

# SPARTAN DAILY

VOL. 118  
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SERVING SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1934



**‘ANNOYED’**

Columnist wonders why humans treat pets as we do

— Opinion, 2

**CLUTCH CATCHER**

Adam Shorsher's homer downs University of Hawai'i, 4-3.

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## New system harder to use

By Mike Corpos

DAILY STAFF WRITER

The California State University system is proceeding with its rollout of the common management computer system and PeopleSoft software despite a recently approved audit of the system.

The audit, requested by state Sen. Richard Alarcon and Assemblyman Manny Diaz, was approved by the California joint legislative audit committee on April 8.

The San Jose State University employees who are faced with learning the new system and mastering its various upgrades are having a mixed bag of experiences with the system.

Mary Lou Bennett, an administrative analyst in the School of Nursing, called the system "counterproductive."

"It's time consuming. You have to go through a lot just to get the information you want," Bennett said.

She said making corrections to information is also difficult.

"You can't correct anything. The CMS (Common Management System) help desk has to make the corrections for you, and they're inundated with calls from all over campus."

Bennett said the timing of the training sessions for the new system was bad as well.

"The classes were in July of last year, but a lot of us weren't able to use the system until September. So then you're left calling the help desk or referring to your manuals."

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## Reaching for their roots

San Jose celebrates Cinco de Mayo

By Paul Mercado

DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cinco de Mayo was celebrated Sunday with a parade that wound through downtown San Jose's financial district.

The celebration commemorates the Battle of Puebla, which was won on May 5, and is known as Cinco de Mayo. It represents a symbol of pride, patriotism and unity for Mexicans.

Thousands of people came to the downtown area to view the parade's colorful floats and to enjoy the music and festivities of the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

There were people laughing and dancing to the sounds of the Latin band playing at the stage on Almaden Boulevard, and an abundance of Mexican food for the tasting. Several of the streets in the downtown area were blocked off to accommodate Sunday's expanded event.

The parade's commentators gave an account in both English and Spanish for the diverse audience in attendance.

Len Ramirez, a San Jose State University alumnus and the parade's English commentator, said the historical significance of Cinco de Mayo is the celebration of Mexico's victory over the French in 1862.

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Abel Munoz, right, of San Jose, watches the Cinco de Mayo parade pass down Market Street as five-year-old Francisco Gonzalez blows his toy horn. Sunday's Cinco de Mayo celebrations began at 9 a.m. with the annual parade through downtown San Jose.



photos by Christy Kinskey / Daily Staff

Dancers with the San Jose-based Christian performance group Unidos en Cristo parade down Santa Clara Street in the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration.

## SJSU dancers take top honors

Women's Bhangra dance team takes first while the men finish second at Friday event

By Rima Shah

DAILY STAFF WRITER

Twirling, skipping and hopping, San Jose State University danced its way into the top two places at "NachDa Punjab," a Bhangra dance competition organized by the Sikh Student Association on Friday night.

"NachDa Punjab" means the "Dance of Punjab."

In a packed Morris Dailey Auditorium, students from nine northern California colleges competed for the first prize of \$1,500.

SJSU women's team called Kunjaan Punjab Diyan, which means "Punjab's Florican," won the first prize, while the men's team, "Shaan Punjab Diyan," which means "Pride of Punjab," took second place.

The third place was held by DeAnza College.

The costumes and jewelry colored the stage in red, blue, purple, pink, black, white, orange, yellow, green, gold and silver. The tinkling of bangles and anklets softened the beats of the "dhol," a large cylindrical shaped drum, which lies suspended from the neck with a string. The dhol is an integral part of the Bhangra dance.

Noorie Malik, the captain of the SJSU's women team, said the team chose its name because the florican, a migratory bird, was an integral part of Punjabi culture, and thus symbolizes their migration from Punjab to the United States.

The team was dressed in traditional salwar kameezes (a long



Christy Kinskey / Daily Staff

Sikh students from the De Anza College group Shokni Mele Day perform to a full house in Morris Dailey Auditorium. Groups from 9 different colleges and universities competed Friday night in NachDa Punjab 2002, which was hosted by the Sikh Student Association of San Jose State University.

colorful shirt with baggy trouser-like bottom pieces) and red dupattas (long scarves worn around the shoulders and over the head) embroidered in Punjab's traditional "Phulkari" work.

