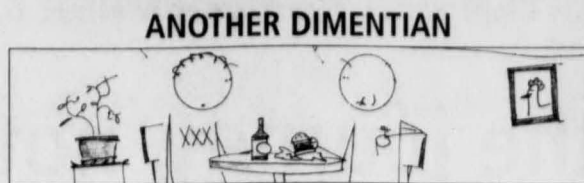




SAVE FENWAY
Times have changed and athletes should be allowed to celebrate on the field
SPORTS 3



ANOTHER DIMENTION
OPINION 2



CONFUSION SAYS
Road trip to New York City for 2000 New Years' is one of life's highlights
OPINION 2

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SPARTAN DAILY

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Fun and games in engineering



Francis Trais, a mechanical engineering senior, explains how his group's project the "Rally Circuit 2002" works to T.J. Jeannette, Luz Penilla and Winnycy Du.

Students create games as final projects

By Anne Ward
Daily Staff Writer

Students in Burford Furman's fundamentals of mechatronics engineering class on Thursday did nothing but play games all class period while Furman wandered around videotaping the whole thing.

The games were the students' final projects. "The assignment was to create an interactive game that required one or more players," Furman said. "They were required to use a micro-controller, which is a basic stamp. You can think of it essentially as a small computer. They are used in a lot of electronics in things you use every day."

Furman is an associate professor in the mechanical and aerospace engineering department.

The idea, he said, is to teach students how to use and extend the capabilities of micro-controlling.

"It marries games and mechanics," Furman said.

Groups of four or five worked together to develop, program and build a game. Furman said teams paid for the materials for their projects out of their own pockets and there were no limits placed on the amount they could spend.

The assignment was given to them the second week of the semester allowing teams about 13 weeks to flesh out their ideas, write the computer programs that would run the game and construct the game. The projects are worth 25 per-

cent of their final grades.

"They had that much time, but I don't think many of them really started that early," Furman said.

Some students said they were up until the wee hours of the morning working out bugs.

"We worked on it until late last night and then started again this morning at 10," said junior Andy Chuang. "I couldn't sleep well last night because it wasn't working."

Chuang and his teammates, mechanical engineering seniors Jim Crowell, Henry Hui and T.J. Jeannette built an Old West-style gunslinger game.

Two players stand facing each other, about five paces away from a board standing vertically between them.

The board has a yellow "ready" light to prepare the gunfighters for the showdown.

When the bulb above "draw" lights green, the shooters draw their guns from their holsters and fire.

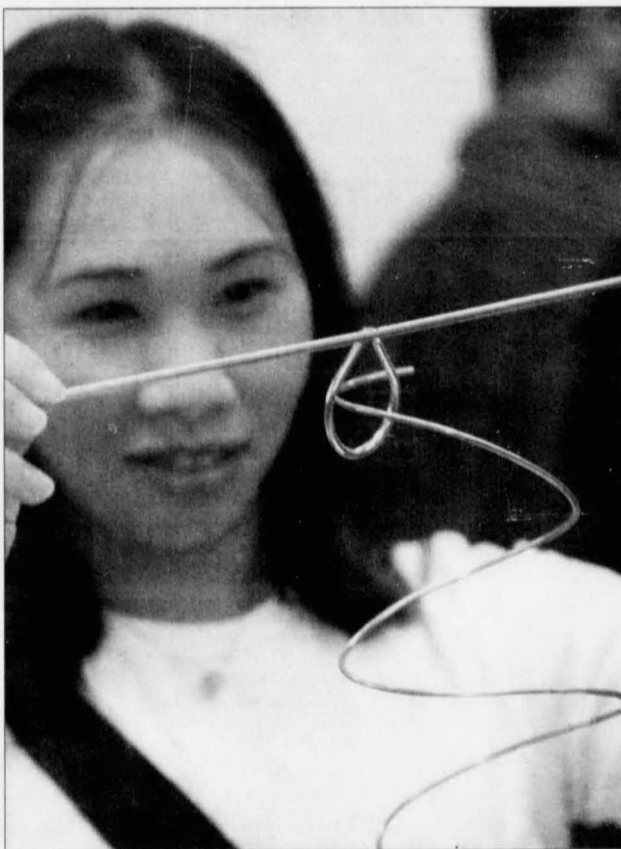
Their guns have no bullets but are attached to a cord. As the gun is drawn upward, the block at the end of the cord rises and meets a wire that completes an electrical connection and turns on a scoring bulb.

"We had another game similar to this before, but had to simplify it to come up with this one," said Jeannette.

No two games of the 12 were alike.

"There is an enormous variety among this

See **MECHATRONICS**, page 5



Binh Lay, a mechanical engineering senior, tried out one of the game-orientated projects Thursday afternoon in the Engineering building.

