Meet the ‘Roomies’

Poly student’s sitcom hits the big screen — in the business building
By Louise Attard
Mustang Daily

Life in the dorms may not always be like an episode of “Friends,” but a Cal Poly student has taken the idea and turned it into his own sitcom.

Computer science senior Ben Miskie has produced a show called “Roomies,” which centers on the entertaining lives of Cal Poly roommates. The first public screening of “Roomies” is Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the Business building, room 213.

“That was something I’ve been wanting to do for a long time,” Miskie said about producing his show. “It’s kind of like ‘Friends’ except it’s situated in the dorms with college students.”

Miskie got his start by taking Humanities 410 with Richard Simon, an English lecturer and head of the humanities department. In class Miskie learned about the plot and character similarities between “Friends” and Shakespeare’s play “Much Ado About Nothing.”

When the humanities department announced it would sponsor an independent study if any students were interested in producing a sitcom, Miskie jumped at the chance.

“We were able to support him. It was a student project. It was learned by doing,” Simon said. “Ben showed a lot of initiative.”

The department could only give Miskie $50 to put together a show, but Miskie was able to make the dollars stretch.

“We had to pay some money to rent out the Rec Center in one scene, so that was ten bucks,” he said.

Miskie also put in a lot of his own money, like when he bought a video camera. He borrowed a second camera from the multimedia center, but it did not produce the quality he wanted.

About 10 Cal Poly students worked as actors or behind the scenes and devoted the quality he wanted. About 10 Cal Poly students worked as actors or behind the scenes and devoted the quality he wanted.

Students bond, play volleyball during Friday class off campus
By Louise Attard
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David Keeling, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, has found the perfect way to develop a better relationship with his students — play volleyball with them.

Keeling said he started playing volleyball with his students eight years ago. He was teaching summer school and noticed students had more free time in the summer months. Students were also less enthusiastic with classes, so he tried to think of a way to make summer more fun.

“We were successful and they liked it and I liked it,” Keeling said of that first quarter.

Now Keeling plays volleyball with his students every quarter, on Friday afternoons at Santa Rosa Park.

Keeling said many people may see this sort of relationship with his students as unusual.

“There aren’t that many professors that do this kind of thing,” he said.

Keeling believes the informal student-teacher relationship outside the classroom has many benefits.

“It’s a chance to interact on a more even basis. In the classroom I (as the profs) have all the advantages,” he said. “Students and professors get to know each other better and become more comfortable around each other,” Keeling said. “I end up writing more letters of recommendation for people.”

“The two people don’t interact in the classroom. If they come out and play volleyball for a quarter or so, each

Volunteers plant trees in some unlikely places
By Britt Fekete
Mustang Daily

Many volunteers from Cal Poly, Cuesta College, local junior high schools, grade schools and the California Conservation Corps helped plant dozens of California-native trees last fall on the Central Coast.

Lionel Johnston, an advocate for planting native trees in the area, hopes to see as many or more volunteers this year. Johnston said November is the best time to plant native trees, including live oak, tan oak, sycamore, cottonwood, maple, box elder and alder.

Johnston said planting the native trees is crucial to the future of local waterways, parks and open public spaces.

“It's not about what you want growing in a few years, but what you want growing from now on,” he said.

Trees do more than just give off oxygen and look pretty. They save water in creeks by slowing down evaporation. They provide habitat for wildlife and provide food for all species. The strong, well-established and untampered roots of an oak even prevent erosion by holding topsoil in place.

This is different than that of a Eucalyptus

SOWING SEEDS: Students from Cal Poly, Cuesta College and San Luis Obispo schools are planting trees to protect waterways, drainage and land sensitive to soil erosion on the Central Coast.

Science prof holds classes in the park

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ROOMIES
continued from page 1

room's own time without getting credit class or payment. Miskie recruited many of them by hanging out at the Cal Poly Theater when the main stage plays were having auditions.

Joshua Burnett, a computer science sophomore, plays the character Billy, an agriculture major who spends more time lusting after girls than studying for classes.

"He's the ladies' man of the group," he said.

