

FROM THE BACK ROW

Notebook: Spartan volleyball team set to face WAC's best, Hawai'i, and worst, Boise State

SPORTS 5



opposingviews

Should online classes be used to replace regular classes?

OPINION 2

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Free prizes draw hordes of students

Multitude of technology tested by students

> By Saadia Malik Daily Staff Writer

A corporate technology display and product endorsement titled "Thunderdorm, Campus Technology Tour 2002" drew a mob of students to the Paseo de Cesar Chavez Plaza on Monday and Tuesday. In addition to drawings for CD anti-skip devices, DVD and CD players, free goods, such as Phillips headphones, were thrown into the air at the crowd of about 75 students who dove, snatched and elbowed their way to the flying prizes.

dents who dove, snatched and elbowed their way to the flying prizes. "Oh god, they're animals," said Jeff Shien, technology tour manager for 360 Youth, the marketing company who brought the display to campus, as he laughed at the warring students.

Over 900 students registered for drawings that gave away free electronic equipment such as DVD players and headphones on

Ben Fernandez, a junior computer engineering major, won a DVD player when he stopped by the trade show on Tuesday after a classmate told him vendors were giving

prizes away.
"I'm pretty excited," said Fernandez, who took almost two hours out of his day to check out the displays. "I didn't have anymore classes today, so I thought I'd come out here and relax."

The vendor was on campus from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the two days and held drawings for the free prizes every hour.

Students spent the time between draw-

ings at the interactive tents that were set up to draw people to products such as cell phones by LG, PlayStation 2 online gam-ing, DVD surround-sound and free longdistance service through Sprint wireless

Merwyn Krun, a senior in political science, stopped by the free long-distance booth on Tuesday and was about to call his friend who lives in Santa Cruz until she ran into him at the booth.

"I saw a big crowd of people and was curi-

ous to see what was going on," he said. Although he was curious, Krun said, he is wary of new technological advances and the monopolistic means of marketing products. "Sometimes I think technology hurts

people more than it helps in terms of peo-ple's right to privacy. It's good to be curious, but you also have to be cautious," he said.

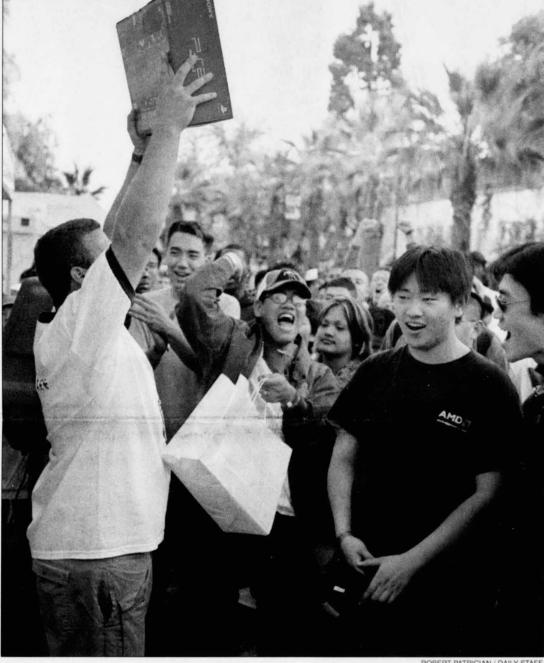
Krun said he would have liked to see prices for the products and why students would choose to buy that particular brand name as opposed to competitors, but he said he was not able to get that kind of information from the vendors.

"It's a sales gimmick and an attempt to lure people away from competitors." Other displays included a showing of "Star Wars: Episode I" in surround-sound

within a small foam cube. About six students lounged on IKEA chairs within the small cube to watch the movie.

Junior Kathleen Sweet, a child develop-ment major, said she was watching the movie while waiting for the next drawing.

"I figured this would be the best place to wait since I don't have class," said Sweet, who saw the vendor as she was walking to class. "I'm no techno geek, but this stuff is



Host Adam Gottlieb held up a Playstation 2 shortly before it was raffled off on Monday during the first of the two-day visit of the Thunderdorm Campus Technology Tour at San Jose State University.

amazing.

Also given away to everyone who attended the display were goody bags bearing the Yahoo logo, which contained mainly literature on the various technology companies affiliated with 360 Youth marketing

The grand prize for one student chosen at random from a drawing containing registrants from all the 24 campuses visited by the tour is a truckload of products including a PDA, TiVo, iMac, computer speakers, headphones, a Sprint cell phone and a \$500 gift certificate at IKEA.

Students can still register for the drawing

online at www.thunderdorm.com.

The display was part of a nationwide tour presented by Consumer Electronics Association, an umbrella company under which companies such as Yahoo, LG and the other product manufacturers that were on display are members of. Based in New York, 360 Youth produced the tour and have stopped by college campuses in 15 dif-

ferent states to promote the products. "Students are starting to form buying habits, if they haven't already," said Matt Lavan, project manager for 360 Youth. "It doesn't cost them anything to try out the

products before buying them."

Lavan said the tour has stopped in 23

campuses over the past 13 weeks, and San Jose State University was the first that would not allow them to play amplified music over the speakers or connect to the Internet in order to demonstrate the new online feature of PlayStation 2.

However, Shein said, SJSU had the

biggest turnout of students to visit the tents, with over 900 people on Monday. She said other campuses typically draw 400 to 600 students.
"And the weather's been great," Lavan said.

Club money, appointments on A.S. agenda

Daily Staff Writer

Associated Students controller Alice Lee is expected to include in her report at today's board meeting, a plea from a fraternity for money from A.S. for a fund-raising party. Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity is requesting \$3,000 from A.S. to host a dance party fundraiser that it would like to hold on Nov. 23 in the Loma Prieta room of the Student Union. Lee said the request will be granted, providing the event is held on campus.

The organization, however, has not been given permission to hold the party by the Student Union.

Aaron Hamilton, a representative of Alpha Phi Alpha, and Lee said they think the Student Union is concerned that an outbreak similar to an event that happened on

Oct. 26 will occur at future events.

They were citing a disturbance that took place during an event sponsored by another organization in which people flooded the entrances, ultimately causing an early shutdown of the party by the police.

Hamilton said the Student Union has the only facilities on campus large enough to accommodate the party's

ties on campus large enough to accommodate the party's anticipated attendance but has refused the organization's

request.
"They won't let us hold our fundraiser there. They said they are not letting organizations have parties anywhere," Hamilton said.

However, Lee and Hamilton said another organization was given permission and will hold a dance party there this Friday.

"I was told, I believe it is Alpha Phi Omega, that will be using (the ballroom) on the 17th and that the reason it was approved was because their request was approved prior to the other group's event," Lee said. "So basically, it's a timing issue. But that doesn't make it fair to Alpha Phi Alpha."

Hamilton said he felt his organization was not being

treated equally. "There's a lot of unfairness going on here," he said. Hamilton said the party is intended to function as a social gathering while raising money for the Jerome Martin Memorial and Jerome Martin Scholarship.

"Not being able to have this party is a major issue,"

Hamilton said. "It creates a lot of problems for us in raising money.

Hamilton and Lee said the Student Union decision was given by S.T. Saffold, associate vice president for campus life, and Wallace Davenport, assistant vice pres-

ident for student affairs. Neither Saffold nor Davenport returned calls for com-

"They were real adamant about their position," Hamilton said. "I hope there will be more talk about it at the A.S.

meeting, and hopefully there will be some resolution."

Lee said she would not approve funding the party if it were held off campus because of liability concerns.

Other items on today's agenda include the nomination and vote of Carlos Trujillo as candidate for new A.S.

director of governing affairs.

"He has my full support," Lee said.
Four other committee appointments will be presented by A.S. President Maribel Martinez and voted on by the board: Alma Aquino for legislative affairs; Josue Reyes Jr. for improvement of instruction; Olivia Aschwald for student success; and Victoria Jones for board of general studies. A.S. will meet at 3 p.m. in the Scheller House.

SJSU to host multi talented author

By Kristin Schwarz Daily Staff Writer

There is a saying that goes, "jack of all trades, master of none," but novelist, poet, critic, translator and short-story writer Lakshmi Kannan may defy that phrase. Kannan is a native of India whose stories, poetry and

novels have been translated into numerous languages. She is scheduled to read from her own works at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday in the Spartan Memorial Chapel at San Jose State University.

