Winter storm takes life of former Cal Poly computer consultant

By Jane D. Plamson

The recent storms that ravaged San Luis Obispo and the rest of California also claimed the life of a former Cal Poly employee.

Douglas James Martin, 34, was only a quarter of a mile from his home on San Luis Bay Drive at 9:15 a.m. when the vehicle he was driving veered into a flooded drainage ditch and became partially submerged in the raging waters, according to an article in the Telegram-Tribune.

A witness quoted in the article, Martin, a computer consultant for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, was southbound on Highway 101 when his car apparently hydroplaned and veered off the road and into the overflow canal near the Los Osos Valley Road overpass.

The swift-water rescue team responded to the accident, but the conditions were not conducive to enable an underwater search.

His body was discovered at San Luis Obispo Creek the next day.

Waterlogged city hit with additional rain during break

By Garrett M. Martin

While many students and staff vacationed in drier areas of the state last week, already waterlogged San Luis Obispoooked up another season of nonstop rain.

This most recent storm—round three of what is being called the floods of '95—was much milder than previous ones, in terms of damage and injury. The most serious damage on campus occurred in Cal Poly's agriculture fields.

As you can expect with

See FLOOD, page 3

Cal Poly student dies in fall from Australian cliff

By Frances Costello

"Hank" Becker's family and friends are still struggling to ac-
cept the sudden death of an ener-
gegetic 21-year-old Cal Poly stu-
dent who was just three quarters away from graduating.

Richard Henry Becker IV, a forestry and natural resource senior, died March 11 in a small city just outside of Sydney, Australia.

Becker, who was scheduled to arrive back in San Luis Obispo on March 28, was hiking by himself only 10 minutes from his aunt's house when he slipped and fell off a cliff, according to his father, Henry Becker III. Becker is survived by his father and mother, Theresa, and four sisters, Carrie, Christi, Annie and Stephanie.

His father said the exact cause of his son's death has not been confirmed, but an investiga-
tion is continuing.

According to physical education senior Bob Cantu, who was Becker's roommate and best friend, Becker was taking pic-
tures of a waterfall when he lost his footing.

Becker took winter quarter off 5-year-old boy appears to recover from AIDS infection

By Paul Robeson

NEW YORK — A Los Angeles boy who was infected with the AIDS virus at birth apparently fought off the infection and is virus-free at age 5, astonishing his doctors.

Dr. Yvonne J. Bryson, a pediatrician and AIDS specialist at the UCLA School of Medicine in Los Angeles, said she believes it is the first carefully docu-
mented case of someone casting off all signs of infection.

Tests proved conclusively that the boy was infected for at least a month during the first two months of his life. Later ex-
aminations found no sign of the virus, Bryson said.

"It's like a miracle to me and a miracle to his mother. It's every mother's dream that their child won't be infected," Bryson said.

Bryson said she and her col-
leagues are studying the boy's immune system for clues that could be used to stop AIDS in-
fecions in others.

"It just opens up a lot of things to look at. Before now, there was such skepticism about the possibility that this could occur," said Bryson, whose find-

The boy's mother remains inf-
cected but does not yet have symptoms of AIDS, Bryson said.

See AIDS, page 3
Diplomacy looks like captives' only option

By Rita Smuck
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite calls by Republican presidential aspirants for more saber-rattling, outside analysts say quiet diplomacy is the best hope for winning the release of two Americans captured by Iraq.

Clinton administration officials, grated by GOP presidential candidates Pat Buchanan and Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, publicly say they haven’t ruled out military action. But several analysts dismissed that as a farfetched course with scant prospect of success.

The administration has made clear that for the time being at least it is counting on diplomatic pressure and is trying to enlist the aid of Russia, France, Turkey and other countries that want to help Iraq emerge from its pariah status. Meanwhile, U.S. officials are trying to avoid public disputes that could increase the value of the captives in the mind of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

CNN reported the captives — civilian aircraft mechanics David Dalberti of Jacksonville, Fla., and William Barlow of New Hampton, Iowa — were haggard but in good health on Wednesday. They insisted to CNN that they were in U.N.-marked territory when they were arrested while on their way to visit friends.

The behind-the-scenes diplomacy is aimed at convincing Iraq that it has "absolutely nothing to gain by holding these Americans," said a State Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

With a trade embargo already in place on all but humanitarian goods, the United States has little in the way of economic options.

See CAPITIVES, page 5

BECKER: Cal Poly senior was three quarters away from graduation

According to Cantu, Becker also was focused when it came to academics. He maintained a grade point average above 3.0.

Cantu said Becker graduated from Paso Robles High School in 1991 where he was a varsity athlete in both basketball and baseball.

According to Cantu, during Becker’s junior year in high school, the two started becoming close friends. Cantu was a sophomore at the time and played varsity baseball with Becker.

A year older than Cantu, Becker displayed leadership qualities and strong values — things that Cantu said he respected and admired.

Becker also gave his attention to the people who were closest to him.

