Students cultivate Christmas spirit

Environmental horticultural science seniors Alicia DeLaBole, Michael Steinfield, Savannah Bluth and David VanWengerden started growing 2,500 poinsettias back in April and are now cashing in for the holidays. The quartet started the enterprise project to gain experience as well as some cash, pulling in around $5 to $50 per plant. The plant sale runs Thursday through Saturday at the Flower Shop and about half of the poinsettias have already been presold.

AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Annual contest conveys a sobering thought

Vicki Farrer and the DUI Task Force in San Luis Obispo are always concerned with DUI prevention around the holidays, but they have an alternative for students who are sick of hearing "don't do this" and "don't do that." The Sober Celebration Drink Contest may sound like an oxymoron, but in fact it's an annual event Farrer and the DUI Task Force started four years ago to promote safety in San Luis Obispo.

"It's about having fun, instead of reprimands or warnings," said Farrer, a specialist at Drug and Alcohol Services in San Luis Obispo. "The more creative concoctions usually win." Contestants in the Sober Celebration Drink Contest create a non-alcoholic beverage to serve at the event. Selected San Luis Obispo residents are the judges, and they taste each entry and present awards to the winners.

"Last year, Tortilla Flats participated, and this year, we hope more local restaurants compete as well," Farrer said. "The rest of us get put to shame by the professionals." The contest is Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at the City/County Library and is open to the public free of charge. The recipes from Thursday's contest will be distributed that night at the DUI Task Force booth at Farmers Market. Also on display will be recipes from previous years, including the first-ever winning recipe, a rhubarb-based concoction.

Some contestants take the event very seriously, Farrer said. The contestants name their drink entry and are allowed to use any mixture of contents with the exception of alcohol.

"Whipped cream, ice cream and any kind of juice you could imagine," Farrer said. "The more creative concoctions usually win." Allison Holicky, an English sophomore, plans on attending the event and may enter a creative concoction of her own. The ingredients in her special drink include pineapple, orange and cranberry juices and a few special ingredients she's not willing to disclose.

"I call it Juicy Fruit," Holicky see DRINKING, page 7

AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Group inspires engineering in youth

Robots are helping Atascadero High School students follow their dreams.

A team of high school students, guided by a group of Cal Poly engineering students, is entering the FIRST Robotics Competition for 2002. FIRST is a national nonprofit organization that inspires youth to pursue further study, experience and careers in engineering.

FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, according to the FIRST Web site. "We want to get kids together and show them it can be fun and teach them some stuff," said Brad Phan, mechanical engineering junior. Sixty-seven people attended the introductory meeting for the Atascadero team. The official six-week-long competition begins on Jan. 4 when the teams receive a parts kit and guidelines for the competition. In addition to mechanical guidelines, the team is presented with software guidelines as well.

The goal of the robotics competition is to create a robot that can perform a task. The task is announced on Jan. 4 when the competition begins. In past years, tasks for the robots have involved the robot in picking up ball and placing them in containers, or climbing up on a platform. All the robots compete while performing the same task.

The high school has already received a $6,200 grant from NASA, which will cover the $5,000 entry fee for the regional competition in San Jose. If the team makes it to the national competition in Florida, they will be one of 288 teams. Earl Erdman, Atascadero High School senior, hopes the club will continue to grow after this founding year. Erdman is planning on attending Cal Poly next year.

"We hope to learn this year and generate interest for later years," Erdman said. "The team may become the basis of an advanced physics class at school.

Atascadero High won't be the only high school competing. In 2001, according to the FIRST Web site, 57 teams competed. The contest is Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at the City/County Library and is open to the public free of charge. The recipes from Thursday's contest will be distributed that night at the DUI Task Force booth at Farmers Market. Also on display will be recipes from previous years, including the first-ever winning recipe, a rhubarb-based concoction.

