and Jillene Golez attributed the enthusiasm of the team to Marhenke and her ability to motivate her teammates.

"She always says quirky stuff right before we get on the blocks to relax us," said Golez, who swims the butterfly events, "but it's funny because when she gets on the blocks she's so serious. I don't know how she can turn that goofy switch on and off."

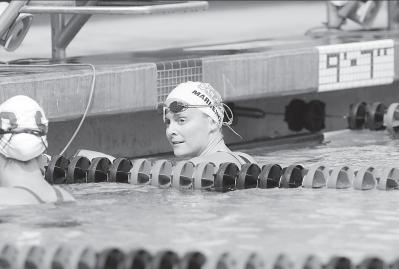
swim and just beat everyone in a 50freestyle by a body length, which is amazing to me," said Carr, a distance swimmer.

Lauren Mar, a junior business administration major, lives and trains with Marhenke.

"She's very sporadic and very easy-going," Mar said. "She's very nonchalant, and that is one thing that helps make practice fun sometimes."

"It's just really fun to watch her

Mar said she loves being around



HOTO COURTESY OF SJSU ATHLETIC

Teammates say

Marhenke brings

an unconventional

and "easy-going"

approach to the

sport, but when

the gun goes off,

there is no one that



competes harder than she does. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Marhenke because of her sense of humor and positive vibe.

"Brie is definitely a member of the peanut gallery," Hopkins said of her wacky personality.

Carr said that throughout practice she can hear Marhenke's voice from across the pool.

"I'm really loud, and I love having fun," Marhenke said. "That's my main thing."

Marhenke said she plans to work in sports management after she's done at San Jose State, and next season she'll work with the university's swim team as an undergraduate assistant.

In her spare time, she likes to relax, and she said she has developed a new hobby.

"Sometimes I read," she said,

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61 Work, as clav

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DOWN

1 Scoundrel 2 OPEC rep, maybe

3 Tidbits for kitty

laughing. "That's a recent thing." The 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials

will be held in June, and Marhenke said she will continue to train with Hopkins and attempt to qualify in the 50- or 100-meter-freestyle events.

'We've had discussions in terms of her sticking around and training for Olympic Trials," Hopkins said. "That's a decision we'll make at the conclusion of this season and see where her motivations lie."

In the meantime, Marhenke, Hopkins and the rest of the Spartan swimmers are looking forward to a great team performance in San Antonio.

"This team has worked much harder and been much more focused top to bottom than any team since I've been here," Hopkins said.



## **EMPLOYMENT**

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## **TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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# Leaving comments from under a bridge



**SARAH KYO** The Kyo Protocol

"You kiss your mother with that mouth?"

That saying hints at a foul mouth, spewing impolite language. In this day and age of Internet usage, though, perhaps a more appropriate question would be, "You hold your mother's hands with those fingers?"

No, this has nothing to do with porn, but it has everything to do with how people communicate online.

E-mail, blogs and forums are examples of ways that people connect with each other through their computers. It is possible to write back-and-forth with someone you've never met, someone who may live in another city, state or country.

Even if you're not a published writer, you can still get your words out there for others to read. The Internet allows just about anyone with access to it to let his or her voice be heard.

Web sites for publications, including the Spartan Daily, allow readers to post comments on stories and have discussions among themselves.

The Internet may break down barriers, but there's one thing that should be remembered: how people treat other people.

There's an Internet slang term for people who purposely try to stir up trouble online:

bridges to disturb the billy goats Gruff, like in the fairytale. They're not like those troll dolls with brightly colored hair and a shiny jewel for a belly button. Instead, these kinds of trolls try to get a reaction out of people.

Different things can set off people, as well as a flurry of fingers tapping on a computer. It's all right to disagree with someone. It's all right to say you disagree with someone's ideas and explain why. That's an American right.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants Americans freedom of speech. "Free speech" is a phrase that gets thrown around often. It's a right.