"She's not formulaic. She writes with feeling, and she is profound," said Atamjit Singh, a lecturer of Punjabi in

the foreign language department.

Her name will be added to the long list of famous and admired writers such as Arthur Miller, Margaret Atwood and Alice Walker, who have also been presented at SJSU by the Center for Literary Arts.

She writes both in English and in her native tongue of

Tamil, one of about 16 languages spoken in India, but her stories have been translated into French, Spanish, German, Arabic, Hindi and other languages during the

Mitch Berman, the director for the Center of Literary Arts, said Kannan is someone who can sit down with an idea and select from a wide variety of forms to express herself, whether it be short story, poetry, novel or criti-

Kannan said she sees these forms as the canvas she can use to express herself.

"Sociological changes cannot just fit into poetry," she said. "Some things need a bigger canvas, and the narra-

See KANNAN, page 6

Health care employers to seek workers on campus

Professionals from various hospitals to be on hand

> By Kristina Mendoza Daily Staff Writer

Students interested in health care professions will be able to meet with representatives from health care industries on Thursday at the Nursing and Health Professions job fair.

The fair is slated to begin at 1 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. in the Student Union's Loma Prieta room.

Carrie Connell, a senior nursing stu-dent, said about 25 different employers from the Bay Area and Central California are coming to hire potential nurses and physical and occupational therapists.

Dani Rahn, a nursing senior, said Sacramento and San Francisco would be among the cities the hospitals are recruiting for.

Rahn said the fair includes kinesiology, communications disorder and speech major interests.

Rahn, a graduating committee member, said the fair is a fundraiser for the nursing department's fall convocation, which is scheduled for December.

"Every representative from each hospital had to pay to have a booth,' Rahn said.

This is the first time a nursing class has put together this sort of event, Connell said. She said the Career Center had helped in organizing the

Susane Head, a career counselor, said there is a huge need for good

See JOB FAIR, page 4

It's over there



Before they can head home, Jesus Gonzalez and Valerie Delacruz search for their misplaced car on the third floor of the Fourth Street parking garage. Their car was located on the other side of the level.

Should online classes be used

YES | Online classes allow flexibility and free up space

Online classes are timesavers students should not miss out on. Can you imagine being able to listen to your favorite music in your slippers and pajamas while reading today's lecture on your

This may sound like a dream, but it does not have to be. Online classes allow students to get their education at their own convenience and get their work done without having to spend time

Considering the fact that San Jose State University has serious

"In such a diverse environment, it is important to accommodate all different groups. An online class is a great tool for students who have jobs and take classes."



parking problems and is known s a commuter school, online classes are a necessity in order to survive the busy life of a stu-

Instead of having to wake up at the crack of dawn only to find yourself circling the parking garages for hours, you could be sitting at home studying for a test or doing your homework.

Time is precious and wasting it in traffic is definitely not what students need. Online classes can also save SJSU some money.

Space has long been an issue, and by offering more online courses, there will be an immediate solution to the problem. We will no longer suffer from a lack of desks and classrooms.

Professors will be able to teach

more classes or classes that would normally conflict because they can post their lectures on Web site the night before and thus not have to worry about lecturing at a certain time. San Jose State should be an example to all state schools by offering students a chance to complete at least parts of their education from home.

In such a diverse environment,

it is important to accommodate all different groups.

An online class is a great tool for students who have jobs and take

They do not have to worry about fitting their classes into certain time slots because online classes provide flexible hours. You can choose when to study and when to read your coursework material. For students who have a family with children, online classes create the opportunity to take care of their kids while getting an edu-

They are not forced to choose between getting a babysitter and

getting an education.

Just because you stay home to complete parts of your education does not mean you have to lock yourself up and become anti-

You can chat with your classmates online and participate in class

By allowing SJSU students to take more online classes, the school will contribute to creating a better and less stressful atmosphere on

Students will not have to face stress factors such as feeling humilinted in class if they are not prepared for the lesson of the day.

They will be able to learn the material without having to present it to the class, an experience that can be nerve-racking to some

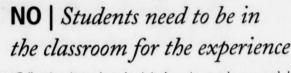
Online classes encourage students to become independent. By not requiring students to attend class, they have the opportu-

nity to become more disciplined as individuals.

All SJSU students should be given the opportunity to complete part of

their education through online classes

to replace regular classes?



College is a time to learn, but it is also a time to take on new challenges and make lasting friendships.

Doing this all through a click of a mouse and a few strokes on the keyboard isn't the same as doing it in person.

Replacing existing classes with online classes at San Jose State University is not the way to go.

Our society is already obsessed with

"If students are not

able to personally

interact with their

might respect them

teacher appears as

just another screen

professors, they

less because the

name in a chat

the Internet, and spending more time in front of a computer screen rather than with actual people has become way too common. College is one of the few places still available to make

new acquaintances.

If students start substituting actual classroom time for virtual classroom time, what little interaction they had with other people will automatically

Writing e-mails or posting on mes-sage boards are not substitutes for being in the same room as professors and classmates.

This becomes glaringly obvious when teachers require things such as wanting students in online courses to do a group project with people they haven't met, let alone seen before.

Motivation is another big problem with online courses.

While staying at home in pajamas and reading the week's material at 3 a.m. may offer flexibility, it doesn't seem like a very motivating situation.

Knowing the week's "module" is due Sunday at 11 p.m. will keep students from working on it until they have to. Procrastination would be greater than

If students are not able to personally

interact with their professors, they might respect them less because the teacher appears as just another screen name in a chat room. If teachers are unable to motivate their students, other problems may arise.

Cheating on tests and assignments would be much easier in online classes. The only person to monitor a student's honesty is the student. Or maybe a student's friend. Or maybe someone the student pays to take the tests for them. Or maybe the textbook they use for the "closedoook" exam. No one would ever know. They're only cheating themselves, right?

While that may be true; it defeats the whole point of taking classes, which is to learn among peers. Online courses cater to students who are willing to cheat their way to

Learning in a real classroom environment enriches the educational

experience.

When students ask questions during a lecture, everyone can learn from the professor's answer. When a student asks a professor a question through e-mail, only the two of them will know the answer.

The technology we have come to use, often on a daily basis, should complement in-class learning, not replace it.

The Internet can be a great place to gain extra knowledge about course naterial, but it should not be used as the primary source. Online classes are not the solution to overcrowded parking garages and classrooms. To keep students away from a true learning environ-

ment just to free up some space is wrong.

Interacting with professors and peers through the Internet limits students' ability to learn valuable social skills, which can help in the working

Online courses are not a replacement for the traditional college experience.

Lea Blevins is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.

campusvoices



"No, you need to be there for hands-on learning and visual examples."



"I think it's a good idea; you monitor your time better."



ILLUSTRATION BY WARREN PAYLADO

"Some of them maybe if they're easy enough to teach yourself."



"You can't answer yes or no. Some classes you can do it; for others you can't. Maybe part of the class could be online."



"Maybe some of them. The ones that are more interactive shouldn't be."



"No, because it can't supplement the college experience and coming to campus."

Juan Maldonado junior, graphic design Maria Molina senior, nursing

Lauren Staubli freshman, undeclared

Ron Pleded junior, computer scicence

Marcea Nelson junior, communications

Matthew Elia sophomore, occupational therapy

Compiled by Daniel Lopez | Photos by Ryan Balbuena

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THE SPARTAN DAILY ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE SAN JOSE, CA 95192 (408) 924-3281 | SDAILY@JMC.SJSU.EDU, SDAILYADS@JMC.SJSU.EDU NEWS ROOM 408 924 3281 FAX 408 924 3282 **ADVERTISING** 408.924.3270

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OPINION PAGE POLICY | Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a letter to the editor.

A letter to the editor is a 200-word response to an issue or a point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

A viewpoint is the same as a letter to the editor, except it is a 400-word response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily. 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) 924-3237, e-mail at SDAILY@jmc.sisu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University. One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

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Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, or SJSU.

It's hard to stay safe on the road these days

MICHELLE JEW

My life flashed before my eyes the other day when two VTA buses buzzed me on Capitol Expressway during rush hour. Let me say that again. Two VTA buses buzzed me ... at the same time

One sped by on the left, the other on the right. It was a bus sandwich.