Malik said she was very happy that the team won especially as it will be their team's last dance together since she and some of her friends are graduating.

"We told each other that this is our last performance and we have to do well," Malik said.

As part of their performance, team members, through their dance, pretended to tease each other with one of them pretending to be an old woman.

Dancers clapped, skipped on one foot, twirled around with hands waving energetically yet gracefully in the air.

Malik said the songs and the dance were chosen to create a light, teasing environment, as it was common in Punjabi culture for girls to tease each other.

She said the songs talked about rain, young married women joking about their in-laws and a bride defending her dark husband in a culture where fair skin is valued.

"Bhangra is my passion," Malik said. "I love Bhangra. I grew up in a Punjabi culture and I started doing Bhangra while in high school. It is something that relates to my cul-

◆ See DANCE, Page 4

## Alumni couple gets SJSU's highest award

By Joseph Weaver

DAILY STAFF WRITER

Tower Award winner Pete Silva admits that he wasn't the greatest student during his college career.

However, that didn't stop him from becoming a vital asset to San Jose State University.

"When I came to San Jose State in 1951, I really didn't know what to expect," Silva said. "I look back at those early years now and it was just a blur. I was a real party animal."

Those party animal days didn't go to waste, however. During those times, Pete Silva's great love for both SJSU and a certain woman named Marilyn were born.

"We got married two days after I

graduated on June 8, 1956," Marilyn Silva said. "It's been a great 40-plus years with Pete and the university."

Pete and Marilyn Silva, 1956 graduates of SJSU, were honored on Saturday night with the Tower Award for their contributions and service to the university.

SJSU President Robert Caret reminded everyone in attendance at the Tower Award dinner Saturday night of what the award was for.

"This is not an academic award," Caret joked. "It's an award for service to the community and the university."

The award is the highest honor given by SJSU and is presented annually to individuals who have made a significant

◆ See AWARD, Page 4

## Farmers Market patrons fill San Pedro Square

By Paul Mercado

DAILY STAFF WRITER

Friday was the beginning of the annual Farmers Market in downtown San Jose with its luscious farm ripened fruits, large crisp vegetables, magnificent local flowers and fresh baked breads and pastries.

The city was celebrating a decade of the Farmers Market in downtown San Jose on Friday with a variety of events to mark the occasion.

The Farmers Market at San Pedro Square, which is between Santa Clara and St. John streets, is in its third year at this location, said Elrond Lawrence, the marketing and communications director for the San Jose Downtown Association.

