Protests surround republican rally

By Victoria Walsh
MUSTANG DAILY MANAGING EDITOR

Despite much controversy surrounding Thursday’s Cal Poly College Republicans’ “Support Our Troops” rally, the event went smoothly and without chaos.

College Republican President Brent Vann said he was happy with the turnout and the way the rally went.

About 100 people attended the rally, whether they were for the troops or not.

Vann said he wanted the day to be about the troops and not bring any political to the forum.

“This is (40 percent about the troops),” Vann said. “We want them to know that Cal Poly supports their efforts.”

The event included a moment of silence to reflect on the military’s efforts in Afghanistan, words from veterans who fought in the Korean War and Vietnam and remarks from Vann and Dustin Thelen, chairman of the rally.

“The soldiers will stop the beating hearts of terrorism,” Thelen said. “For they believe that thesee FLIERS, page 7

International Education Week

By Stephen Curran
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

For many students planning to enter the workforce, it is indeed a small world after all. And many Cal Poly students realize this.

Architecture senior Madh Roberts is one such student. Last year, Roberts took part in a Japan Study program through Virginia Tech, where she was studying at the time.

“It’s good to be exposed to different cultures,” she said.

And, as International Education Week draws to a close, many students are looking forward to gaining experiences like these for themselves.

The idea behind International Education Week is to increase interest in international travel, said Richard LeRoy, Pacific programs coordinator for Cal Poly International Education and Programs.

As the world becomes more globalized, the need to understand different cultures grows.

The week’s activities are geared not only toward students planning on traveling overseas, but to those who might not ordinarily think about international travel, LeRoy said.

“The idea is to increase awareness,” he said.

Currently, he said, Cal Poly sends a large number of students abroad.

According to an Institute for International Education report, Cal Poly sends the fourth-highest number of students abroad of any master’s institution in the country, sending more than 430 students overseas during the 1999-2000 school year.

“Actually, Cal Poly is doing quite well for its size,” LeRoy said. “The options for students (wishing to travel abroad) are many.”

Despite recent safety concerns, there has not been a noticeable drop in enrollment.

Program helps bridge digital divide

By Stephen Curran
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

In the United States, poverty does not necessarily mean going without food or shelter. In today’s technology-driven society, computer skills can often separate the have’s from the have-nots, says the founder of a new computer-training program.

According to Kuttan, the “digital divide” is one that is adversely affecting the poor and minorities.

“For many, having these skills can mean the difference between a subsistence income and a six-figure one,” said Aptu Kuttan, president of the National Education Foundation (NEF) Cyberlearning, a nonprofit organization aimed at closing this divide.

According to Kuttan, the “digital divide” is one that is adversely affecting the poor and minorities.

“The digital divide is actually widening if you look at women and minorities,” Kuttan said.

Therefore, the NEF has been sponsoring programs nationwide to help train those who are either unemployed or underemployed with skills that will help them compete in today’s high-tech workforce.

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Therefore, the NEF has been sponsoring programs nationwide to help train those who are either unemploye...
Is religious diversity lacking at Cal Poly?

By Stephen Harvey

The murmur of conversation fills the room as more people join in the discussion. Students carrying leather-bound Bibles, Korans, Torahs, and some not carrying anything, sit next to each other. The topic for the night is religion.

Although this isn't a reality on campus, it could be. Religions, while a perceived decision for many, is also a way of life and provides a cultural background for others. However, Cal Poly doesn't provide the most diverse forum to explore different faiths.

There are clubs related to religion and faith on campus, they remain mostly Christian. There are 15 religious clubs listed on the Associated Students Inc. Web site. But not every religion has an organization tied to it, and Cal Poly is handicapped when it comes to religious diversity because of the nature of students who come here.

Other schools with more ethnically diverse student bodies have greater religious diversity on campus as well. It is well known that Cal Poly is trying to gain ethnic diversity, and with it might come more religious diversity.

Robert Derweiler, interim vice president of Student Affairs, noted that Cal Poly has a large population of Asian Americans, but that they are mostly of Japanese or Chinese descent and follow the Christian religion. Consequently, this doesn't add to the religious diversity of the campus.

