

opposing views:

Should sporting events continue during times of war?

YES | *We need sports to distract and entertain in wartime*

Do we go to games or watch sports on television since war began on Wednesday, March 19?

Yes, sports activities are important to us as students at San Jose State University because we believe that somehow we all win when together we achieve a higher knowledge.

We tend to thrive and grow on sharing, building and living a community, group memory.

"Sports activities are important to us because we believe that somehow we all win when together we achieve a higher knowledge."



JANINE STANHOPE

how well the Giants played against the Padres at a packed Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco.

Everybody prays that this season Barry Bonds might learn how to catch as well as he hits.

I'm sure he will.

Sometimes the games should stop briefly in light of tragedy.

Scott Stoessal recalled in a recent article a vivid scene from the past of the Taliban, who used the largest stadium in Kabul to execute prisoners.

He also recalled that football season was delayed for the week after the tragedy of Sept. 11.

It was the best choice to have a time out.

He specifically noted how Pierre Salinger advised NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle to delay the games for two days following the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Rozelle decided to proceed with the games.

Critics apparently called it a public relations disaster, Stoessal said.

It was not the time.

When is the appropriate time to schedule a sporting event during any time of war?

Scheduled time-out delays in memory of the people we loved so much and who are gone were good decisions after 9/11 and Kennedy's assassination.

I am so sad today, and I know I will miss my friend that I have lost so terribly for a long time.

After a sorrowful impact, it is best to take time out, and then take the time to watch our favorite teams play ball because that is what we need to do.

Janine Stanhope is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.

Together we have a need to value learning and respect life in a safe, creative environment.

I deeply grieve the death of a wonderful, close family friend who unbearably died from a form of cancer Tuesday, and she was the one of the best of us all.

I prayed that she would be able to live a longer life.

We all sorrowfully grieve the deaths of those who have died during times of war.

Several radio talk show hosts urged the listening public to join in and voice their disapproval, while in their cars, during the first several days of the war.

Some people honked, and others waved at anti-war signs as the radio played anti-war songs, but as this went on, we also drove down Tenth Street to the softball game against University of Illinois-Chicago at SJSU field on March 20.

Since then, thousands of people have prayed and have met worldwide to demonstrate for and against the war.

Monday night, the evening news covered an angry, anti-war demonstration held at the port of Oakland.

The best part of that news broadcast was the story about



ILLUSTRATION BY GYL SINBANDITH

NO | *Trivial pursuits like sports detract from war effort*

Perhaps the sentiment that war "puts things in perspective" is what fuels the arguments of people who believe sports should not continue while our country is at war.

Although we have the right and the need to get on with our everyday lives, does the faux-battle of sports not seem insignificant and pointless when troops are half a world away in situations most of us couldn't imagine if we tried? What does a victory or loss mean in a game compared to that in war?

Are sports distraction or denial? (Or the story of "what good do distraction and denial do when the problem is still there?")

It's the little picture taking over. I do it all the time. When difficult things are happening in life, I look to the small things to make me happy, albeit superficially and temporarily.

While these things distract me, the large, important problems still loom. So I look for something else to build up in my mind, trying to convince myself it's of some significance. I get caught up in it, hoping it will somehow change the bigger picture, but it never does.

People get stuck on their little planets of which the center, god and only inhabitant is themselves, without much care for the planets outside of their own galaxy.

So long as we feel safe here at home, the reality of what is going on only reaches us in movie-like blurbs of footage when we get home and switch on the TV. It is a surreal battle unless someone we know is involved.

To move beyond protests and yellow ribbons and become truly invested in what is going on, whether or not one supports the motives of the war, is to try to put oneself in the shoes of the soldier, an innocent in Iraq or the parent of a casualty of war.

These family members and friends of those killed in the war know both the prize and the price of fighting. Their loved ones are paying with their sanity and lives for us to continue buying dodgy hotdogs, plopping down on the couch to watch ESPN and getting worked up over overtime in relative peace.

Anyone feeling guilty yet? No? I think we do our best to suppress it.

Still, I doubt I am the only one who, despite putting out of my mind what is going on while going to concerts, having fun and getting on with my own life, feels more than a tinge of guilt even when I'm just at the computer or driving to school.

One can argue that sports are America, sports are patriotic and sports bring people together in difficult times. During the "time-out" from sports, respect and patriotic honor for the people fighting for America would bring a different kind of unity.

The break from sports while there are Americans fighting in Iraq would be just that, a break. It is not sports' finale, and we would get on with our lives in other ways in the meantime.

Ultimately, it's a show of respect, not necessarily for the government or the war itself, but for the people who are doing a job few are willing to do so that we at home can have some sense of security.

"Does the faux-battle of sports not seem insignificant when troops are half a world away in situations most of us couldn't imagine if we tried?"



KIMBERLY LAPHAM

Kimberly Lapham is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.