*There is something convenient* about being able to communicate to others from afar. It's kind of like a conversation with someone because it is one.

However, what about other people's free speech? Free speech comes with responsibility. When you move away from critiquing a writer or poster's ideas to critiquing his or her reputation and character, then that's crossing a line.

Name-calling is something children may do when they're fighting over a toy during recess, but this and other personal attacks probably won't get one far during a discussion in a college class, for instance. Why should personal attacks, instead of logic and reason, work any better online?

From personal experience, there is some-

trolls. These kinds of trolls don't hide under thing freeing and comfortable about communicating through typing. There is something convenient about being able to communicate to others from afar. It's kind of like a conversation with someone because it is one.

However, it is easy to hide behind your keyboard, assailing others with words. You can't see who the other person is, and he or she cannot see you.

You can be naked and reading this column, but no one will know. The Internet provides a degree of anonymity, thus making the online communication seem impersonal.

Imagine, though, before launching into a fiery online tirade, that the source of that anger is in front of you. It's not just a source, rather a human being. Someone who lives, breathes and shares the same world as you. Imagine that this person has thoughts, dreams, ambitions, experiences and feelings.

Someone like yourself. Think before you speak. That's another saving. You may have heard it from your teacher or even your mother.

For the 21st century, here's another one for you: think before you type.

Before you type a comment, consider what you would feel like if the person you are addressing was right in front of you, looking you straight in the eyes.

Would you still say the same thing?

"The Kyo Protocol" appears every Wednesday. Sarah Kyo is a Spartan Daily student culture editor.

## Making sense out of blood drive nonsense



**DAVID ZUGNONI** Beginnings of Marathons

SJSU President Don Kassing made an interesting move, deciding to suspend blood drives on his campus because a policy that more of a hassle than just walking a few protected gay men from "discrimination of blocks off campus. any kind" beat out a policy that disallowed a

correlate with establishing equal rights?

Is that even discrimination if the people who aren't allowed to donate blood on campus aren't allowed to donate anywhere else in the country?

All other federal laws are enforced on campus. Will the politically correct freaks of SJSU find more laws to fight?

What if every single college did this? What if city or county governments started banning blood drives to protect the rights of their citizens?

Donating blood would become much

sex with another man, the nurse tells him he can't donate blood.

"Why?" he asks.

"It's the policy," the nurse says. "Sorry, there's nothing I can do."

Can't argue with that, I suppose. The man knows he can't twist the nurse's arm because it's not up to the nurse. It's up to a policy.

## *Policies are just easy ways* out of a discussion. They are simple, no-questions-asked ways to end an argument.

# No better time than the present



**By MANDIE MOHSENZADEGAN** Senior Staff Writer

It is precisely 1: 51 p.m. on Feb. 10, 2008. I am sitting at a local Starbucks with a pile of newly purchased books in front of me. "Author 101," "How to Get Published," "The Writer's Portable Therapist."

I briefly skim over the first few pages of "Author 101." My eyes wearily scan the titles of the other books once again.

So it appears that to write a book, I am in the need of another book to guide and direct me?

The books all hold cleverly crafted tips and formulaic approaches, neatly numbered or bulleted, and are certainly impressive enough in their sincere promises to make my nonexistent book a reality (and a best-selling one at that).

But two pages into the first chapter, which is attempting to "teach" me lessons on creative writing (as though creativity is something to be learned), I suddenly feel a strong urge to throw the books off the table

I am a journalist. I know all too well the many rules and guidelines I must follow on a daily basis in order to write a well-structured article.

My dream and desire of writing a book was perhaps also recently fueled by a rebellion to this structured form of writing to which I have grown so accustomed over the past few years. Reporting, while exciting and rewarding in its own way, has been my day job.

It is, however, in the late hours of the night when I sit before my computer and release my inner thoughts and emotions onto this word processor

rather than collect dust on the shelves of some remote bookstore in the middle of nowhere.

