Massive undersea quake shakes Northern Japan

By Peter Landers

Japan and triggered tidal waves people in Russia's remote Kuril Islands late Tuesday, jolted the chain north of Japan. About 200 magnitude of 7.9 hit near the Islands late Tuesday, jolted the chain north of Japan. About 200

Aftershocks were continuing. In some parts of the Kuril, 18-inch cracks were visible in the earth after the quake, he said.

By early Wednesday, about 40 small tsunami waves had been observed in Japan. Most were less than 3 feet high, although one was 6 feet. There were no reports of any damage.

Hawaii closed its public schools and beaches, and ordered residents of coastal areas to evacuate. Most of the damage and injuries from the quake in Japan occurred on the northernmost main island of Hokkaido, but buildings shook as far as 650 miles away in Moscow.

The quake — which lasted more than a minute — was centered 13 miles beneath the Pacific Ocean floor, near the southern end of the Kuril chain.

Judge orders gas chamber abolished; rules it causes inhumane degree of pain

By Bob Spake

SAN FRANCISCO — California's gas chamber was ordered shut down Tuesday by a federal judge, who said execution by lethal gas "is inhumane and has no place in civilized society."

Official did not immediately know what happened to the resi- dents, Streltsov said.

"I'm really glad that no one to suffer intense physical pain."

The primary cause is cellular suffocation, experienced as an intense "air hunger" similar to strangulation or drowning, the judge said.

"Symptoms of air hunger in­ clude intense chest pains, such as felt during a heart attack, acute anxiety, and struggling to breathe, " Patel said. She said there may also be other types of pain, including "the sequentially painful muscle spasms" of a con­ dition called tetany.

She also noted that 10 states, including California, used gas as the sole method of execution in 1976, and none does today. See GAS CHAMBER, page 3

Blackout plagues students in Stenner, Woodside complexes

By Eric Massyo

Residents at two student apartment complexes were without power for almost two days as PG&E struggled to re­store electrical service lost during Monday night's storm.

PG&E spokesman Ron Routs­kiewicz said a 12,000-volt power line came down at 7:50 p.m. Monday, knocking out power to 91 customers in the area of Foothill Boulevard and Santa Rosa Street.

“"The trees were knocked into the power lines by the wind, which brought down the lines," he said.

"The condemned inmate is likely to suffer intense physical pain."

Human development senior Brian Uhaliez, one of the resi­dents managers at Woodside, said the lack of power on Monday was caused by trees dividing Wood­side and Stenner Glen that were striking power lines and causing sparks.

"The trees were not main­tained properly," Uhaliez said. See OUTAGE, page 5

Runaway truck hits bus, stadium

By Ajai Bhambori

A driver heading down Perimeter Road on Tuesday bailed out of his truck before it sideswiped a city bus and careened into a parked car in front of Mustang Stadium, but no one was seriously hurt.

Public Safety officials said the truck's brakes failed just before the accident, which also involved a parked car and a San Luis Obispo Transit bus with 14 passengers onboard, most of whom were Cal Poly students on their way home from classes.

According to Public Safety Officer Bruce Miller, the acci­dent occurred around 1 p.m. when the truck sideswiped the bus, which was turning left at the stop sign at Perimeter Road and College. As the bus was passing the bus, the truck hit the parked car on College and pushed it ap­proximately 20 feet — according it against the wall of Mustang Stadium.

Recreation administration senior Carlton Brown owns the parked 1989 Mazda MPV which was hit by the truck.

"I'm really glad that no one was injured, and I'm really glad that I wasn't in the vehicle or I'd be dead, " Brown said.

Computer science sophomore Carl Limpus, a pas­senger on the bus, described what he saw. See CRASH, page 2

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Register to Vote
The last day to register to vote for the November 8 general election is October 11. If you have moved to a new location, changed your mailing address or changed your name — it’s time to re-register to vote. Registration forms are available throughout San Luis Obispo County at the Post Offices, City Halls, libraries, banks, notary offices and utility companies. For more information, call 781-5228.