Now I'll admit to driving a little bit slow. There was a lot of traffic, but when buses miss the already askew side mirrors by mere inches, you start to worry.

It doesn't help that buses scare me in general. They're the big, lumbering giants of the road - they rank up there with big rigs carrying dirt and rocks.

It started with a glance in the rearview mirror — that

bus looks like it's going rather fast.

Then a glance in the side mirror — it looks real close

Look back to the rearview mirror - holy bejeezus, it's

going to hit me ... or not. It's one thing to have a close shave with another car; it's

a whole different ballgame when there's a bus involved. I thought bus drivers were supposed to be the careful ones on the road. They're specially trained to not only handle the Goliaths they drive but to know the dimen-

sions and rules of the road.

One of those buses had people in it — last time I checked VTA didn't have seat belts for its passengers. I can just imagine somebody's groceries flying forward, hitting the windshield and rolling around the walkway after the driver slammed on his breaks to screech around a right turn. But it's not just the buses.

I also got buzzed by a bunch of Honda cars with tacky metal spoilers (they look like a high school metal shop project, by the way) because they

were racing ... in traffic. I'd like to know the logic behind that

But the kicker is what happened once

I made it to the freeway.

I like to drive a steady 75 mph: not slow by most standards and not really

fast enough to attract attention.

I got blown away by some cars that came screaming down the highway and passed me like I was standing still.

Standing still at 75 mph.

It's not like other cars were passing me by — we had a nice little flow of traffic happening.

Maybe it just wasn't a good driving day.

Maybe I should just let it go.

Maybe I shouldn't be driving anymore.

It would make things a lot easier if I didn't have a dissert if I didn't have a like the back of his another reason who knows the Bay Area like the back of his another r

But since my last onboard bus experience involved the driver falling asleep at the wheel on top of being simultaneously buzzed the other day, we'll rule out public transportation. Besides, I'd have to wait and schedule expertition around rich with the control of the control o everything around pick-up times and trans-fers and all that.

I can hardly make it from my room to my car in time to get to class reasonably late. There's no way I'd be organized enough to

plan a route and get up early enough to actually follow through with it.

We're also talking about a person who gets lost in her own hometown on a regular basis. People like me are the reason GPS was invented. Forget tracking things; GPS was created so people with no sense of direc-

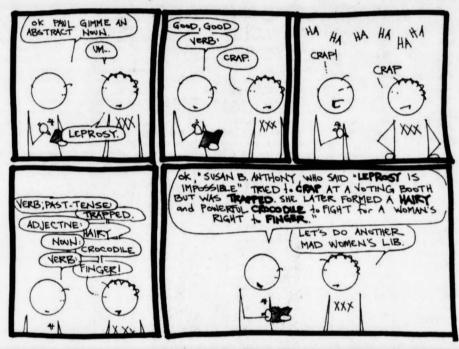
Someone who will shuttle me to and from school. Someone to deal with the buzzers.

Interested? Drop your resume and a \$25 processing fee into a box at the Spartan Daily labeled "Shell's Chauffeur Contest," and I'll have a highly trained, highly disciplined board help me choose the most qualified candidate of the hopefully overqualified bunch when enough people have

applied.

If not, then at the very least, watch out for bus drivers. they're more dangerous than they seem.

Michelle Jew is a Spartan Daily Copy Editor. 'Spoiled' appears Wednesdays.



ANOTHER DIMENTIAN | JONAH PTAK

Letter | Defense of Measure V Campaign

This is a letter in response to Mr. Rickman's letter concerning Measure V. Certainly every student, including Mr. John Rickman, is entitled to his own opinion. However, being a cochair of the committee that marketed Measure V, I feel that it is important to defend the members of this committee who spent their free time, energy and effort in supporting what they felt to be a very good proposal and the institu-tions that allow the students to govern their campus.

Rickman opposed Measure V because he also felt that this vote on Measure V was simply an exercise in futility. He also calls us crybabies because of how we reacted to our loss. As I stated before, Rickman is entitled to his opinion. However, here is another opinion, one of a student that fully supports the student-run governing institutions of this campus, one of a student that participated in the campaign for Measure V, and one of a student who feels the agony of defeat not for himself, but for the students of this campus who will feel the effects of this decision

Democracy is the American way of life and is the foundation for student government. The students that particigovernment. The students that partici-pated in campaigning, whether for or against Measure V, represent what the foundation of student government is. It is the active participation of stu-

dents who care for what occurs on their campus. This special election is a prime example of what participatory and rep-resentative democracy should mean to us as Americans and as students, especially since our nation is currently conducting a "War on Terrorism."

Regardless of whether or not one sup-ported Measure V or the "War on terrorism," it is the active participation of the constituents that is the foundation of our culture. Rickman's cynical view of student government is part of the reason why we have such a problem with apathy at SJSU. However, at least Rickman can say that he voted, unlike the other 25,000 students who ignore the issues that exist at their school

Even though I co-chaired the camregret the loss for myself, the Student Union or for those who actively supported us. The loss I feel is for the student

dents. Regardless of the result of this election, the conduct of some of those who opposed Measure V was unethical and incomprehensible to me because they are our representatives. Did you not feel anger when Gary Condit was accused of kidnap, rape and murder? Did you not feel anger when (former A.S. computer lab manager) Robert Madrigal was arrested for grand theft and drug use? If being a crybaby means that I care about my money, my representatives and my campus, then I proudly accept that label and will make no changes to my actions or my state-ments. Mr. John Rickman, let me introduce myself: I am a crybaby.

> Huy Tran political science

Student Union Board of Directors Student Union, Incorporated

SPARTA GUIDE

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. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209. Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

TODAY

SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry Daily Mass will be held at the SJSU CCM Chapel located at 10th and San Carlos streets next to Robert's Bookstore. Mass times are 12:10 p.m. Monday-Friday and at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information contact Sister Marcia at 938-1610.

Department of Nutrition and Food

Try the latest in body fat testing: Bioelectric Impedance. Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. in Central Classroom building, Room 221. For more information, contact Sherry at 206-7599.

School of Art and Design The school of art and design will be having student galleries and art exhibitions through Friday. The exhibition will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art and Industrial mation contact Bill or Nicole at 924-4330.

International Programs and Services

There will be a study abroad informational meeting at 4 p.m. in the Pacheco room in the Student Union. For more information contact Ali at 94-5931.

Sikh Students Association of SJSU Sikhism — A Universal View: Lecture Series Wednesdays through Dec. 4 from 7:10 p.m. to 9:10 p.m. in the Boccardo Business Center, Room 106. For more infor-mation contact Robbie Singh at www.sikh.sjsu.edu.

sjspirit.org
Meditation from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
and Spiritual explorers from 5 p.m.

48 south first st.

san jose, ca 95113

408.287.2294

to 6 p.m. in the sjspirit room in Grace Church at San Fernando and S. 10th streets. For more informa-tion contact Chaplain Roger at

Health Center Registration for smoking cessation class will be open through
Thursday in the Health Center,
Room 210. For more information contact Dr. Oscar Battle Jr. at 924-

Black Student Union/African Awareness month committee

There will be a general meeting from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Montalyo room in the Student Union. For more information e-mail sanjosestatebsu@yahoo.com.

Career Center

The Career Center will be taking drop-in appointments from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Career Center, Building F. For more information contact the Career Resource Center at 924-6031.

Career Center The Career Center will be having a panel discussion on careers in finance from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Ununhum room in the Student Union. For more information contact the Career Resource Center at 924-6031.

Phi Alpha Theta Book sale, all books \$0.50 to\$1, we are accepting donations of used books, please drop off books at DMH 134. Sale runs from 9 a.m. DMH 134. Sale runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the tables on the corner of Dudley Moorhead Hall, across from the library. For more information contact Paul at 246-3062.

Phi Alpha Theta Weekly meeting from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in DMH 134. For more

information contact Paul at 246-

Nurses Christian Fellowship The SJSU Nurses Christian fellowship is having a community-building event at 2:30 p.m. in the Pacheco room in the Student Union. For more information contact Diane Stegmeir at 248-2997.

Global Studies Institute Monthly open forum on SJSU as a global learning community. From 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Provost's conference room in the Administration building, first floor. For more information contact Joseph Olander at 924-7197 or 924-7196.