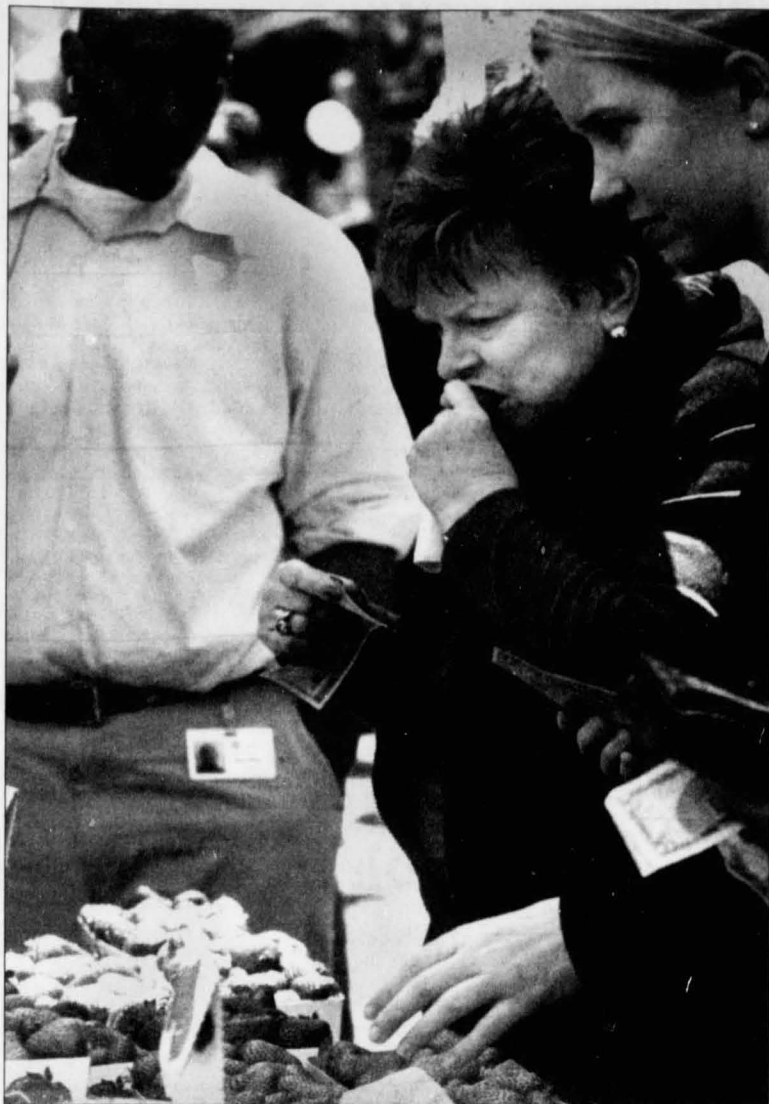
It has been expanded this year to cover the entire stretch of San Pedro Square from Santa Clara Street to St. Johns Street, Lawrence said.

"We are in partnership with the Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, bringing the Farm Fresh Friday's Farmers Market at San Pedro Square, which began its tenth season Friday," Lawrence said.

The festivities took place at noon. Downtown Association President Henry Cord provided the official welcome with Councilwoman Cindy Chavez helping to kick off the market's 10th season.

◆ See MARKET, Page 3





Krysti La Tour / Daily Staff

Sue Covey tasted a strawberry before buying a basket from the Medina Berry Farm booth Friday, at the San Pedro Square Farmers Market.

## MARKET Open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays until December

◆ continued from Page 1

Sharkie, the San Jose Sharks' mascot, and Pacific Coast Farmers' Market's mascot Mr. Carrot, were on hand to greet and meet the public.

The street market included a sampling of this month's "Chef at the Market," Octavio Hernandez's New Hattan Clam Chowder, which is a blend of both Boston and Manhattan clam chowders.

Hernandez is the chef for Haws Seafood Bar, which is down the street from the university.

The "Chef at the Market" is a monthly event with a variety of restaurants participating, Lawrence said.

There was also a guest appearance by the Bay Area CyberRays who were signing autographs.

There were cooking demonstrations and live music, which will be offered throughout the season.

The featured "Merchant at the Market," was The Clever Traveler, who shared travel advice.

Tom Nichol, manager for the Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association Market, said the markets offer the finest in farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh flowers, artisan breads and a variety of baked goods, produced locally.

"At a Certified Farmers Market, only California-grown food can be sold, no one is allowed to re-sell products purchased from other sources. In short, genuine farmers sell only their own crops directly to the public," Nichol said. "Last year's market attracted 77,000 visitors to the San Pedro Square dining and entertainment district, which was more than 2,100 patrons per week," Cord said.

San Pedro Square's Farmers Market will be held each

Friday rain or shine up until Christmas time.

Chavez said our hopes and dreams are to provide this opportunity through out downtown San Jose as we build and rebuild our home.

"This brings the people from all of these office buildings out to come and shop. It is a great introduction for people to get to know these fabulous restaurants in the San Pedro Square district," Chavez said.

Nichol said there will be about 40 vendors who come from different parts of northern California and the central valley.

"We have a mixture of farmers here, some offering organic fruits and vegetables," Nichol said.

Wendy Rhoads, a senior majoring in creative arts at San Jose State University, said she comes to the market to buy some fresh food, go home and have a nice dinner on Fridays.

"The strawberries are really gorgeous with their ruby red color and they are huge here," Rhoads said.

Nichol said the Farmers Markets allows people to make a connection with their food source and what goes on to their table.