TODAY
Government Meeting • San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, 9 a.m., San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors’ Chamber — 781-4219
Resume Class • Career Services, Rm. 224, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Country Western Line Dancing Class • Wednesday evening, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., South Bay Community Center, 2180 Palisades Ave., Los Osos — 528-4169

THURSDAY
Nutrition Lecture • “Savvy Shopping for Healthy Eating” and the new nutrition labels, 1:30 p.m., University of California Cooperative Extension Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, call by today to reserve space — 781-5940

UPCOMING
Democratic Volunteers • Volunteers wanted for Kathleen Brown’s campaign for governor — 547-0615/547-0624

From page 1
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“All the business seniors were in front of that truck,” Meisemager said. “It was a pretty tremendous impact.”

One of the passengers on the bus was City Council candidate Pat Veesart, a vocal proponent of the fair treatment of crime victims. “I respect Judge Ryan; he’s a thoughtful jurist,” said Domenic Lombardo, the deputy public defender who represented Veltri.

The county Public Defender’s Office is asking that Ryan’s order be overturned. The challenge is expected to be heard in Superior Court this month.

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TSUNAMI: 7.9 magnitude quake jolts Pacific Coasts; threats of huge tidal wave cause evacuation in Japanese islands

From page 1

Japan's Central Meteorological Agency estimated the quake's preliminary magnitude at 7.9, making it the strongest to hit the region in 26 years.

On Japan's lightly populated Hokkaido island, the late-night quake cracked roads, caused gas leaks and flooded streets. One fire was reported in the town of Nemuro, and more than 13,460 households in eastern Hokkaido lost electric power, said Kazuhiro Kojima of Hokkaido Electric Co.

Television stations broadcast warnings for people in low-lying areas to flee, showing maps of Japan with endangered areas flashing in red. "I feared that my house might collapse. The house was shaken strongly," said Teruo Koike, a fireman in Kushiro.

Kiyo Takahashi, 45, of Kushiro, was drinking coffee with friends. "Some of them cried for help ... because they couldn't stand the strong shaking," she said.

More than 1,000 evacuees spent the night in public buildings in Kushiro and Nemuro alone, according to local officials.

GAS CHAMBER: Execution 'cruel and unusual'

From page 1

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which handles federal appeals from California and eight other Western states, rejected a similar challenge to execution by hanging in Washington state. The 6-5 ruling found that the use of modern safeguards minimized the risk of prolonged pain during a hanging.

"Our society no longer considers lethal gas an acceptable means by which to execute a person," the judge wrote. "There is a societal consensus that this method of execution is inhumane and has no place in civilized society."

Earlier this year, the state's first execution in 25 years. Convicted serial killer David Mason waived his federal appeals and was executed in the gas chamber in August 1993.

No execution date is scheduled for any of the approximately 390 condemned prisoners in the state.

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Local girl makes guide

So what have you found to do in SLO town?

San Luis Obispo is a beautiful place, with usually mild weather disregarding the freak tropical storm and lightning show, which happened about every 20 years.

I don’t think I’ve lived here ever since I was born. And it amazes me when people can’t find new things to do here.

How have you gone to the movies in the Fremont Theatre or at the Sunset Drive-in? Ignited a bonfire on Thursday. Walked through Farmers’ Market and hung out at Woodstock’s Pizza? Browsed through the new Downtown Centre with Express and the Gap? Don’t miss out on the 90210 and Melrose Place watching parties.

Don’t hang with an older crowd. I’m part of the senior class, which has hit the “I’m-near-graduation-what-the-hell-am-I-going-to-do-with-my-life” phase. When entering that other world you can become some- thing else for a little while.

When I first got to Cal Poly, I never wanted to leave. This idea of becoming a lifetime student took even more substantial form when I spent the summer after my sophomore year in a “real-life” nine-to-five job with a 45- minute commute both ways. I stayed in San Luis the next summer.