Asian Baptist Student Koinonia ABSK is having a study session at 8 p.m. on the bottom floor of the Student Union. For more informa-tion contact Maria at 482-5183.

Alpha Phi Omega Promotion and ticket sales: from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. inside the Student Union. For more information contact Phi Tran at 319-7646.

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School of Art and Design The school of art and design will be having student galleries and art exhibitions through Friday. The exhibition will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art and Industrial Studies buildings. For more infor-mation contact Bill or Nicole at

Health Center

Registration for smoking cessation class will be open through Thursday in the Health Center, Room 210. For more information contact Dr. Oscar Battle Jr. at 924-6117.

Career Center The Career Center will be taking drop-in appointments from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Career Center, Building F. For more information contact the Career Resource Center at 924-6031.

The Career Center will be holding an interview workshop from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Career Center, Building F. For more information contact the Career Resource Center at 924-6031.

Alpha Phi Omega Charity night: fostering our youth

Promotion and ticket sales: from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. inside the Student Union. For more information contact Phi Tran at 319-7646.

Nursing and Health Professions Job

The graduating nursing class and the SJSU Career Center invite you to our job fair from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Loma Prieta room in the Student Union. More than 20 hospitals and organizations will be there. Bring resumes and dress pro-fessionally. For more information contact Susane Head at 924-6045.

FRIDAY

SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry Daily Mass will be held at the SJSU CCM Chapel located at 10th and San Carlos streets next to Robert's Bookstore. Mass times are 12:10 p.m. Monday-Friday and at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information contact Sister Marcia at 938-1610.

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U.S. says voice on tape sounds like bin Laden; more tests needed

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — An Arab TV station broadcast an audiotape Tuesday of a voice that a U.S. official said sounded like Osama bin Laden's. If confirmed, it would provide hard evidence that the al-Qaida leader was alive as recently as last month.

The speaker, identified by al-Jazeera television as bin Laden and aired across the Arab world, praised the October terrorist strikes in Bali and Moscow and warned U.S. allies to back away from plans to attack Iraq.

U.S. officials say they have not been able to verify bin Laden's whereabouts this year. The last certain evidence he was alive came in a videotape of him having dinner with some of his deputies, which is believed to have been filmed on Nov. 9, 2001.

In a rambling statement, the speaker referred to the Oct. 12 Bali bombings "that killed the British and Australians," the slaying last month of a Marine in Kuwait, the bombing of a French oil tanker last month off Yemen and "Moscow's latest opera-- a hostage-taking by Chechen

The audiotape was aired alongside an old photograph of the al-Qaida leader but there was no new video of him, and the official in Washington further technical analysis needed. Al-Jazeera said it received the tape on the day it was broadcast.

Speaking in a literary style of Arabic favored by bin Laden, the voice said the attacks were "carried out by the zealous sons of Islam in defense of their religion," and that they were a reaction to what "(President) Bush, the pharaoh of this age, was doing in terms of killing our sons in Iraq, and what Israel, the United States ally, was doing in terms of bombing houses that shelter old people, women and

"Our kinfolk in Palestine have been slain and severely tortured for nearly a century," the speaker said. "If we defend our people in Palestine, the world becomes agitated and allies itself against Muslims, unjustly and falsely, under the pretense of fighting terrorism.

The speaker then castigated U.S. allies that have joined the war against terrorism, specifically Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Germany and Australia.

After listing those countries, he warned: "If you were distressed by the deaths of your men ... remember our children who are killed in Palestine and Iraq everyday.'

"What do your governments want by allying themselves with the criminal gang in the White House against Muslims? Do your governments not know that the White House gangsters are the biggest butchers of this age? In Washington, intelligence officials

"It does sound like bin Laden's voice," said a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We have to complete the technical analysis," the

official said. Audio recordings are easier to make

than videotapes which could reveal whether bin Laden is injured, has significantly altered his looks, or is in a vulnerable location that could be given away in a video appearance.

In September, the Al-Jazeera network aired voice recordings attributed to bin Laden and top al-Qaida operatives.

The CIA authenticated bin Laden's voice then, but officials said the recordings probably weren't made recently.

Those statements came out around the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and the start of the

Al-Qaida operatives thought to be alive because of their recent recordings include bin Laden's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri, and spokesman Sulaiman Abu Ghaith.

In the al-Zawahri recording, obtained by Associated Press Television News in early October, he spoke about Iraq, accused Washington of seeking to subjugate the Arab world on behalf of Israel - America's strongest supporter in the region — and tried to assure followers that bin Laden was alive and well.

Experts say bin Laden's al-Qaida network is on a renewed public relations campaign aimed at keeping itself in the public eye and associated with events, such as a possible war in Iraq, which could turn the Arab public against the United States

Officials: British hacker case largest ever against U.S. military

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. he offered the information to foreign authorities accused an unemployed governments or terrorist organiza-British computer administrator of what they said was the largest ever successful hacking effort against American military networks, secretly breaking into scores of nonclassified computer systems, including two

inside the Pentagon.
Gary McKinnon, 36, of London, was indicted Tuesday in federal courts in Virginia and New Jersey on eight counts of computer-related crimes. These included break-ins over 12 months at 92 separate U.S. military and NASA networks across 14 states McKinnon was also accused of hacking the networks of six private comnies and organizations

McKinnon, known on the Internet as "SOLO," remains free, although he was briefly held by British authorities, said U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty. He said the Justice Department will seek to extradite McKinnon, an exceedingly rare move in international hacking

McKinnon was charged in "the biggest hack of military computers ever, at least ever detected," McNulty He estimated the damage, including the cost to reinstall software on the affected computers, at \$900,000.

Two of the networks were inside the Pentagon, investigators said

The indictments against McKinnon send a message to international hack-

ers, McNulty said.
"You are not invisible," McNulty warned. "You can not act anonymously on the Internet. If you hack us, we will find you, we will prosecute you and we will send you to prison."

Officials said they intend to prosecute McKinnon separately in Virginia and New Jersey. McKinnon faces up to 10 years in prison plus fines of \$250,000 on each of eight counts, McNulty said.

Using automated software available on the Internet, McKinnon scanned tens of thousands of computers on U.S. military networks, looking for ones that might suffer from flaws in Microsoft Corp. Windows NT operating system software, McNulty said. Many of the computers he broke into were protected by easy-to-guess passwords, investigators said.

McKinnon downloaded sensitive, but not classified, information about subjects that included Navy shipbuilding and munitions, investigators said. But there was no evidence that

governments or terrorist organizations, McNulty said.

"I suppose he was hoping to gain to classified information, McNulty said, acknowledging that authorities weren't certain of a motive for the break-ins.

U.S. officials sought to reassure the public that only about 100 of the military's networks were apparently vul-nerable to break-ins out of tens of thousands that McKinnon allegedly probed using automated software

"If this guy was scanning tens of thousand of military networks, that signals to me the military does a pretty good job of protecting its systems," said John Frazzini, a former supervisor for the U.S. Secret Service on its Electronic Crimes Task Force.

But some civilian experts expressed astonishment that this many U.S. mil-itary systems were so vulnerable to techniques derided by many hackers as simplistic.

"I don't see this as a big win for the government," said Marc Maiffret, co-founder of eEye Digital Security Inc., which sells security software. Maiffret said measures the military should have taken to prevent such break-ins

were a "lesson 101-type thing." McKinnon also was accused of dramatically disrupting military net-works in Washington and New Jersey. Prosecutors said he deleted important files, including 1,300 user accounts, and caused the failure of computers controlling the network for the mili-tary district in Washington. That resulted in the loss of e-mail and Internet access in March for 2,000 users for three days.

Authorities said a separate break-in, just after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, at the Earle Naval Weapons Station in Colts Neck, N.J., effectively shut down its network of about 300 computers for one week. That station replenishes munitions and supplies for the Atlantic fleet.

The U.S. military hacking took place over 12 months, starting in March 2001, and investigators said they detected the intrusions as early as June. But they did not issue warnings internally about these hacking meth-ods until March 2002, when a Navy memo urgently instructed computer experts to search their systems for the specific hacker tools McKinnon allegedly used.

Study says healthy women in their 50s can safely have babies with other people's eggs

prevent healthy women in their 50s from turning back their biological clocks and having babies with donated eggs, researchers say in the biggest study of motherhood after menopause.