I recently came across a friend who laughed at me when I mentioned my little project, saying, "Mandie, writing a novel is something divorced retirees do because they can't find any better way to pass the time, not women in their early 20s."

I will not argue against that statement, but I refuse to allow anyone to discourage me from following my dream.

I am sure I will meet obstacles in my attempts to be taken seriously, and I plan on facing them with my head held high and proving to the world, but most importantly proving to myself, that anything is possible if you work hard and believe in yourself.

## We allow society to convince us that we shouldn't aim too high for fear of disappointment or failure, and we obsequiously settle for the mediocre.

I may be young, but I believe I have lived and experienced far beyond my 22 years and feel an incessant need to release the few things that I have learned.

Perhaps I could wait another 10 years to add new experiences this world has in store for me. This, however, would go against one of the most important things I have learned in my life: To take advantage of every waking moment. With this in mind, I will write my book. I will write it now.

We live in a time when passions can easily be stifled, and dreams are often pushed aside; we allow society to convince us that we shouldn't aim too high for fear of disappointment or failure, and we obsequiously settle for the mediocre.

But deep down, we all have something inside of us, some hidden talent or desire, that makes us come alive — something that motivates us to get up in the morning and fills us with an exuberance and vitality that makes life worth living - something that makes us feel as though we are capable of making a difference in the world. Writing my book is my way of following my desire of having my voice heard through my pen, in the hope that a tiny spark, perhaps of inspiration or a strong form of connection, may ignite within your soul as you run your fingers through mine. I think that this is perhaps the biggest desire set in the heart of any writer — to reveal the inner depths of her soul and hope that somehow, and somewhere, she will leave a worthwhile mark. I don't know what your dream is, my dear reader, but I know you must have one And I know that it can make a difference. Suppose you take that leap of faith, instead of allowing the world to discourage you from reaching for the moon.

donating blood.

On the surface, the decision just makes sense.

At a news conference yesterday, Kassing said the issue emerged when a university employee complained that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration policy was discriminatory. If he neglected the complaint, there's a good chance more pressure would come his way from students and other employees.

Not only is defending a university policy that promotes equal rights an easy decision, especially in California, but it's also much easier to tell some nurses with a van to take SJSU off their list of destinations than to explain to 30,000-plus why he can't own up to a policy that protects the equality for which billions have fought.

So it's an easy decision, almost typical, despite this being the first time a college has made it.

But, on the other hand, it's oversensitive and makes no sense at all.

How does suspending blood donation

Suddenly, if you don't own a car, you man who has had sex with another man from can't get to a blood donation station, and an already precious supply of blood would decrease dramatically.

What sense does that make?

Oh, but I've missed the point, for making sense logically is sometimes the least sensible thing to do — especially when trying to make a statement.

If a decision lacks a logical base, then there must be something more important than logic behind it — maybe a principle.

"For me, it's a real fundamental principle that this place doesn't discriminate against anybody," Kassing said during yesterday's news conference.

Ah, that sounds refreshing, doesn't it? It's nice to know that this isn't just some

silly war of policies. "Policy" is the worst word in our language.

Policies are just easy ways out of a discussion. They are simple, no-questions-asked ways to end an argument.

If a man fills out a questionnaire before every Wednesday. David Zugnoni is the donating blood and indicates that he has had

But the policy may be flawed, and we would have just continued to adhere to it if not for this recent blood drive ban.

News outlets across the country reported SJSU's suspension of on-campus blood drives, and if other institutions protest as this university has, Rip Van Winkle at the FDA will have to eventually wake up and listen.

The ban itself may not make much sense, but it could begin an overdue discussion about the FDA policy, and that might make things a lot more sensible in the end.

I'd like to see a world without policies, but if we must have them, it would be nice if we could talk about them from time to time and decide what to do with them.

"Beginnings of Marathons" appears Spartan Daily opinion editor.

