Top scorer out: Chris Bjorklund’s injury will keep top scorer out tonight. 
Wasted day: Thanksgiving will take toll on city dumps.

Incoming freshmen need basic skills

By Brent Marcus
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Approximately 68 percent of freshmen entering the California State University system in 1998 needed remedial education. That information came from an internal review presented to the CSU Board of Trustees at their meeting on Nov. 17.

Although more than half of entering students needed extra classes to raise their English and math skills to CSU standards, trustees were pleased by how quickly the new students showed proficiency in these subjects. More than 79 percent of remedial education students became proficient during their first college year.

“This is great news for the CSU, for the students and for the students themselves,” CSU Chancellor Charles Reed said. “Students failing to pass either the Entry Level Math Exam and/or the English Placement Test are required to take remedial classes. During the 1998-1999 school year, only 7 percent of freshmen statewide were asked to seek additional assistance at a community college.”

see CSU, page 2

92-year-old man struck by SLO Transit bus

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

A 92-year-old San Luis Obispo resident was struck by a bus Monday morning while he was crossing the intersection of Santa Rosa and Palm streets.

According to the San Luis Obispo Police Department, Raymond Wilson was crossing Santa Rosa westbound when SLO Transit Bus 145 was making a left onto Santa Rosa going northbound. The bus was headed to Cal Poly.

The police were called to the scene at 10:39 a.m. Wilson was taken to Sierra Vista Medical Center, where he is in stable condition but suffers from a possible broken ankle and lacerations to his arms and one of his legs.

According to Erwin Rosenberg, spokesman for SLO Transit, the company that operates SLO Transit, the case is under investigation.

see CSU, page 2

92-year-old man struck by SLO Transit bus

Rosenberg said the driver is currently on administrative leave pending the results of his drug and alcohol tests.

“This is the second time this year that a pedestrian was struck while crossing the intersection of Santa Rosa and Palm streets.”

Six months ago, 80-year-old Lena Wilson was struck and killed by SLO Transit Bus 147 while crossing the street.

Police said the bus had no mechanical defects and there was not a crosswalk painted on the street where they were crossing.

The driver of Bus 147, Bernard Mau, has been charged with vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence. If convicted, he could spend up to a year in the county jail.

Rosenberg said as far as he knows the only connection between the two incidents is that they occurred at the same intersection.

Consumers boycott biggest shopping day

By Nanette Pietroforte
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Many shoppers start their holiday purchasing the day after Thanksgiving, but this year some won’t spend a dime.

Buy Nothing Day, a 24-hour halt on holiday shopping, is scheduled for Nov. 26, the biggest shopping day of the year.

Bob Banner, advocate for Buy Nothing Day, said the campaign draws attention to consequences of consumer spending.

“Buy Nothing Day is a symbolic act to refuse to participate and to gain awareness of how our consumptive culture is destroying ourselves, our environment and numerous indigenous cultures throughout the globe,” Banner said. “There are other heartfelt gifts giving alternatives, stuff that won’t fill the landfills.”

Some retailers, however, disagree.

“Gap has always been an environmentally sound company,” said Jake Rose, sales supervisor at the San Luis Obispo Gap. The economics minor said Buy Nothing Day is a good idea, but he said it will have no major impact.

“I think it would bring awareness, and it’s a wonderful idea,” Rose said. “But retail is what it is. If they don’t buy the day after Thanksgiving, they’ll just buy the day after that or the day after that.”

Marlene Baez, Leather Loft store manager in Pismo Beach, also disagrees with Buy Nothing Day.

see SHOPPING, page 2

Buy Nothing Day is a 24-hour halt on holiday shopping on Nov. 26, the biggest shopping day of the year. The international event serves as a reminder of the consequences of consumer spending. San Luis Obispo’s Gap sales supervisor said the day will have little impact on sales.
Ecosystem not grateful for Thanksgiving waste

For those of us fortunate enough to go home for Thanksgiving, giving thanks for a plentiful food supply isn’t always a good thing.

The enormous amount of energy and waste produced by consuming food each day taxes the ecosystem. Drinking a can of diet soda adds one kilocalorie to your diet, but it took 800 kcal to produce the product and can. Food production and packaging uses up more natural resources than necessary. With six billion people presently inhabiting the world, it’s necessary to find solutions to lessen the environmental impact.

You can do your part to help the environment by making simple changes in your food-purchasing habits. Make fewer trips to the grocery store by planning your weekly meals ahead of time. Going to the supermarket with a friend or roommate not only makes the trip more enjoyable, but it helps reduce pollution that would come from two cars instead of one.

