

theSpartanDaily.com
Spartan Daily

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 30 2008

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New season for women's basketball



Table with 4 columns (F, SA, SU, M) and 2 rows of temperature forecasts (High/Low).

State government cuts slice of CSU budget

RYAN BUCHAN Staff Writer

The California state government is cutting an additional \$31.3 million from the Cal State University's budget...

"The state is in a budget deficit," said Jeff Sinclair, a senior environmental science major...

ways have to cut it from the schools."

Teresa Ruiz, a media representative for the CSU, said the September budget was about the same as last year's...

The Web site stated that the only additional revenue for the CSU was the increase of student fees...

"We are already paying so much in tuition," said Suzanne Hancock,

a junior business accounting major. "That's not cool. They are already taking too much money from us."

Pat Lopes Harris, a media relations specialist at SJSU, said the university will lose \$1.86 million from the new round of cuts.

"It's a relatively small portion of our funds, but not insignificant," Lopes Harris said.

She added that the cut only accounted for 2 percent of the univer-

sity's total budget.

Ruiz said the amount cut from each university will not be the same and each campus is responsible for deciding how they will handle the cut.

Lakshmi Venkatesan, a sophomore business finance major, said she is worried that the cuts will impact a lot of programs and clubs the university offers.

Lopes Harris said the normal op- >>> BUDGETpage2

SJSU CHEFS FIRED UP OVER OLYMPIC GUESTS



Gianpaulo Ruiz, sous chef at the Dining Commons for four years, employs a cooking method called flambé, in which alcohol is added to a hot pan to create a burst of flames...

DEREK SIJDER / Spartan Daily

RIE NAKANISHI Staff Writer

For SJSU's executive chef Jay Marshall and sous chef Gianpaulo Ruiz, it was a special moment to see U.S.

Olympic athletes on the medal stands at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"Our passion to them was to see them succeed," Marshall said. "And we saw that two weeks later when they

were standing on the medal stands and getting medals. I never felt that close to (the Olympics)."

Marshall and Ruiz fed Olympians before they left for Beijing this summer.

"Wow" was Ruiz's initial reaction to hearing the news about athletes coming to SJSU, he said.

>>> CHEFSpage6

CULTIVATING A 'VEGGIELUTION'



Mark Medeiros, a senior sociology major and co-founder of the Veggielution group, explains to a volunteer that a compost pile has to be moved in order to properly decompose for farming at the Emma Prusch Farm Park on Wednesday.

CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ / Spartan Daily

ANDREA FRAINIER Staff Writer

With cars zooming by on the nearby Highway 280 and Highway 101 junction, 25 Veggielution volunteers came together last Sunday to cultivate a one-fourth acre of farmland established by two SJSU students.

Mark Medeiros, a senior sociology major, and Amie Frisch, who graduated from SJSU in 2007, started their "Veggielution" project with backyard gardens.

"We got four backyard gardens going over the course of the spring and summer of 2007," Medeiros said. "And toward the fall of 2007 ... this got to be bigger than we ever thought it would be."

As their backyard gardens grew, so did their aspirations, and Medeiros and Frisch moved their gardening project to Emma Prusch Farm Park, 40 acres

of open space designated specifically to be an agriculturally themed park.

"We came out here, our jaws dropped," Medeiros said. "A lot of people do not realize that there is this much land still in the city."

From there, Frisch and Medeiros asked the Emma Prusch Farm Park Foundation for 12 acres of land to start an urban farming project.

"We basically bugged them for six months," Medeiros said. "(We) kept showing up at their meetings, writing them letters, phone calls."

The city gave them one-fourth of an acre of land that Veggielution volunteers have been developing since April of this year.

>>> GARDENpage2

Government workers say hope is still alive

JOEY AKELEY Staff Writer

A group of six government representatives told students who are struggling to find a job that there is hope, assuring them that many government job openings will be available in the near future.

More than 100 students and faculty listened to the government panel speak at the "Explore a Career in Government" event Wednesday in the Student Union.

Run by SJSU's Career Center, the event's speakers explained how to get a government job and the rewards of it.

The panel members convened to represent county, city, state and federal government, and they each agreed that government positions will open over the next few years due to retirements.

"That's the best part is working with the students," said Sally Bennett, a government representative for the state of California. "You are our future. With each of these service organizations, we are looking for the talent that is needed. So, you have picked the right event to be that because 80,000 state workers are at retirement age this time out of 300,000."

