Going once, going twice...

Former President Ford praises Brooks Firestone at luncheon

Santa Barbara County Supervisor Mike Stoker drops out of race

Holiday shopping just hit the airwaves when KCPR, Cal Poly’s student-run radio station, ignited its 20th annual auction this week.

After tuning the radio to 91.3 FM, listeners can call in and make bids on any of the “packages” up for sale.

The deals are hot. Callers can jump-start the bidding at whatever price they desire.

“They usually say $1,” said Phil Campbell, KCPR general manager and history senior.

One of the packages sold Tuesday had more than $100 worth of products, including a new $40 backpack, a haircut and sporting goods. It was sold for $24 to former Cal Poly student, Tony Lee.

“Then when there was only five minutes left someone called in and bid $22. I kept trying to call but it was busy. Then I called one of the other numbers and got through and bid $24,” Lee said.

Top bidders pay for and pick up their new goods at the station.

The profits from the auction in the focus with three big names running in the primary,” Stoker said, referring to himself, Firestone, and Assemblyman Tom Bordonaro.

Ford made it clear he was not endorsing Firestone over other contenders, but said the goal of any Republican candidate should not be to win the election, but to preserve mainstream conservative values.

“I am withdrawing from the race, but I can assure you, I’m not abandoning the fight,” Stoker said.

Ford said this is an important election to increase the Republican majority in the House, which currently has 11 more Republicans than Democrats. He credits that majority, which took power following the 1994 election, with the transformation of President Clinton from the “flaming liberal” elected in 1992 to the “moderate who embraced Republican ideas” when re-elected in 1996.

Firestone is considered a...
State to sue Oakland over same-sex benefits

By Rob Spaldi
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A state agency said Tuesday it would sue the city of Oakland over its domestic partners benefits that cover only same-sex couples, a case with implications for the University of California.

State Labor Commissioner Jose Millan will file suit in Alameda County Superior Court to enforce his order requiring Oakland to pay for health insurance for all city employees with registered domestic partners, regardless of sex, said spokesman Rick Rice.

Millan ruled in October that the city's same-sex policy, which took effect in January, discriminated against gay and lesbian workers, while laudable, has no bearing on the question of whether the policy discriminates in violation of California law. His decision was upheld Nov. 14 by John Duncan, acting director of the Department of Industrial Relations.

The city rejected the order, which can be enforced only if the state wins its lawsuit. Oakland says its policy, which may be unique among local governments in California, does not discriminate based on sexual orientation, but rather benefits only to intimate partners who cannot legally marry.

"People with opposite-sex partners are not in the same position. They always have the option to marry," Deputy City Attorney Wendy Reader said Tuesday.

The city "needs to remediate discrimination rather than create it," the city said in papers filed with Millan.

But the labor commissioner said the city provided "no legitimate explanation for offering certain employment benefits to some domestic partners and not others."

"The fact that (Oakland) enacted the policy in order to address historic discrimination against gay and lesbian workers, while laudable, has no bearing on the question of whether the policy does in itself discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation," Millan wrote.

Thomas F. Coleman, lawyer for an Oakland city engineer who challenged the policy, said all other California cities and counties that offer domestic partner benefits — including San Francisco, Los Angeles city and County, Sacramento and San Diego — cover opposite-sex as well as same-sex couples.

"Same-sex-only policies have been passed in Baltimore, Chicago, New Orleans and Denver," Coleman said. But he said the only other public agency in California with such a policy is the University of California, which approved benefits last month in a 13-12 vote of the Board of Regents.

K CPR

from page 1

are used for upgrades at KCPR.

This is my third auction," said Carver Cordes, a KCPR DJ.

"We used to have the auction in the spring but we decided to do it fall quarter this year so people can do their Christmas shopping."

KCPR staff members go to businesses and ask for donations. "There are a lot of businesses who are willing to donate. A lot of times they're really positive," Cordes said.

Proceeds from the auction can vary from year to year. This time nearly $3,000 worth of merchandise was donated, but the proceeds probably won't reach that mark due to those "smoking deals."

"Last year we took in about $2,000," Cordes said.

The auction is expected to last until Thursday.

