New Web site delivers campus news daily

By Stephen Harvey

Photography/Design Consultant

While students and faculty were finishing their Christmas shopping, Cal Poly's Public Affairs office was tinkering with its new toy.

Public Affairs unboxed its new news site a little early, on Dec. 12, to make sure it would be ready by the holidays. Cal Poly News is designed to allow quick and easy access to campus news as well as specific college and department sites linked to Cal Poly.

Media Relations Specialist Teresa Hendrix was the driving force in finally producing the news site.

“I was hired here in June and it was my big push during the interview,” Hendrix said. “I thought Cal Poly really needed a news Web site. I wanted it to be on par with other university news sites.”

The news Web site was up and running in December and can be accessed at www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu.

Hendrix, a 1985 Cal Poly journalism alumna, said that she had seen other university news sites and thought that Cal Poly needed one as well. She also said that the Public Affairs department has been trying for several years to launch a site, but bad

“Birthday Blow-out’ was the theme of this year’s Rose Float. At left, the Cal Poly float is displayed for the Tournament of Roses Parade attendees. Fifty-six floats ran in the parade this year. Below, two students weld together a piece of the float’s design. The float club did not receive any awards this year.

‘Birthday Blow-out’ was the theme of this year’s Rose Float. At left, the Cal Poly float is displayed for the Tournament of Roses Parade attendees. Fifty-six floats ran in the parade this year. Below, two students weld together a piece of the float’s design. The float club did not receive any awards this year.
NEWS
continued from page 1

Weather
WATCH

5-DAY FORECAST
FRIDAY
High: 60° / Low: 41°
SATURDAY
High: 64° / Low: 41°
SUNDAY
High: 62° / Low: 40°
MONDAY
High: 62° / Low: 41°
TUESDAY
High: 62° / Low: 40°

TODAY’S SUN
Rise: 7:12 a.m. / Set: 5:09 p.m.

TODAY’S MOON
Rise: 4:42 a.m. / Set: 2:50 p.m.

TODAY’S TIDE
1000 Higuera St. 541-4420
Wealthier

TO DAY’S TIDE
at Port San Luis
Low: 2:38 p.m. / -0.82 feet
High: 7:10 a.m. / 6.25 feet
High: 9:21 p.m. / 3.74 feet

TO DAY’S TIDE
AROUND THE BAY
Rise: 12:44 a.m. / 2.43 feet
Low: 3:38 a.m. / -0.48 feet
High: 9:21 p.m. / 3.74 feet

FLOAT
continued from page 1

Poly team is approximately $110,000, said Dana Zeni, ASI Events coordinator. That money comes from a variety of sources, including Associated Students Inc., the state office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Instructionally Related Activity Fund, which comes from CSU student fees, and is distributed to various organizations, she said.

This year, the budget went toward creating a float themed "Birthday Blow-out," which featured an animal birthday party, complete with cake and candles.

"Out of all the designs we (thought of), it was the most fun," Mijares said.

While it wasn’t all dancing as planned, the float was still something of which the members were proud. Decorated entirely with organic material, the float was covered with objects from flowers to chili peppers to onions, all colors of the rainbow. As the float made its way down Elliot Street and Orange Grove Boulevard, the crowd responded just as the volunteers wanted: with loud cheers and tons of enthusiasm.

"We had a really good reception from the crowd," said Assistant Design Chair Rachelle Kam, an art and design major. "The children on the sidelines were amazed by the confetti. Cal Poly always has a spirit audience."

And after a year-long effort, that makes it all worth it, Bosch said.

Other members share his sentiments. Electronics Chair Branch summed it up effectively: "It is the most work, the most pressure and the most fun I've ever had."
Underground nuclear testing was banned in 1992 under a moratorium imposed by the first President Bush and reaffirmed by President Clinton in 1996. Last November, President Bush pledged to cut U.S. long-range nuclear arsenals by two-thirds to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads after a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. — Associated Press

AIDS-related cancer virus could be transmitted through oral sex NEW YORK — A study on the sexual practices of homosexuals in the United States and levels of AIDS cases and Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) has caused researchers to infer that penile-oral intercourse is a likely transmission route for KSHV. KSHV, also known as human herpes virus 8, can cause cancerous skin lesions known as Kaposi's sarcoma in individuals whose immune systems have been damaged by HIV infection.