For those looking to gain government experience, SJSU alumnus Eric Ramones, who works for the San Jose Fire Department, explained that internships are coming up for the city of San Jose.

"The internship positions are posted from November 10 to November 21 and you need to go online to do that," he said. "We have about 100 to

>>> JOBSpage2

GARDEN Quickly outgrows 1/4 acre area

"We think of it as a pilot plot to prove that this works and we can do it," Frisch said. Six months and thousands of pounds of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and watermelons later, Veggielution has quickly outgrown its one-fourth acre operation. Currently, the organization is working on a proposal to ask the city for more land for a large scale community farm with a youth program. "We would love to get as much of this land out here as we can," Frisch said. "There's somewhere between eight to 12 acres out there and we would love to grow food on the whole thing if possible." During the summer months, Frisch estimated the group harvested about 200 pounds of vegetables a week. Currently, the group is preparing the space for winter crops such as peas, carrots, broccoli, lettuce and spinach. "We encourage all the volunteers that come to take home whatever they want and eat it," Frisch said. "And the rest of it we donate to a soup kitchen called Martha's Kitchen." Angela Dube, 22, has volunteered at the garden since

its beginning. "It's been really interesting," she said. "We started off not knowing what we were doing and just watch the tomatoes taking over the entire area. It's been a really big learning experience and it's really cool to see it expand with volunteers. We started off with only a few people and last week we had almost 60 people come out." This past Sunday, 25 volunteers came to the garden, many of them first-time volunteers. "I just wanted to do it to be part of the community and give back," said Bridget Ore, a sophomore animation illustration major at SJSU and first-time Veggielution volunteer. "Everybody was really friendly and I feel really welcome and ready to do good work." Robbie Sugg, a sophomore art major, also came to the garden to volunteer for the first time. "It's really important for me to work with food in the community because it sustains us," he said. "So many people don't know where food comes from. They just think it comes from the store." Not all the students who came

to the garden were from SJSU. Four students from Bellarmine Preparatory High School came to the garden to fulfill community service requirements. "It's pretty relaxed," said Ben Stuart, a senior at Bellarmine. "It feels like you are actually doing something." "We've been here for an hour and half and we have already cleared that whole roll (of peppers) and filled this compost pile. ... Right there you have cars," he said pointing to the freeway overpass. "And then here's a little oasis of gardening. It's quite cool." Medeiros said he wanted to create a safe space to demystify the process of gardening. "One of our really big goals is we want people to be able to come here and see that it actually is easy to grow food," Frisch said. "Anybody can do it so people can take what they learn and see here and go home or go somewhere else and do it on their own." Everyone is invited to volunteer at the garden on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Emma Prusch Park located at 647 South King Road in San Jose.

BUDGET University already planned for cuts

erations of the campus will not be affected. It will try to curtail travel for employees and will not immediately fill vacancies in staff positions to adjust to the cuts. Lopes Harris added that the university already predicted poor economic times in the spring and planned for the additional cuts. A letter to all staff from SJSU President Jon Whitmore stated that CSU Chancellor Charles Reed expected additional cuts to come throughout the year and that campuses should start planning now. Cal State Chico had a similar approach to the cuts as SJSU said

Joe Wills, the public affairs director at Chico. He said Chico examined each position vacancy to make sure it was absolutely necessary, as well as limiting travel. Cal State Fullerton is taking a different approach to the problem. Paula Selleck, spokeswoman for the university, said Fullerton is in the middle of a five-year campaign to fill vacancies and to replace retiring faculty. It is hiring an average of 85 new faculty members a year. She added that Fullerton also foresaw the economic crisis and planned for it by reducing enrollment and dropping some classes

in advance. Selleck said Fullerton had the highest enrollment of any university at more than 50,000 students applying for admission for the Fall 2008 semester. Selleck said the university had to reduce the number of students being enrolled due to budget demands. The entire CSU system has seen an increase of student applications. About 50,000 people have applied to the 23-campus system in the first 12 days of the application period, a 21 percent increase from last year, according to a news release from the CSU.