KSJS loses promotions director

Station members say Robles' successor has big shoes to fill

By Lea Blevins
Daily Staff Writer

After two years of handling promotions for San Jose State University's radio station, KSJS, Michelle Robles has decided to pass along the baton.

To whom it will go is still unknown. Robles, a senior majoring in television, radio, film and theater, said she expects to graduate in May and wants a semester to help train the next director and focus on other things.

"It's just that I feel like if I stayed longer, I probably wouldn't have as much spirit as the next person," she said. "I feel like I've been doing this for so long."

Robles' position as promotions director for KSJS, 90.5 FM, was created from positions previously filled by two people, a marketing director and a public affairs director. She said she was apprehensive at first to take on the duties of two people, but it turned out better than she expected.

"It made sense afterward, but it was scary that I was totally in charge of all that stuff," Robles said. "When I got into it, no one told me anything. I just had to explore on my own."

Nick Martinez, station general manager, said one of the things he wanted Robles to do when he hired her was to concentrate on promoting the station within the campus community. Robles said she saw the need for this first hand when her own friends told her they had never heard of the station.

"I took that as such an insult," Robles said. "It was an insult on my part with my job. I kind of made that my mission."

Four semesters later, Robles said she believes she has accomplished her goals.

"Now I think there's more awareness," she said. "People have at least heard of our call letters."

Although promotions take up the majority of her time, Robles said her favorite part of the job, which takes about 20 to 25 hours of her week, is community events.

"Whenever we did community events and people were enthusiastic about it, it was fulfilling to me," Robles said.

Robles and the KSJS staff have participated in a number of community events, including a canned food drive, a toy drive with the University Police Department and serving food at the Emergency Housing Consortium the day after Thanksgiving. She said one of her favorite outreach experiences was when the staff scooped ice cream at Ben & Jerry's and donated their portion of the profits to the New York City firefighters after the Sept. 11 attacks.

They had previously planned to have the money go toward the station, but Robles and her assistant decided they wanted to help in another way.

"I think a lot of people were sad and wanted to act on it just to feel relieved," Robles said. "I was feeling the same thing."

Jessica Mazur, the KSJS program director, was Robles' assistant at the time of the event.

"She's definitely the first one to raise her hand when there's ever some sort of opportunity with the communi-

See **ROBLES**, page 4

Hot dogs a long-standing tradition

Abrehet Hagos has been serving students for 15 years

By Karen Imamura
Daily Staff Writer

A steaming all-beef hot dog with the works—ketchup, mustard, relish, onions, peppers and hot sauce—can make taste buds explode with anticipation.

Abrehet Hagos has been quelling this craving for the last 15 years. Immigrating from Eritrea, Abbey, as friends call her, left her country

because of war. She then traveled to Sudan and made her way to Washington, D.C., before finally settling in San Jose. Hagos said she loves selling hot dogs on campus.

See **HOT DOGS**, page 4

Gabriela Garber, who is working toward her Masters in Spanish, fixes a hot dog before her evening class. She asked for mayonnaise from Abrehet "Abbey" Hagos. Hagos has been selling hot dogs on campus for 15 years.

LORETTA GIBSON / DAILY STAFF



Relieving finals stress through aerobicichthon

By Bryn Graziano
Daily Staff Writer

Aerobicichthon 2002, an event sponsored by the aerobics section of the San Jose State University human performance department, will take place Dec. 6 in the women's gym, according to Carol Sullivan, a human performance instructor and the event's organizer.

This is the 12th annual aerobicichthon, said Sullivan, who has coordinated the event since 1991 as a way to relieve end-of-semester tension.

"I wanted to find a way for students to come together, have fun and relieve stress," Sullivan said. "And do it right

before finals."

She said the disco-themed event is open to SJSU students, faculty, staff members and the San Jose community. Participants are encouraged to wear funky disco workout clothes, reminiscent of the 1970s.

The \$4 entry fee will be put toward the purchase of new aerobic equipment for the program such as mats and weights, Sullivan said.

All ability levels will be accommodated, and no previous experience is necessary, she said.

"The instructors at the event will make it easy to pick up for beginners,

See **AEROBICHTHON**, page 4

CONFUSION SAYS

Road trips about the journey, not the destination

Two years ago I was on a road trip with my high school buddy Dan. I went to fulfill a personal goal: Be in Times Square for the turn of the millennium.

The first four days spent driving across the Midwest reminded me how America was simultaneously big and small. We saw hours upon hours of wheat fields, yet we crossed in two days what took early settlers months.

When I arrived in New York City, I had such an amazing time there with a group of people I had never met before. I can barely remember their names, but I remember all their stories.

