Bobbitt trial sliced through another sexual taboo

By Anne Georan


So what was accomplished in the cases of John and Lorena Bobbitt?

"The Bobbitts broke the penis barrier," said Paul Rothstein, a law professor at Georgetown University and a close observer of the Bobbitt trials.

"In many ways it has brought the penis out in the open to be talked about, and maybe that's good that sexual taboos are broken down," he said.

"But it also broke the penis barrier in the sense that this is the first attack like this (to receive such heavy publicity). There is the threat this may be considered license to evade personal responsibility," Rothstein said.

John Bobbitt's trial came first. It was three days of sometimes contradictory testimony featuring his often unintelligible explanations. The 26-year-old possessor of the world's most famous lost-and-found sex organ was acquitted by a jury in November of sexually assaulting his wife. Lorena Bobbitt's trial offered.

Anti-crime theme to come from presidential pulpit

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With polls showing crime as voters' No. 1 concern, White House speech writers are making sure Clinton's tough-on-thugs plans don't get lost in Tuesday's sweeping speech to Congress.

"Crime started out as a small component and got larger," said a White House aide helping to draft the speech. "It's going to be a significant portion of the speech."

In general, the State of the Union address is expected to review Clinton's first year in office, set goals for 1994 and repeat his key messages on a number of issues, including health care, welfare, crime, economic reform, education and foreign policy. His will not unveil many new details of proposed programs in the speech, which aides said had not been completed Sunday.

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INSIDE TODAY'S MUSTANG DAILY

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Sports

8 Mustang wrestlers score easy win over Golden Gators and Aggies

Swimmers lose big to CSU—Bakersfield but triumph over University of South Dakota

ASI looking to businesses for festival funds

Clubs ready to plan Open House, but planners say the till is empty

By Valeska Bailey

Cal Poly's "Foundation for the Future" kicked off with a mandatory club meeting Thursday afternoon that drew representatives from at least 200 campus clubs ready to make plans for the late April Open House.

But as clubs are beginning to set their plans, funding for the Open House has yet to be established, and ASI executives are scrambling for help from both the campus and the community.

More than a week ago, Open House planners said they were in deep financial trouble — looking for ways to find the funds to sponsor this year's celebration.

Open House is supposed to bring back to the campus and community what was lost in the 1990 cancelation of Poly Royal. Poly Royal was canceled by Cal Poly President Warren Baker after rioters clashed with local residents on national headline-grabbing violence.

Formerly, Poly Royal was funded by money generated by the previous year's event. The current financial deficit well emerged because all Poly Royal-generated money was distributed among other ASI programs after the open house was abandoned.

On Sunday, ASI President Marquagm Pros said the event is still in a financial quandary. He said he hopes ASI can move money internally to fund the event as an alternative. Open House committee members are actively courting businesses in San Luis Obispo, asking for monetary help to re-establish the campus open house.

"It's a community-wide event," Pros said.

While committee members are approaching the San Luis Obispo chamber of commerce, representatives from at least 200 campus clubs ready to plan Open House, but planners say the till is empty

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SPEECH: Clinton will recount progress, chart plans for crime war in speech

From page 1
"The president wants to talk to the American people about what he has accomplished, to tell them how he is doing the objectives he laid out — not only in the campaign but in the start of his presidency," said Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers.

Clinton, who campaigned as a "new Democrat," has slowly chopped away at the Republicans' traditional reputation as tougher on crime. He has supported a crime bill that includes 100,000 new police on city streets, boot camps for young, non-violent offenders and a ban on some semi-automatic weapons.

Expanding his gun control stance, the president recently asked the Justice Department to study whether gun owners should undergo the same type of licensing requirements as drivers.

The committees plans to meet with business leaders at "Good Morning San Luis Obispo," a gathering of chamber and Business Improvement Association members, as well as other local leaders — to update the group on Open House plans. But Duffy said it is not expected to endorse a proposal that would require lifetime jail sentences for people convicted of three violent felonies, said two administration officials, including the White House aide. Both spoke on condition of anonymity.

Appearing Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Reno declined to say whether Clinton supported the "three-time loser" concept. She did say the administration wants to crack down on repeat offenders.

"We've got to identify the truly bad and put them away," she said.

In an attempt to focus on punishment, Clinton also will urge states to move away stays uniform more closely with sentences, the White House aide said. Clinton is not expected to mention specifics, but aides say the White House is not opposed to Republican proposals to give states money and other incentives to reform sentencing laws.