His father vividly remembers the last Christmas when his son gave each member of the family a special gift.

"He had written each person in the family a Christmas card. He told everyone how much he loved them."

Cantu also received a card from Becker.

"No one will know what he meant to me," Cantu said. "He was more than a best friend to me."

And according to his father, Becker was a friend to many people. At the memorial service held at Saint Rose Catholic Church in Paso Robles, more than 300 people remembered the boy who helped his father coach football in Shandon, and the man who delivered pizzas for Fatty’s Pizza to help support himself through college.

"Judging from the turnout at his memorial, he left a distinct impression on a lot of people," Becker’s father added.

"Out of all the people who attended the memorial, I only knew about half of them."

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AIDS: Young boy appears to have developed immunity to virus before birth; genetic examinations show no sign of AIDS

The boy and his mother were not identified. Doctors cannot be certain the virus isn't hiding somewhere in the boy's body. But his continuing good health is additional evidence that the infection has disappeared.

Many children infected at birth get sick during the first three years of life, Breyson explained. If the boy were still infected, he would almost certainly be sick by now, she said.

"Our reaction first was that we must have made a mistake," Breyson said. "I was skeptical, as other people would be." Breyson has since identified another child who appears to have accomplished the same impossible feat. But there are no signs of just such an episode, she said.

Dr. Gene Shearer of the National Cancer Institute said he has seen a few patients resist AIDS infection when exposed to the virus. But he said he hasn't evaluated his patient's recovery after becoming infected.

"If Dr. Breyson's findings are probably real," said Breyson, "the boy could have developed an immunity to the virus before birth, Shearer said.

"Our reaction first was that we must have made a mistake," she said. And she and her colleagues are trying to discover whether the boy's immune system offered him special protection against infection. They might be able to harness that knowledge to protect others.

Breyson said the AIDS virus was isolated from the infant at 19 days and 51 days, showing he was infected on each occasion. Further analysis of the genetic material in the virus showed that both virus samples were identical, meaning the results were unlikely to be due to error.

"We were later examined using the technique known as polymerase chain reaction, or P CR, which can reveal minute evidences of viral genetic material. The examination failed to find any virus.

FLOOD: Rainfall severely damages Poly crops

Although no crops were completely destroyed, the storm compounded flooding and erosion problems from earlier in the season.

"The biggest effect of this damage will be on the quality and yield of the crop," Gowaani said.

The National Weather Service reported last week's total rainfall in San Luis Obispo at 4.21 inches, bringing the season total to 41.69 inches, approximately 300 percent of the average for the city.

University Police Sergeant Bob Schumacher said the rains caused a lot of minor damage to the campus core, but nothing significant.

"It formed new potholes on some streets and deposited mud in parking lots behind the red brick dorms and next to the library," he said. "Pilly Canyon had a few minor slides and Stenother Creek Road will have to be built up.

Schumacher said the Spring Break timing of the downpour prevented because dump trucks and equipment were able to move freely and clear mud from the parking lots.

The latest rains also caused some inconvenience in the rest of the county.

The California Highway Patrol closed Cuesta Grade for a portion of Wednesday evening, March 21, because of mudslides, but San Luis Obispo Police Sergeant Ron Brown said last week's rains did not have any adverse affect on the city.

Brown said there were no road closures or new damage.

"It just rained and we all went about our business," he said.

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Sharon Woolard, a secretary in the College of Agriculture who worked with Martin, said that "his death is a loss which will necessitate a great many people to work harder at emulating his qualities, to even partially fill the void which everyone who knew him will feel."

He also exhibited the quality of patience when explaining computer operations to others, Zweifel said, and he was very gifted at passing his wealth of knowledge on to others.

"He was a good teacher that never lost patience for others," he said, adding that this trait is important to those in Martin's line of work.

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By working in the computer lab, Zweifel said, Martin came into contact with students everyday and his patience and love of computers allowed them to benefit from his wealth of knowledge.

"Zweifel said one couldn't help but feel Martin's energy when he was around.

The life of Martin will continue in the memory of those that were touched by his charm and love, and his name will live on at Cal Poly through a scholarship being set up in his name.

According to Zweifel, friends of Martin at both Cal Poly and Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center are working to set up the "Martin Bryant Scholarship. Endowment for students at Cal Poly established through the Sierra Vista Hospital Volunteers Auxiliary.

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The intent of the scholarship is to carry on the desire for education that Martin exhibited as well as to keep his name alive for future generations. Zweifel said.

"Martin was just a great guy that was always moving, real friendly and loved his job, and this scholarship would have been exactly what he would have wanted," said Zweifel.

Those who wish to contribute to the scholarship can contact Elise Rendirger, human resource director at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center.

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Say "goodbye" may be hard, but saying "hello"

By Garrett M. Mettler

Contrary to popular belief, most decisions in life are easy.

Consider this not-so-hypothetical example: You wake up in the morning around 8:30. The weather is clear, sunny and warm. You realize a very important decision must be made. Will you subject yourself to a day full of unappealing lectures, furious note-taking and confined indoors, or will you go to the beach?