Purchase foods close to home. Buying your fruits and vegetables at farmers’ markets decreases the amount of transportation required by food suppliers. Whenever possible, buy foods in bulk to reduce the amount of packaging waste. Use cloth napkins instead of paper. Keep food cold and packaged in a minimum of food containers. Have you looked at your refrigerator temperature lately? Make sure it is set at the correct temperature. A refrigerator 10 degrees too cold wastes approximately 25 percent more energy than necessary. Also, make sure the refrigerator coils are clean and free of dust.

These simple steps help to decrease the energy and resources bull every day. Make these nearly effortless practices a habit and you’ll change the world in which we live forever.

Erin Silva

106 injured in Penn State bus accident

"It was almost like a whiteout. You would hit, like a white spot where you couldn’t see anything"

Kathy Bell

Pennsylvania State Bus accident

Kathy Bell, a cashier at the Bandit Truck Stop, didn’t know the conditions Sunday of the drivers and passengers in the cars.

Spler said many of the other injuries were minor. Students who weren’t injured gathered at the nearby church of Saint Patrick after the crash until more buses arrived to take them back to State College.

The trip had been organized by Penn State’s Office of Residence Hall Students.

Kathy Bell, a cashier at the Bandit Truck Stop, said truck drivers were pulling off the road all night to avoid driving in the fog.

"It was almost like a whiteout," Bell said. "Most of us thought, white spot where you couldn’t see anything."

CSU continued from page 1

this has not adversely affected students.

"They are not disenrolled, and they don’t have to repeat," Swisher said.

While Weed was pleased with the numbers, Swisher said it is difficult to interpret the numbers from the new report.

"We’ve never done a report like this before, so it’s hard to say if there was any improvement," Swisher said.

CSU Trustee Denny Campbell, chair of the board’s committee on educational policy, said the problem started before college.

"About 80 percent of CSU students come from California schools. To improve the CSUs and California public education, we need to work with the K-12 system to make sure incoming freshmen are ready for college level work," Campbell said.

Recently, the CSU system allocated $9 million to campuses with the highest numbers of students in need of remedial education. Because Cal Poly has a relatively low number of CSU students, it did not receive any of that money.

Swisher expects the statistics for remedial education at individual colleges to be released today.

SHOPPING continued from page 1

"I understand where they’re coming from, but as a store manager, I disagree," Baer said. "The day after Thanksgiving gives the green light for Christmas shopping."

One Cal Poly student plans to participate in Buy Nothing Day, but not intentionally.

"I’m already done with all my shopping, I’m wrapping my gifts," said agricultural science freshman Melissa Nazar. "I’m usually done before Thanksgiving."

"I’m already done with all my shopping. I’m wrapping my gifts," said agricultural science freshman Melissa Nazar. "I’m usually done before Thanksgiving."

"I’m already done with all my shopping."
Imagine looking forward to the week as much as you look forward to the weekend. Imagine spending each minute with unlimited opportunity and continuous options. At Ernst & Young we provide access to the most sophisticated and effective tools in the industry. See you Monday.

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Decking halls is going too far too early

Deck the halls with boughs of holly... These are fairly vague instructions. Whoever wrote them did not disclose some much-needed information. What halls? When should they be decked? Why, you might ask? Because some people are taking these instructions far too literally, that's why.

Furthermore, some people are decking their friggin' halls in November. I don't care if you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or Festivus, there is no reason for lights, holly, candles or any other holiday décor to be out at this time. This is the order in which it goes: Halloween, Thanksgiving and then whichever of the above holidays you happen to celebrate (I hope you all appreciate how p.c. I'm being). Now, we haven't hit Turkey Day yet, so it's logical to me that there shouldn't be any Christmas lights up. Unless, of course, you've had them up all year — but that's a column for another time.

Additionally, some people are taking their friggin' halls waaay too much. Now, the song says, "Deck the halls with boughs of holly," not "Deck the halls with 60 million twinkle bulbs (with multiple flash settings), a life-size, voice-activated Santa Claus and an internally lit manger scene." Don't get me wrong — I think seeing the baby Jesus glow internally like ET is absolutely charming — it just that it might be a tad too much.

The worst transgressors in hall decorating, however, are not average folks like you and me with our front yard shrines to the holidays. The worst transgressors are, without a doubt, the various department stores, gift shops and supermarkets of America. Every year the Christmas display at Hallmark, complete with talking Santas and fake spray snow on the windows, seems to be out a week or so sooner than the year before.