Burnett also controlled the lighting and worked as co-editor. He auditioned for a part after he heard about "Roomies" from a flyer. At first, Miskie told him he was too young to play any of the roles, so Burnett settled for working as a member of the crew. But when the opening came for someone to play Miskie's part, Burnett asked if he could step in.

"After much arguing he agreed to the deal," Burnett said.

Miskie said it would have been too stressful for him to write, produce, direct and act simultaneously.

"Joshua did a pretty good job," he said. "It was very difficult controlling everybody and acting at the same time."

Burnett said producing the show was a "feat of perseverance ... The only way it came together was by refusing to give up and working very hard," he said.

Miskie and his friend Gavin Hartley, an accounting senior, were the show's creators. It took six weeks to shoot a single episode of "Roomies" last spring in the Palomar dorms at North Mountain dorm.

That worked out well because you had dorms that were separated only by a bathroom so people could interfere, he said.

Production wasn't without frustration and delays, Miskie said. On the first day of shooting the sitcom, a circuit breaker blew in the dorm rooms because too much equipment was plugged in.

"Some of the story lines of the first episode include a guy who is interested in a girl but doesn't know she's a lesbian, and a guy who grows spinach in his room using a marijuana hydogenics set. Miskie said developing ideas to create a humorous sitcom came at random.

"I think it's funny," he said. "There are some parts that are crude but it flows together rather nicely."

Miskie took his sitcom to Warner Bros. to show his friend Michael Curtis, the executive producer of "Friends," and one of the writers. Miskie said Curtis was impressed with his first attempt to produce a sitcom.

"It was really happy that he watched it," he said.

Miskie met Curtis last year when he called Warner Bros. to try to get a "Friends" writer to speak at Simon's Humanities 410 class.

"They said 'We're very busy right now making the number one TV show, I don't think anybody can talk to you,'" Miskie said, so he settled for leaving the details with the secretary.

"Maybe one of the them will call you back but probably not," was the final comment he received, so Miskie was surprised when Curtis called him back 15 minutes later. Curtis said he was interested in talking to the class and came to Cal Poly last week without asking for a fee.

"Then he took Gavin and me out to breakfast and paid," he said.

Miskie and Curtis still keep in contact via e-mail.

"He's the nicest guy I know," Miskie said. "He answers any questions I have about show business."

Last year, Curtis invited Miskie and Hartley to watch a live taping of "Friends." Miskie said the cast of "Friends," Matt Le Blanc and David Schwimmer, and writers were very impressed with his first attempt to produce a comedy--variety show, similar to "Saturday Night Live.

"Being successful in the entertainment industry is his dream," Miskie said, adding that "he's not really interested in his computer science major."

"I guess you could consider computer science like waiting tables for somebody who wants to get into the film industry," he said.

Some of the cast and producers of "Roomies" will be at Wednesday's screening so students can ask questions and make comments.

"I would like to see a lot of people come up and maybe get students pumped up about starting their own type of sitcom shows," Miskie said.

Simon's projects like this are a great example of what students can achieve at Cal Poly.

"I think anyone who's interested in a career in television or anyone who's interested in the kind of projects that you can do here (should attend the screening)," he said. "It's an impressive first start. Ben's on his way."

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Points of privacy

Editor: Laura Solomon

The Office of Academic Records would like to provide clarification for concerns made in Monday's Letters. The so-called "Privacy Disguise" mentioned in the letter by Anonymous ("We could all gather around and clean our own mouse halls.") appeared on Oct. 30, 1998.

Students at Cal Poly have the option of protecting "Locator Information" (name, local address and phone number, email address and major) or "Directory Information" (name, local address and phone number, email address, major degree and inside received, weight and height of athletic team members, most recent previous educational institution attended, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, place of birth and photograph). Both of these options result in the student not being included in the ASI Directory and the on-line Cal Poly Directory. Neither of these options result in a student being excluded from a class list. Updates to privacy restrictions can be made in Mustanginfo - http://www.mustanginfo.calpoly.edu or at the Records Office, Arrell 211.