(If you’re thinking, “I don’t have a family to subside, P.A. is probably a lot higher than mine.”)

You go to the beach, of course! And you undoubtedly have some pretty convincing rationalizations for the all-day study break.

Unfortunately, however, not all decisions are so effortlessly made. In some social situations it is almost impossible to know how to act or what to say. On such occasions I inevitably make a fool of myself, either by making some incredibly awkward movement that blatantly advertises my high school senior class distinction of "Most Uncoordinated," or by saying something so unintelligible that my car keys are taken away and someone is sent to call me a cab.

To my discontent, I am unwillingly thrust into such situations on a daily basis. One such occasion was when I was walking on campus, and never result in an increase in my self esteem.

And, of course, the most vexing question of all: How do I act when meeting friends and acquaintances (or complete strangers that act like they know you) in passing?

First of all, it is important to understand that interacting with someone in passing is a lot more complicated than it would seem.

I’m talking about meeting friends and acquaintances (or complete strangers that act like they know you) in passing.

I never know what to do when this happens. Do I put on a friendly smile and greet this guy as if I know him, but have casually chosen not to say it? For the people whose name I remember, I do pause long enough to pretend I’m actually interested in their response to my automatic, “How’s it going?”

And, of course, the most vexing question of all: How do I know whether or not to stop and that a what’s going to happen. I expected Emily Post, the authority on proper etiquette, to be able to solve these annoying dilemmas for me, but she was busy — I think the butler’s exact words were “picking her nose” — when I called.

So, I was forced to search for the answers to these monumentally important questions myself.

I decided to approach this matter with the utmost seriousness. Discovering how to act when meeting someone in passing is far too important an issue to give anything less than my full attention and resources.

I researched the problem using purely scientific and objective methods, and am now proud to announce the completion of my investigation. It took nearly five minutes of intense pondering, but I have reached some profound conclusions.

First of all, it is important to understand that interacting with someone in passing is a lot more complicated than it would seem.

Many factors are involved in choosing the exact words and actions in a specific instance — all of which must be gathered, assessed and acted on in two seconds, tops.

The first is determining what the person’s relationship is to you. Examples of possible conclusions range from: ‘I have no idea who this person is, I’ve never seen her before in my life’ to ‘There’s Lisa. I wonder what she did over the break.’

The most common judgment in this category is: ‘I know the face. If my life depended on it, I could probably remember his name. I think we had some class together.’

My advice in this instance is to quicken your step slightly, put on a cheerful smile, say hello, and keep walking. Don’t turn around! (Unless you think he’s cute and want to see — well, never mind. That’s a different article.)

The second determination is much easier. You need to decide how you feel about the person.

If you remember her as the obnoxious one who sat in the front row and took up half of each class with questions completely unrelated to the course, you’ll probably want to change your course as quickly and inconspicuously as possible.

But, if you don’t really remember him or you know him and think he’s nice enough, you will have to quickly consider the last two criteria.

There you have it — the methodological analysis of a problem you didn’t even know you had.

No need to think. Stroking in such mundane observations is what writers get meagerly paid for.

Finally, if you think the rules above are too complicated to consider in the short instant you have to decide what to say, forget them. Just wing it. Shit will be as just as confused and uncertain as you are.

Garrett M. Mettler is a journalism junior and Daily staff writer whose behavior when passing friends, acquaintances, and even complete strangers is dangerously unpredictable.

Letters Policy

Mustang Daily welcomes letters and commentaries from students, staff, and other community members. Letters should be typed, double spaced and under 250 words. Commentaries should be typed, double spaced, and should not exceed 750 words.

All authors must include a name, signature and phone number. Students should include their major and class standing. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, grammar, and length.

Submission can be brought, mailed, faxed or e-mailed to:

Garrett M. Mettler

Mustang Daily

Graphics Arts Bldg #226, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

FAX: (805) 756-6784

E-Mail: gsievers@trumpet.calpoly.edu

CULTURE

Clowns

Jeddelsh Ireland

Enjoy the ‘silver screen’ but don’t forget about reality

I loathe the Academy Awards. It’s hard to explain why. Maybe the show business people and garb to me. Or, maybe I’ve irritated with myself for being interested in it.

I like to think of myself as being outside of pop culture — ignorant of who’s who or what’s hot and who’s who or what’s not. In any case, I’m not the audience the Academy Awards is sort of the Royal Ball of pop culture and, therefore, worthy of some, Man, if it isn’t fun, though! I have to admit I watched it and was entertained.

However, it is difficult to see that there seems to be two types of people at the Academy Awards. There are the beautiful actors and actresses, and then there are the producers, directors and composers. The latter group consists of fairly average looking people, but they look like freaks compared to the screen stars. I find that a little unsettling. I don’t know why.

Their differences are further punctuated as the somewhat eloquent stars present awards to stammering sound engineers. Maybe it seems awkward and weird to me because I want to believe that Hollywood and the movies are somehow real.