Cal Poly isn't alone. Chico State has almost the same number of religious groups as Cal Poly. Many of the religious clubs are national and can be found on both campuses. Campus Crusade for Christ, Hillel/Jewish Student Union and the Muslim Student Association are just a few of the different organizations.

Student views on Cal Poly's religious diversity are varied. "I think Cal Poly is fairly diverse," said Reul Zellar, vice president of Campus Crusade for Christ. "I've gotten in many conversations with many different faiths." Shahid Khan, acting president for the Muslim Student Association, said, "It has a lot to do with enrollment, there is a student that helps out. We value their membership. The door is open to anyone," he said.

Even though students can sit on the council, it doesn't give them the same voice or forum or brotherhood that can be found in organizations such as Campus Crusade or Hillel. One idea that the Muslim Student Association has been working on, with the help of the Progressive Student Alliance and the Multicultural Center, is a public forum on religion so that students would be able to be educated on all religions.

Khan said that he wanted to know about Christianity, he goes to the source other than trying to figure it out from a book.

"Ignorance is why the Muslim Student Association exists," said Khan. "If you ask, you'll find, if you need to know, it's the motto that Khan lives by when presenting his religion.

There is a way for students to learn about religions even if they don't have a club — in classes. Hinduism and Buddhism are both offered once a year as part of the religion studies program. Judaism and Christianity are offered as well.

Buddhism professor Joseph Lynch said that in the 11 years he has been at Cal Poly, he hasn't seen an attempt to form a Buddhist club.

"I would have thought that if students wanted to start one they could," Lynch said. "It would be better if there was one. It would be to everyone's benefit if there was more religious education."
United Airlines to arm pilots with stun guns

CHICAGO — United Airlines announced Thursday that it will be the first major U.S. airline to install Tasers, a brand of stun gun, in the cockpits of its 500 planes. The guns are intended to be used against hijackers and only the pilots will be able to access them.

Tasers fire an electrical signal and incapacitate the assailant for 15 minutes. They will cause no damage to the airplane, unlike other firearms. The installations are pending approval by the Federal Aviation Administration, which currently prohibits deadly or dangerous weapons aboard airplanes except when carried by air marshals. There are no plans to change the rule.

The only other airline planning on using the stun guns is Tiny Mesa Airlines.

Even though federal authorities have stepped up security requirements for airlines, government inspectors have found 92 breaches of security at U.S. airports in the last two weeks.

— Reuters

Man on probation for assault on Cookie Monster

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — A Maryland man was convicted Wednesday with simple assault, disorderly conduct and harassment of an employee at Sesame Place who was dressed as Cookie Monster on June 9. The man, Lee P. McPhatter Jr., 22, kicked, punched and knocked down the employee after she did not respond to requests to pose with McPhatter's 3-year-old daughter for a photograph. He was sentenced to six months' probation and must take an anger management class.

Police said that McPhatter called E. Jennie McNels, the Sesame Place employee, "a mean Cookie Monster" and then punched her through the mouth of the monster costume, knocking her down. McPhatter and his girlfriend, the girl's mother, testified that McNels showed her daughter several times, throwing a paw in McPhatter's face and then tripped. The little girl said to the judge, "Cookie pushed me in the face."

McNels spent two months in physical therapy and McPhatter could have been sentenced to up to two years in prison.

— Associated Press

CDC survey reveals most Americans not having risky sex

NEW YORK — Only 4 percent of respondents in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey said that they had either tested positive for HIV or had engaged in behaviors strongly linked to HIV infection. Almost 8 percent of respondents believed their risk for HIV infection to be "high" or "medium."

More than 90 percent of respondents reported having one or no sexual partners in the preceding year, 25 percent said that they had used a condom last time they had sex.

The CDC reported that men, blacks and young adults were more likely to have two or more sexual partners, but they were also more likely to use condoms in the last time they had intercourse. They also said that their findings showed most adults were not at risk for HIV infection.

The survey looked at HIV-related behaviors among more than 35,000 adults from 25 states. Participants were randomly selected from the general U.S. population.