"Our markets participate in the food stamp programs," Nichol said.

Anna Nordell, a senior majoring in advertising, said she used to go every week last year.

Whitney Vasu, a junior majoring in kinesiology, said she comes because the prices are good.

"College students aren't looking for some big bulky thing you can buy in a grocery store. So, if you want to get something quick and make tonight for dinner it is great and the people are so nice," Vasu said.



Krysti La Tour / Daily Staff

Many farms came to sell fresh produce on Friday at the first Farmers Market of the season, at San Pedro Square in downtown San Jose.

## PARADE Some say the holiday is celebrated more in U.S.

◆ continued from Page 1

Ramirez said it is a rallying point for many Mexicans to improve themselves through education and in their careers, and to use the spirit of Puebla to enhance their own lives.

Marina Hinestroza, editor of Nuevo Mundo and the parade's Spanish commentator, said one of the highlights of the celebration was its significance for Mexicans.

"It has become a very important celebration for all people of different races and origins in the San Jose community and throughout the country," Hinestroza said.

"It goes beyond the celebration of the Battle of Puebla, which is a very important event that happened in Mexico. For Hispanics, it represents the fighting for

respect and fighting for opportunities. We are using this day to celebrate the unity of our people and the unity of the United States with its diversity," Hinestroza said.

The San Jose Chapter of the American GI Forum and the San Jose Mercury News sponsored the parade in downtown San Jose.

According to Robert Guerra, chairman of the San Jose Chapter of the American GI Forum, there were over 120 participants in Sunday's parade. He said the chapter has been sponsoring this event since 1983.

"The people in the United States celebrate Cinco de Mayo more than the people in Mexico, even though the battle took place in Mexico," Guerra said. "I think we are reaching for our roots and

our heritage in the south with this celebration. We celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a colorful parade and a huge festival."

Councilwoman Cindy Chavez, said she anticipated more than 100,000 people at the event.

"The festival itself is very well run," Chavez said. "This year, the setup was changed to make it more comfortable for the participants."

"The really great thing about San Jose is that we are a very diverse city."

Councilman Chuck Reed said it was a great parade, but it was not as big as it has been in past years.

He urged the students at SJSU to "get off the campus and come enjoy what our beautiful city has to offer in the downtown area and the surrounding community."

## Agreement on Bethlehem may have been reached

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian officials said early Monday that a deal had been struck to end a monthlong standoff at the Church of Nativity, although a top Israeli official said there had been progress but no agreement.

Israeli officials said negotiations continued as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrived in the United States for talks with President George W. Bush.

More than 200 Palestinians, including about 30 gunmen, fled into the church April 2, ahead of invading Israeli forces, at the height of Israel's large-scale incursion into the West Bank.

"The deal consists of six to eight people to be (deported to) Italy and more than 30 to Gaza," said Hassan Abed Rabbo, a senior in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah party. About 100

people are still in the church, including clerics and some protesters. Palestinians said the rest would be freed from the church, which marks the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

But Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman Yarden Vatikay denied that a deal had been reached. "There is no agreement yet," he told The Associated Press. "They are negotiating our demands for people to be deported." He would not comment on the details under discussion.

Palestinian officials said the accord was worked out by the Vatican and the European Union. On Wednesday, Arafat left his office after 34 days of captivity under a U.S.-sponsored compromise that placed six Palestinian militants in a jail guarded by U.S. and British guards.

In the wake of last month's

large-scale Israeli military offensive in the West Bank, Bethlehem is the only Palestinian city still occupied by Israeli troops. But brief incursions and raids into Palestinian cities and towns continued Sunday.

Israeli soldiers mistakenly shot and killed a woman and her two small children in a vineyard in the northern West Bank after an explosive went off under their tank, Israeli military officials said.

The military expressed regret over the killings and said soldiers had fired on suspicious figures after the explosion, according to Israeli officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The woman's husband and four other men, farmers who had been working in the vineyard, were arrested by soldiers, witnesses said.