I remember Rob who drove all the way from El Paso with a broken leg.

I remember two guys from Toronto, who stayed in an over-priced roach-infested hotel two blocks from the Square. They somehow nailed the fact that I was from California by my use of the word "hella."

I learned from all of them. They're friends for life, but sadly I'll never see them again.

There's one thing that must be understood about a real road trip. It's not a vacation. It's a spiritual journey.

Back in the old days, when pilgrims undertook a journey, it wasn't a holiday. It was an arduous voyage with

dramatic setbacks and great achievements, and in the end, getting there wasn't as important as what happened to get you there.

When I went on my road trip, I realized the same thing. I went right at the changing of the millennium. My pilgrimage was to confront my future.

I remember being scared out of my mind, the night before I went into the city for New Year's Eve. With all the terrorist threats and the Y2K worries, and the fact that I would be in the very place that was the center of it all, I had to confront the very real prospect of my own death. It was quite sobering for me.

But in that square, with two million screaming people around me, all else was forgotten as we saw the ball drop, and at that moment I was ready for whatever came ahead. I didn't fear death any more.

It was an amazing moment. I was witnessing history, and I knew no amount of TV or media reproduction

would do it any justice. You just had to be there.

On the last day of our journey, when we were just three hours away from home, two cars in front of us nearly collided, sending the one on the left careening into the dirt divide of Interstate 5, rolling over two or three times and sending hundreds of rocks flying into my windshield at 90 mph as I reacted by screaming obscenities.

Dan and I pulled into the center divide and ran to help them. Luckily, every one of the passengers survived with only minor injuries, thanks to their seat belts.

The victims were about our age. They had a University of California Berkeley sticker on the back windshield of their car. As we waited for the police to arrive, I looked at all the stuff strewn around their car: bags of potato chips, boxes of presents, a road atlas, bottles of soda. They had been on a road trip too.

We left shortly after the police and cleanup crew arrived. The final three hours went by uneventfully.

I still remember the trip for the small moments, like traveling across Wyoming with snow whipping across the

pavement, the highway turning into a surreal ocean. Or the memory of blazing down the Appalachian Mountains at sunset, tailing a white sedan at 90 mph and feeling the G forces of my car as we edged down those mountain curves.

It was quite a trip. History decided to intersect with us for the millennium, but I remember as I slept in my own bed for the first time in two weeks, I knew more than just the calendar had changed. I had changed as well.

So I have a recommendation for everybody this winter break. Take a road trip. I'm not talking about a quick day trip to your grandma's house. Make it a two-week trip, minimum, and just drive from coast to coast, time zone to time zone.

Go out and see the country, because you can only say you really love America if you have seen America.

JaShong King is the Spartan Daily Photo Editor. This is the final 'Confusion Says' of the semester.



JASHONG KING

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 Roberts 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.
- Saint Vincent de Paul**
Saint Vincent de Paul is taking donations for a sleeping bag drive for the homeless. It costs \$18.25 per sleeping bag, but any donations are more than appreciated. Make checks out to "St. Vincent de Paul" and mail or deliver to St. Vincent de Paul Society, P.O. Box 5579 San Jose, CA 95150. For more information contact Kimber Brown at 832-8198.
- SJSU Ceramic Guild**
The SJSU Ceramic Guild is having a holiday pottery sale in front of the Art building by the Spartan Bookstore featuring hand made pieces created by SJSU students. The sale runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Anthropology and Behavioral Science Club**
The Anthropology and Behavioral Science Club is sponsoring The Twelve Days of Giving, a clothing and food drive running until Dec. 12. Bring donations to boxes located in the anthropology, sociology, and psychology offices. For more information contact David Escalante at 971-9783.
- University Police Department**
The San Jose State University UPD is hosting its 11th annual Holiday Toy Drive. Collections will be taken through Dec. 12. Checks can be made out to San Jose State University Foundation and sent to UPD. Toys can be placed in the boxes on campus or dropped off at the University Police Department. For more information please contact Sgt. Amado Ramirez at 924-2219 or Claire Kotowski at 924-2174.
- Human Performance Department**
The Human Performance Department is holding the Aerobichthon from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Spartan Complex. For more information contact Carol Sullivan at 924-3022.
- Counseling Services**
"Getting Along: Communicating in Relationships." 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in ADM 201. For more information contact Stephanie Burns at 924-5910.
- SJSU School of Music and Dance**
The San Jose State University School of Music and Dance presents "Images in Dance," a concert of new work by advanced choreography students, at 7 p.m. tonight and Saturday in SPX 219. A variety of styles and forms of dance will be presented, ranging from jazz to modern to tap. Admission is \$6 for students and seniors, \$10 general. Available only at the door. The event is wheelchair accessible. For more information contact Sonja Rouillard at 924-5041.
- SUNDAY**
- SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry**
Daily Mass will be held at the SJSU CCM Chapel located at 10th and San Carlos streets next to Roberts 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.
- MONDAY**
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- Counseling Services**
The General Process Group is meeting from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in ADM 201. For more information contact Laura Flynn at 924-5910.
- Anthropology and Behavioral Science Club**
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- TUESDAY**
- SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry**
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- Jose, CA 95150.** For more information contact Kimber Brown at 832-8198.
- Department of Nutrition and Food Science**
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.
- sjspirit.org**
Meditation from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Spiritual explorers from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the sjspirit room in Grace Church at San Fernando and S. 10th streets. For more information contact Chaplain Roger at 605-1687.
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- Counseling Services**
The Women's Student Process group is meeting from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in ADM 201. For more information contact Ellen Lin or Amanda Fargo at 924-5910.
- Nurses Christian Fellowship**
"Community Building." 11:15 a.m. in the Pacheco room in the Student Union. For more information contact Diane Stegmeier at 248-2997.
- WEDNESDAY**
- SJSU Catholic Campus Ministry**
Daily Mass will be held at the SJSU CCM Chapel located at 10th and San Carlos streets next to Roberts 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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MORE THAN SOMEWHAT