— Reuters

Arab newspapers focus on demise of Islamic militia

By Nora Boustany

The Washington Post

(WIRE) WASHINGTON — Arab-language newspapers did not splinter the nation's sad faces of Afghan women flirting with fresh air and sunlight for the first time in years or focus on the sense of release shown by an Afghan box flying a kite once banned by the retreating Taliban militia.

Arab newspapers based in London and the Middle East, publishing six to eight hours before those in the United States, have tracked the gradual demise of the hard-line Islamic militia with a little less ten­sure than their Western counterparts, but with no less certainty. Egypt's semi-official al-Ahram newspaper had reported of Taliban fighters tossing their black turbans and shav­ing their beards, but also quoted a Taliban spokesman as saying, "We do not want to participate in the government of the Islamic Republic." Bombs and guns were later airlifted to Pakistan by Northern Alliance forces and the United States.

But the reclusive Taliban leader was also quoted in al-Ahram as claiming that Taliban losses were not that grave. By and large, they had a "grand plan" to destroy America, which will begin shortly.

The Egyptian newspaper did, however, report that Omar was on the run and that his movement was collapsing. The London-based daily Al Hayat used a front-page picture of a woman wearing a long black dress and having lunch in downtown Kabul and smil­ing broadly. Because they published earlier than U.S. media, newspapers in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Egypt were somewhat more tentative in spelling out sure defeat with headlines predicting the imminent fall of Kandahar and a general mood of chaos around the country.

Al Hayat carried a detailed front-page article reconstructing the events of the fall of Kandahar.

see NEWSPAPERS, page 7

DON'T HAVE AN IDENTITY CRISIS

Protect yourself from identity theft:

- Shred charge receipts, bank statements, credit offers and expired credit cards.
- Lighten your wallet by carrying fewer cards.
- Don't carry your Social Security number with you.
- Unless you made the call to a reputable business, don't give your credit card or bank account number over the phone.
- Be aware of others nearby when entering your personal identification number (PIN) at an automated teller.
- Get a credit report annually to check for errors.

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"Monsters, Inc." confirms what every child already knows—monsters really do hide in closets. What they don't know is that the monsters are actually scared of the company's top scoring team. The leading grown-up monsters are convinced that kids are toxic and a catastrophe since the inhabitants of two amiable beasties, Mike and Sulley (voiced by Billy Crystal and John Goodman), find out that a tiny human named Boo (voiced by Mary Gibbs) into the world of Monstropolis. The film portrays Monstropolis as an incredible, perhaps better than in its predecessors, the two "Toy Story" films and "A Bug's Life."-We scare because we care. In fact, Randall Boggs (voiced by Steve Buscemi), a sneaky, disappointing fellow who will stop at nothing to get to the top, is monster hit "Monsters, Inc." is the fourth computer animated motion picture brought to the screen by the marriage of Disney and Pixar. The computer animation in "Monsters, Inc." is incredible, perhaps better than in its predecessors, the two "Toy Story" films and "A Bug's Life." In one scene, you can actually see the hair on Sulley's arms move back and forth in the breeze. Monsters, like toys and bugs, come in every shape, size and color, a sure attraction to the film. The most entertaining part of the film is the rollicker-like chase with Sulley, Mike and Boo trying to escape Randall's grasp. The scene involves thousands of doors from all over the world, flying along a conveyor belt to be placed at their designated spots until the plant needs them again.

An interesting component of the film is the lack of songs. It goes the see MONSTERS, page 5
MONSTERS

continued from page 4

whole 90 minutes without a single song, which just shows the strength of the writing and vocal characterizations.

"Monsters, Inc." is a fast-moving and visually impressive film that is enjoyable for both adults and kids. Although the real young children might be scared of the few scenes with scary monsters, the older viewers will enjoy the inside jokes. Most everyone will appreciate the "Toy Story" street sign and the tabloid newspaper "The Glob." One reference in the film that will sail over the heads of many kids—a white humor isn’t consistent. Even the funny parts present a moral dilemma. After all, the humor is centered around fat jokes. Somehow it feels wrong to laugh at an obese woman who breaks a steel chair by sitting on it. You end up feeling sorry for her, and guilty that you wanted to laugh. Hal’s right-hand man, Mauricio (Jason Alexander), is even pickier than Hal when he gets stuck in an elevator with self-hating guru Tony Robbins (playing himself). Robbins hypnotizes Hal, making him blind to women’s appearances and only able to see their inner beauty.

