Out for revenge: Cal Poly will play host to Santa Barbara, 8

MLK Day: Appreciate it more than a vacation, 6

TODAY'S WEATHER
High: 58°
Low: 33°

Friday, January 18, 2002

Mustang Daily
Volume LXVI, Number 65, 1916-2002

Honoring a man with a dream

Campus celebrates King's memory, participants march to remember legacy

By Bryan Dickerson

On Monday, schools and banks will close their doors as America takes a day off in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. While most holidays that create a three-day weekend have become synonymous with barbecues, ski trips and storewide sales, the celebration of King's birthday deeply touches this country's psyche.

Although King's actual birthday falls on Jan. 15, the holiday is always celebrated on the third Monday of January. Cal Poly, however, will hold events on Friday, Jan. 18, to reflect upon the birth of a civil rights leader who forever changed the fabric of American life.

The first event is a march to honor King and commemorate the matches he once led. Participants will assemble at Dexter Lawn at 12:30 p.m. and march to the Fisher Science building, room 286 at 1 p.m. for a lecture by noted author and organizer Angelo Williams. His talk, "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Invented the Internet: How the Philosophy of Integration Opened America," will last an hour and conclude with refreshments.

Mark Fabionar, coordinator of programs and services at the university's Multicultural Center, said the march is held in respect and honor of King's work, principles and philosophy. He added that the day should not just focus on injustices.

"King's vision wasn't just for the African American," Fabionar said. "We want to open this event up to the entire student body. My hope as coordinator is that students will not see this as only being ethnic specific."

see BIRTHDAY, page 2

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; Only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; Only love can do that."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Katrina Telfer

Martin Luther King Jr. helped lead the civil rights movement and played a key role in bringing an end to segregation, but has America achieved his dream? Due to the ambiguity of this question, everyone has a different perspective, but generally the answer is both yes and no.

Sociology professor John McKinstry said many black people moved into top positions, and in effect, moved away from places like ghettos.

"Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement had terrifically positive outcomes, like Colin Powell and several mayors of large cities who are black, but it had a negative impact also," he said.

Once they were no longer segregated, talented blacks moved out of the ghettos and into mainstream America, McKinstry said. Since these blacks had been the bedrock of black communities, some see this as a negative effect of desegregating.

The black underclass no longer live with leaders and models of success, and without this leadership there has been a rise in teen pregnancy, single parent families, teen crime rate and drug use among blacks, he said.

Although there are laws now in place against both segregation and discrimination, there are some forms of discrimination that no law can stop. Victor Valle, an ethnic studies professor, said racism is so deeply ingrained in some Americans that they discriminate against minorities subconsciously.

"Let's ask how we are disguising the reality of race by using sanitized definitions of racism before we ask how far we've come in ending racism," Valle said. Recent headlines illustrate such ingrained racism.

see PROGRESS, page 7

Poly centennial book grabs two awards for design, research

By Cynthia Neff

You may have passed by it in El Corral on your way to buy school supplies. Or maybe you have seen it displayed on your department head's coffee table. But what you might not know about "Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years," is the honor the book recently received.

The first ever book-length, illustrated history of Cal Poly was awarded both a Book Show 2001 award from the nonprofit Bookbuilders organization and an Award of Distinction by the Far West district of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), said Bob Anderson with the Public Affairs office.

Each award has various criteria on which the judging was based. Anderson said "Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years" received the Book Show 2001 award for its design, production and manufacturing. The publisher or a supplier to the publisher can submit entries to Bookbuilders West, the western branch of the organization that encompasses 13 states. CASE District VII — California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah — recognized the book in the category for books and similar publications.

Carrie Jenkins of Brigham Young University coordinated the judging committee. She said another book from California in the same CASE District VII category proved to be Cal Poly's extreme competitor. "It was very close," she said. "The committee looked specifically at the research taken (in producing the book)."

Jenkins said that the committee also took several other factors into consideration, including the purpose of the book, whether it had successfully reached its target audience and its design and presentation. All things considered, Cal Poly was finally awarded a note of distinction by CASE.