Leaving a school full of fond family memories

I am graduating in exactly one week. Just the thought makes me want to get up and dance around the room. Needless to say, I am ecstatic about no longer having to deal with parking madness or the drudgery of boring classes.

I am, however, also a little bit sad. It's not because I am leaving behind good friends or even good teachers (not that I haven't had both during my tenure here).

I feel like I'll be leaving a piece of myself behind. Let me tell you why.

Back in 1938, when San Jose State University was known as San Jose State College, two students entered the campus, unaware of all they would gain from experiences they were to have over the next four years.

Along with their studies and taking part in the social aspects of college, the two students fell in love, creating a personal connection to this university that would span more than 60 years.

They were my grandparents on my father's side.

Morris Buckingham, a kid from a Vacaville farming family, and Rutheda Elliott, who came from an upper-class Burlingame upbringing, evolved into active members of the student body.

He was a center for the Spartan football team, and she became a member of Ero Sophian sorority (which is now Alpha Phi).

Eventually they got married and raised three boys in the city of Atherton, Calif.

Three years before I was born, at age 56, my grandfather died of a heart attack. He never got to know any of his seven grandchildren, and unfortunately for us, we never got to know him.

Thankfully, my grandmother was around much longer, until her death three years ago. I am truly grateful for the time I had with her — I only wish that I had asked her more questions about her life and listened more intently to her stories.

My older sister has a picture framed in her bedroom of my grandfather standing near a clearly visible Tower Hall.

Somehow, with all of the changes the world and the university have gone through since the days when my

grandfather roamed the halls here, Tower Hall remains the same.

Perhaps this is proof that beauty stands the test of time, evidenced by the ivy-covered building that has remained a virtually unchanged focal point for this school.

The tower has provided me with something I have never felt I had before: a tie to a man that I have only heard about.

As I take my last steps across this campus as a student, I cannot help but be overcome by a sense of sadness.

The time I have spent here has been a portal into the world of a grandfather I never knew, and a link back to a grandmother I feel I am losing grasp of.

I will soon be handed my diploma, and with that, I fear that I will also be severing ties with a rich family history that has existed within the parameters of this university.

The yearbooks that so amazingly captured their college careers so long ago will now serve as the only way for me to remember how much SJSU meant to them.

So many times I have watched my feet as they grazed the pavement around Tower Hall wondering if either of my grandparents had taken the same steps.

I have looked across the vast lawn and up at the tower and wondered if the two of them had ever sat in the sun between classes, just enjoying the atmosphere.

I can't help but feel their presence at times — imagining my grandfather's arm around me and my grandmother holding my hand like she always used to do.

When I walk across the stage of Morris Dailey Auditorium, within the walls of Tower Hall next Friday, I hope that somehow they are able to see me.