This type of holiday over-decorating is not offensive simply because it is tacky or over-the-top. It's offensive because it completely trivializes and commercializes the significance of the holiday. It trivializes the unfortunate notion that holidays such as Christmas mean nothing more than the consumption of useless red and green garbage. To these stores, the decorations aren't even a means of celebrating; they're a means of exploiting what are supposed to be sacred holidays for the sake of taking in some extra cash.

The holidays, regardless of which ones you celebrate, have real significance. They mean so much more than the decorations and symbols that we use to celebrate them.

There is nothing intrinsically bad about Christmas lights, cardboard Santa Clauses, menorahs and the like. In fact, these can be fun! However, they should not become a substitute for what the holidays are supposed to celebrate.

Craig Weber

Letters to the editor

No excuse to drive solo Editor,

As I drove to campus each morning, admiring the beautiful landscape, joyfully listening to Dave Matthews belt out chords at full blast on my stereo, I generally feel pretty happy about life. But as I began down Highland Avenue toward the large chunk of concrete otherwise known as the library, my optimism about the forthcoming day quickly turns into road rage as I pull up to the entrance to an ostensibly full parking lot.

As I menacingly stalk some innocent guy with his keys in his hands, I find myself beating my thumbs against the steering wheel in anger, no longer to the tune of "Ann Arbor Marching." My eyes are like a hawk as I watch the young man slowly walk toward his car making sure to notice the random twinkle bulbs on the windows, seeming to be out a week or so sooner than the year before.

Irate drivers know that car emissions are the reason why not sharing a ride is a non-issue; as long as they can't truly "force" their beliefs on us. Why not share a ride? You would be doing the environment a favor. You would be doing fellow students a favor. You would be doing yourself a favor. You would finally meet that cute girl in your class to share a ride. The point is YES, parking sucks on campus right now, and YES, you can do something about it very easily — carpooled.

Kristy Dodds-Hansen is a speech communication junior.

School prayer is a non-issue Editor,

I am writing in response to "Prayer Forces Others' Beliefs on Students" in the Nov. 19 issue. The author stated, "Students are against a specific time for prayer cuts into instruction time." The case currently in question by the Supreme Court involves prayer at school football games, which hardly counts as instruction time.

The author concludes, "Events like... sporting events... are mandatory for many students." Since

when I didn't attend a single football game throughout high school.

Let's be serious. It's a football game. You're eating your hotdog, and a group of students down on the field starts murmuring their religious mumbo jumbo. Do you feel forced to participate or pray? Of course not. You're eating your hotdog, enjoying your opening, making irrelevant comments, fold paper airplanes to throw at people, even play along.

So why not share a ride? You would be doing the environment a favor. You would be doing fellow students a favor. You would be doing yourself a favor. You can finally meet that cute girl in your class to share a ride. The point is YES, parking sucks on campus right now, and YES, you can do something about it very easily — carpooling.

Rob McLendon is a computer engineering senior.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words. Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mail letters. They can be mailed, found delivered or mailed to opinion@m Mustang Daily.edu

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"You and your free paper are an inconvenience to me."
Consumerism thrives on Internet

Another holiday season quickly approaches and brings with it the annual question, "How bad is consumption getting and is there anything Americans can do about it?"

Consumption is getting worse, especially in the United States. Americans comprise five percent of the world's population, but they consume 35 percent of the world's resources. That is quite a chunk out of the earth. One of the possible culprits is the Internet.

The ability to buy gifts online at Web sites such as etoys.com allows people to avoid the crowds at malls and shop in the comfort of their own homes. This will cut down on the number of shoppers at the malls, but people may get carried away at home when the only thing they have to do to buy a gift is click the mouse. They may not realize how much they've purchased until the box arrives on their doorstep and the bill eventually stares them in the face.

Online shopping isn’t any less-expensive since shipping and handling charges must be added in, but the biggest advantage is convenience. With the click of a mouse you can make your purchase and be done with your shopping in a few minutes. Why would you want to leave your house on a Saturday afternoon to battle the traffic and the people to go inside a hot, stuffy mall. Why sacrifice your time in this way?

The reason is simple: humans interacting with humans. We have a need to socialize with others and enjoy the company that good friends, family, education, and children offer. Instead of spending a majority of the day at the mall, a father may have more time to spend with his kids because he bought a new software program on Microsoft’s Web site. This free time may only be temporary. Once the product arrives, he may spend more time with it, and the time he spends with his kids will shrink.