It is the only time I feel free to pour out my heart and soul onto paper in whatever way I like best. I never think before I write, I never create an outline, and I certainly never organize my thoughts in a list. I never have.

I allow it to flow freely out of me, and I believe that is what gives my writing its sincere and personal style.

This is exactly why I am returning all of the aforementioned books, and letting creativity come to me from the source which I find most reliable: myself.

I have wanted to write a book since as far back as I can remember. In fact, I recently found an old diary from when I was 10 years old, and scrawled upon the first page in bright green ink is the sentence: "Become a famous author."

You may laugh and call my ambitions exceedingly lofty and overly optimistic, and I don't blame you.

For a 22-year-old woman to write a book is somewhat odd and unusual, I realize, especially a woman who believes her book will actually be noticed

Who knows? Maybe the moon will reach back.

# Spartan Daily

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"We trust in the strength, industry and goodness of the American people. We don't believe that government has all the answers."

## **SEN. JOHN McCAIN**

Following his victory in the Virginia presidential primary election

# Biting on a student budget

**By TARA DUFFY** Staff Writer

Sisters Becky and Lucie Roberts, both animation illustration majors, said they prefer to eat at home to save money.

Sometimes it is hard for students who are living on a tight budget to find affordable places to eat or get drinks with friends.

For those who prefer to go out, even though money is tight, going to downtown San Jose does offer struggling students some options. A number of these options come within walking distance of SJSU.

Chris Skidmore, a graduate kinesiology student, likes Pizza My Heart because "you can get a meal for five bucks."

Alysse Esmail, sophomore public relations major, and Maria Diaz, second-year nursing student, both said they spend around \$100 to \$150 per

month on food — with the majority of that spent eating out.

Both Esmail and Diaz said that they didn't eat much at home.

They spent one lunch hour this week eating burritos from La Victoria's on 140 E. San Carlos St. that cost around \$5 each.

A few downtown businesses offer special discounts to SJSU students, where the students need to show their SJSU IDs to receive the discounts.

Jimmy Orozco, an employee from Iguana's Mexican Taqueria, said the restaurant is offering 10 percent off of "anything, all day every day."

Iguana's can be found on South Third Street near McDonald's and, it is open late Thursday through Sunday until 3 a.m.

The Pita Pit, on South Second Street between Camera 12 Cinemas and San Fernando Street, offers students a large fountain drink for \$.50 with the purchase of a pita. The Pita

Pit's menu offers many food options for around \$5 to \$6.

Julie Brand, general manager of Zanottos Downtown Market, said it has recently brought back its student discount and now offer students 10 percent off on a purchases of \$25 or more through the rest of this semester, as well as into September and October.

For students who want to catch a movie, it will cost \$7.50 at Camera 12 Cinemas on 201 S. Second Street.

Nancy Holtz, a junior art education major, said she frequents businesses in San Pedro Square, such as The Flying Martini Brothers Bar and Bistro, as well as O'Flaherty's Irish Pub and Tied House.

Holt said that she chooses businesses in this area because they offer "a group of pubs right by each other.'

San Pedro Square is located between Santa Clara Avenue and Saint John streets.





Above left: Two students eat at the dining counter at Iguana's Taqueria on Third Street. Above right: SJSU seniors Miller Duong, right, an economics major and Anthony Truong, left, a finance major, enjoy some slices from Pizza My Heart while studying for some of their classes.

## **Q&A** | Spartan Complex renovations on the agenda

#### Continued from Page 1

nities of a high risk of HIV?

paid attention to this issue and understands ... that the FDA could and should reconsider their argument.

Q: How quick of a decision

A: It really hits home on the issue. What really violates the nondiscrimination policy is that like-risks are not treated the same under the FDA's policy. And that's where the university's policy and the FDA's comes into conflict. And they don't have an answer to that.

plan to put in main renovations on Spartan Complex ... and that's about a \$30 million project.

Q: What's your take on the proposed Internet filters at the (King) library?

applicants for the Fall?