Thomas L. Zuar is a registrar for the Office of Academic Records.

Halloween is for the kids

Editor: Rachel Robershaw

Robin and I have never seen why we should all be afraid of the black cat and the one with the hockey mask. It seems to me that we should all be afraid of the black cat and the one with the hockey mask. If we could all gather around and clean our own mouse halls.

There are some things that are just too scary. For those who didn't read Mr. Robershaw's article, it made very clear that the celebration of Halloween should come to a halt because its origins come from Satan worshipers, witches and Devils. These terrible people of old killed people, terrorized women, and sacrificed virgins (but only after banging the medieval beauty senseless). Oh, the horror! The shame!

Geoff, obviously any group that has a history of terrorizing innocent people and killing them for the sake of religion or fear of a god should be ignored. Wait a minute! That would include the long tradition of Christians killing in the name of saving souls and ridding the world of witches. Never mind then.

What's that, a holiday that is somehow in conjunction with Satan? I think it's great. I think a holiday that acknowledges, and even celebrates, man's mortality and tendency to "sin" (especially when girls are running around in French maid and naughty cat costumes; gross!), is very cool. Why does a Bible-thumper like you care, especially if you are only going to have a poopy attitude? Heaven forbid we have one cold holiday that doesn't revolve around God or Jesus. Everybody knows Easter is lame anyway.

That last point is moot, and I only made it because I wanted to point out that Easter is lame. Any normal person, meaning those who have matured beyond the mindset of the New Testament, realizes that Halloween has nothing to do with Satan or witches. One might point out that the modern witch is more interested in worship in the form of a peaceful interaction with nature than with flinting with Beelzebub. This seems to me a much more decent way to pay one's respect to a god than sending cash to the pope or to Billy Graham.

But I digress. The point is, Halloween is a great holiday that has little to do with Satan or sacrificing women of 18th century England; but, about having a great time with friends and family. My family has always celebrated Halloween together in a joyful orgy of candy and blood drinking. I mean, costumes and candies. It's the little girl who is dressing as a balle-
rina or even a witch really offensive to the modern Christian Fanatics' sensibilities? I say lay off this great holiday, or I'll cast a spell on your papier-pumpe ass. Personally, I'm going as a dead disco guy, and one of my roommates is going as an amish.

The other two are going as a virgin and a Devil.

David Wagner is a graphic design junior who was raised by a pack of wolves.

Halloween is for the kids

Editor: Laura Solomon

As the United Church of Retarded Fanatical Christians voices its hatred of crack tor communion on Halloween has nothing to do with evil. It is the evil of Satan... I have never seen why we should all be afraid of the black cat and the one with the hockey mask. It seems to me that we should all be afraid of the black cat and the one with the hockey mask. If we could all gather around and clean our own mouse halls.

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Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and let-
ters reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-
spaced, signed, include a phone number, major and class stand-
ing. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to opin-
on@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu. Shorter letters will be given preference. Letters over 400 words are discouraged.
Pedestrians face unnecessary peril when crossing the pavement

Life can be very daunting for a pedestrian. It's not the roads we fear, but the people who drive on them. As a pedestrian, I find that people who drive can be very inconsiderate. The roads are designed not just for the use of cars, but for bicyclists and pedestrians. Crossing the road causes the most frustration between pedestrians and drivers, especially when we jaywalk. I admit, I am a jaywalker, I jaywalk when cars are zooming by on busy streets and when I'm alone on a deserted street. I jaywalk when there are no traffic lights and at intersections.

Don't get me wrong, I know it's a bad habit to cross at an intersection when the "Don't Walk" signal is staring me in the face. But I can't help it, especially at the California and Foothill Boulevards traffic lights. I don't do it to look cool in front of my peers, or because I want an early visit to my grave. It's just that by now, after walking back and forth to school every day, I know the habit of the lights, and I'm impatient. Before, I used to wait at the lights for ages, feeling like a real idiot while my cars or pedestrians seemed to be moving. Enough of that!