I made new friends and compact discs. Go to meetings with your school — everything from the Ski Club to working on the Rose Parade float. Don’t miss out on the 90210 and Melrose Place watch parties. They make for great conversation.

Making new tapes from all your friend’s tapes and compact discs. Go to meetings with your school — everything from the Ski Club to working on the Rose Parade float. Don’t miss out on the 90210 and Melrose Place watch parties. They make for great conversation.

Close by, you can always go to the Rec Center to meet your social and physical needs. For excitement, check out Mustang football, soccer and volleyball teams.

A fraternity party is an adventure in its own right. When entering that other world you can become some body else for a little while.

And if you think you’ve done it all, you could always attempt to do your homework.

Wading through the ‘beginning-life crisis’

By Brooke Richardson

I thought people hit mid-life crisis time at age 40, but I’ve seen some very troubling symptoms of the disease in my friends lately.

Couples are splitting, people are going through with “just-got-a-divorce”-like phases and there’s a lot of talk about sports cars — or four-wheel-drive vehicles, depending on taste.

No, I don’t hang with an older crowd. I’m part of the senior class, which has hit the “I’m-near-graduation—what-the-hell-am-I-going-to-do-with-my-life” phase. The time of the beginning-life crisis.

I guess this whole theory just hit me the other night. I mean, seems like half the people I know are about to have a nervous breakdown for one reason or another, but I didn’t truly realize the order of the madness until I called my parents and told them about everything going down in my lately quite hectic life.

My dad, who tends to get a bit sentimental at times, started talking to me in language I thought would have been reserved for the day I (finally) graduated from high school. I couldn’t tell you exactly what he said, but I know the meaning I sensed from it was something like “We’re proud of you and know you’re making the right decisions because you’re a GROWN-UP now.”

When I first got to Cal Poly, I never wanted to leave. When I mean “we,” my parents were supporting me, I had complete freedom for the most part and I had a great time.

This idea of becoming a lifetime student took even more substantial form when I spent the summer after my sophomore year in a “real-life” nine-to-five job with a 45-minute commute both ways. I stayed in San Luis the next summer.

But now, in my fourth year of college, I’m starting to see the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Just as it may be, there’s part of me that actually wants to graduate, as do many of my friends.

We’re turning into just what my dad said — GROWN-UPS — or, at least, kinda-wants-be ones.

And that’s why we’re in a beginning-life crisis.

Whether we’re actually graduating in June or part-way through the year, whether we have or haven’t accumulated, our world is changing and it’s affecting us.

Older friends have already graduated, infusing us with the excitement of new lives. Half of us are looking at doing the same thing in June, faced with the job-search from hell. The rest of us plan to bide our time for a couple of extra quarters, hoping to find some direction and missing the people we lived with in the dorms, shared an apartment with later and who brought us downtown on our 21st birthdays.

The beginning-life crisis. Wanting to hold on while you’re preparing yourself to leave. Wanting to find the finale we’ve spent years studying for, but not knowing quite what it is. Wanting to make new friends or acquaintances — create new experiences — but not wanting to leave Cal Poly and the memories we’ve made here.

Most of us have grown up as much as we can at Cal Poly. And whether we want to admit it or not, we’re almost as ready as we’ll ever be for that next level of life.

The results of this are the mid-life crisis symptoms that so many seniors seem to be demonstrating. Relationships are changing as we try to determine which ones are truly important to us and carry them with us into our new worlds. We can be as try-squeezing as much fun out of Cal Poly as possible. And we talk about cars as we look forward to our hopefully richer (money-wise) lives.

It’s, all you young-uns out there, prepare yourselves. The symptoms are bound to get worse as June approaches. Pay careful attention — because you’ll go through it one day, too, believe it or not.

And if you see people out there who don’t seem to be acting their age, never question anything they do or say. After all, they are GROWN-UPS.

Just give them a hug, call them crazy kids and tell them they can stay with you any time they want to come back home to Cal Poly.