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"I call it Juicy Fruit," Holicky see DRINKING, page 7

AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Not another mirage:
New restaurant opens, offering unique dining experience

Getting in the spirit:
Resist the commercial hype
By Zak Bos

(©WIRE) BOSTON — Advanced Cell Technology, which announced last week it has cloned a human embryo, says it is not going to produce human beings from cloning techniques.

When ACT announced the corporation had cloned a human embryo, common responses included worry, debate and outcry across the nation and world. Whether or not it is moral to clone a human being, the press and public were concerned that money would be made through a technology that creates life to destroy it. ACT chief financial officer Gunnar Engstrom elucidated the company's intentions.

"I must emphasize that what we do is ACT is replication, not reproduction," Engstrom said.

ACT released a notice on Nov. 25 stating that a report published in The Journal of Regenerative Medicine provided proof that reprogrammed human cells could supply tissue for transplantation. ACT researchers produced human embryos from a female oocyte (egg) and a skin cell. Scientists believe the embryonic stem cells thus produced can be made to develop into any type of cell, therefore providing therapies for cell degenerative diseases.

Recently, ACT has been questioned for the relationship it has with the University of Massachusetts. UMass recently made headlines when it was disclosed the university profits from the company's work. Engstrom said UMass receives a 4.5 percent royalty on net revenue and sub-licensing fees related to intellectual property. ACT has licensed from the university. Much of that consists of property related to research conducted by ACT founder James Robl, who was a professor at the university.

"We have licenses to technologies from several sources, as well as our own internally generated intellectual property," he said. "We have licensed technologies from both private and public entities."

ACT is doing work with humans that is nothing new; similar techniques are used in their agricultural ventures. Although Engstrom said the firm has no intention of ever producing a human embryo for implantation or otherwise directing research in reproductive cloning, ACT regularly clones animals. In January, ACT cloned the first endangered animal, a gaur, or wild cattle, from several sources, as well as its in-house cell line.

"It is unfortunate that although a distinction has been made between therapeutic and reproductive cloning, many people respond to that emotionally charged word 'cloning' as if the two areas were the same. In one area of our research, we have proceeded to a step that is the same as would be needed if someone was going to produce human embryos. However, that is not what we do."

Despite ACT's ability to produce animals with cloned DNA, the company does not plan to distribute the cloned animals or embryos. Engstrom attributed the public outcry to the announcement to a lack of understanding. "Our research is in the area of therapeutic cloning," he said. "It is unfortunate that although a distinction has been made between therapeutic and reproductive cloning, many people respond to that emotionally charged word 'cloning' as if the two areas were the same. In one area of our research, we have proceeded to a step that is the same as would be needed if someone was going to produce human embryos. However, that is not what we do."

ACT is a privately held company that does not receive funding from the governmental sector.
National & International News

National Briefs

U.S. soldier shot, wounded
WASHINGTON — A U.S. sol­dier was shot and wounded Tuesday while conducting combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was medically evacuated to a military hospital and is now in stable condition. There was no infor­mation given about who shot the serv­iceman or where the shooting occurred.
— Reuters

Post Office loses $1.3 billion
WASHINGTON — For the fiscal year ending on Sept. 11, the U.S. Postal Service lost $1.3 billion. The loss is blamed on the depressed econ­omy and increased competition. The agency ended the fiscal year with $65.8 billion in revenue and $67.1 bil­lion in expenses.
To remedy the situation, the postal service has applied for a three-cent service increase. The agency ended the fiscal year with $65.8 billion in revenue and $67.1 billion in expenses.

Losses due to the anthrax attacks.

WASHINGTON — Must­ang Daily attacks.

International Briefs

Europe

PHUNGSTADT, Germany — Santi­cha mourns on the naughty list. A German Santa Claus is under investigation after apparently losing his patience with a group of boys who were teasing him about what he was wearing under his Santa costume. He allegedly slapped a 9-year-old boy on the face and locked him in a broom cupboard for several minutes.