JOBS More to government than media show

150 internships, and I'm glad to say that two-thirds of those are from SJSU. Two-thirds are also paid internships, some are volunteered, but they all receive college credit." Each panelist described rewards of working for the government. Bennett remembered a conversation that she had with her uncle and father about how rewarding working for the government is. "My father and uncle said, 'When you get close to 70, you have a tendency to reflect on your life and if you have had a life well spent. Public servants have a life well spent. I didn't know what he meant at the time. But I do now.'" Ramones said that working for the government, "Adds diversity to your work and there is never a moment where it is dull." "Your customer is not someone who buys your product," he said. "It is everyone in San Jose. And it is a great feeling to have, when you serve your own city." Cash Alae, a city of Palo Alto representative said, there is a dif-

ference between the government jobs that the media talk about and the government jobs that most people have. "Government is not what you read in the newspapers, what you see on television," Alae said. "There are the policy people, which are your council members and your supervisors, your elected officials. Then, there is the administration, the civil servants who do the work. Their values, their vision, their drive, what gives them inspiration every day is really different than the policy people." Jacques Bickett-Belet, a senior communications major, said he was interested in a government job and found the panelists informative. "This has been a good, inspiring conversation to have, just to open up the possibilities that are there from the government aspect," Bickett-Belet said. "It is something that you don't learn much about if you are in a non-political science field, and this is good for any department to be exposed to."

Jennifer Gau, a public administration graduate student, has already worked government jobs and she gave advice for fellow graduate students. "Definitely get as much experience as we all can," Gau said. "The jobs opening I got were mainly volunteer, but they are all really good." Rose Marquart, liberal arts employment specialist at the SJSU Career Center who helped organize the event, said, "Mostly, I was really excited to have the city, the county, the state and the federal all in one house. I think there are a lot of similarities between their agencies. I think it was really exciting for them to talk about not only the number of openings for students, but their benefits, salaries, and the wide range of opportunities." Besides Ramones, Bennett and Alae, Santa Clara representative Paula Mogliolo, federal representative Larry Sovinsky, and city of San Jose representative Margarita Mendoza spoke at the event.

SPARTAGUIDE EVENTS CALENDAR

30 TODAY

Student Showcase Hour 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. in the Music Building Concert Hall. Contact Professor Joan Stubbe 924-4649.

The Rock Are you a musician struggling in the midst of this business-esque atmosphere? Come to the Rock where you can find musicians, play music and be heard. 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Student Union Montalvo Room. Contact Jeremy Mallard at Maljeremy@gmail.com

Bible Study Acts 2 Christian Fellowship has weekly Bible studies on Thursdays. 7 p.m. in the Student Union Guadalupe Room. Contact Justin Foon at jfoon1@yahoo.com or (415) 786-9873.

Free Water Fitness Class In order to give students a trial of one of their fitness classes, Associated Students Campus Recreation is opening a water fitness class, "H2O Blast," for free on October 31. 12 to 1 p.m. in SPX 79, the indoor pool. Contact Campus Recreation at 408-924-6218 or e-mail dmoore@as.sjsu.edu.

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03 MONDAY

Campus Pregnancy Support Team Pregnant? Confused? Need Support? We are here for you. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Student Union Guadalupe Room. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Hugh Gillis Hall Room 255. Contact a trained peer counselor at: (408) 376-1233 or cpst.sjsu@gmail.com or for a list of our services visit sites.google.com/site/cpstsjsu

31 FRIDAY

Free Water Fitness Class In order to give students a trial of one of their fitness classes, Associated Students Campus Recreation is opening a water fitness class, "H2O Blast," for free on October 31. 12 to 1 p.m. in SPX 79, the indoor pool.

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

Camera cinemas advertisement listing various movie theaters and showtimes, including Camera 7 Pruneyard, Camera 12 Downtown, Camera 3 Entertainment, and Camera 3 San Jose.

Cleanroom and Laboratory Micro-Cleaner Position advertisement and Family Life Chiropractic advertisement featuring a back pain relief program.

Grad Fest advertisement for Spartan Bookstore, featuring graduation needs such as diploma frames, caps & gowns, and class rings.

BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE

Language professor and India native finds a home at San Jose State

MATTHEW KIMEL
Staff Writer

Through educating others, SJSU Professor B. Kumaravadivelu, who goes by the name Kumar, had an epiphany; Academic pursuit without social relevance is meaningless.

"My educational philosophy combines education with social commitment," Kumar frequently tells his students of the linguistic and language development program.

"Intellectual development without social commitment is blind, and social commitment without intellectual development is dumb."

Kumar's fascination with instructing was spawned during his childhood by his father's attraction to educating others in their village in South India.

At a young age, Kumar understood the importance of education.

His father, V. Balasubramanian, was an elementary school teacher who wasn't satisfied with the educational system in their small town in the state of Tamil Nadu.

But his lack of economic resources prevented him from changing the system.

"Everybody laughed at him because he didn't have enough money to do it," Kumar said.