Suddenly, Hal finds himself meeting attractive and interesting women everywhere he goes, and one lady in particular catches his eye. He immediately falls in love with Rosemary (Gwyenth Paltrow), who is longer than her first. Together, they pathetically comb the bars, hoping to win over some easy women. Instead they prove to be carbon copies of the obnoxious Roxbury guys from Saturday Night Live.

But Hal’s outlook on women is changed when he gets stuck in an elevator with self-hating guru Tony Robbins (playing himself). Robbins hypnotizes Hal, making him blind to women’s appearances and only able to see their inner beauty.

The movie has its funny parts, but they’re hot and cold. A joke here, a good punch line there, but the humor isn’t consistent. Even the funny parts present a moral dilemma. After all, the humor is centered around fat jokes. Somehow it feels wrong to laugh at an obese woman who breaks a steel chair by sitting on it. You end up feeling sorry for her, and guilty that you wanted to laugh.

"Shallow Hal" is far too good-natured for a Farrelly brothers movie. It was like they couldn’t decide whether to make a sappy, warm-hearted story with a good moral, or stick to their usual mean-spirited, laugh-'til-it-hurts comedy. The mix of the two leaves the audience confused and unsure if they should laugh or cry.

Perhaps it was the actors that didn’t quite fit the parts. The Farrelly brothers are used to working with comedic geniuses like Jim Carrey and Ben Stiller, who can win audiences over with their charm and wit alone. Black, in his first starring role, uses the same facial expressions throughout the entire two hours, becoming less and less funny as the minutes drag on.

Paltrow does indeed wear a fat suit, but the only time we see her in it... besides some short glimpses of an arm or a leg...is toward the end, which is a bit disappointing. But of course Paltrow is her charming self, whose on-screen charisma rescues the movie when the plot seems to be at a standstill. At least her captivating presence passes the time as you wait for the comedy that never comes.

The movie’s premise that “beauty is only skin deep” can be compared to the underlying theme of the movie “Shrek” (which made more people laugh using animated characters than “Shallow Hal” did with real actors). Both films drive home the message that it is the inner person that truly matters, rather than appearance. This is an enduring life lesson that fits perfectly into a Disney creation, but seems out of place in this slapstick comedy.
Female television lacks quality

Opinion

Letters to the editor

War is an unpleasant but necessary action

Editor,

Kadda are in order for Andrew Derscy con- cerning his comments on the protests of military action in Afghanistan (PSA "should find some- thing better to do") on Nov. 15. It is all well and good to denounce war; no one truly likes war. Republicans don’t sit around in dark rooms, smoking cigarettes and discussing military strategy. (SPOON! War will come and people will lose their lives. Muhahahaha.) Quite the opposite. As a firm Republican myself, I can say that war and violence in the world are always better than a war if possible. “If possible” is the important phrase there. The Sept. 11 situation was unique and tragic. A military response was the only response. The government’s actions are to protect this nation and not to satisfy some blood lust that certain people think the govern- ment has. We must disagree with the methods too time to time to see that the government makes, but people need to remember that the best interests of the country are always at heart. Much like a business you need to make a profit, but it’s not immediate. You need to keep the money coming in. If it doesn’t immediately meet its apparent wants or ideas, the decisions that the government makes are for the protection of its children, the people. I understand the Progressive Student Alliance’s dis- like for the United States, but the參diff. However, the need to understand that sometimes war, though unpleasant, is necessary to protect this beautiful country we call home.

Bary G. Hayes is a political science sophomore.

Fighting for the world may mean fighting U.S. policies

Editor,

It is gratifying that people are paying enough attention to Progressive Student Alliance’s activities on campus that they would write letters to the editor disputing our point of view. This is great, for we need more people to try to shape our government’s policies and actions.

America has given the Afghan people aid and peace before, but that does not give America a license to subsequently drop cluster bombs on them.