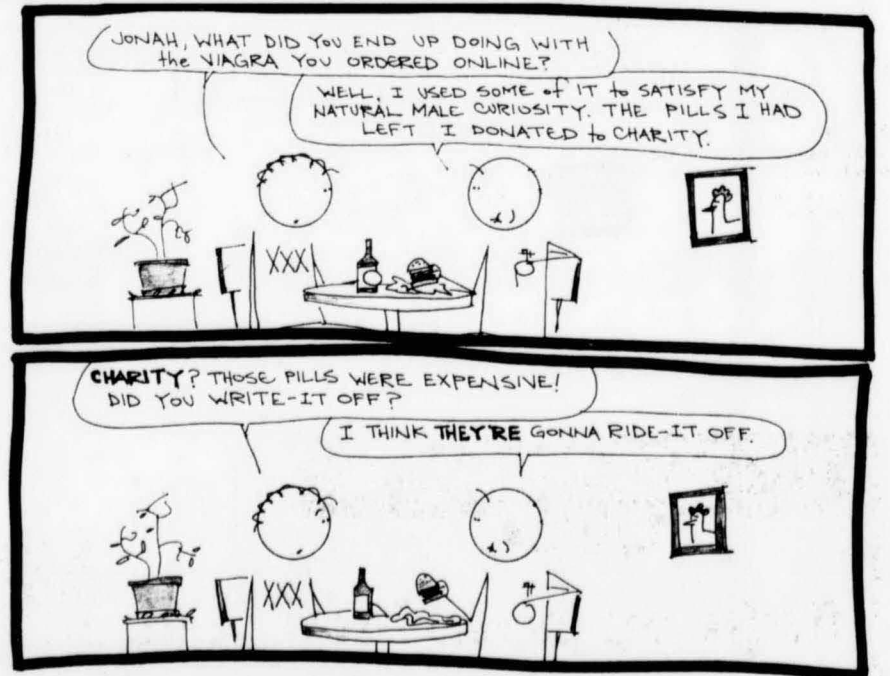
Hopefully, they will know that because of them, college was much more than the typical balance of education and partying — that for me, it was also a glimpse back to a time I could never have known and the foundation for a bond I would never wish to break.



GUEST COLUMNIST: LAURA BUCKINGHAM

Laura Buckingham is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer. Guest Columnists appear Fridays.

ANOTHER DIMENTION | JONAH PTAK



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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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... SAVE FENWAY

Don't stifle creativity, let the players play

There was a time when things were simple. Bats were made of hickory. Gloves of brown rawhide. Helmets of genuine leather. And jerseys made of flannel with only the numbers on the back. The time when games were shot in black and white, an era where rivalries really meant something, a section on the timeline of history when a player was a player, not an entertainer. But those times are gone. Goodbye home footage of Ted Williams' sweet swing, Jackie Robinson's smile, Bart Starr's cannon for an arm and Vince Lombardi's grimace, hello to live coverage of Barry Bonds' 600th homerun, Roy Jones Jr.'s vicious jab and Phil Jackson's winning ways. Sports are in a different era now, let's face it. Players are bigger and stronger and the notion of sport has become more of a business and the fans ... consumers ... are more demanding. As times change, so do the priorities of the players and the desires of those watching. Winning games is simply not enough anymore. "I'd rather look pretty and lose than look ugly and win." That is the way things work these days. I am not exactly opposed to this phi-

losophy. Some say that what the professionals are doing influences the youth of today and possibly the future. I'll agree, but isn't that the course of history? Things change all the time and the sports world should be no different. Having fun has long been touted as the ultimate goal of sport, so why does a portion of our society frown upon acts of joy, such as celebration in sport? If a player scores a touchdown late in the fourth quarter of a football game and his team is down by three touchdowns, what is he expected to do, run back to his sideline with his head up high as if his squad still had a chance? No, he should be proud of what he has done. He should take this time to celebrate what little joy he has in scoring even though the ultimate result will be defeat. Once again, it seems that the thought of political correctness has reared its head again, only this time in sports. There are rules against taunting other teams and excessive celebration, all of which are said to have no place in sports because it isn't nice and could provoke further action. But that is what the fans want to see. We want to see exciting action where one team destroys another. The intricacies of each sport no longer are enough to intrigue the aver-

age viewer. Want to know why many women can't stand baseball? It's because it's boring to them. They'd rather watch 24 hours of football or boxing, because of the action, than 30 minutes of baseball. A baseball nut will laugh and dismiss this as an ignorant claim as he fires off dozens of statistics and historical names. What we are failing to realize as a society is that sport and life are directly linked and in many ways mirror each other. We can't expect that because it is "only" sports that they will remain pure in their truest form. So often you hear the color commentator say, "there is no room for this, they need to act like they've been there before." This is true and I believe there is a time and place for it, but why stifle the creativity of the players? We live in a free society so why tell a player how he can and cannot behave on the court, field or in the ring? It's called freedom of expression, people. Take a look at this week's ESPN