The study looked at 77 women who participated in the University of Southern California's assistedreproduction program between 1991 and last year. It found that there were no infant or mother deaths and no serious health problems in the babies.

The older women were likely to have Caesarean births and faced high rates of pregnancy-induced diabetes and high blood pressure. But those condi-tions are temporary, treatable and not reason enough to exclude them from trying to get pregnant, the

Preventing them would be age discrimination, said Dr. Richard Paulson, who led the study published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical

"Not only do I not have a problem in allowing them to become pregnant, I would have an ethical problem in denying them," he said.

Women are not biologically designed to become pregnant after their bodies stop releasing eggs. This occurs on average at age 51. But with baby boomers leading longer, more active lives, 51 is not as old as it used to be. And more and more women who postponed motherhood until it was too late to get pregnant with their own eggs are choosing test-tube fertilization with eggs donated by younger

Some doctors worry that because of the older women's advanced reproductive age, pregnancy might be dangerous for them or their babies.

that destroyed the World Trade Center

has cost the city \$33 billion to \$36 bil-

lion in lost wages and business, proper-ty damage and cleanup, Federal Reserve

The losses, estimated from October

2001 through June, include \$7.8 billion

the 2,795 people killed in the trade cen-ter attack would have earned had they

lived and \$21.6 billion to clean up and

The report by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York appears in the November issue of the bank's Economic

The Sept. 11 attack "significantly reduced the productive potential of the New York City economy" and hit the airline, restaurant, hotel and financial

services industries especially hard, the

Those businesses accounted for 42,000 of the 51,000 private-sector jobs

lost in the city in October 2001 alone,

The financial services industry, with many businesses headquartered at the center, lost 12,000 jobs in October

and an additional 6,000 jobs through

replace the twin towers.

Policy Review.

report said.

the report said.

Government estimates economic

cost of World Trade Center attacks

at \$33 billion to \$36 billion

Some also say it is unethical to allow women to become pregnant if they might not live to see their children grow up. The American Society for Reproductive Medicine's ethics committee says egg donation for postmenopausal women should be dis-

"We're having our own grandkids — we just skipped having kids," said St. Louis University vol-leyball coach Marilyn Nolen, who got pregnant with twins at age 55 with eggs from a woman in her 20s. She was involved in the study.

Nolen said she and her husband tried for 10 years to have children, turning to egg donation after she hit menopause. It worked on the first try. "For us it's just a dream come true," Nolen said.

The number of postmenopausal women seeking to become pregnant through egg donation is still small. In 2000, there were 255 births nationwide to women ages 50 to 54, up from 174 in 1999, according to the most recent figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC does not keep statistics on births to women

Because of the JAMA study, "we probably will see more of these procedures done because, unfortu-nately, medicine is treated less and less as a public good and increasingly as if it were little more than another commodity," said bioethicist Roberta Springer Loewy of the University of California at

She added: "Simply because we find we can and want to do something doesn't mean we ought to do

In the study, the older women's rates of pregnancy
— 45 percent — and multiple births — 30 percent

younger who become pregnant with donor eggs. So was the birth rate — about 37 percent.

Preeclampsia, a potentially serious condition involving high blood pressure, occurred in 35 per-cent of the older women, and gestational diabetes occurred in about 20 percent. Those rates are at least double the rate in younger women. About 78 percent of the older women delivered by Caesarean sec-

Egg donation is an accepted practice for helping infertile women become pregnant. Embryos are created in a lab dish and recipients take hormones to prepare the uterus for pregnancy. Many programs do not accept patients over 50.

"We have to have a cutoff just for practical reasons," said Dr. Ralph Kazer, who heads the in-vitro fertilization program at Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where the cutoff is 50. "If somebody's very old, it's not realistic.

The study is one of several in this week's JAMA

that focus on aging.

One study found that human growth hormone, touted as an anti-aging remedy, increased lean body mass and decreased potbellies in adults 65 and older, as has been shown in younger people. But it also raised the risk of diabetes and other side effects, and the authors concluded that the hormone should be used only in research.

Another study found that weekly training for five weeks in memory and problem-solving tasks helped sharpen older people's minds. And other researchers found that walking for at least four hours a week reduced the risk of hip fracture by 41 percent in postmenopausal women

JOB FAIR | On-the-

spot interviews likely

continued from page 1

nurses, possibly because of legislation changes or the fact that most baby boomers are aging.

"There is a huge need in health

Head said the job fair will consist of booths with employers from hospitals in California. She also said most hospitals would be bringing at least two

representatives. Connell said the fair is open to all health care professions or anyone interested in health care

Rahn added that all Santa Clara County community colleges and Bryman College have been invited.

Head urged serious students to be ready for the hospital representatives. duce themselves clearly and effectively, bring resumes and should dress professionally, she said. Head added that most hospitals would even be

conducting on-the-spot interviews. Undeclared students or students changing majors can also come to ask questions and learn about health care, she said. "Even if students aren't ready to get

a job, they should start networking in areas of interest. Students can also come to the fair if

they are about to graduate, in search of internships, volunteer work or just to learn about the fields, she said. Connell said it would be in the stu-

dent's best interest to arrive early. Head said all students need to do is sign in and turn in their resumes.

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AAA: Thanksgiving travel expected to increase over last year

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - About 35.9 million travelers will hit the roads, rails and air during Thanksgiving this year, a slight increase over 2001, AAA predicted Tuesday.

The number of Thanksgiving travelers had been dropping in recent years, from 37.4 million in 1999 to 36.8 million people in 2000 to 35.3 million

The association expects the percentage of people traveling by motor vehi-cle to drop slightly, to 86 percent from last year's 87 percent — a record high brought on by fears of flying after the

June, the report said. The number of

The report calculated the lost income

of the victims of the attacks by finding

the average income of trade center

employees — \$127,000 a year — their

average age, and estimating how much they would earn until they retired. The loss amounted to \$2.8 million per work-

The city lost an additional \$3.6 billion

to \$6.4 billion in wages from job cuts and reduced hours in businesses like the

restaurant industry, the report said. Studies showed some residents also

smoked and drank more and became

depressed after the attacks, which likely

also cut productivity.

The cleanup and replacement costs for the World Trade Center includes a \$1.4

billion estimate to replace a commuter rail hub destroyed underneath the center. An \$11.2 billion estimate to replace

the trade center's two towers assumed that officials "will essentially duplicate

what existed before the attack." Six architects have issued competing proposals for developing the site and no conclusions have been reached.

about 20 percent.

Sept. 11 attacks.

Meanwhile, the number of travelers

reaching their Thanksgiving dinners by air is expected to rise from 4.8 mil-lion to about 5.1 million. The AAA projections were based on a national survey of 1,300 adults by the Travel Industry Association.

Motorists will find gasoline significantly pricier than last year. The nationwide average price of gas, \$1.46 per gallon, is about 25 cents higher than last year, AAA reported.

Security increased at European ports because of possible attacks

LONDON (AP) - New terror warnings have led to tighter security, including random searches and inter-

rogations, at ports across Europe. Authorities received a warning Nov. 7 about a possible attack on Nov. 9, apparently because the numeric date is 9/11 in reverse, said Hans-Joergen Bonnichsen, a senior official of the Danish Civil Security Service.

'That is what made it interesting," Bonnichsen said.

Though that date has passed, ports are still on alert. British authorities said Tuesday they were taking precautions with trucks at ports including Dover on England's south coast. Increased security also was reported in France, in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and at Baltic Sea ports in Scandinavia.

French and Dutch security services had warned that terrorists might drive an explosives-laden truck onto a ferry heading for Britain, according to British Broadcasting Corp. radio. The report said ferry ports had been placed on "heightened emergency" alert. "We have seen in a number of conti-

nental European ports' security being stepped up over the weekend, largely because of these very fears," said David Osler, industrial editor of ship-

ping newspaper Lloyd's List. Robin Dodridge, the security chief at Dover's port, told the BBC that his and other ports in Britain have received information telling them to further tighten security leading up to

The British government said the security alert was not the result of a specific, credible warning. On Tuesday, the Department for Transport said, "Threat levels to British maritime interests remain unchanged," the British advisory said.

increased security to nearly the high-est level, operational manager Jean-Denis Ringot said Tuesday. At the port itself, security has been

In France, ferries out of

stepped up since Friday, with increased car patrols around the port area and a special watch on packages and foreigners, Ringot said. "Vigilance had been stepped up

since Sept. 11. Now, we've moved it up a notch," he said. Governments in Estonia, Latvia and

Lithuania stepped up port security following a general warning last week from several European law enforcement agencies that terrorists could try to place a bomb aboard a passenger ferry, said Latvian Security Police spokeswoman Kristina Apse.

