

# Gav ram falls prey to decay

**Posted: Tuesday, July 20, 2004 12:00 am**

By Lori Stuenkel

GILROY – The Gavilan College mascot is crumbling. The 36-year-old, 6-foot high ram statue that stands within sight of Gavilan President Steve Kinsella's office will come down in a month.

"He's at the end of his days, I think," Gavilan President Steve Kinsella said.

Bill Dore, a Hollister resident who is starting his second year in Gavilan's health sciences program, said he recently found out the ram, made of concrete and fiberglass, is in bad shape, while visiting the campus with his daughter.

"I walked by the ram, and it's all taped off. It's kind of sad," Dore said.

But at the sight of Gavilan's stately mascot, Dore's daughter was prompted to recall her own school's mascot and the symbolism behind it.

"I think it's kind of important, in a way, to have your mascot up where people can see it," Dore said.

Gavilan officials say the ram must come down. Cracks pierce his sides and he appears to be crumbling away. They don't think he'll survive another winter, even a mild Gilroy winter. The college's maintenance department says he's becoming a liability.

"The problem is, it wasn't built out of long-term, durable materials," said Jan Bernstein Chargin, Gavilan spokeswoman, who broke the news of the ram's demise to Gavilan trustees during a recent board meeting.

The concrete ram was built on commission by then-Gavilan art student Chris Stuker in 1968. Stuker and art department head John Porter designed the ram after studying ancient cave paintings, sculptures of Henry Moore and articles and pictures of long horn and other breeds of sheep, according to a Dispatch article published June 18, 1968. The ram was finished in fiberglass with an antique bronze appearance and mounted on stone just past the western edge of the administration parking lot, looking toward campus.

Gavilan College unveiled its mascot replica just in time for its first graduation ceremony at the campus on Santa Teresa Boulevard.

In an attempt to salvage the ram, Chargin brought Stuker to campus to see if he could somehow repair it, but he agreed that the ram is beyond repair. He also noticed its horns are not the ones he originally created.

"It's not something that we would remove lightly," Chargin said. "If there was any way to not do this, I would have been the first one to pull that out, but I haven't found it.

"We don't want to let this go without a fitting ceremony."

Staff, students and members of the community can see the ram come down at 3 p.m. on Aug. 13, the first day Gavilan staff return to campus.

Gavilan Hollister-area Trustee Tom Breen said that, while it's unfortunate the ram will come down, it is, after all, only a symbol.

"Unfortunately, like all of us, its end has come," Breen said. "It's the institution's animal, so the rams will go on. Maybe when we get the place (rehabilitated), we'll get the ram rehabilitated as well."

Knocking him down should yield a glimpse into Gavilan's past: Stuker said he placed a time capsule in the statue and, from what he can tell, it's still there, Chargin said.

"Where was it?" asked Simon Cooke, last year's Associated Student Body President, who attended the Gavilan board meeting last week.

"It was in the, um, back end portion," responded a smiling Chargin.

Dore, the Gavilan student, doesn't want Gavilan to be without a prominent mascot.

"If they're going to get rid of it, they should at least replace it," he said.

Kinsella said there are no plans as yet for a replacement ram.

"I think it's safe to say we want to have something, but collectively, we haven't talked about it yet," he said.

Interested in blogging in the Gilroy Dispatch?

Contact Andrea Joseph  
ajoseph@svnewspapers.com

South Valley Windows  
  
 408-846-5454

SAVE **\$50** on every Window & Door installed



Welcome back, GavLib Logout | My Dashboard

Advertise  
Subscribe  
Contact

63°  
Clear



Click for Advanced Search  GO

News Sports Photos/Videos Lifestyles Opinion Blogs Business Obituaries Classifieds Special Publications Contact Reader Submissions

# PASSPORT WEEKEND SATURDAY & SUNDAY • MARCH 29 & 30

Home News Community

## Gav ram falls prey to decay

Story Comments Image (2)

Previous Next



Gav ram falls prey to decay

**Jack E. Fisher, D.P.M.**  
 Podiatrist • Foot Surgeon

We are pleased to announce...  
**Kaveh Akhbari, D.P.M.**

Specializing in Reconstructive Surgery of the Foot & Ankle

**Gavilan**  
 FOOT CARE CENTERS  
 80 5th St., Gilroy  
 408.842.0281

MARCH IS **VIP** MONTH!

**VIP**

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS WORKOUT ALONE!  
\*See club for details

EXCELLENCE IS OUR GOAL  
 8540 Church St., Gilroy  
 408.848.1234  
 www.gilroyfitness.com

Se Habla Español  
 You can find us on 

**GILROY HEALTH & FITNESS**

### Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news



South Valley Windows  
 SOUTH VALLEY WINDOWS  
 408-846-5454

SAVE ★★★★★  
**\$50** on every Window & Door installed



Welcome back, GavLib Logout | My Dashboard

Facebook icon: Advertise  
 Twitter icon: Subscribe  
 Contact

63° Clear



Click for Advanced Search

News Sports Photos/Videos Lifestyles Opinion Blogs Business Obituaries Classifieds Special Publications Contact Reader Submissions

# PASSPORT WEEKEND SATURDAY & SUNDAY • MARCH 29 & 30

Home News Community

## Gav ram falls prey to decay

Story Comments Image (2)

Previous Next

**Jack E. Fisher, D.P.M.**  
 Podiatrist • Foot Surgeon

We are pleased to announce...  
**Kaveh Akhbari, D.P.M.**

Specializing in Reconstructive Surgery of the Foot & Ankle

**Gavilan**  
 FOOT CARE CENTERS  
 80 5th St., Gilroy  
 408.842.0281

MARCH IS **VIP** MONTH!

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS WORKOUT ALONE!  
 \*See club for details

**COUPLES SPECIAL**

**\$19.99** Per Person Per Month\*  
 \*See club for details

**GILROY HEALTH & FITNESS**

Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

**Gavilan college to graduate 142**

Over 140 students and 100 faculty members, participating in the largest class ever to graduate from Gavilan College, will receive degrees at ceremonies in the main gymnasium Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

The program will begin with an organ prelude. Followed by the graduation procession led by Dr. Norman Carver, president of the board of trustees, and the high school, college president. Faculty members will wear full academic dress and pass the procession with the graduates in the main gymnasium.

Speeches to be heard at include Dr. Carver's at 7:30, Dr. Norman Carver, president of the board of trustees, and Dr. Robert Schaeffer and other special guests presented by Dr. Carver. The first song will be performed by the Gavilan College choir, and the second will be given by the Gavilan College choir. The third song will be performed by the Gavilan College choir. The fourth song will be performed by the Gavilan College choir. The fifth song will be performed by the Gavilan College choir.

**Rafferty's campaign chief quits**

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Robert Rafferty, the manager of Dr. Ben Rafferty's bid for

**Meeting called off**

The Aden's old club meeting scheduled for Saturday night was called off. The new members have been notified. The new members have been notified. The new members have been notified.

**Doctor says heavy smoke may as well puff up into...**