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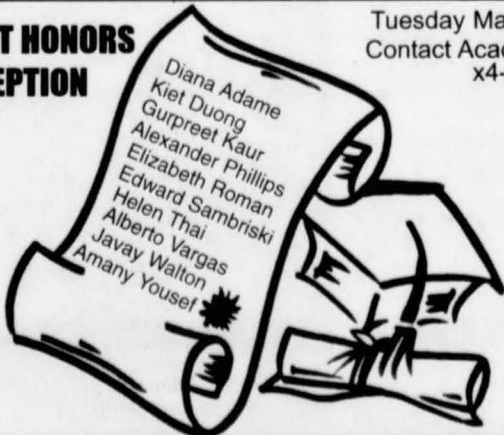
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Christy Kinsley / Daily Staff

Students from University of California Berkeley's Sikh performance group Cal Kuriyan Kamaal Diyan take the stage in competition against other student Sikh dance ensembles in Morris Dailey Auditorium.

## DANCE Teacher says Bhangra is expression of Punjabi culture

◆ continued from Page 1

ture and keeps my culture alive." Malik said SJSU's team has always been one of the strongest and has won many Bhangra competitions at Stanford University, UC Berkeley and UC Davis, where they stood first.

"It is because of the strong traditions that we learn from our parents," Malik said.

Malik said one of the reasons SJSU's teams did well was because they stuck to the traditional form of Bhangra instead of resorting to "hip-hop-ish touch" that other teams danced to.

This, Malik said, also meant having strictly male and female teams, as it was not common in Punjabi culture for men and women to dance together.

"It is common for girls teasing each other by one of them becoming a guy," Malik said adding that it shows the tradition better than girls and guys flirting with each other on stage.

"However, this is America and it is not that girls and guys can't dance together on stage," Malik added.

Bhangra, a folk dance from the North-Western East Indian state of Punjab, is known for its exuberance and passion.

Neetu Dhaliwal, a judge and performer of Hindi and Punjabi dances in India and the United States, said the energy of the dance reflects the energy of the Punjabi people.

Dancers on stage emanated energy as they twirled around clapping each other's hands, jumped high up in the air and spun in circles with another dancer clinging on to their waist with their legs.

Some teams, including SJSU's men's team, created a human pyramid with dancer's climbing on top of each other's shoulders.

Some of the dances had live singing accompanied by the loud beats of the dhol, while other songs described the weather, girls and boys teasing each other, and the changes in a girl's beauty as she grows older and happiness.

According to the judges, Bhangra started as a way to celebrate a good harvest and is associated with the Punjabi harvest festival of Baisakhi.

Harjeet Singh, a dance teacher in Yuba City, was also a judge at the contest.

"Whenever people had good harvest they used to celebrate by Bhangra," Singh said. "It spread around and is now associated with Sikhism and Punjabi culture."

Nimrata Grewal, a Bhangra

dance teacher and judge, said Bhangra is the expression of joy and a true expression of Punjabi culture.

Jaskaran Sahota, a Bhangra music video director and judge, said Bhangra steps are taken from the culture and from daily life.

Some Bhangra steps, Sahota said, imitate the swaying of the crops in the wind, or the swinging of chandeliers or even the drawing of water from a well.

Baljit Gill was one of the dancers in the SJSU's men's team. Dressed like his other teammates in a turban, lungi (long cloth wrapped around the waist), a kutra (long traditional East Indian shirt) and vest, Gill and his other team members were some of the popular dancers of the evening with the crowd.

"We wanted the first place," Gill said. "But we're happy with the second place too."

SJSU's men team had won first place earlier last week at Stanford University, according to team captain Aman Nahal.

Nahal said Bhangra was a great way for the young Punjabi community to come together, have pride in their culture and keep students active in their heritage.

## PROGRAM Paperwork has increased instead of lowered

◆ continued from Page 1

Bennett said her workload has increased, and the system has not cut down on her paperwork.

"You've got to use it every day to get the hang of it. It's slow too. You click on it and you wait a few minutes, and maybe it'll come up," Bennett said of accessing the system and the information she needs.

Catherine Fanfa, administrative analyst in the occupational therapy department, said the system has its pros and cons.