magazine. On the cover is a bare chested Terrell Owens clutching a football. This is a man who could be the best receiver in the league, excluding Jerry Rice and his milestones and including Indianapolis Colts wide-out Marvin Harrison. But Owens is not on the cover because of his big-play ability or because of his achievements rather he is there because of "The Incident." More directly, "The Sharpie Incident." If you saw the Monday night telecast earlier this season between the San Francisco 49ers and the Seattle Seahawks, I'm sure you nearly pissed yourself laughing when Terrell Owens pulled the Sharpie out of his sock, signed the football after his touchdown catch and handed it to someone in the stands. Some people liked it, many people hated it, but if you asked other players about it, they'd probably tell you they wish they had thought of it themselves. The after effects of this form of celebration are still running rampant. With the Niners heading to Dallas this weekend to face their long-time nemesis the Cowboys, the national spotlight is again on Owens. Quick reminder, a few seasons ago, Owens scored a touchdown in Dallas and sprinted to midfield and stood on the Cowboys' logo and celebrated. But isn't this what sport is all about? Having fun and playing games? Owens' Sharpie incident actually prompted the pen manufacturer to do a television commercial based on pulling pens out of socks and now everywhere Owens goes, a television camera is following him asking what is next. What is more disturbing is the reaction from Seattle head coach Mike Holmgren. Holmgren, former 49er offensive coordinator and head coach of the Green Bay Packers, publicly denounced the celebration. Ironically, however, the Packers, under Holmgren's tutelage made famous the Lambeau Leap — the benchmark against which all celebration is matched. Now how hypocritical is that? We need to come out of our caves, stop living in black and white and accept the fact that the players of today are actual people who enjoy their job. They are entertainers. They are in the national spotlight. They are there for our amusement. We have to face the facts: We are in a different time period, let the past stay there and let's relive it sparingly.

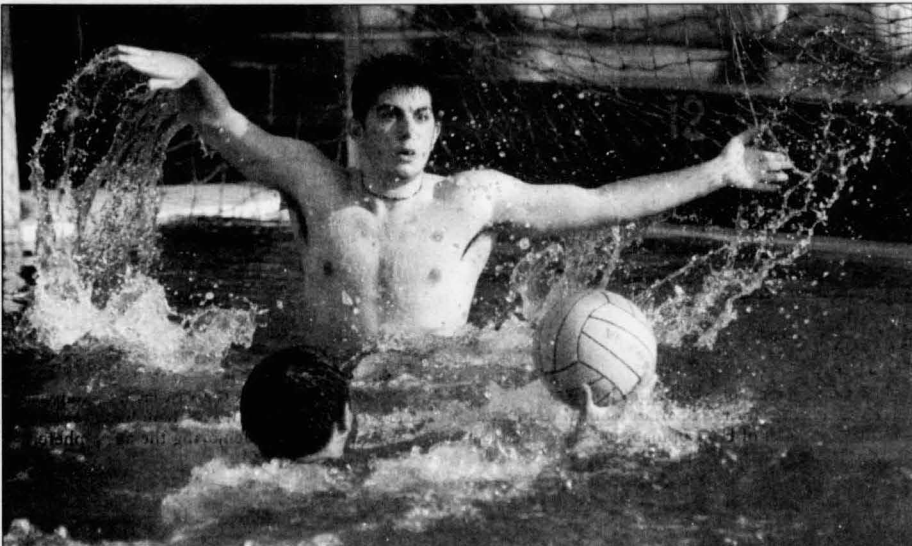
The days of Jim Brown and the silent leader approach are gone. It's all about the flash, the cash and, in some cases, the stash. People aren't afraid to let their creative sides hang out. These are the times of "I am better than you." These are the times of "in your face." These are our times, not your daddy's or your granddaddy's, let's embrace them with an open mind. Let the players play ... and entertain.

Ben Aguirre Jr. is a Spartan Daily sports editor. This is the final ... Save Fenway of the semester.



BEN AGUIRRE JR.

Making a splash



Freshman Elliott McNelis defends the goal against junior Chris Tran during the water polo club's practice. Starting spring semester, the co-ed club open to all San Jose State University students will meet from noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Griffey trade nixed after Nevin invokes trade clause

Associated Press
SAN DIEGO — The Cincinnati Reds and San Diego Padres agreed to trade Ken Griffey Jr. for Phil Nevin last weekend but the deal died when Nevin wouldn't waive his no-trade clause. Nevin said Thursday that he told Padres general manager Kevin Towers that he wants to stay in San Diego, where he resurrected his career in 1999 after arriving as a backup catcher in a spring training deal with Anaheim. "I let them know that's where I want to be," Nevin said by cell phone from Las Vegas, where he was golfing with Padres manager Bruce Bochy. "I just don't really want to talk about it, honestly. I'm staying in San Diego, and we'll just take it from there. Those are things that are supposed to be left between the teams." Towers said he had no comment. A baseball source familiar with the proposed deal, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the teams agreed to the swap over the Thanksgiving weekend. Griffey has been bothered by injuries

the past two seasons after orchestrating a trade to Cincinnati in 2000. He tore a tendon in his knee during the first week, setting up another season limited by leg injuries. He also pulled a hamstring and strained hip muscles, limiting him to 70 games, a .264 average, eight homers and 23 RBIs. Nevin's agent, Barry Axelrod, wondered why the Padres would even discuss a Nevin trade in the first place.