Students return to classes with memories of gunfire

by Ted Brids
Associated Press

WEST PADUCAH, Ky. — A day after three students were shot to death at the end of a prayer meeting, their classmates returned to the same halls Tuesday to mourn, lay flowers and silently pray.

Even though the memories and the pain of the rampage were still fresh, Heath High School Principal Bill Bond said it was important to go back to classes to show "we can't let one mixed-up person destroy our society."

"If someone believes in anarchy and we let that anarchy control us, then he is in control of us," Bond said. "I don't believe in letting someone control me, so we will go about our business."

But the day was anything but normal. Students, many in tears, walked in groups and clung to each other for hugs and support.

They prayed for the three friends who 24 hours earlier were shot to death just as their heads were similarly bowed and they uttered their last words — "amen." Five other students were hurt. Three remain hospitalized.

Counselors spent the morning talking with students, and teachers did their best to hold regular classes in the afternoon.

"There was very little being said. It was mainly quiet and kids praying," guidance counselor Allan.
Take a tour of Thailand with Kabir

By Kabir Ghosh
Special to Mustang Daily

I'm writing you from a courtyard in a guest house on the infamous Khao San Road. It's about 80 degrees Fahrenheit at 6 p.m. Thai Standard Time. The daily rain has not yet passed through the city of Bangkok, but I expect it will soon. I have been traveling throughout Thailand for three weeks with my close friend Eric Pilchen. Just before Thailand, we stayed in Hong Kong for a few days. The glimpses of Southeast Asia have been breathtaking.

Before I start, pardon me while I scratch my many mosquito bites. Today was grand. We visited Wat Po. This temple is one of the oldest and largest in Bangkok. It was built by King Rama I nearly 200 years ago and houses the gigantic gold-plated reclining Buddha. This Buddha is 46 meters in length and 15 meters high. The feet are enshrined with mother of pearl. On the serene grounds of the Wat are many murals and colorful mirrored sloped columns which support the red tile roofs.

As I left the Wat, I was again in the midst of the crazy and polluted city. More scooters and two-stroke polluters fill the street. These left-side driving vehicles often carry 2 to 5 people at a time, swerving in and out of traffic like a drunk driver. The "toot-toot" (three-wheeled taxis) only miss you by inches as they drive around the black-smoke-emitting buses.

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Prior to my stay on Khao San Road, I was basking in the tropical sun on the island of Koh Phangan. A nine-hour bus ride south and a four-hour ferry ride from Khao San Road brought me to the white sand and coral reefs of this beautiful place. Eric and I spent about 10 days together snorkeling and exploring the island by high-speed Honda scooters — yee-ha!

The season of fall, having the coolest and moderate of weather conditions, does not bring many visitors; so our kilometer stretch of beach had a large population of almost 40. My little bungalow was 10 meters from the 70-degree water. The tropical fish would swim inches away from me, apparently unaware of my presence.

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I rode atop the head of the thick-skinned, prickly haired elephants. From my bird's-eye-view I saw the elephant with its beautiful eyes gracefully walking the three-foot wide path. When a small tree of only eight or nine feet was in the way, the head, attached to a trunk, cleaned removed the obstacle. What a ride I was on. When my ride was hungry, grass was only a meter away and was soon gobbled down.

Our group of 10 crossed rivers and passed through at times planned rice fields before arriving at the Karen village. A beautiful and accommodating people, the Karen reminded me of how I imagined the Native Indians to have lived.

The belief in animism and spirits was still part of their simple life style of farming and existing. They believed in conservation and did not hunt many animals because of diminished numbers in that environment.

In a goodwill gesture to the tribe, our group bought candies and toiletries to give as gifts. After the gift-giving, our group sat at one end of a small, leaf-roofed hut while the wives and children stared at us from the other. Our guide helped us translate the naive and innocent questions: "Are you from the same village?" or "Are you married?" was the extent of the complexity.

This tribe had only been exposed to foreigners nine or 10 other times. Their welcoming smiles and hearty food with many chilies touched my heart and hungered my tongue.

See "TRAVEL" page 6
Relating to the Chelsea basher
By Dawn Pillsbury

I think I understand what was going through Guy Bramson’s mind when he wrote his infamous column. The one where he encouraged U.C. Berkeley students to go to Chelsea Clinton’s dorm and express their school spirit on her body. It’s happened to me often enough.