• Brooke Richardson is a journalism senior (and GROWN-UP.)
Huffington accused of engaging in racially biased property deals

By Michael White

LOS ANGELES — Michael Huffington bought and sold two Texas homes that came with restrictions forbidding their sale to blacks or other minorities, former Mayor Tom Bradley alleged Tuesday. Huffington denounced the accusations as desperation politics.

Huffington, and a prominent black civil rights activist who came to his defense, said such residential covenants were unenforceable and irrelevant long before he purchased the properties.

Locked in a neck-and-neck U.S. Senate race with Democratic incumbent Dianne Feinstein, Huffington accused the Democratic Bradley of raising the issue in a bid to exploit racial sentiments in the campaign.

OUTAGE: Evening storm wreaks havoc at Woodside, Stenner complexes

From page 1

"PG&E has a division that is supposed to take care of that," Rutkowski said PG&E "diligently follows" the tree-cutting schedule, but he had no information regarding the latest trimming in that area. Uballez said firefighters had to turn off the power because sparks from the power lines posed a fire hazard.

Uballez said firefighters had to turn off the power because sparks from the power lines posed a fire hazard.

Residents first lost power around 4 p.m. Monday. The initial blackout was due to a faulty transformer located at the back of Woodside's parking lot, Uballez said. He added that the transformer was not Woodside's responsibility and that it affected 4,000 residents. It was restored at 7:30 p.m., only to fail again around 8:30 p.m. Uballez believed the transformer was the responsibility of PG&E.

"It bites... I can't work on my computer, I can't cook dinner, I can't do anything," Andrea Holstein, business sophomore

"It bites," said business sophomore Andrea Holstein, who lives in Woodside. "I can't work on my computer, I can't cook dinner, I can't do anything."

The blackout continued until around 2:30 a.m. despite firefighters' efforts to fix the problem. While fire engines and PG&E trucks cluttered Woodside's parking lot, students cluttered the sidewalks with candles and flashlights, chatting and monitoring the workers' progress.

"It's been hell," said architect senior Carlos Orcon. "I couldn't do my homework, I showered in the dark, and I was late for class this morning."

Woodside residents awoke with power Tuesday only to return from school to darkness. After they spent the afternoon powerless, service was restored shortly after 5 p.m.
"As it turned out, it was perfect," she said. "I learned a lot about my faith, and I grew a lot stronger.

But Cambodia was far from perfect, she said, and far from what she could have expected. Her first impression was not favorable. "It was gross, disgusting, dirty, with all those kids running around," she said.

She found it hard to overlook the blatant evidence of torture practices and civil strife that were all around her. Silliman said that could desensitize people to the things she saw made her wonder about living a way of life that could desensitize people to such horrifying practices.

"They look at torturing people like it was taking out the trash," Silliman said. "I heard gunfire every night."

Even the facilities used for the dinner were questionable, she said. The cafeteria was pretty gross. There were bats flying around the gym and holes in the floor, Silliman said. "People would wander in and out selling mystery food."

Silliman joked about the food, but admitted she was afraid to ask what she was eating. She told one story, cringing, about the soup with the strange-looking meat swimming in it. "I don't know what it was, but I'm sure it was a snake. It gave me the chills," she said.

Silliman says of both the mission and trying out for Cal Poly's volleyball team that she didn't know what to expect or what she was getting into.

Silliman made the team as a freshman walk-on. Now, as a senior, she's playing on a full scholarship.

Head Coach Craig Cummings remembered the day Silliman came in to try out for the team. "She was pretty raw from a volleyball standpoint, but she worked hard," Cummings said.

"I could see the amount of effort she was putting in, and I knew something good would come of it — and it did," Cummings said.

Silliman said that she and her sister didn't have a television when they were growing up, and as they were encouraged to be creative. "I always wanted to be Wonder Woman," Silliman said. "We made Wonder Woman costumes when we were younger. We put tinfoil on our boots and made crowns. Then we'd spin around in circles, like Wonder Woman, throw off our coats, and we'd spin around in circles, like Wonder Woman, throw off our coats, and run around the park. We had some good times.