We don't do it on purpose to make your life a driving hell. I try to be courteous to drivers by walking as quickly as I can. I don't see the point in walking slowly. I'm not out there to piss you off. I just want to get home in time for Seinfeld reruns and cook some grub.

One of my pet peeves on the roads is when drivers don't stop at pedestrian crossings. What's up with that? Where I come from, pedestrians have the right of way. I received a nasty shock at the crossing near the Performing Arts Center one day when a group of about five cars zoomed by while I stepped off the curb. One by one, none of them stopped. I sometimes think that is their way of paying pedestrians back for always dashing in front of them. Fair enough.

A few times, I was almost hit by cars while crossing the street. But it was not only my irresponsibility that got me in those near-hit situations, it was the drivers, too. Drivers are getting lazy. Once you get your license, you are forgetting all the rules mom and dad taught you. For example, some drivers are not indicating when they make a left or right turn. After looking to the right and left, how is the pedestrian supposed to know you are turning into the lane they are crossing? So somebody has to stop and let the other pass first.

It always confuses me who should go first: the pedestrian who could be hit by a car coming from another direction, or the driver who is holding up traffic. In my experience, the pedestrian usually has first dibs, unless they wave the driver to go through.

As a pedestrian, you can get some cool stuff on the roads. I've seen about three good hubcaps on the side of the road (no tires yet) and a beard with the word "Free" posted on it. By the afternoon somebody had nabbed it. Pedestrians also have to put up with lots of noise, not just from car engines but from car stereo. For a good three seconds, drivers get to share with pedestrians their loud-ass music. I don't really mind this, but I would recommend some student doing a senior project on deafness among Cal Poly students some day.

Bicyclists can be just as bad as drivers especially, when they make use of the pavement and not the bike lane. Often I've seen bike riders on the pavement slowly approaching from a distance. It's like playing chicken - who will move off to the side first.

Like drivers, pedestrians are just trying to get to their destination as quickly and safely as possible. It's a daily battle to use our share of the roads. Just remember that we do have to share.

Louise Attard is a Mustang Daily staff writer and a journalism junior.
**PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The head of the baseball umpires' union is being sued on charges of sexual harassment by an employee of the company he ran.**

In a lawsuit filed Friday in U.S. District Court, Gopi Wils alleged Richie Phillips pressured her for sexual favors from 1995-1997 while she was an employee of Pilot Air Freight Inc. in Lima, Delaware County.

Phillips, the CEO and president of Pilot, said he never made any advances toward Wils. "There is absolutely no factual basis to any of these allegations," he told The Philadelphia Inquirer in Saturday editions.

Wils, of Berwyn, filed complaints in October 1997 with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the lawsuit said.

Phillips said both agencies investigated but found no merit to her complaints. Officials of both commissions said they do not release information on such complaints.

Wils rebuffed Phillips and complained to other Pilot executives about his behavior, according to the suit. In September 1996, she was transferred from her job as human resources director to a lesser position, the lawsuit said.

Phillips called the lawsuit "absolutely absurd," the lawsuit said. Phillips and Wils did not take a pay cut when she was reassigned.

The lawsuit said Phillips, a 1996 telephone conversation with NL president Len Coleman, made a sexual reference about Wils, who had just entered Phillips' office. Coleman could not be reached for comment. Phillips, of Berwyn, said the incident never occurred.

The lawsuit said other female employees complained about Phillips' behavior and at least one of those workers had been compensated as a result. Phillips called the allegations "absolutely absurd," the lawsuit said. Phillips and Wils did not take a pay cut when she was reassigned.

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Women's soccer lose, 1-0

By Trisha Thorn
Mustang Daily

The Cal Poly women's soccer team suffered a disappointing loss against Fresno State on Sunday night. The game's final score was 1-0. The loss brought the team's record to 4-6-3 for the season. The score was 0-0 at the half, but Fresno State's Morgan Oliva managed to score on a counter attack just after the 53 minute mark. Jill Pearson assisted in the goal.