But inevitably I wake up at about 3 a.m. thinking, “What did I write? Did I...”

By Dawn Pillsbury

Printed by University Graphic Systems

Wednesday, December 3, 1997

You will see a procession of game shows, violence, audience-participation shows, formula comedies about totally unbelievable families, blood and thunder, maybe, violence, sodomy, murder, western bad men, western good men, private eyes, gangsters, more violence and car­toons. And most of all, boredom.” Chairman of the US Federal Communications Commission Newton Minow said in a speech about television in May of 1961.

It’s strange that 36 years ago Minow could predict what television is today, which makes me wonder as to how much better or worse it will get.

I have grown up as a couch potato, and television has been a constant in my life even since I can remember. But it has also changed over the years, and I wonder where it’s going in the future.

Television violence: hooray V-chip
By Kellie Korhonen

December 25, 1,900 years ago. On this day God became flesh. Jesus (who is God) died on a cross as the perfect and final sacrifice. Through the shedding of his blood, all who believe in him are saved and have eternal life. Aside from his death, Christ’s birth is the most impor­tant event in the history of creation. To minimize this fact by reducing Christmas to merely a ‘party’ time is heart-breaking.

For those who do not have a relationship with God, consider the following questions: What do Christmas songs say real­ly mean — why was the silent night a holy night? What’s the meaning of the Christmas baby in a manger that mom puts on display every year? What’s in the name Christmas anyway — or ‘Christ’-mas?”

The true Spirit of Christmas cannot be found by watching a movie, as Yorker sug­gested. No, the true spirit of Christmas is in the Holy Spirit. It’s found in the Word of God — the Bible. It’s found in the peace and joy of knowing Christ. It’s found in the great love Christ had that he would die for us.

Kellie Korhonen is a Daily Staff Writer.

Writer was wrong about the spirit of Christmas

Editor, Kelly Yorker wrote in her article that gifts and shopping are not the true meaning of Christmas. She got that right, but unfor­tunately her own definition of the Christmas spirit misses the point, too.

Youker’s opinions, the true Christmas spirit is spending time with friends and family, reading books about Santa, and "partying and just having a good time." All these Christmas traditions are nice, but they’re not the true meaning of Christmas.

The true spirit of Christmas is much more powerful than that. It’s the cele­bration of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He was born on (approximately)
Responses to “Behind closed doors: racial bias at Cal Poly,” Dec. 2

Racism accusations ridiculous

Editor,

The article written by political science senior Mark Milligan on the subject of racial bias at Cal Poly is filled with so many inaccuracies, it’s pathetic! It’s unsubstantiated statements like these that fuel racial prejudice.

The conversation Mark is referring to took place between three female staff members, NOT faculty members, it began when one of the Caucasian women stated she was cold and asked the African-American (Black) staff member if she was. Her own response was, “Black people don’t get cold.” The conversation continued in a joking fashion between the women who are all good friends. Obviously, Mark did not see all the individuals participating in the conversation and what he heard, he took out of context. We wish he’d gone with his first instinct to “confront” us. It’s a shame when three good friends cannot have a playful conversation concerning the cold weather.

It is sad that Mark is leaving this University with such negative feelings. The impressions he takes with him are his own interpretation of events. In this particular case, Mark can be assured that racism did not occur.

Nora Buffett is an administrative assistant in the social sciences department, Nettie Steels is a custodian and Sherry Couture is an administrative assistant in the political science department.

Mouthin’ off

What do professors do frequently that really annoys you?

When there’s time left at the end of class, he’ll stand up in front and talk about pointless things that have nothing to do with class, instead of just letting us go.

When your teachers look at you like you’re from another planet when you ask a question.

Even if you walk in 30 seconds late, he makes a big stink about it and embarasses you!

Teachers that don’t let you know when class has been cancelled. You get up, ride your bike to school only to find you don’t have class.

When they ask you a question when they know you don’t know the answer.

When they load a ton of work on you during dead week. You’re dead by the end of dead week.

A far cry from Jim Crow

Editor,

Yesterday Mark Milligan wrote a scathing article in Mustang Daily.