The data indicate that even when levels of those infected with the virus rose to the heightened practice of protected penile-anal intercourse, the number of those tests positive for KSHV remained constant. During the studied period, unprotected oral sex remained common. Researchers said that they strongly believe that "avoiding unprotected penile-anal intercourse is not enough to avoid acquiring this viral infection."

Researchers also speculate that the apparently "ancient" virus KSHV, may have long been endemic among homosexual men without being noticed. The study is published in the Jan. 9 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association. — Reuters

Redwoods may fall victim to "Sudden Oak Death" pathogen SAN FRANCISCO California's redwood trees may be susceptible to the same pathogens that causes "Sudden Oak Death" that has killed tens of thousands of coastal oak trees in the state since 1995. Scientists said Tuesday after two researchers from University of California, Davis, said they found DNA from spores of the pathogen in coastal redwood sprouts in Big Sur and Berkeley.

Sudden Oak Death disease is related to the Phytophthora ramo- microbe, a contagious algae-like organism related to the species responsible for the mid-1800s potato famine in Ireland. It was first identified in Marin County, north of San Francisco in 1995.

More laboratory tests are needed to determine if the microbe posed a real threat to the redwoods. The microbe, originally thought to threaten only certain types of oak trees has also been found in rhododendrons, California bay laurel trees, Shoree's oak, madrones, wild huckleberries, big-leaf maple and manzanitas trees. So far, those other plant carriers have less severe symptoms than the oaks, but does leave them less able to regenerate and propagate. The microbe has been found in 10 California counties and may threaten the state's $1.36 billion per year timber industry. — Reuters

Hague, Milosevic has clashed with the international tribunal, which is his last hearing before going on trial for alleged war crimes in Kosovo. He accused the judges as being biased and corrupt.

The hearing laid the groundwork for Milosevic's first trial, scheduled to begin Feb. 12. Prosecutors plan to call the maximum number of witnesses allowed, 90, and present more than 1,400 exhibits to prove the accused leader led a Serb onslaught against ethnic Albanians in 1996-1999.

Milosevic has been charged in the deaths of almost 900 Kosovo Albanians, the deportations of 800,000 people and sexual assault by Yugoslav army troops under his command. Since being handed over to the court, two additional indictments of alleged crimes in Croatia and Bosnia have been made against him. The new indictments include the slaughter of several thousand Muslims in the Bosnian enclave to 70,000 Jews and Serbs. The court has refused to merge the three cases into one trial. During his six months in The Hague, Milosevic has clashed with judges and refused to present an attorney and plans to represent himself. He refused the court's offer to appoint him an investigator to help prepare his case for the upcoming trial. The court entered ingenious pleas for him after he refused to respond to any of the charges.

There are no public hearings in the current trial. The Hague, Milosevic is fighting to save his family and a real threat to the redwoods.
Muslim seeks apology over forced removal of head scarf