At the clinic, Silliman was given the responsibility of coaching a group of military leaders. She was surprised by the athletic ability of the group. "They are stud boys," she said. "They play a lot, they just don't know rules, technique and statistics — and they don't have a set offense and defense."

"We taught the technical aspects of volleyball, but also how to be a coach," she said.

"It was like, 'Hello Mr. Military Leader, today I'm going to teach you about discipline,' " she joked.

Silliman explained that Cambodia was hoping to start a national team.

"Eighty percent of the population is under 18. They have no direction, and so they are hoping that sports might help," she said.

Volleyball requires a great deal of aggressiveness, yet, off the court, Silliman is anything but aggressive. She likes to paint and play the piano and guitar.

Her paintings decorate her room, along with volleyball posters. Her father gave her the guitar she plays, which is older than she is. Silliman, 21, calls the guitar "her fossil."

"Whenever I meet someone who plays, I make them teach me a few chords," she said. "I like picking."

Silliman graduated from San Ramon Valley High School in 1990. She also lettered in tennis, swimming, track and field, and softball.

Silliman came to Cal Poly in 1990 and said she loves it. Her parents attended Cal Poly as does her sister now.

Silliman says the toughest part is juggling her class load and her volleyball schedule.

"You have to be pretty prioritized and strong-willed," Silliman said. She is in the process of changing her major from physical education to recreational administration. "It's like a little bit of everything," Silliman said.

"We taught the technical aspects of volleyball, but also how to be a coach," she said.

"My dream would be to lead a high school camp or family camp up in the mountains and go on bikes and sing and play," Silliman said.

She says that when she looks back on the mission, she is grateful to have had the experience and to have it go so well.

"The day after we left, there was an announcement in the paper from the King of Cambodia, warning people not to come to Cambodia because of the civil war," Silliman said. "It was like we did something totally illegal, and we left totally untouched."

"It was awesome," she said. "This was the first attempt to do anything sports wise (with Cambodia)."

"We were pioneers."
Baseball owners ask for 45-day freeze on free-agent signings

By Ronald Blum

The owners have asked players to delay the start of free-agent filing until the end of the strike, but both sides rejected an agreement that expired Dec. 31, which remains in effect, a freeze on free-agent filing is scheduled to start Oct. 15.

"The idea is to stop the train before it leaves the station," St. Louis Cardinals owner Fred O'Connor said Tuesday, the day after it was reported that players were voting to authorize their owners to file for a 45-day freeze on free-agent filings.

For baseball fans across the country who have been following the strike and never thought they'd see the day the players actually asked owners to stop the games, there was little new Monday other than the owners' request to file for a freeze.

"We've never asked owners to do this before," said O'Connor, who represents a group of central division teams including the Cardinals, Indians, Cubs and White Sox. "We think it's the only way to stop the club from playing."
Stepping onto a foreign court

Poly player coaches clinic in Cambodia

By Janelle Oltmann

When you follow your beliefs, it's called faith. When you pursue your goals, it's called ambition. When you chase your dreams, it's called being true to yourself. Natalie Silliman does all three.

Silliman spent two weeks this past summer in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where she taught Cambodian military leaders, police and the Cambodian Olympic Committee how to play volleyball.

Silliman knows a thing or two about volleyball. She captained her high school volleyball team in San Ramon, Calif. and is currently a senior middle blocker for Cal Poly's women's volleyball team.

Head Coach Craig Cummings describes her as "undoubtedly the strongest member of the team."

She went to Cambodia as a member of a Christian mission. It was a trip she describes as being unlike anything she's ever experienced or could have expected.

She went with Sports Ambassadors — an outreach of an organization called Overseas Crusade, which is based in Colorado Springs.

Silliman first heard about the mission at Urbana — a Christian conference she attended during Christmas break last year in Chicago.