As long as the Internet is there for the taking, consumers will buy online with nothing standing in the way. Americans need to revert to simpler lives. Americans’ fascination with "the new thing is the only thing" needs to stop so we can concentrate on what’s important—family, friends, education, and children.

Increasing consumption equals increasing time on the goodies we buy. Online buying is increasing this propensity for consumption, and there is no way of stopping this boom in the foreseeable future.

As long as the Internet is there, people will use it. At least going to the mall provides a chance to interact with other shoppers and build that all important skill of communication. But whether it’s a mall or the Internet, we need to buy less because the earth isn’t an unlimited source of resources. Twenty percent of the earth’s population uses 80 percent of its natural resources. This consumption can’t last forever, and it won’t. Be prudent in what you buy and don’t overdo it. Remember the famous quote—"Everything in moderation."

Bryce Alderton is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer who won’t be buying anything online this season.
Hall of Fame welcomes The Great One

TORONTO (AP) — Wayne Gretzky handled the ultimate tribute to his unparalleled hockey career — induction in the Hall of Fame — with the same boy-next-door humility that characterized his playing days.

In typical Gretzky fashion, The Great One tried to share the limelight with his two fellow inductees — former referee Andy Hasselhomme and former referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison — when they received their Hall of Fame blazers and rings at a ceremony Monday jammed with journalists.

Gretzky insisted that Morrison take the center seat at the interview table and called the honor of joining his co-inductees in the Hall "pretty special."

Such gestures have made Gretzky a national hero in Canada, honored and loved as the greatest to ever play the game.

When asked what made him the most dominant player of all time, Gretzky credited his teammates and a passion that drove him to always want more from himself.

"I felt like I'd never done enough. If I had three goals, I wanted five. If I had seven points, I wanted to get the eighth point," he said. "I kept going every night, played 80 games every year as hard as I could, whether it was Oct. 1 or April 1."

"Maybe that's why I was able to have the records that I did eventually," he said, holding up his NHL records whose trademark No. 99 were an extraordinary mark on the game, with four Stanley Cup championships, almost every conceivable scoring record and winning every major NHL award multiple times.

He urged the cameramen and competition left behind by retirement and said his decision to stop playing is final.

"Nothing can replace hockey," he said. "I wish I could still play, and I miss it tremendously because it's a great game."

"But I said this before: I was going to retire one time, one time officially, and I'm officially retired. Probably miss the game more than I did playing.

"It's a great game."

--

Leaf's flag football game raises questions

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Suspended San Diego Chargers quarterback Ryan Leaf played flag football at a local park during the weekend, disappointing team officials and raising questions about whether he violated his contract.

Coach Mike Riley said he spoke with Leaf on Monday, and the second-year pro admitted that he had played flag football on Saturday.

"I asked him if he played, and he did play," said Riley, who chose his words carefully during his regular Monday news conference. "I asked him if he was hurt, and he was not hurt."

Riley also said he told Leaf that he should have used better judgment.

"Just the fact that we would like to get his physical condition OK before he played any kind of football again," Riley said. "Obviously when he left at the suspension time, his shoulder was still bothering him. So, probably given the opportunity, we would have thought that wasn't a good idea.

"Leaf was rehabilitating his surgically repaired right shoulder when he was suspended for four weeks on Nov. 2 for cursing general manager Bobby Beathard and strength coach John Hastings."

Also Monday, backup quarterback Erik Kramer was discharged after spending three nights in a hospital for treatment of neck spasms. He was scheduled to see a spine specialist later Monday. Kramer had been suffering spasms since early Friday, and the team decided it would be best if he stayed in a hospital, trainer James Collins said. He missed Sunday's 23-20 overtime loss to Chicago, the Chargers' fifth straight loss.

Collins said team doctors think a nerve spur became irritated from the muscle spasms.

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Wednesday, December 8, 6:00 - 9:00

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and field goal percentage (67 percent) last year. "He's a 7-footer who runs well, has really good hands and is being looked at by many NBA teams. We would like to see if some other people help out on him, but can't. We don't have enough people and they shoot too well from the perimeter."

One of the guys Schneider will be counting on isn't even cleared for the game yet. Freshman John Hoffart, who sat out the 91-78 victory over Simon Fraser on Saturday with an ankle injury, practiced Monday, but Schneider said his status will be determined this afternoon.

"We only have three big guys, and two of them are hurt," Schneider said. "We think he's going to play, but we won't know how many minutes he can go."