By Katherine Shaver

WASHINGTON — Enaas Sansour began wearing a black head scarf a year ago as part of her Muslim faith, so that no man outside her family would see her hair until she married. Her hair remained hidden, the Falls Church teenager said Tuesday, until a week after she entered her family would see her hair. The airport forced her to remove her scarf at airline security screener at Baltimore-Washington International Airport before her flight to San Francisco. "It was very humiliating with all those people staring at me like I did something wrong... It was against my religion," Sansour said. On Monday, the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations filed a complaint on the teenager’s behalf, seeking apologies from the screener’s employer, Globe Aviation Services, and Northwest and Delta airlines. Sansour said the incident occurred when she, her father and two brothers passed through PWS’s Pier C, security checkpoint Dec. 18 before boarding a Northwest flight to San Francisco. Delta Airlines contracts with Globe to provide security for all airlines that use Pier C, including Northwest. Helen Hassan, the Islamic group’s civil rights coordinator, said requiring Muslim women to remove their head scarves, or hijab, is tantamount to a public strip search because it violates Muslim teachings about modesty. Hassan said Sansour’s complaint is one of a dozen the group has received since Sept. 11. The group has received about 160 other complaints of racial or religious profiling at airports, officials said. Hassan said the group doesn’t object to Muslim women being asked to remove their head scarves in a private area and in front of a female-security screener, as long as they are not singled out for extra scrutiny. Delta spokeswoman Kristi Tucker said she couldn’t comment on the incident. "All I can say is we take these types of allegations seriously, and we’re investigating," Tucker said. Two messages left for a GlobeAviation spokesperson were not returned Tuesday. Rebecca Trexler, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said security screeners must resolve any alarms from a metal detector or hand wand. Any searches in which a passenger must remove clothing, she said, should be done with sensitivity and respect by a screener of the same gender. Private screenings are always available, she added. The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued three memos since Oct. 12 to airlines and their screening companies about racial or religious discrimination. A Nov. 16 memo said it’s discriminatory to single out a woman for inspection because she is wearing a veil or head scarf. It also noted that a male Sikh shouldn’t be ordered to unwrap his turban unless he triggers a metal detector and the cause of the alarm cannot be determined with a hand-held detector or a hand search. Sansour said she didn’t protest the screener’s demands to remove her head scarf because she was afraid after Army National Guard troops with automatic weapons surrounded her. "I want an apology, because there was a man covered from head to toe, and they didn’t tell him to take it off," Sansour said. "I only cover my head, and they didn’t do anything to her."
It's a land unlike America, a country that breaks with the stereotypes of third-world countries — poverty, hunger, sadness, underdevelopment, crime and corruption.

When a group of four Cal Poly students arrived in Thailand last year, they each carried different dreams and expectations. But they shared a common drive for adventure, a thirst for travel and a desire to bring back a sense of Thailand through their artwork.

A few months later, and thousands of miles away, Kuthel Landers, Elizabeth Knauss, Elizabeth Horan and Shannon Maloney will exhibit their work in a show entitled "The Secrets of Elephants." The show will open this Friday in the Cal Poly University Union art gallery, Club 221, at 7 p.m.

"The moment I walked off the plane, 23 hours later, there was an unbelievable energy," said Landers, a painter and art and design senior. Her work carries a sense of the majestic beauty of Thai culture. In one of her paintings, warm reds and oranges caress the image of a Buddhist sculpture, surrounded by a collage-like assembly of children, monks and smiling people.

"Orange was a high priority color, (representing) respect for the Buddhist faith and
By Erica Tower

Contemporary theater is certainly brought to the table with a script that won the Pulitzer Prize. Pulitzer Prize-winner comedy written by David Mamet, who also wrote and directed the independent film "Speed the Plow," is a really interesting contemporary writer," he said. "Done right, the script can ring true as far as real life conversation. Every word, every action, is so clear to the audience that even if you couldn't hear everything, you would still know what is going on.

Keeping up with the pace of the script, which is extremely face-paced, made it a bit challenging for the actors. Though Smith has been acting heavily over the last six years and in his ninth production, he admitted that the script was a bit difficult at first.

"It's hard to attract young people to theater because there are so many good movies out there right now," Harris said. "When you find a play that truly connects with a younger crowd, it's excellent to be able to bring that to the stage.

Harris, who spent his childhood years in Arroyo Grande, studied theater at New York University and has been directing since 1992. He took over the Centerpoint Theatre two years ago.

Harris described the play as face-paced and fun — a story about all that is glamorous and corrupt in Hollywood.

'It's about two shady producers, one senior producer who is experienced and one junior producer who is still trying to realize his potential, and a temporary secretary who doesn't quite know the business,' said actor Matt Smith, who portrays junior producer Charlie Fox.