Of course, movies are not real. But I think important movies are real, and what is real. They should make us aware of things or ideas that exist that we might otherwise overlook.

Cultural Clowns

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My advice in this instance is to quicken your step slightly, put on a cheerful smile, say hello, and keep walking. Don’t turn around! (Unless you think he’s cute and want to see — well, never mind. That’s a different article.)

The second determination is much easier. You need to decide how you feel about the person.

If you remember her as the obnoxious one who sat in the front row and took up half of each class with questions completely unrelated to the course, you’ll probably want to change your course as quickly and inconspicuously as possible.

But, if you don’t really remember him or you know him and think he’s nice enough, you will have to quickly consider the last two criteria.

There you have it — the methodological analysis of a problem you didn’t even know you had.

No need to think. Stroking in such mundane observations is what writers get meagerly paid for.

Finally, if you think the rules above are too complicated to consider in the short instant you have to decide what to say, forget them. Just wing it. Shit will be as just as confused and uncertain as you are.

Garrett M. Mettler is a journalism junior and Daily staff writer whose behavior when passing friends, acquaintances, and even complete strangers is dangerously unpredictable.
Captured Americans tell CNN reporter they’re being held in Iraq out of spite

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Last year more than 1 million foreigners were caught entering the United States illegally — but unlike the two Americans who strayed into Iraq on March 13, they weren’t sentenced to prison.

Iraq deems illegal border crossing a serious crime and sentenced the two American businessmen to eight years.

By contrast, the vast majority of the aliens intercepted by U.S. officials are detained, fingerprinted, checked for criminal records and summarily deported for the misdemeanor crime of illegal entry. The whole thing generally takes a matter of hours, said Immigration and Naturalization Service spokesman Rudolph Brewington.

"A lot of them come back the next night," in the case of Mexicans lured to the economic promise of the United States, he said.

Any aliens intercepted after making it past border guards or airport customs officials are turned over to INS district offices. There they are questioned and held in jail until they can be deported.

In cases involving criminal records or requests for political asylum, court proceedings could take up to 180 days.

Of the 1.3 million apprehended for illegal entry or overstaying their visas last year, some 100,000 were formally deported after hearings before an immigration judge.

From page 1

RUSSELL: Poly prof takes top award

Russell is a noted composer and musical historian. He is highly regarded as an expert on the music of Spain and Latin America.

In the same press release, Russell mentioned that he hopes others will follow in his footsteps, if he follows his wife’s suggestion, so a scholarship can be established. At least $10,000 must be raised before any scholarship can be awarded.

The release mentioned that Russell believes a scholarship would directly help deserving students and make a difference in their lives.

According to the Chancellor’s Press Office, Russell’s motto is “love what you do, be an expert at what you do, and love to share those things.” He believes that he should give back to the students he teaches.

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SACRAMENTO — Gov. Pete Wilson took his fledgling presidential campaign Wednesday to a Bob Dole stronghold, courting New York's only top Republican who hasn't already backed the U.S. Senate leader.

The California governor met with New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who said he has not decided who to endorse.

Wilson plans swings through Arizona and Texas, the home state of another rival, Phil Gramm. His campaign is setting up trips to several other states by the end of April, sources told The Associated Press.

Wilson acknowledged after meeting Giuliani that New York Sen. Alphonse D'Amato already had lined up an impressive array of the state's other top Republicans for the Kansas senator and GOP presidential frontrunner.

"I think that D'Amato's effort is a terribly undemocratic thing," Wilson quipped. He added that "we're going to get on New York's ballot, and when asked if he was going to fight for it, the governor responded, "Yeah."

Dole, meanwhile, received much better news Wednesday, winning the endorsements of Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad and the state's senior U.S. senator, Charles Grassley.

Wilson is in the midst of his first foray into the vote-rich Northeast. The trip included a brief visit to conservative, anti-tax New Hampshire, where his reception was chilly.

Wilson hasn't formally declared his candidacy, but he made it clear in New Hampshire that he is a candidate.

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**ATLANTA — President Clinton, **

president at an economic conference in a region where he is politically vulnerable, con-

ceded Wednesday that worker discontent lurks beneath generally upbeat statistics.

But he defended his policies, his priorities and his presidency, telling handpicked participants from 12 Southern states "There is a lot more room for hope than for doubt."

Speaking in a campus chapel lit like a television studio at Emory University, the alma mater of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Clinton said he felt "under a great responsibility to try to keep this economic recovery going.

The dallying conference was the first of four the White House plans around the country, recrea-

tions of the December 1992 economic gathering in Little Rock, Ark., just before he took of-

fice.

Conferences, speeches and other appearances over the next few months will take Clinton to crucial 1996 battleground states: Georgia, Florida, California, Iowa, New Hampshire and Michigan.

But he acknowledged that many workers are unhappy with their jobs and stagnant wages.