He, in no uncertain terms, deemed Cal Poly a racist institution where the racism might not be as blatant as name calling or cross-burning but is nevertheless alive and well.

I have two words for Mark and anyone else who took him seriously: Grow up. One comment in an apparently unknown context about whether or not cold weather affects black people does not a racist institution make.

Taking this comment and from it deducing that we have not “come a long way since Jim Crow” and that “racism continues to conduct covert operations” at Cal Poly is laughable.

As an institution, Cal Poly sponsors and provides funds for any number of multicultural groups. We have and will continue to encourage diversity and cultural understanding in efforts to promote a conducive learning environment. There is absolutely no statistical or official support for the claim that “President Baker and the entire administration have a sick sense of humor,” as Mark Milligan so eloquently wrote. This accusation is hardly deserved and reflects an over-sensitive and less than mature viewpoint on racial relations.

Furthermore, letting this comment color (pardon the phrase) one’s entire experience at Cal Poly is fairly narrow-minded and, to say the least, over-sensitive. It always astonishes me how touchy this country’s student body has become.

Should we ignore racism in America and it’s manifestations at educational institutions and pretend they don’t exist? No, there are campuses in this country that definitely have racial difficulty and we should root those problems out.

However, it is silly to go hunting for white cone hats around every corner. Cal Poly is not a racist institution. We are a far cry from Jim Crow no matter what Mark Milligan might have convinced himself of.

Letting one comment in an unknown context negate any positive experience one has had at Cal Poly is truly ridiculous.

Aron DeFerrari is a political science freshman.
El Corral Bookstore closed the main sales floor
June 23, to do a complete remodel. It was messy, noisy
and inconvenient. It was completed September 12.

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El Corral Bookstore

El Corral Bookstore
DeBartolo steps down as 49ers owner

By Bob Coster
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Edward DeBartolo Jr., whose San Francisco 49ers won five Super Bowls under his leadership, stepped down as owner Tuesday after two Louisiana newspapers reported he would be indicted for gambling fraud.

DeBartolo said that pending the outcome of the investigation, his sister, Marie Denise DeBartolo York, will take over as chairman of the 49ers and Carmen Policy will continue as president and chief executive officer.

The newspapers reported that DeBartolo and former Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards are among at least six people notified they soon will be indicted by a federal grand jury.

"These charges simply are not true," DeBartolo said in a statement. "I look forward to the time when I can address those issues and tell my side of the story."

Policy will continue to run the 49ers' day-to-day operations and replace DeBartolo as the team's representative to the NFL for league business.

DeBartolo said he also was stepping aside from any role in the project to build a new stadium for the 49ers in San Francisco.

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said the NFL had been aware of the grand jury investigation prior to Tuesday's announcement, and that it would be "improper to comment on the legal proceedings involving Mr. DeBartolo while those matters remain subject to the judicial proceedings." He said he told the 49ers that he approved of the moves by the DeBartolo family and the team, and that he had "complete confidence" in Policy and the 49ers management.

Mr. DeBartolo and officials of the San Francisco 49ers also had made my office aware of the steps announced today with respect to the restructuring of the club's management and Mr. DeBartolo's decision to remove himself from any role in NFL and club operations pending a resolution of the legal proceedings."

"The steps announced today will have no effect on the performance of the football team, the development of the new stadium or the quality operations that have characterized the 49ers for two decades," Tagliabue said.

Mr. DeBartolo said "I have told the 49ers that I will continue as president and that it would be "inappropriate to comment on the legal proceedings involving Mr. DeBartolo while those matters remain subject to the judicial proceedings." He said he told the 49ers that he approved of the moves by the DeBartolo family and the team, and that he had "complete confidence" in Policy and the 49ers management.

Carrying a handgun without a permit is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a $4,000 fine.

Announced by attorney Bill Magnuson, Switzer entered court through a back entrance.

Barry Switzer pleads guilty to gun charge

By Mike Cordern
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Dallas Cowboys coach Barry Switzer, who was arrested last summer carrying a loaded pistol in his luggage at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, pleaded guilty Tuesday to a misdemeanor gun charge.

Switzer was fined $3,400 and was given deferred adjudication, meaning if he completes probation successfully the charge will be erased from his record.