It is the secretary that brings a twist to the plot when the two producers make bets about sleeping with the young beauty, Harris said. "Pure chaos ensues once the bets take shape.

Smith also credits Mamet with bringing a dose of reality to theater. "Mamet is a really interesting contemporary writer," he said. "Done right, the script can ring true as far as real life conversation. Every word, every action, is so clear to the audience that even if you couldn't hear everything, you would still know what is going on."
Local artist reflects upon women through glass

By Janelle Foskett

A transparent piece of clear glass forms the outline of a woman’s body, and a light blue circle of glass forms the woman’s head. This piece of stained glass art would seem straightforward, except for one thing. Where the shapely characterize the majority of Emily Jagger’s artwork, she has striking blue and yellow wings. She is a butterfly. Stained glass art like this piece characterizes the majority of Emily Jagger’s latest artworks, “An exhibit of winged women in glass.” Each piece is composed of a shape of a woman’s body with wings of an angel, butterfly or dragonfly.

Jagger, a local artist originally from Atascadero, is currently the featured artist at L’Artiste Gallery in downtown San Luis Obispo. Her stained glass art will be on display there through Jan. 31.

Jagger said the idea for the fanciful creations developed out of her love of surrealistic art. “I always liked fantasy women and thinking about the other personas and lives women could have,” she said. “Most of my work has a theme of women or animal and symbol, and playing those things off each other.”

Jagger described her latest show as one of self-discovery and fantasy. She said each piece has a different body type, color and shape.

“There are skinny ones and boxes,” she said.

Her first stained glass female figures were of angels. After making these pieces, Jagger developed the idea of creating an entire show composed of winged women. The successful idea paid off when people eagerly began asking if they could purchase her pieces even before the show.

The owners of L’Artiste Gallery were impressed. In fact, they were so delighted that the decision to feature this collection is a first for both the gallery and Jagger. This is Jagger’s first stained glass art show, and it is the first time L’Artiste Gallery has featured stained glass art.

Rosanne Seitz, one of three owners of the gallery, and Jagger’s themes seem to resonate with people. “People really connect with the idea of a woman’s body as butterflies and angels,” she said. “We really like the work.”

Seitz added that the small yet intimate nature add to the swirling quality of the art. From the various colors to the different qualities of the glass, each piece is only individual. Each piece is approximately six inches tall and has either a metal halo or anvattis the type of creature represented.

Jagger has had several Cal Poly students purchase pieces because they are affordable and handmade.

“I really hope (students) want to come see it,” she said. “Stained glass isn’t something you see everywhere, especially in a whole house.”

Jagger first began working with stained glass about two years ago after an encounter with a local artist who specialized in this medium. Although Jagger had focused primarily on painting and drawing in both college and in her post-collegiate artist career, she was becoming bored and frustrated with these mediums. This frustration led her to experiment with stained glass art.

“I had been painting all through school, so I took my ideas from painting and turned them into glass to see what happened, and it was just amazing,” she said. Jagger instantly connected with the new type of art. However, in the beginning, she admits she had to check out books and videos from the library about working with stained glass, and she even went to stained glass studios to ask questions.

“It was trial and error at first,” she said. “I finally figured it out though and just kept playing around.”

Jagger continues to work with stained glass art exemplifies her artistic versatility. Although she is currently concentrating on stained glass art, Jagger continues to work with mixed media, collage, photography, sculpture, print and collage. Most recently, she began painting landscapes of the Santa Margarita area, although her current medium resides.

Jagger said she has always loved art and began drawing at the age of five. She quickly began winning her school’s art contests, and when she was still winning such contests in high school, she knew art was her forte.

Jagger attended the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she majored in fine art and began working with stained glass actually reminds her of what she liked about her work with art in college. She explained that when she had a deadline for a piece of art, she was forced to finish, stand back and enjoy the completion of a job well done. After college, when no one was there to give her a time limit or push her, she would constantly rework her paintings, and it was hard to figure out when it was truly complete.