In Washington, Gingrich had a few dry observations on the presidential forum for his back yard. "I think they (Emory) have a very fine program for chief executive officers," he told reporters. "I'm sure he's down there teaching."

"I think he'll find that Georgia is a work-oriented, small business-oriented, entrepreneurial state," he said.

In coming hours, Clinton returned to the state that gave him his first 1992 Democratic primary victory. In Georgia, "I don't take anything away from the rich to help poor people grow out of poverty," Clinton told the Atlanta con-

ference had such an upbeat view.

And former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young told Clinton and Vice President Al Gore: "The in-

come gap is still wider between blacks and whites. It doesn't take anything away from the rich to help poor people grow out of poverty."

In an interview in Wednes-

day's Atlanta Constitution, Clinto-

told that he could do about his continued low poll ratings in the South. "I don't know. That's not why I'm having the conference," he said.

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The burning incense gives off a fragrant smell while the flickering candles help set the mood. The five band members relax, talk and drink beer while partaking in a new tradition they started to help get the band prepared both mentally and physically for a performance.

A tattered table lamp of lead guitarist Mark Kafoury sits on stage, giving a comfortable home feeling to the band members and signaling it's time to begin.

They start to play.

"Sometimes, I try to talk to you, but I don't know what to say. I have so many questions, I wonder why you couldn't stay. I wonder why your life, so well lived, had come to an end. But I'm glad for the chance to have known you. I am proud to call you my friend," bellowed Doug Groshart at Bluewater Micro Brewery in Lake Tahoe this past February.

A mechanical engineering senior at Cal Poly, Groshart is the singer, keyboardist and co-founder of local band Itchy McGuirk.

See ITCHY MCGUIRK Page 84
Singing a story

By Erin Massey
Daily Staff Writer

The band Live is every English teachers dream. Each of the thirteen songs on the new album "Throwing Copper" tells a story. And not just any story, but one with deep messages and symbolism.

The bands lyrics, when carefully read, remind me of the countless poems I analyzed in English classes. And like those works, much of Live's lyrics do not have a clear meaning. In fact, for some of the songs, I get the feeling that only the band members themselves will ever fully understand the meanings.

But like any good English lover will tell you, even though the lyrical meanings are not perfectly clear, they still contain beautiful poetry with good word flow.

The poetry ranges from describing a drug-driven city to describing a person loyal to Hitler during his reign in Germany. While not all of the songs are so unusual, I like the bands courage in singing about uncomfortable topics.

One of the more uncommon topics in Live's performance is "Lightening Crashes." It tells the tale of childhood and the occasional death that comes with it.

The best part of the song is the mellow guitar and its steady beat as it combines with lead singer Edward Kowalczyk's remarkable voice to produce a soothing solo. This is one of the few songs on the album that stays with the slow rhythm and the makes the song memorable.

Most of Live's works include fast-paced parts combined with solos between guitar and lead vocals. The combination works perfectly for "I Alone." The song starts with vocals and guitar in a mellow ballad of lyrics, and even makes a biblical allusion. As the story progresses, the emotions of the storyteller rise. By increasing the beat and melody, Live is able to capture the feeling and make a catchy, yet surprisingly deep song.

The one exception is the song "All Over You," which abandons the Pearl Jam style and sounds like a stand-up comedy monologue. "All Over You" is more like an extension of "Peg O'My Heart," centers around an Irish girl who is forced to live with her "enlightened" English relatives after her rich uncle dies. Peg played by Kathy Calahan, wins the affection of the audience as she tries the patience of her aunt and two cousins.

Peg's aunt, Mrs. Chichester, played by Koss, takes on the responsibility of giving Peg a proper education and teaching her upstanding English manners, as directed by Peg's dead uncle in his will.

 Cultures clash as Peg's saucy Irish wit is pitted against her refined relatives. All characters learn lessons, however, when Peg's stay at the Chichester's comes to an end.

The show, keeping in the Melodrama tradition, appeals to a wide variety of people. In comparison to Broadway or FCPA, it's out there for the average Joe," Calahan said. "The actors have so much contact with the audience that you have to have a real entertaining evening.

It's apparent that each actor at the Melodrama has a high degree of professionalism. The frantic energy that some shows on before the show and during intermissions is actually a chance for the audience members to get a closer and more personal feel for the performers.

"What I like most is the connection with the audience," Calahan said. "People often tell me after a performance that they know the faces and the people. But Koss had an extra challenge in "Peg O'My Heart." Playing the old matriarch of the family, she was the only one who could never crack a smile or be silly, something very difficult for Koss, considering she hopes to someday become a stand-up comedienne.

"In fact, one of the real problems was having to be the straight (person)," Koss said. "I have all this comic energy." The Melodrama gives actors a chance to use their talents and play roles they wouldn't ordinarily be able to play in bigger cities.

"It's great for me because I don't get to play leading roles (ordinarily)," Calahan said. "If you have a skill, you use it at this place." If you haven't seen the Playhouse yet, go see MELODRAMA, page 84.
The sounds of groovy, psychadelic rock band Sunfur returns to Central Coast

By Heather Clarke

The Sweet Springs Saloon will host Bay Area band Sunfur this Friday night — a band many students may find familiar.