According to head coach Alex Crozier, when the goal was scored the Mustangs were playing mostly on the other team's half of the field. Crozier called the loss very disappointing. "No one really stepped up and made it happen. No one really stood out for us," Crozier said. "We had played well enough to win and we didn't."

Crozier said the team has had the same type of problem several other times this year, including during the game against University of Pacific, and most of the other games the team has lost or tied. According to Crozier, the team really needed the win against Fresno. They are through with regular season play and the loss hurt their chances for a spot in the playoffs. Crozier said the team will continue to practice this week while it waits to hear whether it will make it to the playoffs. They will receive word by Sunday night.

ONE STEP AHEAD: Fresno State beat Cal Poly to the ball and to the goal.

Prizes offered were an 8x10 glossy of Mark and Brian, Turkey or Beef jerky, a Campus Market Mug, and a bottle of pepsi, just to name a few. Anyone could see that stepping up to the Grand Opening celebration meant only good opportunities for easy winning. At times the line at the prize wheel grew out as the lines inside bulged for food and drawing entry forms. One thing that couldn't go unnoticed was the amount of free samples for the different areas of food. The Campus Market has been sailing smoothly for a few weeks now. Grand Opening aside, come in and check out the new atmosphere and food.

Classified Advertising

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Mustang Daily

Tuesday, November 3, 1998 7
SPORTS

SPORTS BAR

SPORTS TRIVIA

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER
Sam Turrod holds the record for most career PGA victories with 81.

Congratulations, Carolyn Thomas!

TODAY'S QUESTION
Who leads the Cal Poly football team in interceptions this season?

Please submit answer to: jpollard@polymlt.calpoly.edu

Please print the correct answer received via e-mail in the next issue of the paper.

BRIEFS

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Three Kentucky players will sit out the Wildcats' first two games, including two regular-season games, under suspensions announced Monday by coach Tubby Smith.

The suspension of forwards Murphy, Arp and Ryan Hogan and center Jamal Magloire had been expected since June, when Smith said all four would be punished for misdeeds of the court. Smith waited until the day before the Wildcats' exhibition opener to announce the details.

"I think they were relieved it wasn't worse," Smith said of the players' reaction when he gave them the news Monday.

"I'm not surprised," said Arp, who pleaded guilty to driving under the influence in May. "It's what I expected... I wanted to move on, move on and look forward to getting on with the season."

All the games to be missed are at home: Tuesday against the California All-Stars, Nov. 11 against the Australian All-Stars, Nov. 17 against Eastern Kentucky and Nov. 19 against Mercer.

The suspensions will be over before the Wildcats play in the Puerto Rico Shootout on Thanksgiving weekend. They have December games against Kansas, Mami, Indiana, Maryland, Duke and Georgia Tech.

Smith said Anthony will miss "a couple more games" and could include the Puerto Rico tournament and trips to Chicago, where the Wildcats play Kansas in the Great Lakes, and Louisville, where Kentucky plays Indiana.

PTUHDHY SMITH.

Soccer splits two league matches

By Trisha Thorn

Mustang Daily

The Cal Poly men's soccer team pushed to overcome many obstacles last weekend in games against Cal State Fullerton on Friday and UC Irvine on Sunday. The Mustangs were plagued by penalties and injuries in the two games and ended the weekend with a 5-0 loss against Cal State Fullerton and a 3-2 win against UC Irvine.

Fullerton, ranked up from No. 21 to No. 14 by Soccer News, scored the first goal seven minutes into the game. The second goal, scored by Fullerton's Colby Jackson, came at the 14-minute mark. Fullerton's Duncan Oughton scored the third goal after 23-minutes, and Jackson recorded his second goal of the game at the 27-minute mark. The last goal was scored by Oughton 63-minutes into the game.

Cal Poly had a total of six shots on goal versus Oughton's Bakery for a 22-yard touchdown pass. Needing the extra point to tie the game, the Mustangs blocked the kick and kept a 34-33 advantage.

The lead would be short-lived, however, as the Vikings surged together a 12-play, 84-yard drive which resulted in a touchdown pass from Parsons to Jimmy Craft.