But with stained glass, “once you show your design, I said, ‘You really can’t go back and change it.'” Jagger said it’s a good feeling to finish a piece, which stained glass art forces her to do.

But while Jagger’s stained glass art causes her to encapsulate her surrealistic nature lends one to one conclusion that she is an intuitive and imaginative process. It’s “not straight realism,” she said. “Your ideas are running rampant.” Jagger’s collection is on display at L’Artiste Gallery at 570 Higuera St., Suite 1 55. The gallery is open daily, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Poly professor, pianist gives back to music department

By Robin Nichols

When Terry Spiller started playing piano, it kind of amazed his sister.

He was about 4 years old, and after his sibling finished a piece on the piano, he walked up to the daunting instrument and played back to her what he had just heard. His innate talent has brought him far places. “Comes the Ice Cream Man,” the first song he can remember performing. He is now playing for audiences frequently, as he will at his upcoming benefit recital, scheduled for Jan. 12, in the Cal Poly Theatre.

Although recitals are common, Spiller enjoys them, because he is doing something he loves. And he was almost sure that he wanted to spend his life as a musician. “As a freshman in college, I decided I would play for fun at the University of Washington,” he said. “I was a fisheries major. At the end of the first quarter, I knew the only thing I wanted to do was play the piano.”

And now, the Cal Poly music department is reaping the benefits of his decision. On staff since 1991, Spiller has made an impression on his colleagues.

“I think Terry has a great stage presence,” said Clifton Swanstrom, music department head. “He talks to the audience, and brings people in to what he’s playing.”

The benefit of Spiller’s performance will be the music department scholarship fund. It was not something specifically chosen by Spiller, but he feels it is a worthy cause to which the money can go.

“As a performer in the faculty, it’s really part of my job to perform,” he said. “It’s something I would do to make a profit (for myself). So I think, what good source can it go to?”

Spiller has chosen works by Schubert, Hummel, Brahms, Poulenc and Chopin to play the recital. He feels that the pieces offer a wide range of expression and emotion for the listener.

None of the music is particularly “held your head in your hands” heavy,” he said. “It’s not light, but not terribly daunting.”

He also said that the pieces would be enjoyable for those not too familiar with music. Swanstrom shares his opinion, and thinks that students especially can benefit from concerts like these.

“One of the things I notice is that students are just not concert-goers and they don’t hear live music very much,” he said. “The (students) should think about why they are in the midst of this cultural climate and what it has to offer. It’s easier to participate (now) than later.”

Swanstrom added that it’s usually interesting for students to see their professors on stage, dealing with anxiety and performing just like they have experienced.

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Thursday, January 10, 2002

SLO tourism deserves benefits of more advertising

San Luis Obispo is a town driven economically by college students and tourism. When one of those groups fails to spend as it should, the city must take action to regain those precious dollars. Concerned that the number of visitors to San Luis Obispo, California may decline, on Thursday night the San Luis Obispo City Council approved an advertising campaign to keep tourism profitable.

Commentary
Thursday, January 10, 2002

Profliling security checkpoints

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — Balancing how much profiling should be used in security screening is a delicate matter, we all sides need to be considered. This is especially true if there are far fewer numbers of back-to-back travelers who are staying at home or visiting other destinations this year, and so we boost a boost in hotels, retailers, personal services businesses serving the 1.5 billion tourists that visit San Luis Obispo each year. It will also help all the students and community members who work in businesses, hotels, and restaurants supporting the tourism industry by providing the money needed to keep businesses open.

The transitory occupancy tax, or bed tax, is the largest source of revenue for the city. For the past five years, the bed tax has increased at an average of 10 percent a year. This past year the city had its highest increase ever, increasing by at least 8 percent from the beginning of July. Instead they decreased by 4.3 percent by the month of October. This must mean something when there is a significant short-fall in the budget, amounting to $500,000.

There are almost infinite numbers of battle-fronts, nearly communities like Paso Robles and Morro Bay have experienced only small amounts of stress this fall. Therefore, people are still traveling and staying in the county. It may be cheaper rates or simply that these communities have better attractions.