1. The UN World Food Program has been unable to deliver even a fraction of the food neces- sary to the Afghan people through the winter. In fact, the Los Angeles Times reported that a day or so after a WFP convoy was bombed by American jets, destroying approximately 130 tons of food. This was enough to feed 50,000 people for a month. I doubt the people who have died from hunger due to the bombing of that convoy will be grateful they received aid before the war. And I doubt the WFP will be willing to enter the war zone again to deliver food.

2. Thus, with food aid cut and due to the bombing, 7.5 million people are at risk of starvation during winter. I find it ludicrous that anyone on this campus would feel that 7.5 million innocent civilians in Afghanistan are not worth its time and 6,000 innocent civilian deaths here.

3. The Taliban is oppressive and brutal govern- ment. Now that the Northern Alliance has Kabul and half of the country, guess what is hap- pening? Further barbarization of the Alliance. There are reports that Northern Alliance soldiers have been committing rapes and having extradi-

Sonia Cuchik in editor-in-chief, T. Wahl magazine editor, Michelle Hatfield news editor

Letters to the editor should include your full name and affiliation with Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Letters should include the writer’s full name, major and class standing.

By e-mail:

mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Do not send letters as attachments. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

All of us lack good sense from time to time

Editor,

After reading the letter to the editor in the Mustang Daily published on Nov. 14, I couldn’t help but write a response to two of the most asinine letters I’ve ever read. I read the Mustang Daily on a regular basis and think it’s a very good maturer paper, but how these letters made it into the paper is beyond me.

Now, I hope these authors don’t take this per- sonally because this is a criticism of what they said and their own lack of common sense. They obviously have their own ideas and aren’t interested in the people in front of me because I really don’t care to insult anyone.

In the first letter, “Try not to antagonize the crazy people,” the author talks about how we shouldn’t “antagonize the crazy people” because at some point, one of them could kill us. He even goes so far as to say that we should live each moment as if it could be our last because terrorism is coming to get us. Speak for yourself. You know you could live of natural causes right now, too. And that tree you’re sitting under? What if one of the branches fell off and landed smack on your head? Personally, I’d rather live my life to the fullest (I know...I am a functioning member of society and not some chicken little holdup in his house claiming the sky is falling. It is OK to come outside now. Osama and all his crazy friends aren’t after you.

And now on to the second letter, “Armies at Mock Rock were disrespectful.” The author says that a “despicable act” that “lacked integrity, intel- ligence and respect” was performed at Farmers Market last Thursday. (The act, if you missed it, was a student who painted himself brown to per- form as Ja Rule in the Mixtape contest.) But in the letter, the author never actually states why it is “despicable.” It’s because he lacks the gumption to say “If it was a racist act?” Similar to your statement, obviously he was referring to the 9/11 attacks, however, if the author had more knowledge of the world, he would understand that a lack of knowledge is even worse than the ignorance of a racist. If the author had more knowledge of the world, he would understand that you cannot have a democracy, and we have as much right as any citizen here to try to shape our govern- ment’s policies and actions. In fact, not only do we have a right, at a time when our government is waging destruction upon innocent people and compromising our own safety by inciting further terrorist attacks, we have a duty! I have no doubt that the standard of living I enjoy in America is high. This, however, does not preclude me from trying to stop America from victimizing evil people. I know that the loss of humanity compels me to speak against U.S. policies, but I do not do so with the intention of making America less safe. I am fighting against American policies that constantly endanger the lives of our fellow humans.

Clayton Whitt is co-director of the PSA and a social science sophomore.

Questions actioning of government is patriotic

Editor,

While I will not join the argument regarding the propriety of the government the Progressive Student Alliance, I do have a comment for their president.

I was born in this country, I voluntarily served in the United States Armed Forces for more than 30 years and I have voted in every election for which I was eligible.

I have also protested against the war in Vietnam and questioned the actions taken by our military in the Middle East. I am offended by your suggestion that to do so is un-American. On the contrary, I believe that to question the actions of our govern- ment is the quintessential act of a patriotic American.

The Progressive Student Alliance wants to "support the troops," I suggest that you don’t a uniform and get out there and join them. Better yet, why don’t you stay in school, open your mind, and help to create change after you don’t need to sacrifice its youth on the battle- field.