A: Yeah, we have seen an 8 percent increase even with the Feb. 1 deadline. We got our hands full, our applications are up, we're overenrolled about 1,500 students. We had hoped to be up about 3 percent.

## College courses seek to protect church tills from embezzlers, improve management

**By KATHY MATHESON** Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The globetrotting priest from Connecticut drove a Jaguar, shopped at Bergdorf Goodman and bought jewelry from Cartier, all of it with money stolen from his church's coffers. By the time the parish finance council caught on, he had embezzled \$1.3 million. Many U.S. churches have been victims of embezzlement over the years, reflecting not just moral weakness on the part of the wrongdoers, but lax financial controls. Often, church budgets are overseen by volunteers or employees with little guidance or professional training.

Now, some colleges are hoping to prevent such faith-shattering abuses by offering programs devoted specifically to managing church finances and personnel.

DuquesneUniversity in Pittsburgh, Pa., and Boston College started

was it for you?

A: We probably spent a good four or five months on this ... maybe six months.

### O: What started the conversation (about banning blood drives)?

A: We had a complaint from an employee who expressed that he felt the blood drive violated the nondiscrimination policy.

## Q: Did you ask when talking to the FDA officials: Why is that the focus is on homosexual individuals and not other commu-

## Q: In your final months as SJSU's president, what are you trying to accomplish?

A: We've got to put a budget together. We are spending time on the new Student Union, Health Center and Rec Center. Every day there is something that comes up in this place.

## Q: Does SJSU have any plans to put in new computer labs, like the ones in Clark Hall?

A: In the governor's budget ... there is a bond issue, and if it passes, we

A: I understand where Councilman

Pete Constant is coming from, and I share that concern of protecting children from pornography. You need to be very careful and not interfere with our research efforts or the effort you make as students. We're hoping that's recognized and doesn't disrupt the way the library works. I think it's an issue of moral security in the library rather than Internet filters. I know he feels strongly about it and cares about kids, and so do we. I hope we can find a different solution.

Q: The CSU system set an earlier freshmen deadline for Feb. 1, have you seen a change in the number of

## Q: How do you help this problem?

A: We've opened more sections. We've hired more faculty.

## Q: What's at the top of the list? What is the "must get done" by the end of the semester?

A: If we have a budget cut, we make sure we can manage it. I mentioned the Student Union, the Health Center, the Rec Center, and make sure those projects move along.

President Kassing's answers were edited for length.

programs in September, and Villanova University outside Philadelphia is offering an online master's degree in church management beginning this summer.

The concept is becoming more popular despite some among the faithful who bristle at the notion of the church as a business, said Kerry Robinson, executive director of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, a Roman Catholic group.

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# **DISC** | Board of supervisors to discuss FDA policy Thursday

## Continued from Page 1

identity and sexual orientation is not allowed, among several things, according to the UC's policy.

Kassing said the university did not look at other local institutions' nondiscrimination policies, but that didn't stop him or those researching it from looking for other examples.

'We did try to get some sense of whether or not other colleges and universities had stopped doing blood

drives," he said. "The impression we got was that there were some colleges — that tended to be smaller liberal arts colleges in the Midwest - had taken a position on this."

At other places, students and the gay, lesbian, and transgender community raised the issue, Kassing said. The difference between SJSU and other colleges is that protesting did not start the investigation, but rather an employee complaint.

Kassing said he felt that each university should come to its own conclusion regarding the FDA's policy preventing homosexual men from donating blood, hoping that this stand will spur people to discuss the policy.

"I think each entity that considers this has to get there on its own," he said. "What I would hope is that we help create a more serious conversation with the FDA."

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors will be discussing the issue of blood drives and the FDA's ban at its legislative committee meeting on Thursday at 10:30 a.m.



Attendees will receive a free copy of Mr. Hachey's 26-page Quick Guide, "Helping Students Understand International Careers"



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