Border guards at ports in the coastal nations said they have been ordered to search ships and passenger ferries, as well as vehicles aboard several ferries that arrive daily to the Latvian and Estonian capitals from Finland, Germany and Sweden.

Security is especially important in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, where President Bush may visit later this month.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan declined to comment on whether the Bush administration has received intelligence reports that may have led up to the warnings in Europe.

"We're paying a lot more attention to ships arriving from military conflict zones and also vehicles on ferries," said Rokas Pukamskas, an inspector with Lithuania's State Border Guard Service.





Spartans prepare for the best, worst of conference

Daily Staff Writer

This week the San Jose State University women's volleyball team takes on the team with the worst record and the team with the best record in the Western Athletic Conference.

With the final two matches of the 2002 regular season being played at the Event Center, the implications

SPARTAN VOLLEYBALL

FROM THE **BACK ROW**

couldn't be any bigger for SJSU. In the Spartans final match of the season, which is senior appreciation night, SJSU is slated to face off with No.1 University of Hawai'i at 7 p.m.

on Saturday. The first match of the week, however, is also at 7 p.m. on Thursday against Boise State University. The Boise State Broncos, 0-11 in

WAC play and 1-22 overall, will look for their first conference victory.

"You can't play around with a team like Boise; you just have to take care of business from game one," said Spartan outside hitter Christina Lukens.

In the first meeting between the Spartans and the Broncos on Oct. 26,

the Spartans won the match in three

The Spartans posted their secondhighest hitting percentage for the 2002 season in conference play at .351. It was their shortest match of

on ending in 80 minutes. SJSU's highest hitting percentage in conference play this season came on Oct. 11 when it hit .387 in a 3-1 victory against Southern Methodist

"If we play them as well as we did last time, that would make me happy," said Craig Choate, head coach of the SJSU volleyball.

If the Spartans beat Boise State, they will be the No. 4 seed in the WAC tournament. If they loose, they will be the No. 5 seed.

Though the No. 4 seed plays the

No. 5 seed, Choate said being the No. 4 seed has its advantages.
"It's better to be the four seed you just feel better about

vourself," he said.

Hawai'i still unbeaten in WAC

Saturday night the Spartans could

play the role of a spoiler. The Spartans might have the final opportunity to hand the Rainbow Wahine its first conference loss of the season if Fresno State is unable to do

so Friday night.
On Sunday, Stanford University
blemished Hawai'i's once-perfect
record. In front of a sold-out crowd of 10,252 people at the Stan Sheriff Center in Honolulu, and on senior appreciation night for University of Hawai'i, (11-0 WAC and now 23-1 overall) the Cardinal made a clean sweep of the Rainbow Wahine defeat-

ing them in straight sets, 3-0.
"We need to bounce back and focus on our upcoming road trip and not have a let down," said Hawai'i's head coach Dave Shoji, after losing the first match of the season

Shoji added that his team is working to improve on several areas including attacking and blocking; however, he said that this is not specifically for the match against Fresno State or SJSU but a general improvement to compete at a higher level with all teams.

Saturday when the Spartans face the Rainbow Wahine, Hawai'i will have junior Kim Willoughby in the lineup. Shoji said Willoughby sat out the Nov. 24 match against SJSU because of the stomach flu. Willoughby returned the next night and posted 24 kills against Fresno State.

"They're real good. I assume they will get back on track," Choate said about Hawai'i after its loss to Stanford. He added that if the Spartans were to pull off a major upset it would be better to do it in the WAC tournament.

Seeding still not determined

As the seeds for the WAC tournament begin to take shape with eight of the 10 teams advancing, Hawai'i could take the No. 1 seed and first

WAC **STANDINGS**

WESTERN DIVISION					
HAWAI'I	11	0	23-1		
FRESNO ST.	9	2	21-4		
NEVADA	7	4	18-6		
SJSU	6	5	12-13		
Boise St.	0	11	1-22		

EASTERN DIVISION					
ГЕАМ	w	L	ALL		
RICE	6	5	16-12		
ITEP	6	5	11-11		
MU	5	6	11-15		
TECH	4	7	18-13		
	-				

place in the Western Division with one more win. Fresno State has at least the No. 2 seed. The University of Nevada-Reno and SJSU could have fought for the No. 3 seed if SJSU beat Boise State, and Nevada lost both its matches to Boise State and Fresno State. Had this taken place, SJSU and Nevada would have gone through a series of tiebreakers. The first tiebreaker would have been their records against each other, because Nevada and SJSU split their matches 1-1 it would have remained a tie. The second tiebreaker, games won by each



RYAN BALBUENA / DAILY STAFF

Spartan middle blockers Shannon Burmeister and Katherine Powers attempt to block outside hitter Christina Lukens' shot during practice. SJSU will be hosting Boise State University on Thursday and the University of Hawai'i on Saturday at the Event Center.

team, would have also ended in a tie Spartans, in both of their matches this' both matches ended 3-1. The last tiebreaker, total points scored against each other in every game of the two matches, would have gone to Nevada. The Wolf Pack scored a total of 13 more points, 231 to 218 of the

Choate said the Spartans had hoped to avoid Hawai'i until the later rounds of the WAC tournament.

However, entering as the No. 4 or No. 5 seed, this will be impossible.

Athletics' Tejada earns American League MVP by landslide

NEW YORK (AP) - Miguel Tejada beat all those more famous American League shortstops to the Most Valuable Player award.

After leading Oakland to the AL West title, Tejada easily defeated Alex Rodriguez on Tuesday, earning the AL honor when he received 21 of 28 first-place votes and 356 points from a of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"I don't think there can be anyone on earth more happy than I am right now," Tejada said from the presidential palace in the Dominican Republic, where about 1,000 people attended a reception in his honor. "Inside, I feel fulfilled.

His car to the palace was repeatedly stopped by the large crowd, and many of his relatives joined him at the

"I don't know if I can count all the members of my family, because there's

lots of people here," he said.
In balloting that rewarded winning over statistics, A-Rod was second with five first-place votes and 254 points. He led the major leagues in home runs and RBIs but played for last-place

Among the other two star AL shortstops, Boston's Nomar Garciaparra

was tied for 11th with 24 points and New York's Derek Jeter wasn't among the top 10 on any ballot.

"It makes me real proud to be in the same group," Tejada said. New York Yankees second baseman

Alfonso Soriano got the remaining two first-place votes and was third with 234 points, followed by Anaheim outfielder Garret Anderson (184) and Yankees slugger Jason Giambi (162).

Nevada to host 2005 WAC Tourney

PHN: 408-924-3277 FAX: 408-924-3282

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Nevada will host the Western Athletic Conference's basketball tournament in March 2005. the league's board of directors voted Tuesday.
"The University of Nevada has a

tremendous basketball facility, and the Reno-Lake Tahoe area provides a great destination for fans," WAC

Commissioner Karl Benson said. The 2005 tournament will be played March 8-12 on the Reno campus'

11,200-seat Lawlor Events Center. It will mark Nevada's first WAC tournament for men's and women's basketball since the school joined the league two years ago. The school twice has hosted the WAC's indoor track championship and soon will host the 2002 WAC women's volleyball tourna-

Tulsa is hosting this year's basketball tournament and Fresno State will host

OPPORTUNITIES

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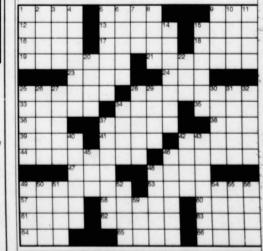
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One year after Taliban fled Kabul, Afghans say world reneged on promise of help

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — One year after U.S. warplanes drove the Taliban from Kabul, few in Afghanistan's capital long for their return, but it's also hard to find anyone who thinks the world has kept

its promise to help the Afghans. The face of Kabul has changed since the Taliban retreated south.
Traffic jams stretch for blocks. Women are in the streets, most still in burgas or hidden behind large shawls. But gone are the men with wooden sticks and steel cables who

wooden sticks and steel capies who beat women for exposing their faces. "Yes, things are much better for women. No one is beating them. There is no law to wear the burqa. Girls are in school. But still there are a lot of problems," said Sima Samar, head of the Afghan Human Rights

One of the most serious problems is that President Hamid Karzai's government is weak and its control is largely confined to the capital. Religious restrictions have crept back into the administration, with the establishment of a religious instructions department, television censor-ship and attacks on schools for girls some say with the approval of

some in government.