The youngest of five siblings, Kumar was the only one who went to college. His working brothers and father helped support him because higher education was highly subsidized due to socialism in his country.

A STUDENT

"Because of all of (my father's) struggles, I decided not only to enter the field of education," Kumar said, "but for him I had to do my best."

Kumar earned a bachelor's degree in English literature at the University of Madras in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Kumar started a United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization club in his hometown.

"It was a challenge," said Kumar, who got the idea when he finished his first master's degree, also in English literature.

As the president, he organized night classes in basic literacy for school dropouts.

The club encouraged youth leaders to help spread the importance of literacy and cultural awareness "because there were very poor people (in India) who would rather send their kids to factories than to work to bring some money home," Kumar said.

Prior to coming to the United States, Kumar was offered a fellowship at Lancaster University in England to pursue a second master's in linguistics for language teaching.

"My transition from my Indian life to my British experience was not really challenging," Kumar said. Through reading English literature, both fiction and nonfiction, Kumar already knew what to expect from life in Britain.

While working at Lancaster University, Larry Selinker, a professor from the University of Michigan, showed interest in a project being done by Kumar that related to theoretical ideas Selinker had developed. Selinker later offered Kumar a scholarship as a Ph.D. scholar at the University of Michigan.

Kumar, however, was not ready at the time to accept the offer, especially after hearing about all the snow in Ann Arbor.

"It was a difference of 100 degrees," he said, comparing India's climate to the harsh winters in Ann Arbor.

After Kumar completed his degree, he went back to India, where he met his future wife Revathi Krishnaswamy, who would later become an associate professor at SJSU.

Shortly after, Kumar said the University of Michigan offered him a full-ride scholarship and a teaching assistant job to help meet expenses without ever applying to the school.

"Coming to the USA was slightly different," Kumar said in comparison with moving to England. In 1984, Selinker helped him through the transition and in 2000 Kumar became an American citizen because he wanted to be able to "take an active part in the social/political life of the country," he said.

After finishing his doctorate, Kumar was planning to go back to India, but Selinker convinced him to teach in the United States for at least two years.

A TEACHER

Kumar made short stops at the University of Minnesota and the University of Alabama before coming to SJSU.

In 1991, the linguistic and language development department was founded at SJSU with Kumar, Professor Peter Lowenberg and Professor Marth Bean as its staff. Kumar specializes in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, applied linguistics and teaching of culture.

"He's a really good teacher," said Alex Lange, a TESOL graduate studies major who has taken quite a number of classes with Kumar. "He's very personable."

"Kumar showed me so much," said Kristjan Bondesson, a former student of Kumar's, in an e-mail. "I definitely understand that the teaching of any subject does not exist in a bubble from which the outside world and the participants' experiences are unrelated," added Bondesson, who currently teaches international communications in Japan.

Kumar said he appreciates

similarities between life in San Jose and in India.

"Right here ... at SJSU," he said, "one of the things I like most is the diversity — the linguistic and cultural diversity around students and faculty members."

Kumar has won various awards and honors from both SJSU and California State University.

"I don't have the data," Lowenberg said, "but I think a lot of our graduate students have come to San Jose State because of hearing about Kumar or reading his work thinking, 'I'd like to study with him.'"

Kumar also assists teachers of the California Tamil Academy, a nonprofit organization that helps teach one of several Indian languages to people in the Bay Area.

Kumar periodically trains the teachers who are well-versed in Tamil on tips of how to teach, as they have no prior teaching experience.

A WRITER AND A SCHOLAR

Kumar has written three books, two of which were published by Yale University.

His most recent book "Cultural Globalization and Language Education" was published earlier this year.

"I don't know how he does it all," Lowenberg said. "I wish I could."

Kumar has been invited to do keynote addresses at international conferences in Australia, Brazil, Colombia, England, Finland, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States.

"He's been invited to present keynote addresses on every inhabited continent," Lowenberg said.

His work has been published in 28 journals as well; including the TESOL Quarterly, the flag-



B. Kumaravadivelu

DEREK SIJDER / Spartan Daily

ship journal of Kumar's field.

"He's a rare combination of an excellent teacher, accomplished writer and linguistic researcher," Lange said.

Lowenberg said Kumar has made a good contribution to the field, as his work is con-

stantly being referenced by other researchers.

he says or writes is not accepted by the mainstream," Lowenberg said. "He's quite courageous."