Fred Kelley is a San Luis Obispo resident.

 Mustang Daily

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“Have you ever been drunk?” “No, I’m 19.”
in interest. In fact, he said, there has been an increase in interest.

To combat these concerns, the university has been taking added measures to ensure the safety of students, he said.

"We wouldn't send students there (overseas) if we didn't think it was safe," LeRoy said.

Overall, he said, the benefits of such programs will become increasingly important for students to succeed. As the world becomes more interdependent, international awareness will become crucial, he said.

"To make it in an international experience will definitely be beneficial," LeRoy said. Study abroad or exchange programs such as this help put things into perspective, Roberts said. Living in a different country and culture enables American students to better understand their own lives.

Upon her return from Japan, Roberts gained a newfound appreciation for the opportunities available to women in the U.S.

"I think it (traveling abroad) helps you appreciate life," Roberts said. "Not everyone is like us."

Throughout the week, events ranging from guest speakers to concerts with African musicians were on campus, along with meetings about various study abroad opportunities in Europe and Asia. International Education Week is sponsored by the U.S. State Department and is aimed at fostering global knowledge.

"We want the students to see globally that there is to allow American students to remain competitive in an increasingly international world. The program is now in its second year."
By Collin Hester  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

While adjusting to a year of experimentation and fresh ideas from a new coach, Cal Poly football presses on with stamina and perseverance to battle its last two opponents of the season.

The Mustangs have set off to compete against the Northern Iowa Panthers on Saturday followed by their final game on Nov. 24 against Saint Mary's. The confident and hopeful Mustangs are looking to improve their 5-4 record.

"It's easily feasible to win these next two games and we expect to win them, and we'll get pretty much nothing less," senior wide receiver Adam Herzing said. "We're just working hard and hopefully we'll get it done and get these next two wins."

Cal Poly has played Northern Iowa four times in the past, with the Panthers winning the last three of those games. The eighth-ranked team in the nation beat Cal Poly last year at Mustang Stadium 43-41. The Panthers enter Saturday's game with a two-game winning streak. The game will be held at Northern Iowa at 5:05 p.m.

Herzing said the Mustangs started their season off pretty strongly and he is pleased with the way the new coach is leading the team.

"Coach Ellerson has done a really good job with our intensity and our effort and how we approach the game," Herzing said.

At the season's opening, the Mustangs lost to Montana 17-31, and then came back to beat Sacramento State 21-14 and Montana State 34-6. Of the four games they lost this season, three were lost by a touchdown or less. These early signs of success increased the team's confidence.

"We started the season fast, and I think we laid the foundations for playing some good ball," head coach Rich Ellenson said. "We went from

Cal Poly's defense stuffs Cal State Northridge running back Terrelus Wright (32) at the goal line Saturday night. The defense played a key role in Cal Poly's near-comeback in the fourth quarter, the Mustangs held CSU Northridge to 93 yards on the ground, sacked them twice and forced three turnovers.

By Jacob Jackson  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly women's volleyball team was upset on the road last Saturday by UC Riverside, showing the difficulties of advancing in the NCAA tournament into jealousy.

But at this stage in the season, there's a time to move on.

"That was one of the all-time most devastating losses," junior setter O'Halloran said. "It's kind of a letdown, and it's a big one."

After last night, when was the last time two 20-win pitchers met in Game 7 of the World Series?

Which NBA team ended the 1973-74 season with a 97-2 record, the worst of all-time?

Submit answers to dmintz@calpoly.edu

last name's winner

Before last night, when was the last time two 20-win pitchers met in Game 7 of the World Series?

"We have a lot of people here, and they are coming off two losses. It's a different story on the court tonight."

"We need to get back to where we thought we were going to be at the end of the season, and finish it off on a winning note," McCarty said. "We're excited to have a chance still to finish off with a strong record."

The players need to maintain concentration heading into the final two games, Ellenson said.

"It's a huge challenge for us, but we need to be ready," she said.

The Mustangs' success was due to their concentration on the next season, Ellenson said. "We're more about our focus, our tenacity and our emotional level that will give us a chance to do better this weekend."