The 176-page, illustrated volume celebrates Cal Poly's Centennial, contains more than 300 photos and illustrations, and tells the history of Cal Poly's academic progress and campus life. It was released on March 8, 2001, the 100th anniversary of the signing of Cal Poly's legislation, Anderson said.

The two organizations noted above aren't the only entities to recognize the publication, though.

"We've received very positive feedback from alumni or other campus units who've acquired the book," said Iram Davis, dean of Library Services. "It does an excellent job of illustrating Poly's history."

see BOOK, page 2
What was Martin Luther King Jr.'s message? Have we reached it?

- He was about unity; this country was founded on freedom. I don't think we'll ever fully achieve 100 percent of his dream.
- I think he was just calling everyone back to the Bible. No, everyone's not focused on doing what's right.
- He was an advocate for nonviolent resistance. No, the goal hasn't been reached.
- He wanted all blacks to be free. Back when we were very suppressed. I believe we're on our way.
- There shouldn't be any bias towards certain people of different races. We're almost there in this country, but not in other countries.
- He was trying for equality. We are only one race; the human race.
- He was founded on freedom. I don't think racism is a thing of the past, but it's not.
- According to Fabian, one percent of Cal Poly's student population is African-American.
- "It can feel alienating at Cal Poly," she said.
- According to a press release, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Paul Zingg said, "We're particularly gratified with these events that celebrate diversity, but the celebration of diversity is not the same as the project of diversity."
- King was assassinated on April 4, 1968. by James Earl Ray, who was later sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

BIRTHDAY continued from page 1

While Cal Poly's celebration extends to the larger community, the effects of King's life are often felt more acutely by African-American students like business student Elbert Hardman.

"For me, the day is a great remembrance of a man who struggled so that I can be here at Cal Poly," Hardman said. "I can obtain an education to better myself, and on that day we're honoring him and showing our respect for him."

Other students see the day as remembering the man for his contributions beyond the African-American Community.

"Martin Luther King was a visionary in what he fought for," said Cortney Stafford, a liberal studies major. "The focus was on the rights of African-Americans, but he wanted it for everybody."


Charles Reid, a 22 year old computer science major, sees the holiday as time to reflect on the holidays young history.

"People in my age group don't realize how recently things were different," Reid said. "It's been only in a lifetime that all these things came about. It's a good way to remember that it's not so far removed. People think racism is a thing of the past, but it's not."

According to Fabian, one percent of Cal Poly's student population is African-American.

"It can feel alienating at Cal Poly," she said. "I think we'll ever fully achieve 100 percent of his dream."

BOOK continued from page 1

Rebecca Vowen, trade and general book manager of El Corral, said she has also received a wonderful response in the bookstore, where it is being promoted.

"I took (the book) around to several book events on campus and was gratified by the number of people who commented about (their experiences at Cal Poly) because of it," she said.

Vowen said she was excited to see the book, since she is also a graduate of Cal Poly.

According to a press release, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Paul Zingg said, "We're particularly gratified with these events because they recognize not only that Cal Poly has a terrific story to tell, but that we have told it well."

The book was written and coordinated by Nancy Lee, who is on sabbatical and was unavailable for comment.
National Briefs

Three killed by law student

GRUNDY, Va. — The school dean, a professor and a student of Appalachian School of Law were shot to death by a Najetian exchange student Wednesday, authorities said. Three female students were also wounded in the attack. They are being hospitalized and are in fair condition.

Peter Odighizuwa, 42, first poked down the professor and the dean in their offices and then fired into a crowded area. Four students tackled him. Odighizuwa flunked out of the school last year but had been allowed to return. A new academic dean started Wednesday. Odighizuwa had a history of mental illness.

He is being held at the Buchanan County Jail in Grundy, a coal town.

— USA Today

9-11 statute subject of racial debate

NEW YORK — A debate has risen around a proposed forever statute based on a photograph of three firefighters raising the American flag at the site of the fallen World Trade Center towers. The New York City Fire Department has revealed that it wants to depict the men as white, black and Hispanic to more fully represent all of the men from the service who died on Sept. 11.