In November 2006, Kumar published an article in the San Jose Mercury News pushing forth the notion that the American public may be "long on opinions and short

on facts" because they are not well informed. Kumar stressed that Americans should be able to receive Al-Jazeera English TV to better understand the Islamic world.

he says or writes is not accepted by the mainstream," Lowenberg said. "He's quite courageous."

Even though the children are Americans, Indian culture is present in their lives.

Chandrika is currently taking violin lessons learning to play classical Indian music and Anand plays a South Indian percussion instrument called mridhangam.

Kumar said he truly enjoys teaching.

"It really gives me an unexplainable satisfaction," he said. "It keeps me going."

Krishnaswamy, like Kumar, is passionate about teaching and comes from a family of teachers as well, she said.

"If we weren't teaching at SJSU, we would probably be teaching under a tree somewhere," she said. "We would have done it anyways, no matter what."

"I definitely understand that the teaching of any subject does not exist in a bubble from which the outside world and the participants' experiences are unrelated."

KRISTJAN BONDESSON
SJSU alumnus

A CAREER PARENT

Today, Kumar and his wife are extremely busy with their careers and their two kids, Chandrika, 14, and Anand, 12, who are con-

UPCOMING CONCERTS @ THE EVENT CENTER

RISE AGAINST

with Alkaline Trio, Thrice, The Gaslight Anthem
Friday, November 7
6:30 pm
Tickets: \$29.50 General

JOLIN TSAI

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7:00 pm
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E D I T O R I A L

The editorial board of the Spartan Daily reviewed each proposition on the California ballot, discussed their merits, and made endorsements.

Proposition 1A: High-Speed Rail Bonds: NO

While it would create jobs and bring a reliable train system to California, it's not the right time for a \$9.95 billion deal that would cost \$19.4 billion over 30 years, not counting maintenance. This would be a better idea to propose when economic times are looking up for California. Also, the proposed route would travel through Pacheco Pass, a fairly undeveloped region inhabited by endangered species.

Proposition 2: Standards for confining farm animals: NO

The proposition's wording is too broad and includes too many categories to garner its support. The proposition could make it hard for smaller farms to compete in a market hindered by a slow economy.

Inferior products, especially eggs, from out of state and possibly Mexico could flood the market. Proposition 2 could also decrease state and local tax revenues as companies move out of state.

Proposition 3: Children's Hospital Bond Act: NO

This bill is too expensive for California. Voters passed an initiative with the same criteria in 2004, and not all the funds have been distributed from it yet. As was the case with most bond measures on this year's ballot, the proposition would contribute to the state's budget woes.

Proposition 4: Waiting period and parental notification before termination of minor's pregnancy: NO

This proposition has the potential to cause pregnant young women to go to drastic measures for an abortion. Proposition 4 requires parents' signatures on a notification form, which disapproving parents may refuse to sign, delaying the abortion.

Proposition 5: Nonviolent drug offenses: Unanimously NO

This proposition creates loopholes for criminals and cuts down on jail time for methamphetamine dealers. The bond measure included was icing on the cake for a unanimous opposition. This proposition was not well thought out and is too expensive for California.

Proposition 6: Police and law enforcement funding: Unanimously NO

This proposition is too expensive for California, while failing to guarantee that it would put more police on the streets in cities that need it. This would also take money away from other publicly funded programs.

Proposition 7: Renewable energy generation: NO

This proposition is poorly worded and could potentially cause another energy crisis with larger companies forcing smaller companies out of the market, resulting in higher electricity rates. It

punishes local municipalities rather than helping them.

Proposition 8: Eliminates the right of same-sex couples to marry: Unanimously NO

The Daily's editorial board unanimously opposed this proposition without discussion. Two people have the right to marry, no matter what.

Proposition 9: Criminal justice system: NO

This is an expensive and unnecessary proposition. Victims are already notified of many stages of the criminal process. When an offender is released under the Victim's Bill of Rights, victims are notified. There is no reason to promote this legislation to a constitutional amendment. Also, this proposition would remove some of the rights of the supposed offender in early stages of the criminal process.

Proposition 10: Alternative fuel vehicles: Unanimously NO

This proposition would cost the state \$10 billion after 30 years and it doesn't guarantee any environmental benefits. It is too expensive for our state right now.

Proposition 11: Redistricting: NO

The commission would not be elected and would have no accountability to the people, and therefore the voters would still have no say in who is drawing district lines. Voters already turned away a similar initiative in 2005.