Europe

The man, who was an employee in a Christmas market in the Pfungstadt town hall, denies the allegations. The child's parents have filed a legal com­plaint against the man, but police have said they have no plans to detain him.
— Reuters

Middle East

KARUL, Afghanistan — An anti­Taliban commander said Tuesday that 12 members of the al-Qaida network in or around Osama bin Laden's sus­pected underground hideout have been killed in U.S. airstrikes Monday and Tuesday on Tora Bora, a warren of caves about 35 miles south of Jalalabad. Reports that bin Laden's top lieutenant was killed were not con­firmed, but the commander said that he believed both the lieutenant and bin Laden were in the area during the attacks.

The Northern Alliance plans to send more troops into the area Wednesday. They have already cut off an al-Qaida supply line. A Pakistan­based Afghan newspaper reported that 115 civilians had been killed in the province containing Jalalabad and Tora Bora since Friday. The figures have not been independently con­firmed.
— Reuters

South America

SAO PAULO, Brazil — After being closed for 347 years, the first Jewish synagogue ever built in the Americas was opened Tuesday in the city of Recife. The synagogue was inaugurated in 1637 for a community of Sephardic and Sephardic Jews who had moved to New Amsterdam during Dutch rule. A Portugese convent from the Inquisition and Jews of Portuguese or Spanish origin who had immigrated from the Americas was opened Tuesday in the city of Recife. The synagogue was inaugurated in 1637 for a community of Christians converts from the Inquisition and Jews of Portuguese origin who had immigrated from Amsterdam during Dutch rule. The Portugese convent from the Inquisition and Jews of Portuguese origin who had immigrated from Amsterdam during Dutch rule.

The Portugese convent from the Inquisition and Jews of Portuguese origin who had immigrated from Amsterdam during Dutch rule.

December 10-15

Drive Through Location on Campus

(Mt. Bishop Rd, off of Highland)
Mon. - Fri., 9:00am - 5:00pm

Front of El Corral

Mon. - Fri., 7:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Dexter Lawn

Mon. - Fri., 8:30am - 4:30pm

By Campus Market

Mon. - Fri., 8:00am - 4:00pm

10% BONUS
Deposit your buyback cash into Campus Express & receive an extra 10%

4 Locations

Cal Poly ID Required for Buyback
*See store for details

We Pay MORE!
Out with the old, in with

By Kat Corey
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Women and girls in revealing outfits dance around tables entertaining customers at a restaurant on Higuera Street. No, it’s not another bikini bar. It’s a new Moroccan venue that, as well as exotic cuisine and decor, features belly dancers Thursday through Saturday nights.

The restaurant has a small, dimly lit dining area with dark upholstered benches, on the borders of the room, accompanied by matching pillows. The benches served as seating to several round tables with red-iron bases and tops that look as though they were hand-grown with small colored tiles. An unusual clanging noise that sounded somewhat like a tambourine caught my attention as I was seated at my table. It was the jingling sound coming from the belly dancers costumes as they danced for the crowd. Their genie-like outfits show with jingle belts and sequins of all colors. In between pieces, the dancers huddled in a corner of pillows next to the front window where people passing by could get a glimpse of what was made.

The ceiling looks like something out of a traditional Sheet fabric is draped and tied around a dark velvet corner etched with stars. Large decorative lanterns hang from it and cast a romantic light through the colored beads and glass.

One disappointing was the standard black and white uniform worn by the servers. I had expected something a little more exotic.

My roommate accompanied me on this dining excursion. Neither one of us had ever had Moroccan food, so we were both a little skeptical at first. We decided to make the most of it and go all out.

To start, we tried the hummus for an appetizer. Hummus is a blend of garbanzo beans and spices, served with warm flat bread for dipping. I have always been a huge fan of the hummus at SLO Bites, but after I tasted this dish at Oasis, it now has a little competition. For the main course, we both went for the kibobs. We needed to have a little variety so I got the beef and my roommate got the chicken. The menu had several other interesting dishes available, such as chicken curry, lamb, fish and an artichoke and chicken plate, with an average price of a dinner marked at $15.