The owners of the photograph, the New Jersey Media Group, are threatening legal action to stop its reproduction on the grounds that the basis for the 19-foot memorial. The media group and the three men in the picture believe that the image captures a historical moment that should not be altered. The firefighters' union has said that it would prefer the statute remain true to the original picture, a photograph that has become well-known in the recent media group and the three men in the New Jersey Media Group, are resent all of the men from the service who are being kept in temporary cells that are more fully represented.

The investigations were prompted directly involved in a fatal accident on the site of the fallen World Trade Center.

Researchers from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston theorize that mifepristone, the abortion pill also known as RU-486, can be directly involved in a fatal accident is a price they pay.

Researchers have said that they would not do so.

— Reuters

His favorite show is Survivor. He likes The Dave Matthew Band and Mozart. He plays basketball and volunteers for Local Charities. They say, "He's Everywhere... Usually on the bus. He likes the bus, it's quick, easy and the cost is a price he can afford."

Look who's riding the mixer...

Powell pays visit to Afghanistan capital

By Eric Slater and Paul Watson

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice promised worried Afghans on Thursday that the United States won't leave them in the lurch, vowing to play a key role in the reconstruction of their country long after the war against the Taliban and the Quaid river valley.

Powell, the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit the Afghan capital since the American occupation of the country in 2002, was greeted with a rapturous welcome.

As the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan is scaled back, the country faces an uncertain future.

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld ended Wednesday's visit to the Bagram air base north of the capital early Thursday, saying the flow of the flux is at least 12 miles wide and is traveling between 63 to 280 kilometers per hour. The flow is about 500 kilometers wide and is traveling between 63 to 280 kilometers per hour. The flow of the flux is at least 12 miles wide and is traveling between 63 to 280 kilometers per hour.

The popular tourist attraction is 400 meters thick and covers 8,000 square kilometers. If the glacier melts it could be slowing down the eastward progress of the century.

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Family chaos, drugs and dreams collide in a satire on the "Orange County" lifestyle, where the families may appear normal on the surface, but a closer look reveals true dysfunction. In this film, it is ultimately the irresponsible parents, which bring the family to its downfall. A drunken mother, played by Catherine O'Hara, and a workaholic father create the dysfunctional pair. The father's obsession with work ultimately drives the mother to her obsession with alcohol. The father eventually leaves the mother to have an affair with a gold-digger 20-year-old.

When the father and the 20-year-old eventually procreate, they produce a pre-school-sexed ten-year-old with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), who is so obsessive that his parents refuse to take care of him. Instead, the child is raised by the couple's foreign nanny. In one scene that screams dysfunction, the child gets in the way of the young mother, who responds by shrieking to the nanny that he needs more medication.

The rest of the family consists of two older sons from the original couple's destroyed relationship. Jack Black plays Lance, the "loser" brother whose only goal in life is to recover his sick's destroyed relationship. Jack Black makes every other word drown in a surfing accident. Shortly thereafter, Shaun Hinds, is the twerachiever of the two sons. He is the class president, has SAT scores and a sweet, supportive girlfriend. His goal is to be accepted to Stanford University. This goal materializes after one of his three best friends (who say "dude" every other word) drowns in a surfing accident. Shortly thereafter, Shaun finds a book on the sand on the beach and believes it to be a sign to become a writer.

Shaun's pre-brained friends are also the source of much cliché drug humor — their only worries are the height of the waves at the beach and the parties they will eventually throw on the anniversary of their friend's death. Every great idea they have, if in fact, they have one, seems to follow the trend of blowing something up. Shaun, however, wants something more in life — unlike his brother Lance.

Lance uses even less of his brain than the two younger friends. Black does stand out as a support of the audience excited and attentive in all of the scenes. Perhaps this is because Black is often only wearing tight white underwear, which emphasizes his beer-bellied hairy figure.

Underneath it all, Shaun's true reason for wanting to go away to college is not a writer, but to escape the pit of being submerged in Orange County. This notion, brought into the story by the girlfriend is the "message" of the movie. Every good movie needs a message, even teen-drama supernatural ones, right?

A surprise takes place in the movie when Shaun gets a rejection letter from Stanford, the only school to which he applied. His guidance counselor Ms. Cobb, played by Lily Tomlin, had previously advised him to only apply to Stanford, because he was sure to get in. Of course, she was a "ditz" as well as exemplified in his rejection letter.