Warlords, who rule by virtue of their private armies, are stronger

today than a year ago.

The search for fleeing al-Qaida and Taliban troops has strengthened the country's regional bullies, permitted the Defense Ministry to flout a U.N.-brokered agreement and

a U.N.-brokered agreement and some say even sabotage attempts to build a national army.

"The problem now is because of the warlords. In some cases, they are an official threat," said Yusuf Pashtun, minister of housing and urban development.

"It is the weakness of the central government that is allowing these people to operate," he said in an interview Tuesday in Kabul.

But a former Afghan general said the first mistake was when the U.S.-led coalition allowed northern alliance troops, their allies in the war on terror, to enter the capital on Nov. 13, 2001, when the Taliban fled. That began rule by force and discrimination against other ethnic groups. Most of the Defense Ministry is Tajik, as is the Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim.

The next mistake was allowing the northern alliance to dominate the transitional Cabinet named in Bonn, Germany. At the same time, Fahim was allowed to flout the Bonn accord when he refused to withdraw his military from Kabul. The U.N.-organized Loya Jirga, or

grand council — which was sup-posed to bring in a broad-based government last June — gave unprecedented power to the warlords and allowed Fahim to retain the Defense

Ministry. As attempts to build a national army foundered, some in Kabul including government officials who didn't want their names used — said the United States began to rethink its policy of complete support for the Defense Ministry. Washington wants a broad-based national army, to bring security to Afghanistan and ensure there is no resurgence of a Taliban-type movement that could allow al-Qaida to flourish.

But so far, Western diplomats have said Fahim has been reluctant to help form a national army that would whittle away his control.

At the same time, Karzai has increasingly criticized the warlords, whose bickering threatens aid to some parts of the country. Last month, he issued his first real threat, saying: "If anyone thinks our flexibility, our compassion, humor-ous words and admiration will last until doomsday, they are wrong. If they do not improve, I will sack

This month he did just that, dismissing several commanders and two senior intelligence men. He recently told The Associated Press the dismissals would not be the last. There will be more," he said, refus-

There will be more, he said, refus-ing to elaborate.

No one expected it to be easy to rebuild Afghanistan, ravaged by 23 years of war and repression.

Still, Karzai says, some progress has been made in the last year.

"We are so much better off today

than we were at this time last year because we are back together as one nation, one Afghanistan," he said in

an interview But security remains elusive, despite the presence of international peacekeepers in Kabul, where in the last year two government ministers have been slain in broad daylight. Dozens of small bombs have exploded and one car bomb killed 30 peo-

For Karzai, the danger of trying to pull his nation together was evident earlier this year when a would-be assassin opened fire in the southern city of Kandahar.

"Security is the biggest problem," said Samar, the head of the Human Rights Commission. "We thought by now there would have been progress disarming people, but there hasn't been."

Pashtun, the minister of housing and development, complained the international community has been slow to invest in Afghanistan.

We have not been able to create

alternative employment for these tired fighters," he said. Yet the world community has sent \$1.8 billion to Afghanistan.

"When we heard this, it was a shock to everyone, to the govern-ment, the people, even the U.N.," said Pashtun. "Where did that money go?

Pashtun said the Afghan administration has seen only \$80 million. The rest went to nongovernment organizations or was spent through the United Nations, much of it through the World Food Program. Pashtun said \$650 million was spent by the U.N. agency, nearly half for nsportation

Karzai said emergency assistance won't rebuild his nation and sharply criticized the world community for failing to embark on a reconstruction

The global charity CARE International warned Afghans believe the promises of the world community are empty, which could lead to resentment and further insta-

Hospitals are in miserable condi-tions, educational facilities are inadequate and unemployment is ram-pant. The United Nations planned for a return of 800,000 Afghan refugees and 2 million came. A drought, now into its fifth year, has devastated agriculture.

CARE warned that time is run-

ning out.
"Without separate funding for both emergency needs and recon-struction, need will turn to resent-ment, which in turn will inflame security, making reconstruction increasingly difficult," a recent CARE report said.

The donor community does not have much time to avert this down-ward cycle of despair."

Putin says Chechen rebels out to kill all non Muslims

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - A French reporter who questioned the Kremlin's war in Chechnya provoked an angry outburst from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who challenged him to convert to Islam and come to Moscow

for circumcision.

During a post-European Union summit news conference, Putin also said Chechen rebels want to kill all non-Muslims and establish an Islamic state

Putin became agitated Monday after a reporter from the French newspaper Le Monde questioned his troops use of heavy weapons against civilians in the war in Chechnya. Chechnya is predominantly Muslim.

If you want to become an Islamic radical and have yourself circumcised, I invite you to come to Moscow," Putin

"I would recommend that he who does the surgery does it so you'll have nothing growing back, afterward," he added. Circumcision is a tenet of Islam for all

Because of poor translation, Putin's remarks were not immediately understood by either the 450 journalists present at the news conference Monday or by senior EU officials. The Russian president brought his own interpreters, and even the native Russian speakers were unable to keep pace with Putin's

rapid-fire delivery.

Details of what Putin said were revealed Tuesday when The Associated Press translated an audiotape from the news conference. As a result, there was a little coverage of Putin's remarks in the

European media on Tuesday. EU spokesman Jonathan Faull, who was not at the press conference, said that if reports of Putin's remarks were true they were "entirely inappropriate."

Gunnar Wiegand, also a EU spokesman, said it was not the job of EU officials to take responsibility for comments by foreign dignitaries. Russia is not a member of the European

Wiegand said Putin used "decidedly less robust" language when speaking with EU leaders about the Chechen war and human rights in the breakaway

The translation showed Putin issuing a broadside against the Chechen rebels. "They talk about setting up a world-

Americans and their allies," Putin said.
"They talk about the need to kill all...non-Muslims, or 'crusaders,' as they put it. If you are a Christian, you are in

"If you decided to abandon your faith and become an atheist, you also are to be liquidated according to their concept. You are in danger if you decide to become a Muslim. It is not going to save you anyway because they believe tradi-tional Islam is hostile to their goals."

In Moscow, the daily Kommersant said the EU-Russia summit "ended in a serious scandal" because of Putin's comments, which Kremlin aides said were made in response to a "provocative ques-

Gazeta.ru, a leading online publication in Moscow, quoted unidentified Putin aides as saying the president was tired and angry after being peppered with questions about Chechnya.

Putin owes his quick rise in the Russian power structure to his tough handling of the Chechen war, which has been sharply criticized by many in the

Putin claims Russia is fighting inter-

ence movement — in Chechnya. He calls Chechen fighters "religious extremists and international terrorists" whose impact has spread far beyond the borders of the republic.

He pointed to last month's hostagetaking in a Moscow theater by Chechen rebels. Russian special forces troops stormed the auditorium after three days, pumping a knockout gas into the the-ater to disable the rebels, all of whom were killed.

At least 128 of the approximately 750 hostages died, most from the disabling

Putin praised Russian handling of the crisis and said other nations must adopt a similarly tough stand against terrorism to prevent further incidents like it and the recent bombing of tourist nightclubs in Bali, Indonesia, where about 200 people were killed.

EU officials said Tuesday they had made "strenuous efforts" but failed to win Putin's signature on a joint declaration on Chechnya. The Russian leader refused to sign because the document referred to human rights in the

Inseparable Brooklyn teens stare down 'lie or die' threat, jail a killer

NEW YORK (AP) — The message was five words long, as chilling as it was concise: "It's either lie or die."

The sender was known on Brooklyn's streets as Turf, an alleged member of the notoriously violent Bloods street gang. The recipient was an 18-year-old named Naia, whose childhood even in this hard neighborhood had not prepared her for such terror.

The same message was delivered to her two closest friends. The three had become inseparable while growing up in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Now they had something to share besides birthdays and parties and chitchat: a death threat.