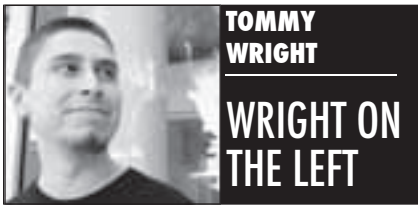
Proposition 12: Veteran's bond act of 2008: YES

This proposition theoretically comes with a way to pay itself back and benefits people who deserve the state's aid – veterans. Although it does not specify how it could help the neediest veterans, it is worth the potential cost to the state.

Measure B: Expanding BART to Santa Clara County: YES

Expanding BART to the county is a necessary expansion of mass transit in an area flooded with automobiles. The cost will be a minor burden to the area, even in the economic downturn.

Participants: David Zugnoni, John Hornberg, Colleen Watson, Mark Powell, Tommy Wright, Angelo Lanham, Kimberly Tsao, Carlos A. Moreno, William Cooley, Megan Hamilton, Matthew Mountford and Chris Bausinger.

Will someone 'steal' this election?

The past two presidential elections have come down to a single battleground state with allegations of the GOP stealing the election. Whether or not there are any legitimate threats that will affect this election, the claims of tampering and fraud are already starting. What happens this year may affect elections in the future.

In 2000, the election came down to Florida. At the time, George W. Bush's brother, Jeb, was the governor of the state. Katherine Harris was the secretary of state in Florida as well as the co-chairwoman of the Bush campaign in the state.

Four years later, Kenneth Blackwell did the same double duty in Ohio. He was also secretary of state and co-chair of the Bush campaign.

The chief executive and chairman of Diebold, a company that made electronic voting machines that were used in the 2004 elections in Ohio, told President Bush in a letter that he would help the Bush campaign in the state, according to a November 2003 New York Times article.

"I am committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president next year," wrote Walden W. O'Dell.

Those seem to be conflicts of interest that may have turned both elections for Bush.

Rep. Corrine Brown said the 2000 election was "stolen" by the Republicans. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. came to the same conclusion over the 2004 election.

I agree that the Bush campaign did everything it could, legal or not, to win the past two presidential elections. I also see the McCain campaign doing and saying anything it can to win this election. An example was in the final debate when McCain tried to get voters to come to the conclusion that Obama is trying to steal this election.

I agree that the Bush campaign did everything it could, legal or not, to win the past two presidential elections.

"We need to know the full extent of Senator Obama's relationship with ACORN, who is now on the verge of maybe perpetrating one of the greatest frauds in voter history in this country, maybe destroying the fabric of democracy," McCain said.

According to the CBS News Web site, McCain spoke at a rally sponsored by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, or ACORN, in 2006. The association's Web site states that it is a nonpartisan social justice organization.

The fraudulent registration forms that were turned in by ACORN will not affect the election. Mickey Mouse was one of the names on the forms turned in by ACORN, according to a New York

Times article on Monday. Unless Mickey Mouse shows up on Election Day with valid identification, he will not be able to vote.

According to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Web site, first-time voters must present proof of identification.

An article on the Time Magazine Web site states that Democrats say the voting fraud charges could scare people away from the polls. It also stated that Republicans say the fake registrations mean that polling should be closely watched. The writer concluded that this could cause delays and confrontations that could lead to less people voting.

The New York Times article quoted a voting expert from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard saying that the McCain comment was intended to portray Democrats as the party that will steal the election.

The expert, Alexander Keyssar, went on to explain how the GOP could be trying to "set the groundwork for more laws and procedural obstacles" to be enacted by the states before the next presidential election.

So although the election is still five days away and nothing has been decided yet, the Republicans may already be looking ahead toward 2012. I am hoping that Tuesday night will be an early night, with Obama blowing out McCain. If the election is a blowout, it will be hard for either side to claim that it was stolen. But the theft of 2012 may have already begun.

"Wright on the Left" appears every other Thursday. Tommy Wright is a Spartan Daily sports editor.

The best inventions will always be improved upon, even if we don't want them

A quartet of creations from ancient China is given the lofty title the "Four Great Inventions": paper, printing, compass and gunpowder.

Times sure have changed.

Nowadays, the compass has practically been replaced by GPS, OnStar and Google Maps. Gunpowder is still being used to give pleasure through fireworks and pain through weapons and explosives. There are bigger worries that don't need that substance, though. Two words: nuclear weapons.

As for paper and printing — better yet, paper and printing combined together in the media world — times have certainly changed.

The Christian Science Monitor announced Tuesday that it will end its weekday print edition in April, making its content exclusively online, and start a weekend magazine. According to The New York Times, The Monitor, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, is the first national newspaper to give up print for the most part.