Clinton also will broadly promote administration plans to cut a greater emphasis on drug treatment and prevention programs, aides said.

White House drug control director Lee Brown said Sunday that most violent crime is linked to drug usage.

"So our policy will start off with the first major goal of reducing the demand for drugs, particularly the chronic hard-core drug user," Lee said on NBC.

The high-profile anti-crime pitch will come on the heels of a New York Times-CBS News poll showing that concerns over crime and violence has become the nation's No. 1 worry. Nineteen percent of respondents said crime or violence was the single biggest problem facing the nation.

OPEN HOUSE: Poly Royal replacement's ambitions bigger than its bank account

From page 1
Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce and other businesses, ASI's Finance Committee also is searching for funds within ASI, Piros said.

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543-7778
Woman attacked Friday after leaving downtown bar

Men attempt assault after offering ride

**Daily Report**

A woman returning from a local party Friday night was attacked by two men in a pickup truck between 1:30 a.m. and 2 a.m. as she drove the driver stopped the truck and told her he was not interested in letting her home, police reported. When the woman refused to get inside, the 24-year-old white male with blond hair — attacked her, screwsed up and fought her out.

**QUAKE: Sizeable tremors still agitating L.A.**

The Red Cross sheltered 7,300 people in schools and gymnasiums and put up 3,200 in tents. Some 1,200 people have already received federal checks to use for temporary rental housing.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced it was mailing 11,000 checks for personal assistance grants. The agency has taken 24,717 applications for the grants, which provide up to $10,000 to rebuild homes.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Mustang Daily

Hey editor, gotta question? Gotta remedy? Whadda bout some editorials?

Karen Lee

John Bollbott, Editor-in-Chief
Maki A. Y. Tachibana, Managing Editor
Les Arndt, Assistant Managing Editor
Kyrin Brown, Opinion Editor
Mike Staley, Sports Editor
Rene S. Tezanos, Art Editor
Brad Hulst, Sports Editor

Advisor: Scott Newsom, Assoc. Professor, Mass Comm

Should Lorena Bobbitt have been acquitted?

"The Bobbitts broke the penis barrier," said Paul Robotham, a law professor at Georgetown University and a close observer of the Bobbitt trials. "In many ways it has brought the penis out in the open to be talked about, and maybe that's good that sexual taboos are broken down," he said.

"I think it was wrong that Lorena Bobbitt was acquitted. She only has to spend six days in a hospital. That wasn't enough for what she did. Her actions were obviously premeditated. She went into the kitchen, got out a knife, pulled back the sheets and did the dirty deed."

Jeff Jenkins

Agricultural business senior

"We have a great governmental sys­tem, but there are too many acquiti­tals. First the officers in the Rodney King trial, then the men in the Reginald Denny trial. Now this. Is it justice or politics?"

Max Colado

Business senior

"I think it's OK. But I understand the other side too. She was beaten and probably shouldn't have taken such drastic measures. But when it came through the whole trial, but he was guilty too."

Julie Wright

Architects engineering sophomore

"I don't think she should have been acquitted. I know he was a jerk, but her actions weren't justified. They were too drastic. Why didn't she just cut off his hand instead?"

Paul Souza

Architectural engineering sophomore

"It's true. Lorena Bobbitt's actions were a little harsh. I understand that she was beaten, but I don't think she provoked enough to justify doing what she did."

Christie Molt

Architectural engineering sophomore

They can't ban the beautiful lighter, can they?

William Stone

Mechanical engineering junior

Guns themselves aren't the problem, the people who shoot them

Re: "Take a look at the 'Death Clock,'" Mustang Daily, 1/14

Since my name has been brought up, and my reputa­tion attacked recently in Mustang Daily, I feel it is only fair that I be allowed to answer my critics.

First I will respond to the personal attacks: I have not trivialized murder, nor have I maimed that it is not my fault, as Hastings incorrectly alleges.

Regarding some of your other unfounded personal references to me, I can only answer that you have never met me. You don't know me and you don't know why I own a firearm.

However, Nicita also states that a single-shot bolt­action rifle would have been a less lethal choice for Purdy to have made in the school yard massacre of six people. This is not necessarily true.

For example, on July 12, 1977 at 8:30 a.m., Edward Allaway, a junior at Cal State University at Fullerton, entered the university library. Using a .22 caliber rifle, he shot 23 times in five minutes. He killed seven people.