In the most cases, San Luis Obispo needs a boost to bring in more people. Advertising is an effective way to rejuvenate tourism and has been used in the past by San Luis Obispo for this same purpose. Why? So, there is no such thing as unlimited advertising.

Mustang Daily

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Integrity questioned in online assistants

By Kenneth Basin

(“WIRE” LOS ANGELES — Late-night computer users — a new online teaching assistant service is perfect for students who need their questions answered just hours before a test.

RideTheBellCurve.com, launched in November hires graduate students to answer academic questions posed by undergraduates 24 hours a day. The notion of students paying for answers online TAs provide, however, raises an ethical dilemma — is paying for step-by-step instruction tantamount to cheating?

RideTheBellCurve.com President Grant Goodwin said his service has taken all steps possible to ensure fair use of the service.

“We made sure it’s not viewable on handheld Palm, so it’s not accessible in tests,” he said.

RideTheBellCurve.com has the support of numerous professors, some of whom have actually invested in the private company. Goodwin, along with educational advisers, determined that using their service is a vast improvement to students copying answers off one another.

“No one hands in a assignment with the last question done if their best friend has it there and they can copy,” Goodwin said. “If the students are willing to do that, maybe they’ll take a middle ground. They can get a step-by-step solution from a TA and actually learn what the concept is about,” Goodwin said.

W. Lewis Johnson, a University of Southern California professor of computer science and expert in educational technologies, also sees little danger in the online TAs.

“It falls into the same general area as tutoring services,” Johnson said. “Although this is clearly on a more limited scale.”

Johnson said the system may be prejudiced, given that not all students would be willing or able to pay for it, but it is not “intrinsically unethical.”

John Gun Härtlin, a professor of computer science and expert in educational technologies, also sees little danger in the online TAs.

“It’s too difficult to separate education from money anymore,”雌e said.

Christina Reed, a freshman majoring in English, worries that RideTheBellCurve.com’s services may cross the line into cheating. She argues that one of the greatest dangers in the web site is that it may be used on a scale far larger than is intended.

“If you use it on more than just a few problems, (it) might as well do the homework for you,” Reed said.

Julia Colyar, a doctoral student in the Rossier School of Education and instructor in the Thematic Option program, said she questions the ethical implications of an online TA service and worries that RideTheBellCurve.com invites students to bypass some of the most important aspects of college.

“Research in the areas of student persistence and retention in college shows us that learning in the college setting is not just about completing assignments,” Colyar said. “It is also about being part of learning communities, working with peers and faculty, and talking with your roommates over lunch.”

Using the Internet for help is better than not seeking help at all, Colyar said, adding that students should seek other help.

“Learning how to use the resources in your environment may be as important as the assignment itself,” Colyar said.

RideTheBellCurve.com is a product of its founders. Goodwin and his co-founder, frustrated with late nights of often unprofitable studying with no available TA in sight, spent a year researching the concept before the web site launched a month ago.

Goodwin said he often wanted to have a source available 24 hours a day that could just be paid for help. One problem where the textbook was insufficient and then left him to his own devices to browse through the problems and download the solutions for $2, half of which go toward paying the graduate students who work for the service.

Most of the money the Web site makes goes back to the online TAs, who receive as much as 80 percent of the fees for each service. “Post-a-Problem,” where the TAs respond to personalized queries by e-mail, costs approximately $3.13. “Submit an Essay” charges $1.67 per double-spaced page.

The “solution bank” was scheduled to open in December but is still not available. RideTheBellCurve.com estimates that it will have 15,000 questions and answers on file.

Students log on and choose the service that interests them. They can upload a question, diagrams and other files to the Web site, where they are retrieved by one of the graduate students on duty.

The graduate student then prepares the solution and posts it onto the site. An e-mail alert the student that the question has been answered and that the solution may be claimed using purchased claim codes and redemption credits.