While we waited for our dinner to arrive, I decided to give the Moroccan tea a try. It was sweet with a twist of mint. It doesn’t taste like anything I have had before and I liked it. My roommate, on the other hand, decided right away that it tasted like mouthwash. We were served a bowl of soup before the entire that neither of us really cared for — mostly because it was filled with garlic bread, which wasn’t very appetizing to us.

When the warmers brought out our dinners, we were a little scared by the large metal plates protruding from the plate. They looked like weapons, but it turns out they were only the large skewers they use to grill the meat.

The food was delicious. Along with the kibobs came grilled vegetables and a bed of rice. The meat had a flavorful kick to it and the vegetables were dotted with an indescribable mouth-watering sauce. Everything meshed well together and made for a good meal that tasted just as good the next day.

Of course, we had to save room for one of the Moroccan desserts. There were a few on the menu, but we went with the chocolate-covered baklava. It was incredible. Baklava is made with nuts and thin pastry paper layered with a sticky sweet honey-like ingredient to keep it together. With the addition of the chocolate, you can’t pass this tasty dessert up.

Even though I was somewhat skeptical at first, I left full and pleasantly surprised.

Oasis is located on Higuera Street across from McLintock’s. It opened for dinner on Nov. 2 and recently started serving lunch. The same owners also have another Moroccan restaurant on Football Boulevard in SLO in the same place as Jamba Juice and Starbucks.

This Moroccan delight brings a tasty variety and entertainment to the dining scene, and I would recommend checking it out. If anything, go to see the belly dancers.

Top, three menu items — a sampler platter made of eggplant, mediterranean carrots, hummus and olives, "Moroccan soup," and pita bread — are a few of the dishes offered at Oasis, a new Moroccan restaurant on Higuera Street in downtown San Luis Obispo. Bottom, the restaurant’s unique decor and floorplan aim to reflect Moroccan culture.

Fun FOOD Fact:

Which has more caffeine: a cup of coffee, a cup of tea, or a glass of Coke?

According to Yahoo! health, coffee has the most caffeine with 47-164 milligrams per 5 ounce serving. The caffeine content depends on how the coffee is brewed — fresh drip has the highest level, instant has the lowest.

Second place is a little more difficult to determine. A single serving of black tea (5 oz.) can have anywhere from 25 to 110 milligrams of caffeine, while a single serving of Coca-Cola (12 oz.) measures in with 46 milligrams.

However, when you break it down to caffeine per ounce, tea handily beats Coke.
Recipe of the Week

Holiday Cranberry Nut Bread

1 cup dried cranberries
1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons vegetable shortening
3/4 cup boiling water
2 eggs
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup whole wheat flour
1 cup all-purpose flour

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 3 inch loaf pan. Put the cranberries, walnuts, baking soda, salt and shortening in a bowl. Pour the boiling water over and stir. Let the mixture stand for 15 minutes. Using a fork, beat the eggs and sugar together in a bowl. Add the flour and stir; the batter will be too stiff to mix well. Add the cranberry mixture and stir briskly until the batter is well blended. The bread will continue to bake after it is removed from the oven. Spoon into the loaf pan and bake 40 to 50 minutes. Check the loaf often; it is done when a few moist crumbs cling to a straw inserted in the middle of the loaf. When the loaf is done, slide a knife around the edges of the pan and turn the loaf onto a rack to cool completely. This bread freezes well.

COURTESY RECIPE AND PHOTO/WWW.FOODTV.COM
Opinion

Marketers, not meaning, take over the holidays

Only 20 shopping days left until Christmas. Do you know what you're buying your mom this year? If not, it's time to get the ball rolling. If you haven't started making gift lists and hiring the stores, you're already behind in the game. Indeed, many started the official shopping season off with a mad dash to the mall on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Yes, Christmas is on the way, and what would Christmas be without that yearly call to the local newspaper want-ad section, asking readers to own the ploy of evil marketers seeking to carry out the biggest marketing scheme ever. Oh, vamos.