My point in using this example, is that it is not the firearm itself that is the problem. A .22 can be just as lethal, if not more lethal, than a firearm. The problem was not the choice of weapon, it was Allaway himself. He was a homicidal psychopathic state.

Prohibition doesn't work

Re: "Changing my mind about gun control," Mustang Daily, 1/14

I am alarmed by the anti-gun articles I've been read­ing lately. I can't believe Congress has convinced intel­ligent Americans that banning firearms will reduce violent crime. If anything, gun control will only increase one's likelihood of becoming a victim.

Throughout history we have learned that making things illegal does not make them unavailable to criminals. During Prohibition, alcohol was readily available on the black market, as were the scores of illegal machine guns that gangsters used to rule the underworld.

Today, criminals can go to their local park and pur­chase a wide variety of drugs or firearms. Those ac­tivities are forbidden by law, but they happen every day.

If the government bans firearms, it would remove guns from millions of law-abiding citizens — leaving thousands of criminals armed and dangerous. Gun control advocates believe outlawing firearms will eliminate violent crimes in America. Unfortunately, it will not. It is simply the government's quick-fix solution to a problem that has no simple answer.

We are refusing to blame criminals

Re: "Take a look at the 'Death Clock,'" Mustang Daily, 1/10

Gun control advocates cannot begin to understand how angry it makes responsible gun owners like myself when we are blamed for the violent acts of a few irresponsible criminals.

Consider the recent riot in Southern California. In a matter of seconds, some deranged firebug started a blaze that obliterated entire neighborhoods, leaving thousands of people without homes and causing millions of dollars in damages.

Everyone likes to see the arsonist caught and severely punished. However, I haven't heard many im­passioned pleas for an outright ban on Bic lighters. Perhaps "proof" smokers are to blame for the fires. If this sounds ridiculous, why do people refuse to blame the criminals who commit homicides with firearms instead of the law-abiding gun owners?

I don't suppose America's problem with violence might have anything to do with our country's decaying moral foundation, the breakdown of the family unit or perhaps an unwinnable on the part of the courts to justly punish serious offenders.

Gun owners like myself are used to being portrayed as paranoid warmongers. So let my final words to those who so readily surrender firearms be these: I am the "proud" owner of a high-capacity, semi­automatic handgun. By law, I had to wait 15 days to purchase this gun, as well as pay the state $14 to investi­gate my own background.

I have never harmed anyone with this weapon, nor would I ever imagine doing so unless someone posed an immediate threat to my life or the life of someone I loved.

Ulysses Squares

Civil engineering junior

The guns don't decide what to shoot

Re: "Changing my mind about gun control," Mustang Daily, 1/10

I eat wild animals and fowl. But prior to this, I shot and killed them with a gun. I am one of those "proud gun owners" who are also gun owners responsible for serious homicide crises in America.

A proud gun owner is also a responsible gun owner. Granted, there are irresponsible gun owners — just as there are irresponsible car owners — who kill their share of people.

In his letter, "Changing my mind about gun control," Nicita implies that the death of Patrick Purdy used a single shot rifle rather than a semi-automatic.

Let's take it one step further and suppose he didn't have a gun at all, and used a machete to chop the children to pieces. Then when machetes were banned, another guy might decide to take out a whole preschool with a bowling ball. Consider the recent news notice: Then when 18-wheelers are banned...

The point in the problem is not the gun, it is the human shooting the gun. After all, a gun doesn't make the decision whether it will shoot clay pigeons or 6­year-old children.

Lance Goldsmith

Civil engineering junior

Re: "I'm OK, and not enhanced," Mustang Daily, 1/14

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SLO TRANSIT
From page 8

Despite the team support, Firman said the Roadrunners had too much depth for Cal Poly’s 150-pounder to counteract.

"Bakersfield had too much power (in men’s and women’s)," Firman said. "Most likely (the Roadrunners) will be at nationals and could be national champions.

The men’s team results were similar to the women’s. They only allowed Southern California to win a dual meet.

The men managed four wins against the defending national champion Roadrunners. Eric Collins won the 100-yard freestyle (48.50), and Peter Berger edged out a .01 second victory in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:16.37.

Sophomore Joe Madigan won the 200-yard backstroke but missed qualifying for nationals by 3 seconds with his time of 1:53.91.