He also agreed in a plea agreement to serve 80 hours of public service as a condition of his probation.

"Enough has been said already," Switzer told C .

At the end of the five-minute hearing, Switzer left through the same back door. The door is the same one Cooy uses to reach his chambers.

Asked after the hearing why Switzer was allowed to use a special entrance, Cooy denied granting permission for the coach to do so.

Switzer was arrested Aug. 4 for carrying an unloaded .38-caliber pistol in his bag. The coach said he put the gun in his bag to hide it from children, visiting his home and forgot to remove it before going to the airport.

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ALWAYS-BOOKING DANCERS, MAKE SSS. APPLY IN PERSON.
Sports manufacturers sign Olympic marketing agreement

By Jeffrey Varner
Daily Staff Writer

The Cal Poly Men’s Basketball team will have a long-range showdown with the University of Santa Cruz in Mott Gym tonight at 7 p.m. The Banana Slugs are 2-2 for the season and looking to add another win in their victory column by engaging in a battle with the Mustangs, who are 3-1.

The Banana Slugs pride themselves on being an excellent three-point shooting team. They have a three-guard rotation consisting of Adam Sinton, Jason Semancik, and David Heard, which averages better than 44 percent in their three-point shooting percentages for the season.

"The Three Amigos," as they are known by loyal Santa Cruz fans, will attempt to out-gun a host of Mustang guards who are known throughout their league for their fantastic three-point shooting.

One of these three-point specialists is Mustang guard Mike Wozniak, who leads the team so far this season with an average of more than 22 points and three assists per game.

"We are very comfortable with the way that we are playing right now. We are doing pretty well," Wozniak said.

The Banana Slugs’ all-star player is 6-foot-5-inch center Adam Todd who emerged as their main point-man defensive threat in the Bob Sully Classic Basketball Tournament hosted by the University of Monterey Bay.

Todd averaged 23 points, 10 rebounds, and two blocked shots in the two-game tournament in which his team finished 1-1. The offense has now turned around under Todd who, according to head coach Danie Garner, is now seeing time at both the forward and center positions.

The Banana Slugs are expecting to finish well in Division III this season with an experienced squad that has returned four starters from last year’s team, which finished the season with a record of 12-10.

"Santa Cruz is coming into tonight’s match against Cal Poly with a recent big loss to the Humboldt State Lumberjacks 58-70. In their defeat Todd led the team with a 17-point, 10-rebound performance and will once again be their go-to guy against the Mustangs."

On the other hand, the Mustangs are coming into tonight’s game after a big victory over the University of San Diego by narrowly defeating them, 82-81 on Saturday. The Mustangs were led by sophomore sensation Mike Wozniak who had a game-high 22 points.

Garner is expecting a very physical contest between the big men of both teams but believes that the game will ultimately be decided by the play of the guards who will do most of their battling by exchanging three-point field goals.

According to Garner, the Mustangs are also preparing themselves for their battle against the Banana Slugs.

"We are not looking past them. They are a good team and we know what we have to do to beat them," Loyd said. "We are working on some of the things that we didn’t execute well against Eastern Washington and the University of San Diego."

"We were a little intimidated against Eastern Washington with that being our first road game and all. But all of that is behind us now and we are going to play the kind of ball that we are capable of playing against Santa Cruz," said freshman guard Jabbar Washington, who scored 17 points and grabbed 6 rebounds in Saturday’s game.

Sports manufacturers sign Olympic marketing agreement

The Olympic Games is the biggest showcase for the sporting goods industry, and we don’t want our athletes to wear USOC-designated uniforms during the games.

Adoption of the worldwide code was welcomed by IOC vice president Anita DeFrantz, the United States’ top international Olympic official.

"It’s very positive," she said. "It means the athletes don’t have to be turn in their allegiances."

The document also addresses the potential conflicts of interest some of the sponsors may have with the Games. It states that all sponsors must respect the code.

"The new code specifies that individual national Olympic committees decide which uniforms their athletes will wear and sporting goods companies must respect the choices," DeFrantz said.

This new code was adopted last year by the U.S. Olympic Committee and is expected to be in effect for the 1996 Games in Atlanta, where non-sponsor Nike mounted a big promotional campaign.