Since we're on the topic of marketing, have you noticed all of the Harry Potter merchandise in the stores lately? And how about the usual icons like Santa and his reindeer? Of course you have noticed them. They're everywhere.

Letters to the editor

University did not discourage troops rally

A number of people have expressed concern about some fliers put up on campus recently by the College Republicans Club. A number of others have expressed concern that the university was not supportive of the "Support Our Troops" rally, as the College Republicans organized on campus on Nov. 15. Let me offer some clarifying points.

Although several members of the campus community found the College Republicans' fliers to be offensive and asked to have them removed, the administration judged them to be clearly within the realm of free speech, and the university did nothing to interfere with them.

One staff member who found the fliers offensive expressed her disagreement to me in a message to the College Republicans. She had the right to express her opinion, of course, but it was unfortunate that she identified herself as a representative of the university. The staff member and I both see this as a mistake and recheck any negative impact it may have caused. In any case, however, the College Republicans were not censured by the university.

Regarding the "Support Our Troops" rally, the College Republicans followed the proper procedures and had approval for the event on Deuster Lawn from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 15. The university did not discourage the event in any way. There was some confusion about the use of voice amplification at that event, but no one was cleared upon of the event and there was voice amplification at the rally. Contrary to the views expressed by some, the university did nothing to discourage the rally.

I recognize that these are difficult and trying times for the local community. Not only do people have the right to their own individual views and expression, but let us all at Cal Poly do our best to be civil with each other. Now, especially, let us respect everyone's rights and be thankful that we have the freedom in this country to express differing opinions.

Bob Detwiler is intern vice president for Student Affairs.

Abercrombie has more than one downfall

Editor,

After reading the Dec. 1 commentary, "Work at Abercrombie lacks individualism," I am glad to see someone else criticizing the enormous-popular brand of clothing Abercrombie & Fitch. Although he brings up a good point that Abercrombie encourages its employees and customers to sacrifice their individuality, he misses the bigger picture: the most apparent problem with Abercrombie is the ridiculously high prices. $50 for a striped shirt, $90 for some pants, $110 for loose backpack? Are you kidding me? And even for "bargain shoppers" who claim to be getting a good deal when you buy a pair of shorts for $5 off, you are unquestionably missing the point: for what this crap is, it is all a serious rip-off.

Why does everybody pay so much money for this garbage?

Some people might claim that they buy Abercrombie clothing because it is "high quality." Let me tell you, Abercrombie has the same sweat-shop-stitching found in all cheap clothing brands. Besides, that some Abercrombie products are "pre-ripped" or "pre-torn." Why would anyone pay extra money for something that is just going to wear out faster?

Others might claim "Abercrombie makes comfortable clothing." Yeah, so does Old Navy, and they sell their stuff for literally 20 times less.

Why do people like Abercrombie's style? Why would random numbers, meaningless Japanese symbols, mythical sports teams, weird slogans such as "A&F Lift Operator," and the fact that by wearing "Abercrombie" clothing is because they want the name "Abercrombie & Fitch" to be stamped on their clothing. And the main reason why these people want "Abercrombie" on their clothing as opposed to other brand names is because they have somehow been deceived into thinking that they must buy and wear over-priced Abercrombie clothes in order to look cool.

It's obvious and everyone recognizes: the only reason people pay so much money for these clothes is because they want to be cool and they want to impress people through wearing them. These individuals should recheck their principles. No one who wastes much money on worthless clothes from Abercrombie ever is going to impress me.

Kurt Hafer is a physics freshman.

Why having fewer things to do means more time to procrastinate

Editor,

Procrastination: I see it as synonymous with my current study habits. As to the source of this folly, I question the reader. I stumbled upon my procrastination problem a few days ago. As usual, I staggered home from my 8 a.m. class and collapsed on the covered couch. My tricky remote was out of reach so I decided to wash the dishes before hitting the books — dare I say that figuratively.

Second, take responsibility. It's not possible to change the culture of commercialism that has plagued Christmas, but you can change your own actions to make the spirit come alive. Third, give gifts from the heart. It's the thought that counts.