The show will mark the return of Sunfur to the Central Coast. The band, whose music is described as world alternative, made its Central Coast debut when they opened for Spencer the Gardner at SLO Brew last February.

Business senior Anne Vranesh was one of the many students at Sunfur's first show in San Luis Obispo.

"I saw them when they opened for Spencer," she said. "I had no clue who they were, but they were really good. I'm glad I got to see them because I had no clue who they were, but they were really good. I'm glad they opened for Spencer." she said. "I had no clue who they were, but they were really really good. I'm glad I got to see them because I had no clue who they were, but they were really really good. I'm glad they opened for Spencer.

Mrs. Pincetta, the band's manager and publicist, described the band's music as "a different kind of world alternative. It incorporates lots of different rhythms — African and Native American — yet the lead vocalist has a grunge-oriented voice. It's very danceable," he said.

"Many people often consider it to be Herbie music, a kind of groovy, psychadelic rock," Poncetta said. "Sunfur has often been compared to music like Blues Traveler and Dave Matthews, but it's definitely not reggae." The San Francisco band has been a growing hit in the Bay Area band Dark Humor. The two wrote music together and eventually joined vocalist Rick Luna from local cover band Finger Sandwich, bass guitarist Bill Lewis from Presidio and percussionist Dahv Stewart.

Since becoming Sunfur, a name that refers to the radiance one of the two non-male students at San Luis Obispo. "I saw them when they opened for Spencer," she said. "I had no clue who they were, but they were really really good. I'm glad they opened for Spencer."

"We've excited about playing at Cal Poly," Poncetta said. "We got such positive feedback the last time we played in San Luis."

Outstanding performances in 'Dolores Claiborne' are not enough to keep audiences

By Rodney de la Cruz

Daily Staff Writer

Don't let yourself think "Dolores Claiborne" is just another typical book-to-movie adaptation. Based on a Steven King novel, "Dolores Claiborne" is a long, suspenseful mystery with complex and realistic characters marked by outstanding performances from Jodie Foster and Kathy Bates.

While blessed with remarkable acting, the movie is not consistent enough to hold audiences for its full length. "Dolores Claiborne" attempts to reach audiences with the use of its hot topics like euthanasia, spousal and child abuse and drug abuse. While the topics do interject the audience, they are, however, not enough to carry the movie.

Selaite George (Jennifer Jason Leigh), a highly acclaimed journalist, returns to fictional Little Tall Island to bail out her mother, murder suspect Dolores Claiborne (Kathy Bates). After years of dedicated housekeeping service, Dolores has been accused of killing her employer and socialite, Vera Donovon (Glady Parfit). However, this isn't the first time Dolores has been accused of murder. Fifteen years earlier, Dolores stood trial for the mysterious deaths of her husband, who fell down a well under questionable circumstances. Once again under the spotlight, Dolores is questioned as to whether Vera fell down a flight of stairs or was pushed. For the past fifteen years, in dealing with the memory of her father and mother, Selene has been a tormented soul. She has been transformed into a bitter and almost homicidal woman, who constantly pops down on Scotch she can get her hands on. Joe St. George (David Strathairn) is nothing but a lazy drunkard who abuses his wife, Dolores. Through a flashback, the audience learns that during a verbal disagreement with Dolores, Joe snatched a log and pounded Dolores on the back.

The mysteries surrounding both deaths gradually unfold when Dolores sees Selene. Dolores has spontaneous flashbacks beginning with young Selene and then eventually unraveling the deaths of both Joe St. George and Vera Donovon.

"Dolores Claiborne's" goal was to describe the strength of the human soul. Although this movie doesn't completely reach its goal, the acting performances shine.
ITHY MCGUIRK: Venturing out of San Luis Obispo, hitting it big

From page B1

Kafoury and Groshart started as The Riders, a two-man garage band in San Luis Obispo, performing for local college parties. Now three years later, Itchy McGuirk is making plans to record for Blues Travelers when they tour the Midwest, and would like to travel the Horde Tour, a mid-western tour of coming bands with major headliners.

Itchy McGuirk has been a favorite blues-rock band of Cal Poly students, and now that they have gotten their name out around here, they are heading for bigger areas to play their music.

"We wanted to get a name in San Luis Obispo and we've done that," said Dave Walker, drummer for Itchy McGuirk. "Now we want to make a name for ourselves in the Bay Area, Colorado and the Northwest.

Every member of the band is either currently or a Cal Poly graduate. And although their futures aren't crystal clear, they are confident they're going places.

A manager for The Freddie Jones Band, the Allison Brothers and The Eagles is helping them get their name out by putting their CD, "Miles To Go," on the air at eight recording companies. Although they don't plan on signing a contract until after December, when Groshart graduates, they are still looking for feedback and waiting to see what offers come along.

Already about 1,500 CDs have been sold locally at Boo Boo Records and Music since its release last year.