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January

Thursday 10th

Open Forum for the College and Fee Proposal(s) in Cal Poly Theatre

12:00 pm

Open Discussions on Fees in Bldg 47, Rm 31; drop in!

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

College Open Meeting on Fees and Budget in Cal Poly Theatre

2:00 pm

College Open Meeting on Fees and Budget in Bldg 53, Rm 215

8:00 am
Olympics invades Utah students' spring break

By Bobbi Barry

DAILYUTAHCORENCE

(U-WIRE) SALT LAKE CITY — For college students across the country, the words "spring break" conjure thoughts of hot sandy beaches, perfect tans and parties that go all night long. But not this year.

With the spring semester schedule thrown into disarray by the Winter Olympics, University of Utah students are looking at quite a different picture.

"I'm probably going to be working," said Jessica Hill, a freshman who plans to spend her spring break with a friend in Florida. "I'm going to have to do something."

But Hill's is not the only type of activity spring breakers are planning. Students are also looking forward to a chance to escape from the Games.

"I want a break from school," said Jarret Harper, a junior at the University of Utah. "I'm going to go to Moab for a week and just relax."

Harper is not alone in his desire for a break. Many students say they find the Olympics to be a distraction and that they would rather spend their time in the snow-covered mountains.

"I'm not a fan of the Olympics," said Emily Thompson, a junior at the University of Utah. "I think it's a waste of money."
Sports

Teams face hard road to ‘Big Easy’

Heavily favored teams look ‘Super’ strong as playoffs start this Sunday

By Chris Arns

MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS EDITOR

With the Super Bowl coming closer to Valentine’s Day, 11 teams will wind up with broken hearts as the St. Louis Rams roll to their second world title in three years.

Column

Simply put, the Rams pose a large problem for the rest of the teams who will try to play Cinderella to coach Mike Martz’s ugly stepmother of a team. Accompanied by All-Star St. Louis is an explosive powerhouse with the NFL’s most potent offense and one of the most stingy defenses. The Rams scored 503 points during the regular season, which was almost 100 more than the next team at the same time, their much improved defense ranked second overall.

While San Francisco was right behind the Rams in total offense, the Niners’ defense is young and can’t stop experienced quarterbacks such as Brett Favre. The Niners will face Favre’s team in a wild card game that many expect to be hard-fought, but with a good outcome. No team has ever beaten the Niners in the playoffs, and the Niners are expected to be tough. The Niners’ defense ranked as one of the league’s best defenses, clogging holes with the league’s best defense. The Niners’ defense has been as consistent as the Rams. New England has an exciting and inexperienced leader in Tom Brady, who led his bunch to the AFC East title. Should Pittsburgh and New England advance to the AFC conference championship game, look for Pittsburgh to advance to the Super Bowl.

Although an upset of the Rams would make for a great story, no other team in the league has the talent or experience to dethrone them. In the event of a Pittsburgh vs. Rams Super Bowl, look for the Rams to come out strong and build a big lead. At the end of the game, Warner and Faulk should be hoisting another Lombardi trophy.

New Orleans will be the site of the Super Bowl XXXVI. The favorites include the Pittsburgh Steelers and the St. Louis Rams.

For the second year in a row, and Philadelphia’s offensive can only rely on quarterback Donovan McNabb for so long. Tampa Bay traditionally has fared poorly in cold-weather games, giving the edge to home team Philadelphia. Although the Eagles look to win this match up, Philadelphia would be an underdog against any NFC playoff team.

That leaves only the Packers and the Chicago Bears as legitimate contenders to upset the Rams. Either team would have to play in St. Louis, a domed stadium. Chicago has played well on turf this season, and with their incredible defense racking up the turnovers lately, they may be the only team to stop the Rams. Although Favre loves to shine in the playoffs, the Bears as a team match up more favorably against St. Louis, and have the best chance to beat them.