The gangster's message came this June, but it referred to an incident nine months earlier. As usual, the three girls had been together that night, and they watched helplessly as a friend was murdered in a park in a case of mistaken identity.

The girls all identified the shooter to

police. But now, the messenger — allegedly, the shooter's half-brother ordered them to implicate another man. They didn't want to lie. But they did-

n't want to die, either. By the time trial opened this summer,

all three had recanted their identification of defendant Wesley Sykes, leaving the prosecution with a single witness,

And then there were none. Two days into the trial, Gibson was gunned down on the steps outside his home — a gang hit, said stunned veteran law enforcers, who could not recall

the execution of a witness. The girls knew the truth - and they were now the prosecutors' best potential witnesses. They faced a terrifying deci-

It was a 8 p.m. on Sept. 4, 2001. Naia and her friends Shaquanna and Leticia sat on benches in the Willoughby Playground, a tiny park wedged between a grammar school and a Roman Catholic church. (The Associated Press agreed not to use the girls' last names to help protect their safety.)

On this night, Naia's boyfriend joined her in the park, along with friend Bobby Gibson and two brothers, Corey and Dennis "Dough Boy" Brown.
Suddenly, Wesley Sykes entered the playground on his bicycle.
A week earlier, there had been a dis-

pute near the same spot. Corey Brown had slapped two women. And Sykes, a reputed member of the Bloods, was here to make him atone for that disrespect.

A feeling of unease passed among the teens. One tried to defuse the tension,

calling out, "Yo, what's up? Show some

But there was no love on this night According to witnesses, Sykes, 22, stepped off his bike and walked toward group, brandishing a black semiautomatic pistol.

"You disrespected my family," Sykes announced — and then, the witnesses said, he shot "Dough Boy" Brown, mistaking him for Corey. The girls ran for their lives as Sykes squeezed off another shot at the fleeing teens.
Twenty-three days later, Dough Boy

The case against Sykes came together quickly. Eyewitnesses, including Naia, Shaquanna and Leticia, picked him out of a lineup. Bobby Gibson went further, giving police an audiotaped statement that implicated a shooter with a

'messed-up eye." Sykes had a glass left eye and a droopy

It seemed like a slam-dunk for prose cutors. Sykes was arrested, and a trial date set for June 2002.

Early that month, Naia and her friends were approached by a middleman claiming to represent Sykes' half-brother, DuPree "Turf" Harris. Later, in court, Naia explained what she knew about Harris:

"He is known for hurting people, for killing people. ... He kill all his witness-es and all of that." After Harris henchman allegedly

After Harris henchman allegedly brought the frightening "lie or die" message, Naia went into hiding for 10 days. Harris handled the follow-up personally, approaching all three girls, bringing each one to Sykes attorney, sitting at their side while they lied to the lawyer.

"I had to go with a lie, because I was thinking, 'Was I going to make it back safely?" Naia said later.

As they left the law office, Naia remembered, Harris wrapped his arm around her shoulder and announced, "You did good." To seal their silence, Harris paid the three a total of \$2,000, the girls said.

The girls hoped the case would go

away, that Sykes might just plead guilty and their testimony would be unneces-sary. There was still the testimony of Bobby Gibson.

At 5 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, prosecutor Stephen Murphy heard his beeper go off. Word of a witness' murder was spreading fast. No one in the DA's office, going back a quarter-century, could recall such a thing.

Murphy had completed jury selection

in the Sykes case 36 hours earlier, when

he had also turned over the prosecution's witness list to the defense.

And now, a still drowsy Murphy was hearing that Bobby Gibson was dead. By 10 a.m., the phone was ringing in

his office. The three girls had heard about Gibson's murder; the shooting had occurred close enough for them to hear the gunshots. Could the group Murphy didn't know what to expect.

But once in his office, Naia and her friends said they'd made a tough decision: They'd tell what they knew, face Sykes in the courtroom and risk their "I decided to testify," Leticia said,

"because my friend was murdered."
They began by telling their tale of the message from Turf. Murphy quickly message from believed them.

"When they looked you in the eyes you knew it was true," the veteran prosecutor recounted.

Afterward, Naia, Leticia and Shaquanna made brief stops at home. Then they were quickly moved out by authorities to safe locations — to ensure no other witnesses died

When the trial resumed, Murphy told the jurors about Gibson's death and the threats against the three girls. As he spoke, one juror grimaced; another's jaw dropped.

Barely a week after the Gibson mur-

der, Leticia, Shaquanna and Naia separately told their stories to those jurors. Murphy described the scene when Naia took the stand. Initially, she was "terrified ... nervous."

Sykes glared at her from the defense table, his eyelid drooping. Naia spoke about the shooting in the park, then about the "lie or die" message. As defense attorney Michael Warren

began grilling the teen, Murphy noticed a change in Naia. Despite the pointed questions, she grew more confident, more sure of her story. Warren asked about her statement in

his office.

"I was forced to say that," Naia replied "You were forced to say all of that?"
"Yes, before I went to your office,"

"You were forced to say a lot of things? "I sure was," Naia said. "I had no

When it was over, the jury convicted Sykes of second-degree murder and reckless endangerment. Sykes, sentenced to 25 years to life, let out a loud

Naia wasn't there for the verdict. Pregnant again, she was living in her new, secret home, awaiting the birth of

It's fall in Brooklyn now. At the Willoughby Playground on a cool afternoon, three men sit quietly on a

The park's cast of characters has changed

"Dough Boy" Brown and Bobby Gibson are dead. Joining Sykes behind bars was Trevis Ragsdale, 19, awaiting trial for the Gibson murder. If convict-ed, Ragsdale could face the death penalty. Turf Harris remains at large and has

not been charged. And Naia, Shaquanna and Leticia are no longer seen at the park. They remain in "undisclosed locations," well out of their old neighborhood, said Murphy. Their days of hanging out ended when they decided to become witnesses, to tell the frighten-

ing truth.
"My understanding," said Murphy, "is that they still talk. But there's no more walking around the block like they used



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continued from page 1

tive style used in fiction has a more appropriate fit.

Berman said Kannan's work creates a marriage between the reader and her "Her poems bring Indian historical

figures and deities into everyday life," he said. "It is as if the characters come

off the page to interact with the reader. They cease to be a nebulous construct. Berman said Kannan has a way of using everyday themes, objects or children's toys as metaphors for life, like she does for the cubicle-bound

white-collar worker in her short story The Maze." "In this story a father becomes absorbed by a child's game where he has to get ball bearings to drop down through a maze of holes. It turns out he is contemplating his wasted life at a job, working in a cubicle," Berman said. "He watches as the ball bearings roll through a maze, and he imagines that they are people trundling through the maze or the maze of

In another story translated from Tamil, "Please, Dear God," Kannan writes about a man who waits at the side of his wife's hospital bed for her

to awaken from a coma. "He prays to all the Indian deities only to see sheets placed over the bodies of other coma victims that are around them, but that is not how his story ends," Berman said.

Kannan said she started writing in her teen-age years and began as more of a humorist than a serious writer. "I liked to read humorous stuff at that period in time, but I realized I am

not just here to make people laugh, she said. After a short break from writing, she turned her attention to the changes occurring in India and for women during the early stages of the feminist

"The '60s and '70s were very difficult and confusing," she said. She said wanted to write about and react to the changing realities for

Singh, of the foreign language

department, said he met Kannan at a

conference of English teachers in

movement.

1975 at The Indo-American Center for International Studies in Hyderabad, India, when his younger brother was an academic associate at the center. "She is a very bright professor of

English, and we worked together in the center's library," he said. Singh said he started reading Kannan's writing more than 20 years

ago.
"I was highly impressed with her poetic vision," he said about her earlier work. "She wrote in a mature manner, and

she handled existential themes very well," he said. Singh said she also provoked a lot of strong criticism from scholars who were influenced by socialist realism.

He said Kannan has an insightful

ability when it comes to selecting the

most satisfying word for a given moment. 'She can choose the proper words

for love, feelings of separation and feeling lost in this world," he said. Kannan said she is currently writing

a criticism of a biography about veter-an Indian writer PG Sundararajan. She said she is also working on a period piece, a novel set in India based on the hearsay of people from her grandparent's generation, and it may include what she has written in



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