"They're a very popular local band," said Berry Peterson of Boo Boo Records.

Big Music's Pete Bond said Itchy McGuirk is "one of the up-and-coming local bands." They are working on putting their CD, "Miles To Go," into circulation. In the early spring, they are heading to Colorado, Arizona, Canada, Mexico and throughout California, including Sacramento, Venture, Lake Tahoe, Chico, San Francisco and, of course, San Luis Obispo.

Groshart, originally from Santa Ynez, has been singing as long as he can remember. He began piano lessons at age seven, and despite his mother nagging him to practice, he said his lessons paid off.

"I would like to keep playing music as long as I can, get married and have a family," he said. "I'd like always to be involved in music because, you know, it's what feeds me.

Groshart, who writes some of the lyrics, said Itchy McGuirk gets inspiration from stories he has read as well as personal beliefs and experiences. He wrote "Answers" after reading an article about a man who saved a woman's life in an abortion clinic doctor.

"It made me mad so I wrote about it," he said. For Groshart, writing lyrics allows him to vent his emotions through his music.

"A True Gentleman" was written after Groshart and the Poly student who helped with the artwork for the album, was killed in Mammouth last year in a sledding accident.

Kafoury also had much of the music of Itchy McGuirk and gets his motivation for writing music from "a lot of different things."

"Since I started writing music, I have become more aware of what is going on around me — what people are saying — and I really enjoy people watching. I'll see something that's beautiful or sad and has emotional impact."

"I've noticed the band has the ability to emotionally move a crowd," said Mark Kafoury, a recent Cal Poly graduate.

And that is all it is about, Kafoury said.

"I enjoy making people happy and face keep you going. Especially when we are traveling, it is really nice to see familiar faces."

As female vocalist for Itchy McGuirk, Helen Tracewell adds a unique sound to the band. She is confident their band will be a success and has dedicated her future to music. After graduating in English she moved back to her hometown of Lafayette and found a desk job. Within nine months she realized the only way she wanted to make money was doing something she enjoyed. She moved back to San Luis Obispo to be closer to the band and to have a flexible job working at Starbucks Coffee.

Fellows have noticed changes in the band, and new member John Schol is one of them. Schol joined the band in November and while the base guitarist. He is working on a master's degree in architecture and doing construction management for the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center.

"I was asked to join the band and said, "It's really cool because I get to step in."

He has played for one-and-a-half years and has performed playing the guitar 10 years ago.

Walker has been playing drums for 16 years and joined Itchy McGuirk in 1993. Originally from Visalia, he is currently working for a bio-engineering firm in San Carlos. The 26-year-old recently received his master's degree in Agricultural Business Finance. He describes the band's music as, "A mixture of the Allman Brothers, Santana and Eric Clapton."

When asked for his response about being viewed as somewhat of a celebrity in San Luis Obispo, Walker responded, "I don't see that way, really, not at all."

Walker is simply glad the band has become well-known locally and said San Luis Obispo is one of his favorite places to perform.

Groshart agreed.

"I get amazed at the number of people who know our band and know us in this town."

Pat Johnson, manager of SLO Brew, confirmed that Itchy McGuirk has a following.

"They do well here (at SLO Brew). They're definitely in the top ten.

As for the future of Itchy McGuirk, Tracewell said, "Everything is happening so fast. I definitely see us sticking together."

Walker said he envisions the band doing big tours six to eight months out of the year with three to five CDs released within the next five years. And Groshart said he hopes that "we are successful enough where I don't have a day job. I'd like to be comfortable with my living and have some sort of acclaim."

Itchy McGuirk will be in the area April 2 at Mother's in Los Osos. April 24 at Polypalooza, April 20 at the Veteran's Hall and May 6 at the Wildflower Triathlon.

MELODRAMA

From page B2

Most of the actors in "Pig O' My Heart" have been with the Melodrama for the last four productions. It is obvious from the way they work together, and how they never miss a cue, that they are an exceptional team.

"I like the acting. They're very lively and work well together," said Ruben Ortiz, a 27-year-old audience member from Santa Barbara. "There's no discrepancy between their levels of acting."

"Pig O' My Heart" and "Fascinatin' Rhythm" play through April 30. Showtimes are Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 5, 8 and 11 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m. Tickets are $11.50. The theater is located on Hwy. 1 in Oceano.

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Japan cult suspected of secretly cremating followers' bodies

By Peter Landers
Associated Press

TOKYO - A Japanese doomsday cult suspected of secretly bidding adiós to costly imported goods

Associated Press

hunger or heat and injected them with a deadly nerve gas released in Tokyo's subways.

The sect has denied involve­ment in the March 20 attack, which killed 10 people and sick­ened more than 5,000. No arre­stes have been made.

The newspaper Yomiuri quoted former followers as saying one sect leader suffered from the new­spaper said. Police refused to call the bodies of sect mem­bers cremated the remains of those who died.