"I threw him to his back."

He stood up and I put him in the headlocks," Hittle said. "I hit him with a headlock, and I slammed him down."

Neither of Gaeir’s two opponents scored a point for themselves, although Gaeir allowed 1 point escapes merely so he could win.

"I swam a lifetime best 100, but after that my arms felt tired and my legs felt heavy," Madigan said.

To the casual observer, it could have appeared that Cal Poly’s men were pumped up for a huge upset, Cal Poly beat Bakersfield in the 400-yard medley relay — 3:38.05 to 3:38.15. It was the first time Cal Poly beat Bakersfield in a relay in Madison’s stint at Cal Poly.

The Mustangs clung to a 19-17 team lead after the first two events, but Bakersfield’s swimmers turned the tide in the 200-yard freestyle and never trailed again.

CLASSIFIED
Men flirt with huge upset

By Troy Peterson
Daily Poly Win

The Cal Poly men's basketball team tried to win when they defended the floor as they try to hold onto the 11-3 lead that led to Wednesday's 61-58 loss at Mott Gym.

Even after the rough start, the Mustangs remain optimistic.

"We lost by a score, but we gained something too," Cortig said. "It's not a total loss, but it's not a moral victory, either."

Cortig scored 18 points for the Mustangs in the loss, and matched up favorably to last year's National Tournament Most Valuable Player and big-driving Reggie Phillips. Phillips scored nine points.

"We didn't play our best game," Phillips said after the game, but he noted that was largely due to a valiant Mustang effort.

"I don't think it was any better than the effort made by three Cal State Bakersfield players to return to their hotel before curfew after Thursday's game. The three were suspended for one game by Roadrunners Head Coach Steve Beason for missing the team's curfew.

Tyron Davis, Kenny Warren and Jeff Kushi were late arriving to the team's hotel on Thursday night in San Luis Obispo.

According to Warren, he and Davis were getting something to eat, Kushi declined to comment, the Business Observer's basketball report Saturday.

In Cal Poly's game Saturday the hosts jumped out to a 12-6 lead at Cal State Los Angeles, before falling behind for good on route to an 87-60 loss.

"We were really heading into the game and we played a tough first half," Beason said. "In the second half, they really stepped up their defense and took us out of the game.

Cortig led the Mustangs with 17 points.

Swimmers turn thumping from Bakersfield into crushing of South Dakota

By Kerol Hamlin
Daily Poly Win

As senior Jende Phillips strained to pull her tired body out of the pool, she had a decorated, fourth-place look about her. The top Cal Poly swimmer in the 200-yard butterfly race finished fourth behind three Cal State Bakersfield women — 5.54 seconds behind the winner. However, via a telephone call 10 minutes later it was discovered her time of 2:18.82 was fast enough to finish first and .07 seconds ahead of her closest University of South Dakota opponent.

Similar incidents happened all day Saturday as the Cal Poly men's and women's swim team were beaten by their poolside competitor Cal State Bakersfield, 114-69 and 145-66 respectively.

but beat their phone meet competitor University of South Dakota, 154-71 and 140-68 respectively.

The women won every event but freestyle against South Dakota, who swam in a pool over 1,200 miles away.

But against Bakersfield, the Mustangs battled for four wins out of 12 contests. Freshman Kriszt Kiedrowski accounted for two of those victories.

Kiedrowski clocked a 2:11.13 in the 200-yard individual medley. Her time fell under the 2:11.25 national qualifying time and was .69 seconds quicker than her closest follower.

She also won the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:09.14 — .69 seconds faster than teammate Amy Williamson, who finished second at 2:11.93.

Kiedrowski qualified for nationals in an event last Saturday at UC-Santa Cruz with a time of 2.08.02.

The other Cal Poly winners included Quinn and Jody Campbell. Quinn took the 200-yard freestyle event in 1:48.14 with her 2:00.65. And despite an ailing leg, Campbell sprinted to victory in the 100-meter backstroke match in a time of 54.50.

Campbell said the team was swimming well considering the vigorous practice the week prior to Saturday's match, in training off two meets last weekend.

"Last week we came together in training on UC-Santa Cruz Saturday after losing to UC-Davis," Campbell said. "It's starting to shut us off on everyone, and we're realizing it if the skin of our teeth, we'll take it."

The Mustangs will host UC-Riverside on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. before hitting the road for a Saturday contest at Cal State Los Angeles.

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