"It has definitely increased our workload, but we're learning to deal with it," she said.

Fanfa said her experience with PeopleSoft has been an overall positive one.

"I find I can track my paperwork better. The system has its downfalls, but it has its positives. I can track the money in the budget better. We've been using it almost one full fiscal year."

Judith Schallberger, an instructional technician for the nutritional science department, agreed with Fanfa on the budget

management features of the software.

"I think it is a positive, you can read all the budget transfers and look at all the expenditures on one screen in what they call 'drill-down' mode."

Of the difficulty of learning the system, Schallberger said, "It's like learning a new language."

Both Schallberger and Fanfa said the training was helpful, and it made them better able to deal with the new system.

"You definitely have to be well-trained to do this. The people at the CMS (Common Management System) help desk have been very helpful," Fanfa said. "It would be difficult for the average person to come in off the street and jump right in."

Kim Huynh, purchasing coordinator for University Housing Services, is also frustrated with some aspects of the new management system.

"When they first started it, they were talking about how this would make us paperless, and we wouldn't have to deal with paper-

work anymore. Now, we have more paperwork than we ever did," Huynh said.

She said it seemed like the system was not ready for the university when it was instituted, and echoed some of Bennett's concerns.

"I don't think they tested it before they put it in. I personally only have problems with the reports."

Huynh said her workload has nearly doubled since the implementation of PeopleSoft.

"We have had to set up our own databases to keep people's record straight, but there are so many screens to go through just to find your information," Huynh said. "It's easier just to keep your own records."

The PeopleSoft/Common Management System has been raising eyebrows since it began in 1997.

Reports of cost overruns and questions about the sources of funding prompted the California Faculty Association and the California State Employees Association to ask for an audit of the system and its financial aspects.

## AWARD The Silvas raised \$60,000 in 2001 for the university

◆ continued from Page 1

contribution to the university community through their service.

The service provided by the Silvas included raising \$60,000 for the university in 2001 along with raising money for athletic scholarships throughout the 20-plus years that the Silvas have been active in the Alumni Association, Caret said.

Pete Silva served as president of the SJSU Alumni Association in 1986 and also was president of the Spartan Foundation, which supports SJSU athletics, in 1996.

"Pete has shown a true labor of love to the university," Caret said.

The Silvas said receiving this award was an important honor that recognizes what are sometimes the unseen people in a university.

"We are accepting this award for all of the worker bees of this university," Pete Silva said. "Without those people, who answer the phones, who mail out the letters, a

lot of the things that get done around here wouldn't be possible."

Also honored on Saturday night were winners of the Graduate of the Last Decade award.

The award, which will be handed out yearly at the Tower Award dinner in subsequent years, was given out for the first time Saturday evening.

The winners, who represented each of SJSU's eight colleges, were Cheryl Blankenship, Ted Butryn, John Farley, Martin Kropelnicki, John Loud, Evelyn Ortiz, George Pinto and Theresa Townsley.

Also, the Robert and Ellen Baron Student Leadership Award was presented to senior recreation and leisure studies major Katie Schneider.

Schneider, who served as a student intern to Caret and played on the women's basketball team, was given a piece of crystal and \$5,000 for her efforts.

"This is a great honor for me," Schneider said. "It's a great surprise to receive such an award. I'd

like to thank my parents for letting me come all the way from Iowa to California to pursue my dream of playing intercollegiate basketball."

Schneider said her goal is to eventually be the head of a city's recreation and parks department.

The evening, though, belonged to Pete and Marilyn Silva.

Pete Silva closed out the evening with a few wishes he'd like to see come true.

"If we could trade one of these awards in for something," Pete Silva said. "It would be for us to beat Fresno (State University in football) and win the WAC."

He also said he hopes to see the day when he'll feel comfortable in turning over the reins of the alumni association to a younger generation.

"When I can look across the field at Spartan Stadium and I see a full and vibrant student section," Pete Silva said. "I'll know that we've reached the point that we can pass the baton of our association."

## Billionaire Warren Buffett predicts nuclear attack on America

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Investment guru Warren Buffett offered a bleak prediction for the nation's national security, saying a terrorist attack on American soil is "virtually a certainty."