New details about life and death inside the sect called Aum Shinri Kyo, or Supreme Truth, emerged Wednesday as police in­vestigated whether the group could have manufactured the deadly nerve gas released in Tokyo's subways.

The new spaper Yomiuri said.

Police would not comment on the mysterious drug was injected in­to followers during ceremonies, causing them to lose consciousness and in some cases fall into permanent comas.

The new spaper Yomiuri said.
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Committee rejects bill that would sanction breast-feeding in public

by Janice Kar
Sacramento

SACRAMENTO — A mother's breast: sexual object or source of food? This subject was intensely debated Wednesday as an Assembly committee rejected a bill that would establish a woman's right to breast-feed in public.

"Across the state and indeed across the country, mothers are encountering public hostility for doing one of the most natural things a mother can do — breast-feed her child," said the author, Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles.

Many breast-fed during the hour-long debate. Several lawmakers didn't like the part of the bill that says breast-feeding should be allowed "irrespective of whether or not the nipple of the mother's breast is uncovered."

"I'm not a prude," said Assemblyman Bill Morrow, R-Oceanside, "but you can have a situation where a woman could take her shirt off entirely."

"I don't know if I ever saw a nursing mother fling off her entire shirt to nurse," said Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, to the laughter of the mothers in the audience. "Don't know where Mr. Morrow hangs out."

The question is whether this is indecent exposure," Kuehl added. "This is not indecent exposure."

The hearing room was full of mothers and small children. Many breast-fed during the hearing. He said several other states have similar laws.

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"I don't know where Mr. Morrow hangs out."

Villaraigosa said he hoped that given permission to try again at a Sacramento mall because the salesperson said "some customers might be offended and might think it's obscene and it would scare off customers."

"Is breast-feeding such a shameful thing that I should have to hide?" she asked.

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Forrest Gump’ near sweep of Oscars leaves the British whining for justice

by Matt Wall

LONDON — Forrest Gump may be America’s favorite simpleton, but Hollywood’s celebrated idiot elicited only wrath from the British Wednesday as the nation’s pressbulk about being snubbed at this year’s Oscars.

"Each time you think the Oscars have grown up, they return with a rattle and a bib, making exuberantly retarded noises," editorialized The Daily Express. "And we can’t help wondering if someone like Mr. Gump was in charge of the judging."

Losing has not been the British fate in recent years. A third film, "Tom and Viv," received two acting nominations and had not been expected to win in either category.

In the event, "King George," won one award, in the technical category of art direction, but Nigel Hawthorne also was up for best actor.

The British were not pleased to be Gumped — especially in a ceremony shown live through the night on the BBC for the first time ever.

Christopher Tookey in The Daily Mail called Oscar-winner Hanks’ screen creation “a menace to society ... The man is so stupid that he just might make it as far as the White House.”

Wrote The Independent’s Bryan Appleyard: "The Oscars are not really about talent ... If they were, then not only Nigel Hawthorne but dozens of other British actors would be winners.”

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Elementary school employee quits over principal's no-hug policy

"Taking their concerns into consideration, as well as the job responsibilities of the nonunion supervisor, I instructed people not to hug the children," Hough said.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Robert Costa said he supports the decision, noting that "there are other ways to demonstrate care and feelings, to demonstrate that you care about children." Meanwhile, Jones has been finding his way around the ban, coming back to school in the afternoons to hug her own time.

Sixth-grade Brian Johnson, who was among those getting an after-hours hug Tuesday, said he appreciates Jones.

"She doesn't come here for the job, she comes because she likes kids. Kids come up to her and hug her. I don't go up to her," Johnson said.

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Schools ban 'R'-rated Spielberg film

Not taking one scene (depicting two nude actors having sex) and saying, "No," Tarkanian said. He contended the request did not harm the film's historical integrity.

"Board member Howard Hollingsworth said the nude scene was inappropriate and unnecessary. Some parents attending the meeting expressed opposition to the showing of R-rated films in schools, suggesting there was too much leeway in the district's policy already. Pricipal and teachers can circumvent the policy by showing films after school hours for extra credit. And students can obtain parental permission for special screening forms are easily forged."
BONN, Germany — Perhaps only in Germany could a birthday party provoke so much soul searching.

Ernst Juenger, the 100-year-old author of some 50 books, isn’t exactly a household name. But in Juenger’s role in the nasty century gone by.

Critics are bothered by Juenger's refusal to apologize for his past, his steady scorn for democracy and obscure prophecies of a future age in which the world will be ruled by "itiane."

"He’s not a dangerous right-wing intellectual," said Dietrich Harth, a Heidelberg University literature professor. "What is dangerous about him is the tendency of German intellectuals to elevate Juenger and his life to something that should be emulated."

Left-wing students planned to demonstrate outside a ceremony honoring Juenger on Thursday in Heidelberg, where he was born in 1895. "Friends and enemies are my karma," said Juenger in a speech at his birthday lunch in the southern German town of Saulgau. "Without them, life would lack shape."

Ernst Juenger
Author

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