In the NFC, the outcome is not so certain. Though the Pittsburgh Steelers demolished all conference foes with the league’s best defense, quarterback Kordell Stewart has a history of choking in big playoff games. However, the rest of the conference has been dramatically inconsistent. Though the defending champion Baltimore Ravens squeaked into the playoffs in the last weekend, they’ve been disappointingly after a season in which their defense ranked as one of the all-time best.

In addition, to the Ravens, neither Miami nor Oakland have played exceptionally well in the last four weeks. After a heartbreaking loss to the Jets last weekend, many of the Raiders started walking off the field before the game was over, signaling a huge drop in morale.

In the AFC, the only Patriots have been as consistent as the Steelers. New England has an exciting yet inexperienced leader in Tom Brady, who led his bunch to the AFC East title. Should Pittsburgh and New England advance to the AFC conference championship game, look for Pittsburgh to advance to the Super Bowl.

The victory boosted the Niners‘ record to 2-0 in the Big West, and 5-7 overall. CSU Fullerton fell to 2-2-1 on the season and 0-3 in conference play.

CSU Poly received strong contributions from freshmen guard Michelle Henke, who scored 10 points off the bench, while pulling down seven rebounds. Junior guard Kari Duperson scored 15 points and fres­hman forward Kari Patterson added 14.

The Mustangs benefited from 26 Turnovers, while losing the rebounded battle, 50-38. Cal Poly led by as many as 26 points in the second half, and used a 11-0 spurt following the half to help secure the win.

The Mustangs continue a four-game homestand this weekend, playing host to UC Riverside on Friday at 7:00 p.m., and Pacific on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Beevon’s clutch play earns Big West Player of the Week

MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS REPORT

Senior forward Brandon Beevon has been named Big West Player of the Week for Men’s Basketball Conference play.

Beevon has helped the Mustangs jump out to a 9-3 start this season, averaging 18.5 points and 6.5 rebounds in Cal Poly’s two wins this past week. The forward hit clutch jumpers against Utah State to seal a key victory for the Mustangs. Beevon is averaging 14.4 points a game this season for the Mustangs.

Smith provided ‘wizardry’ with glove

By Ian Lindsey

MUSTANG DAILY CONTRIBUTOR

Not many people have more than one or two baseball mitts, but Ozzie Smith has 13 gold-encrusted gloves that he can’t even play with.

This Tuesday, the Wizard of Oz made it nine and one-half years on 92 percent of all ballots for the Hall of Fame, easily earning him induction into the hallowed grounds of baseball’s Hall of Fame.

Ozzie hit one home run left-handed; yet it happened to propel Nomar, but his speed on the bases made him a secret weapon for the Cardinals. He couldn’t hit the ball out of the park at will, or spray it all over the field. Though he provided the clutch hit from time to time, at best the Oz was an average hitter.

But the glove, oh, the glove. The most acrobatic plays looked simple for Ozie. He didn’t possess the strongest arm, or the quickest release, but he did redefine range for a shortstop. He could get to any line drive, grounders, or heater up the middle, and then make the play once he got to the ball. He used to practice fielding scorching ground balls on his knees, hit to him from the pitcher’s mound, and then close the glove position on the ball, shoulder to shoulder with the batter, ready to pounce. His work on the field brought him seven Gold Gloves, and his defensive skills helped him hold the Major League record for most double plays turned and the most assists for a shortstop. He fielded closely over 97 percent of the balls anywhere near him, and during one year only made eight errors at the toughest infield position.

A-Rod, Jeter, and Nomar may produce dizzily high offensive numbers, but they can’t compare to Ozzie Smith. He was the best defensive shortstop to play the game, a great hero of the game. If anyone can walk tall and enjoy the moment like Ozzie Smith, it’s the Wizard of Oz. He didn’t possess anything that was extraordinary, but he was one of the great heroes of the game. If anyone can walk tall and enjoy the moment like Ozzie Smith, it’s the Wizard of Oz. He didn’t possess anything that was extraordinary, but he was one of the great heroes of the game. If anyone can walk tall and enjoy the moment like Ozzie Smith, it’s the Wizard of Oz.