Glavine ventures north to play with Mets

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Glavine, the most sought-after pitcher on the free-agent market, reached agreement with the New York Mets on a three-year contract, his agent said Thursday night. Glavine, 36, had spent his whole career with the Atlanta Braves, winning two Cy Young Awards and posting five 20-win seasons. But the Braves' NL East rivals, the Mets and Philadelphia Phillies, showed much more interest in the left-hander than his old team. Atlanta has won 11 straight division titles. "It was one of the toughest decisions he's ever had to make," said his agent, Gregg Clifton. "There wasn't really one thing that decided it. He just made a decision." Glavine was believed to have gotten a \$35 million contract with a vesting option that could make the deal worth \$42.5 million.

"We have reached an understanding with Tom Glavine on the structure of a multiyear contract," Mets spokesman Jay Horwitz said. "The completion of an agreement is subject to Tom passing a physical examination on Monday, Dec. 9." Braves president Stan Kasten, who was attending an Atlanta Hawks game at Philips Arena, declined comment. He said the team probably would hold a news conference Friday. Glavine did not return a telephone message left at his home. Fellow Cy Young winners Roger Clemens and Greg Maddux also are free agents, but have hardly generated interest so far in the offseason. Glavine visited New York and Philadelphia last month. When the pitcher and his wife, Christine, came to New York, he had lunch at the Four Seasons restaurant with general manager Steve Phillips, Mets owner Fred

Wilson, chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon, new manager Art Howe, and pitchers John Franco and Al Leiter. Mayor Michael Bloomberg also stopped by to help recruit Glavine, as did New York Rangers goaltender Mike Richter and hockey Hall of Famer Rod Gilbert. Glavine was a hockey star in high school and was drafted by the NHL's Los Angeles Kings. Glavine was 18-11 with a 2.96 ERA this year. He is 242-143 since making his major league debut with the Braves in 1987.

Glavine had been with the Braves longer than any active player, joining them a year before John Smoltz. Along with Maddux, they had formed a rotation that brought them unparalleled success in division play.

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D.A. asks that convictions in Central Park jogger case be thrown out

NEW YORK (AP) — Citing DNA on a sock, prosecutors asked a judge Thursday to throw out the convictions of five young men found guilty of beating and gang-raping a jogger during a 1989 "wilding" spree in Central Park that exposed the city's deep racial divide to the rest of the nation.

District Attorney Robert Morgenthau's recommendation came 11 months after a convicted rapist who had never before come under suspicion in the case confessed. Also, DNA tests confirmed that his semen was on one of the socks the victim was wearing 13 years ago.

Morgenthau stopped short of declaring the five innocent, but said the confession and the tests create "a probability that the verdicts would have been more favorable to the defendants." And he said no purpose would be served by retrying them.

The decision of whether to throw out the convictions rests with state Justice Charles Tejada, who is expected to rule by Feb. 6.

The attack on a white 28-year-old investment banker, allegedly by a gang of black and Hispanic boys from Harlem, became emblematic of New York City's struggles with crime and race relations in the late 1980s.

The five defendants, who were 14 to 16 at the time of the attack, are now mostly in their late 20s and have already completed prison terms ranging from six years to 11 years for the crime.

But throwing out of their convictions could clear the way for them to sue the city and would free them from having to register as sex offenders for the rest of their lives.

Their families and lawyers called for an immediate ruling from the judge.

"We are truly moved by this decision," said Sharonne Salaam, mother of one of the youths. "But we also feel like we've been victimized, like the Central Park jogger. We all feel we were denied justice."

Through a spokeswoman, the victim declined comment. Despite remarkable recovery from severe brain injuries, she has said she remembers nothing of the attack

and was unable to help police identify suspects.

The victim was left for dead in a pool of mud and blood on April 19, 1989, after dozens of teenagers descended on the park to mug runners and bicyclists in a crime spree dubbed "wilding." She was in a coma for 12 days.

The randomness of the spree terrified many New Yorkers. It was another blow to a city struggling with a soaring crime rate and it came during a string of high-profile racial incidents, including Bernhard Goetz's shooting of black youths on the subway and attacks in the Howard Beach and Bensonhurst neighborhoods.