As someone who uses the Internet

practically every day, this announcement should not surprise me. While online, I have access to many different news outlets without having to pay for services, or at least not yet anyways.

In this day and age, it would be practically unheard of for a news service or a publication to not have a Web site. That way they can reach a much larger audience beyond their corner of the globe. Perhaps you are even reading this article on your computer screen.

Yes, I tell myself this.

Yet as a journalism student, this announcement also gave me an uneasy feeling.

"We have the luxury — the opportunity — of making a leap that most newspapers will have to make in the next five years," said John Yemma, The Monitor's editor.

At a time when newspapers are being consolidated and controlled by a few, budgets and staffs have been slashed, will newspapers be relics of the past?

When television began having a strong presence 50 years ago, broadcast news was seen as a threat to newspapers. Still, newspapers provided a different service than televisions and fulfilled a niche: providing detailed, in-depth information that one can take in and digest at his or her pace. No electricity required.

Nowadays, Web sites can fulfill those same needs — to a certain extent.

Web sites combine many of the best parts of broadcast and print: One can view both images and videos, along with reading articles. The portability of publications can also be replicated through devices such as laptops and phones. Plus, just as there have been advancements in the other Great Inventions, such is the case here: People can receive information just minutes after an event has occurred, a benefit in a fast-paced society.

Still, whenever possible, I prefer the feeling of obtaining news on paper to scrolling through Web pages any day of the week. Getting newsprint ink on my fingers is just a bonus. There is just something about reading at the breakfast table and flipping through the pages to start off the day — perhaps a lost pastime by now.

Besides, sentimental feelings don't keep on the lights in the newsroom.

"Subtly Obvious" appears every Thursday. Sarah Kyo is a Spartan Daily copy editor.

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ANOTHER SHOT IN THE DARK

After a wealth of changes, the SJSU women's basketball team starts over — again

JOHN HORNBERG
Managing Editor

After finishing at or near the bottom of every offensive and defensive category in the Western Athletic Conference as a team last season, SJSU's women's basketball team will enter this season with high hopes and a new look.

"Coach said she wanted to surround herself with winners, on and off the court," said guard Natalie White, the team's only senior and one of four returning players from last season.

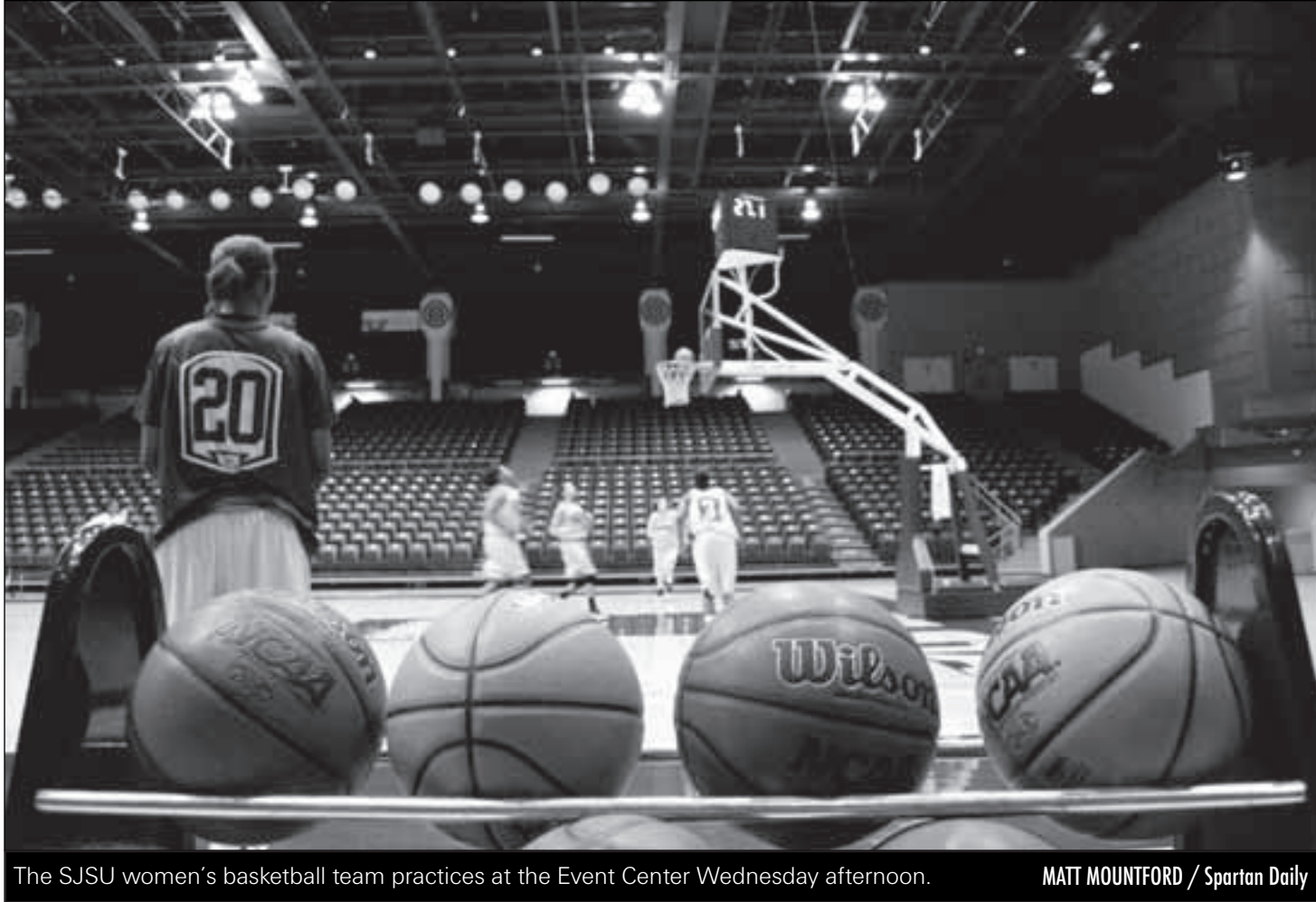
Second-year head coach Pam DeCosta made several changes after the team finished 3-28 last season. She made changes to the roster, replacing eight players who either left the program or graduated with 11 new players entering this year, including five new transfers.