The Mustangs will need big games from the players aren't injured if they're going to bear the Lumberjacks. They finished 21-8 last season and got off to a winning start this year when they defeated Boise State, 60-53. They shot just two of 14 from behind the arc in that game, an unusual stat considering they've led the nation in 3-point shot percentage the last three years. If the Lumberjacks' outside threat, Ross Land and Cory Schwab, do regain their sharp shooting and the game turns into a shootout, the Mustangs will rely heavily on Jeremiah Mayes and Mike Wozniak to pick up the offensive slack in Bjorklund's absence. Wozniak, who scored a game-high 25 points Sunday, needs just 30 points to become Cal Poly's all-time leading scorer.

A fast-paced shootout may be the Mustangs' best option if they can't handle McClintock inside. With Hoffart out last Sunday, the Mustangs reverted back to an up-tempo, pressure-oriented style and created 26 Simon Fraser turnovers.

While Schneider may not be sure who he'll play, one thing is certain — the game starts at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

Attention all sports fans:
The Mustang Daily is looking for Sports Reporters to write game and feature stories.

Brine resume and writing samples to Managing Editor Joe Nolan in Bldg. 26, Room 226 or call 756-1796.

Tell them you saw it in the Mustang Daily!
Bjorklund out for tonight's game

By Joe Nolan

The Mustangs will start tonight's game against Northern Arizona down at least 22 points. Chris Bjorklund, the Mustangs' leading scorer last year, is out with a swollen left knee.

"We're taking 22 points out of the lineup, and there's no adjustment we can make to replace that," head coach Jeff Schneider said. "This just puts us way down in terms of numbers."

The two important numbers tonight are 12 and eight. Twelve is the number of scholarship players the Mustangs carry, and eight is the number they may have available to them tonight.

Bjorklund, who may also miss the Portland State game Saturday, has never missed a game in his two-plus years at Cal Poly. According to Schneider, the Big West's top returning scorer has an infection in his forearm which could have been caused by dirt in an open wound or by an insect bite.

With Bjorklund out, the Mustangs will rely heavily on their starters to rack up minutes early in the year.

The Mustangs were knocked down to an 11-man roster before the season started when Brandon Beeson suffered a season-ending knee injury. The two other Mustangs in question are freshmen John Hoffart and Brandon Hulst.

The 6-10 Hoffart would have started in Sunday's season opener but missed the game due to an ankle injury. While Hoffart practiced Monday, he is questionable for tonight's game. If Hoffart can play, Watende Favors will start at small forward in place of Bjorklund. If not, the Mustangs will rely heavily on their starters to rack up minutes early in the year.

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The Mustangs don't match up with the Loggers, and top scorer, Chris Bjorklund. Without him, Cal Poly will have a difficult time on both sides of the ball.

see BJORKLUND, page 7

Forward Chris Bjorklund will miss at least one game due to an infection.

Cross country 29th at NCAAs

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly cross country team finished 29th at Monday's NCAA Division I Championships at the University of Indiana.

The team earned a team total of 607 points placing them just above Brigham Young University and Rice University in the 10,000 meter race.

Senior Darren Holman crossed the finish line first for the Mustangs, 88th overall with a time of 31 minutes, 59-seconds. Ryan Hayes was 113th and other Mustangs who finished included Paulo Carvalho, David Ulibarri, Avery Blackwell and David Beals.

"Darren can very well in the meet and had a strong finish," Cal Poly head coach Terry Crawford said in a press release. "Ryan (Hayes) also ran well and finished the season running two of his best races this year (at Regionals and Nationals).

This was the first appearance at the NCAA Championships for the men's cross country team. They qualified after a strong showing at the Western Regional, where Adam Booth paced the Mustangs with a ninth-place finish.

But surprisingly, Booth, the Mustangs top runner and Big West Conference Athlete of the Year, did not lead the team this time. The senior finished the race 159th.

"Adam was a huge factor in scoring for us," Crawford said. "He did not have a typical race like we had expected, but it was a very positive experience overall.

Despite the low finish, just making the appearance could have a very positive effect on the team's future.

"It will certainly be a motivating factor for the team to get back to the National's next year."

see BASKETBALL, page 7

Polys plays host to N. Arizona

By Joe Nolan

The Mustangs don't match up well and aren't prepared for their game against Northern Arizona tonight in Mott Gym, according to head coach Jeff Schneider.

"We only have three big guys and two of them are hurt," Schneider said. "We think (John Hoffart) is going to play, but we won't know how many minutes he can go."