Envy and dislike of the United States have fueled rage against the country even as the ability to build a nuclear device has spread, Buffett said Sunday at the final day of Berkshire Hathaway Inc.'s annual meeting.

"We're going to have something in the way of a major nuclear event in this country," said Buffett, the firm's chief operating officer. "It will happen. Whether it will happen in 10

years or 10 minutes, or 50 years ... it's virtually a certainty."

Washington and New York would be the top two targets because terrorists want to traumatize the country and kill as many people as possible, Buffett said.

Chemical or biological attacks are similarly high risks, Buffett said.

Buffett is the second-richest man in the world with holdings in Coca-Cola Co., American Express and The Washington Post, but his main business is insurance.

Berkshire Hathaway's insurance companies — particularly General Re Corp. — took a \$2.4

billion underwriting loss because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The companies are now writing policies on terrorism but limiting their liability in any nuclear, biological or chemical attack. Only the federal government can ultimately insure property and other damage from a major terrorist attack, Buffett said.

The 71-year-old Buffett and vice chairman Charlie Munger met with the news media the day after they spent six hours answering questions from some of the more than 10,000 Berkshire shareholders gathered for the annual meeting.

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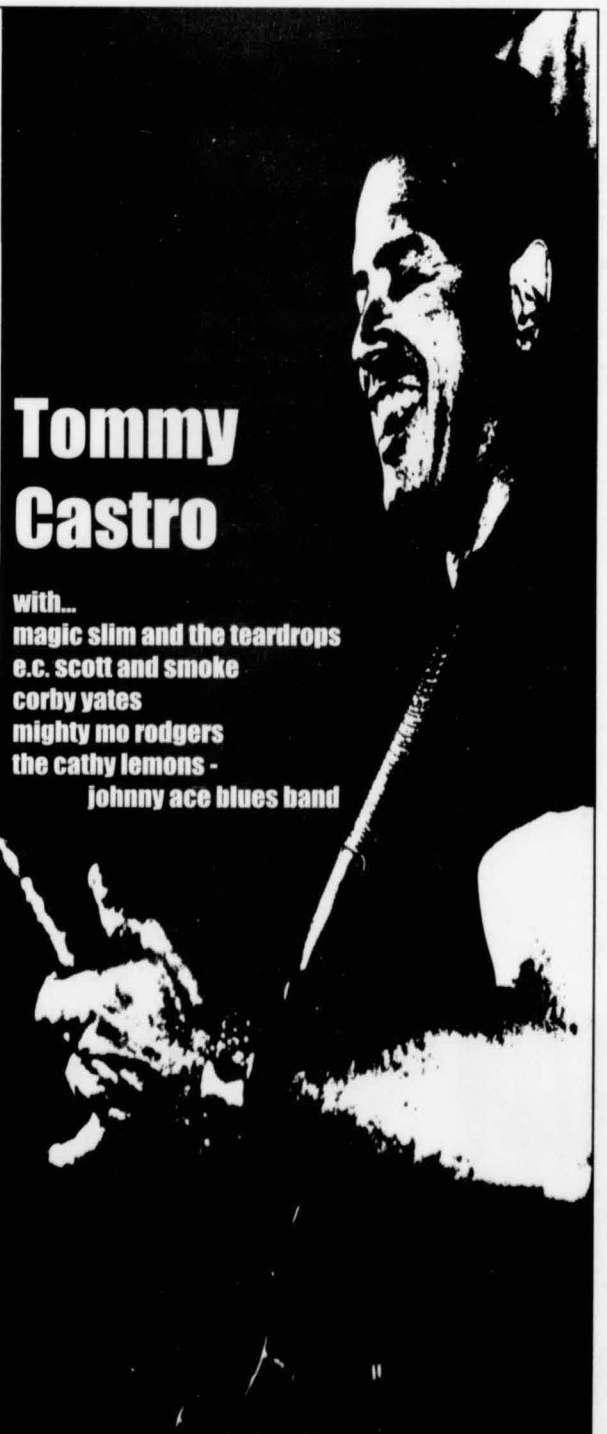
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