It seems that nothing can be done about Shaun's terminal bad luck as his continued attempts to get into Stanford are flubbed. However, to save Shaun from recession and insanity, Lance gets a great idea. After taking a few of his "yellow" pills, Lance escorts his brother and the girlfriend to Stanford in a record three hours!

At Stanford, they drag the dean, start a fire and attend a party — all by accident.

Meanwhile, their parents get back together. It's a fairy-tale ending — an ending that could only take place in Orange County.

By Audrey Amara

Black makes tasty

‘Ali’ film doesn’t follow true life

By Richard R. Ferris

(U-WIRE) HONOLULU — Whenever I hear the name Muhammad Ali, I think of someone who wasn’t afraid to stand up for what he believed in. I also think of Ali as the greatest boxer to put on a pair of gloves. Sadly, Michael Mann directed a movie that captures Ali without any energy or longer than life feel.

The problem is not that there isn’t any boxing in the movie — indeed, there’s about 30 minutes of it. The rest of the movie is padded (two hours and 45 minutes) and may induce sleeping due to extreme boredom.

After opening with the Clay-Spinks Lions bout, the movie quickly loses its momentum by dragging us through its lengthy rehashing of Malcolm X (Mario Van Peebles) and his friendship with Clay. At this point, the focus seems to shift to Malcolm X. Added in is a ridiculous amount of standard-grade government conspira­cy nonsense, with the feds trying to out Malcolm X from power. At the end of all of this, Malcolm X looks like a stalker, and the Nation of Islam looks no better than Don King.

Finally, the film starts to pick up by taking us back to the ring, but that momentum irrevocably diminishes again with sequences like Ali winning another woman — a perennial weak­ness — and taking a long, boring and confusing dialogue-less musical sequence as Ali travels the country-side.

"Ali’s" biggest flaw is a script that simply missed the point of Ali's life. Ali we really get out of this film is a few good boxing sequences and a brief look at Ali's rough and cobbled together philosophy of life.

The other major flaw was the support­ing cast. Van Peebles and Jamie Foxx.

The only time the film is superb is in the ring — in fact, it makes you forget you’re watching a movie. The action is not staged — it’s real boxing, with real punches being thrown.

Ending the film with the Freeman fight manages to show us some of Ali’s greatest hits, but it ignores seven years of subsequent fighting (including "The Thrilla in Manila," his third and final match with Joe Frazier) and more importantly, Ali’s fight with Parkinson’s disease later in life.

The only other bright spot in this movie was Jon Voight portraying legendary sportscaster Howard Cosell. Voight and Smith packed a punch in both their roles and real boxing ring punches being thrown.

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By Richard R. Ferris
By Nadea Mina
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

If you want a fast-paced, sexy action movie, go rent "The Fast and The Furious." Trust me. Robert Altman's "Gosford Park" is not a movie for the action enthusiast. This is a slow movie with very long, drawn-out scenes intended for the 40-and-over-crowd.

The critics say it's Oscar-worthy material. I found it boring. There was nothing that caught my eye. Sex, murder and drama were found it horinK. There was nothing that aged to make this dramatic material uninteresting.

"Gosford Park" is not a movie for the action enthusiast. This is a slow movie with very long, drawn-out plot that has been overdone in a 'blah' manner. But unlike in "Pulp Fiction" and "Fight Club," the twists were unnecessary. In this film, these scenes only managed to add to its running time — a whopping 2 hours and 15 minutes for a lame plot with very little interesting content. I didn't go to write this review, I would have left the movie long before anyone was murdered. I should have known that I wouldn't like it.

Every film that I have seen labeled as so-called "Oscar material" — American Beauty, Rushmore and Election — I found horinK. Some may believe that I am not mature enough to appreciate the so-called art that comes with these films. They may say I am just a girl with a short attention span who needs to be intrigued at all times. This is not the case.