"We needed to change the culture from top to bottom," said assistant coach Brett Studley. "In order to start moving in the right direction, we felt that we needed to separate ourselves in a whole new direction."

The only returning players from last year's team are White, sophomore guard Sayja Sumler, junior forward Aumornai Edinburgh and freshman forward Zlata Malicevic, who was a red-shirt last year.

Coach DeCosta inherited much of last year's team, Studley said. The only player she recruited was Sumler. Studley said the goals for recruiting going into the offseason were to bring in quality people with good character.

"Coming into the season, our



The SJSU women's basketball team practices at the Event Center Wednesday afternoon.

MATT MOUNTFORD / Spartan Daily

goal was to develop these kids," he said. "We did our job getting the kids here, but now, developing these kids the last six weeks, and getting them ready for the upcoming season."

Studley pointed to the team's five junior college transfer students — Shaunna Ridge, Kelly Blair, Chasity Shavers, Christina Calcagno, and Ashley Brown — as leaders for the six incoming freshmen on the team.

"I think our younger kids look to them," he said of the transfer students. "All being new, they

have something in common, but the junior college kids have a little bit of experience. The freshmen are a little wet behind the ears."

One of the aspects Sumler said this year's team is improving on is communication.

"It's a big thing we've been working on," she said. "With 11 new players on this team, and only four returning, we need to get everyone on the same page."

The team doesn't have a set number of wins it wants to reach this year, Studley said, but one

of the team's goals is to be competitive in the conference. Both White and Sumler said this year's team is more talented than last year's.

"Our team is very aggressive this year," Sumler said. "We have more people that have heart."

"We're deep one through 15 this year," she said. "Everyone can come and put something into the game. We weren't deep last year."

White said the returning players are trying to forget about last

season. She said last year's team lacked depth and the ability to play together.

"It was just one of those years that you got through and you take the learning experiences and move on," she said. "It's in the past and we don't want to even think about it."

DeCosta took over a team last year that finished 5-27 in the 2006-07.

*Staff writer Matthew Kimel contributed to this report.

KEY PLAYERS:

SAYJA SUMLER

DeCosta's only recruit from last year has suddenly become one of the only players left, and along with White, the only other player to see significant playing time last year. Sumler averaged a little less than 25 minutes per game last season. Besides Sumler, only Natalie White averaged more than nine points for the Spartans.

NATALIE WHITE

As the Spartans' only senior and last season's points per game (16) and rebounding (5.8) leader, White is in a key leadership role. She also led the WAC in free throw percentage at just under 81 percent. She carried most of the offensive load for the Spartans as the only player on the team to average more than 10 points per game.

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