Cal Poly fell behind 13-0 in the first quarter after two long passes from Parsons to Bryant. Bryant ended the day with six catches for 143 yards.

The Mustangs managed a field goal by Alan Beilke later in the quarter to cut the lead to 13-3. The Vikings caught a break early in the second quarter when Josh Simms picked up a fumble and ran 27 yards for the score. Kiko Griffin had an interception and Steve Prezioso recorded his team high sixth sack for the Mustangs.

Portland State blows a 17-point lead but still defeats Cal Poly

Mustang Daily

The Mustangs suffered another tough loss Saturday (41-34) when Portland State University scored 21 unanswered points and spelled a great Cal Poly comeback.

Down 20-3, the Mustangs (2-6) made a huge surge in the second quarter. Cal Poly’s all-time leading rusher Antonio Warren started the comeback with a spectacular 80-yard touchdown run. The Mustangs then got a team safety bringing the score to 20-12.

Another Warren touchdown, this time from one yard out, got the Mustangs within two points after the conversion pass attempt failed.

Waren rushed for 119 yards, two touchdowns, and averaged 7.9 yards per carry.

Down 20-18 with 12 seconds left in the half, quarterback Chad Henry found his brother Troy Henry on a 34-yard touchdown pass. The play capped off a six-play, 86-yard drive the Mustangs completed in 1:13.

It also gave the Mustangs a 26-20 lead.

Cal Poly scored first in the second half when Chad Henry threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Keith Harter. Harter threw for 232 yards, two touchdowns, and completed 15 of 32 passes.

With the Mustangs leading 34-20, the Vikings (5-5) began their comeback. They drove 70 yards in nine plays for the score.

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If you have refs and a clear winner, you just might be a sport

Mustang Daily

Daylight savings time must have taken more than an hour away from us this month. It appears it took away all common sense from the producers over at ESPN. At least, that's what I have to keep telling myself since tuning in last Sunday night and finding cheerleading on America's favorite sports channel.

I know this called sport has been and been but what made me turn away was when I flipped to ESPNS2 and found Magic: The Gathering Pro-Championship. It's bad enough that I can't watch any Lakers games right now, but ESPN is nowantor the knife by airing crap like this. These are not sports. What makes things like these not qualify as sports?

I believe there are four categories a person can compete in. At the top is a sport, followed by leisure activities (a sub-category of sport), competitions and then games. A sport is any sort of head-to-head competition that has a clear winner, meaning the victor is the individual or team at the end of the game that has scored the most points or crossed the line first.

There are rules to regulate but no judges involved. Soccer, basketball, baseball, football, tennis, swimming, hockey, rugby, volleyball and even ultimate disc are all sports.

Under sports fall leisure activities. Leisure activities are those that are considered sports but don't exactly require enough physical exertion to make the grade. As a friend said to me, leisure activities are anything you can do while holding the remote or by sitting smoking a cigarette. Leisure activities have no age limit and don't discriminate when it comes to height, weight or sex. Bowling, billiards, lawn darts, homebrews and golf all fall under this category.

Following close behind sports are competitions. Judges are the deciding factor in this category. Judges introduce bias and can change the outcome of a competition, especially the German judges in the Olympics — in sport, this can't happen. (Some calls may be questionable, but not every single one of them.)

The one activity that stands on the line between sports and competitions is boxing. When the outcome of a match is determined by points, then it is a competition. But, when someone is knocked out, it becomes a sport. Got it?

Other competitions include gymnastics, diving, wrestling, ice skating, skateboarding, in-line skating and video games. This is where all the "gamers" come into play. Games are anything you can do sitting down. Chess, checkers, riddick-winks, Dungeons & Dragons and, yes, Magic: The Gathering, are all games.

When you do it up to, everyone thinks the activity they participate in is a sport. And I don't blame them, because the lines have become fuzzy over the years. No one knows what is any more. I say let the real sports sit on the sports channels and leave the rest for public access or ESPN2.

Melissa Geisler

See SPLIT, page 6

BEAT TO THE PUNCH: John Cummins battles for the ball.