Fourth, watch what you watch. Sit down with family and catch one of the Christmas classics on television, such as "It's a Wonderful Life" or "Miracle on 34th Street." Fifth, celebrate all of the Christmas seasons. Don't let the party stop on Dec. 25. Instead, think of a million more gift ideas for your loved ones after Christmas Day.

As you embark on this holiday season, I argue you do so while remembering some of the more important things in life — family, friends and the joy of giving just for the sake of giving.

Stephanie Perry is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be submitted via e-mail to mustangdaily@hotmail.com. Do not send letters as attachments. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

Letters to the editor must be no longer than 250 words. Please limit the length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, major and class standing.

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Mustang Daily, Building 26, Room 226, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo CA 93407

By fax: (805) 756-6784

By e-mail: mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Letters to the editor

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, proficiency and length. Please limit length to 250 words.
**NEW**

**Wednesday, December 5, 2001**

**News**

**DRINKING**

continued from page 1

said, "My family's been making it for years, but, naturally, I'm going to take all the credit for it." The context is in support of December as the National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Month, also known as 10 Month. "Losing a loved one to drunk driving is terrible," Farrer said. "And for it to happen during the holidays can be doubly hard. This is a healthy and safe way to have a good time during the holidays."

The DUI Task Force is comprised of local law enforcement, the District Attorney's office and

where they will be holding a candlelight vigil in honor of local DUI crash victims and their families.

**TRIBE report that the state was prepared to step in to expedite a contract to do the work.**

Hanson Aggregate is the main supplier of aggregate to Modern.

**continued from page 1**

**FIRST Robotics Competition.** The mention emphasize the effect the program has on both students and industry.

We do the same thing in six weeks that industry does in several years," Plam said. "We conceive the idea, prototype it, rebuild it and drive it. Industry can match it." Not only does the project help the students get a feel for the engineering fields, it also incorporates planning, communicating, Web design, art, photography, and business. Henderson said: "We know how much it affected us."

Both Henderson and Plam moved on to engineering majors at Cal Poly and continue the tradition of the technology. Our therapeutic cloning technique is on the same level... The potential for therapies is staggering." The profit potential for therapies based on cloning stems from cloning's potential for therapies is staggering."

**ACT**

continued from page 2

The strike caught the attention of Assemblyman Abel Maldonado (D-Santa Maria), who said in a Tribune report that the state was prepared to step in to expedite a contract to do the work. There was, however, $15 FIRST teams that had no university involvement.

The Cal Poly students serving as mentors to the team are FIRST veterans. "Having been there firsthand, we wanted to mentor and give it back," said Eric Henderson, environmental engineering student. "We knew how much it affected us."

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**ACT**

continued from page 2

federal government and is therefore unaffected by President George Bush's August decision to ban federal funding for new stem cell research. Its programs are funded by revenue generated by an agricultural subsidiary, Cyagra, in which ACT holds a majority stake; a nucleic acid-based in the breakdown or failure of many degenerative diseases that are system, since they would be genetically identical.

In the wake of ACT's announcement, Bush condemned the research and encouraged Congress to ban the work. According to a statement issued by Dr. Kathryn Zmuk, director of the FDA Center for Biologic Evaluation and Research, the FDA would not permit techniques like those used by ACT to be used for reproduction "because of unresolved safety questions on the use of cloning technology to clone a human being... Because of the profound moral, ethical and scientific issues, the administration is unequivocally opposed to the cloning of human beings."

prohibited for research done on pre-existing stem cell lines. Those lines can be used to refine the techniques:"

"Our research is in the area of therapeutic cloning." Gunnar Engstrom

"ACT CFO is needed to induce stem cells to differentiate into desired cell types but are medically impractical since they, like any form of foreign implantation, would be rejected by the body. By using cells from a patient to produce a clone, doctors would have at their disposal a supply of stem cells that could be used to produce tissues that would not be rejected by the body's immune system, since they would be genetically identical.

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