Some questioned whether the Central Park youths were rounded up because of their skin color and suggested police would not have pursued the case so aggressively had the victim been black or Hispanic.

Police said all five confessed — four of them on video — and that evidence proved devastating at trial.

"We all took turns getting on top of her," Antron McCray, then 15, told police in one tape.

Defense attorneys said the youths were coerced into bogus confessions by police who kept questioning them for hours. But until January's confession, there seemed to be little chance of overturning the convictions against McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, Kharey Wise and Yusef Salaam.

The confession came from Matias Reyes, 31, who is serving a life sentence for raping three women near Central Park and raping and killing a pregnant woman. He said he broke his long silence after finding religion.

Reyes told investigators he raped the jogger, crushed her skull with a rock and left her for dead. He also said he followed his usual pattern of acting alone.

"I was a monster," Reyes said in a recent TV interview. "I did some real bad things to so many people and harmed them in so many ways."

DNA test results returned in May corroborated his story and Morgenthau said one of his public hairs was found at the scene. The same tests — more sophisticated

than methods available a decade ago — failed to link the five youths to the crime scene.

The former prosecutor in the case, Linda Fairstein, recently said she has no doubts the five are guilty and that Reyes merely finished the assault.

At trial, the only physical evidence connecting the boys to the attack was blond hair found on one of the youths that prosecutors said matched that of the victim. But Morgenthau said new tests showed the hair was not hers after all.

Moreover, the district attorney said the boys' alleged confessions had "serious weaknesses." Their accounts "differed from one another on the specific details of virtually every major aspect of the crime — who initiated the attack, who knocked the victim down, who undressed her, who struck her, who held her, who raped her, what weapons were used."

The prosecutor said "it is clear that Reyes is the person who tied the jogger with her own T-shirt ... strikingly similar to the way he tied another of his victims."

Defense attorneys said there was clear wrongdoing by police in the case, but nothing in the 58-page recommendation from prosecutors questioned the methods used by detectives in securing the confessions.

"This new evidence — all it does is implicate an additional perpetrator," said Michael Palladino of the Detectives' Endowment Association. "None of the evidence exonerates or eliminates the additional five."

The youths were also convicted of attacking several other people in the park that night, but Morgenthau said those should also be dropped.

The jogger, a former employee of Salomon Bros., is now 41. She lives in a Connecticut suburb and works for a nonprofit organization. She has been married for five years and is said to have a book due out in April.

Deloris Wise, the mother of Kharey Wise, said her son entered prison as a bewildered youth and left a bitter and broken man.

"He doesn't even realize what's going on today," a tearful Wise said. "He doesn't care. Why should he?"

Jury sends convicted killer to join father on death row

Murderer aided friend in Sept. 6, 2001 slaying

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP) — A man convicted of helping to torture and murder his friend's adoptive parents will join his father on death row.

Jurors deliberated three hours Wednesday before sentencing Landon D. May, 20, to death for his role in the murders of elementary school principal Lucy Smith and her husband, Terry, on Sept. 6, 2001.

The same jury convicted May last week of two counts of first-degree murder.

The decision came despite the contention of May's attorney that the defendant suffered from a "brain dysfunction" that prevented him from thinking normally. The lawyer said May also once required medical treatment for depression and anxiety.

May's father, Freeman May, was sentenced to death in 1995 for a 1982 murder.

Lancaster County Assistant District Attorney Craig Stedman forcefully laid out the gruesome details of the crime in his two-hour closing statement Wednesday during the trial's penalty phase.

Stedman said May helped plan the early-morning home invasion and duct-taped, tortured, and murdered Lucy and Terry Smith in their Ephrata townhouse.

He said May and friend Michael Bourgeois stabbed Terry Smith with a barbecue fork dozens of times while trying to get Smith to disclose the password on his bank account card.

And Stedman said May forced Lucy

Smith, the Bourgeois' 18-year-old adoptive mother, to perform oral sex on him during the two-hour attack. The couple suffered nearly 200 wounds from being stabbed, shot and beaten before they finally were strangled, he said.

"If you're thinking about mercy, then it's entirely appropriate to think about the mercy he showed these two people in September 2001 when he held their lives in his hands," Stedman told jurors.

Bourgeois; Drene Rodriguez, his lover at the time; and Steven L. Estes, 19, also are charged with first-degree murder in the case and are awaiting trial. Estes, who was accused of helping plan the crime but was jailed for car theft at the time, has cooperated with prosecutors.

May's attorney, Gerald Lord, gave jurors a laundry list of psychological treatment his client has undergone since he was 5 years old.

Despite that, May finally fell in with

and followed a bad crowd, Lord said. "He lost all structure, he's a follower," Lord said. "He committed a heinous crime with these people."

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