"Gosford Park" had a long list of well-known actors, including Ryan Phillippe and Maggie Smith. Most women find Phillippe to be a sex symbol in his other films and this one is no exception. Phillippe plays a seductive valet researching a murder-mystery film through the eyes of a servant. All his scenes were long and drawn out. I felt like bursting out with "have sex all ready" — unlike in "Cruel Intention," a movie that I am still glued to. This was not one of his greatest performances. His Scottish accent was over-the-top, and he constantly forced himself on women, which was not attractive. Luckily, Maggie Smith saved Phillippe's performance with her humor. I thank her for adding life to this script. She was the only thing that made the script come to life because of her humor. I thank her for giving the script a little humor. She saved Phillippe's performance with her humor.

The script is very similar to the board game "Clue" that many of us may have played as children. For the duration of "Gosford Park," the script was hard to follow and it was equally as challenging to keep the characters straight due to the heavy accents and similar appearances of the actors. There were also twists and turns that involved each character separately. Adultery, abandonment and affairs surfaced throughout the movie in a very "blah" manner. But unlike in "Pulp Fiction" and "Fight Club," the twists were unnecessary. In this film, these scenes only managed to add to its running time — a whopping 2 hours and 15 minutes for a lame plot with very little interesting content. I didn't go to write this review, I would have left the movie long before anyone was murdered. I should have known that I wouldn't like it.

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Smith played an old bat that was bizzat about everything. She made the script come to life because of her humor. I thank her for it. She attitude against every character with an attitude only an old woman could get away with. Even Smith's humor was a little horinK. She saved Phillippe's performance with her humor.

There is a reason you probably haven't heard of this movie and haven't seen many previews for it. Unless you are really into British films, I say stick to the funny college-oriented movies such as "Orange County."
A day off from school has deep meaning

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is a day off to most Cal Poly students, but in reality it is a celebration of equality for African-Americans.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke about freedom, civil rights and equality. He traveled and spoke to as many people as he could, from large town halls to small churches. He believed non-violence was the only way to get his word out. He brought hope, courage and healing to America. As young people today, we should not be afraid to talk about him. But what does he really mean to us? Jim Crow laws aren't even in our minds, so we may not know what it is like to have separate water fountains, and we don't understand the full struggle of the civil rights movement. The civil rights movement happened in the 1960s; some of our parents weren't even old enough to understand it. So, what does it mean to be a Cal Poly student besides more than a day off and an extra night to party? When you have a day off and an extra night to party?

With only 1 percent of Cal Poly students being of African-American heritage, I feel privileged. I am one of the select few African-Americans to call San Luis Obispo home for the next three years. Instead, I feel proud to be a part of a community that is segregated in the year 2002. I graduated high school in the Los Angeles area, and coming to Cal Poly was a culture shock for me.

Dr. King's vision was to let children be able to play together regardless of race. To this day, most students at Cal Poly groups themselves by similar interests, including race. I can't believe how many minority students stick to their one clique and don't have the guts to branch out. When you hear about groups of different cultures, many students make fun of them because of ignorance. "Why?" one may ask. It simply deals with people feeling that they are not equal to others. It resulted in the Civil Rights movement because so many people were upset about it. To this day, most students at Cal Poly don't know what it's like to have separate water fountains, and we don't understand the full struggle of the civil rights movement. The civil rights movement happened in the 1960s; some of our parents weren't even old enough to understand it. So, what does it mean to mean to be a Cal Poly student besides more than a day off and an extra night to party? When you have a day off and an extra night to party?

Ian McCracken is a puzzled journalism senior just asking what the point is.
A little throw in the snow

PROGRESS
continued from page 1

As recently reported by Ro: Plater with the San Francisco-based CBS affiliate KPIX, retail discrimination charges are being made in Concord, New Hampshire, after a black woman and her family went to a U-Haul store to get a $30 refund. The manager called the police for a disturbance and possible robbery.

Then on Jan. 16, a Reuters article titled "Actor's Plaque Mistakenly Honors King's Assassin," highlights an especially disturbing incident. A teenage girl working for Merit Industries in Georgetown made what the company is calling a "typo." A plaque was made in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day for Tony Award-winning actor James Earl Jones, but instead, the plaque said "James Earl Ray, the name of the man convicted of murdering Martin Luther King Jr."

An Associated Press article from Jan. 16 indicates that the plaque will offer a $50,000 reward for any information leading to information about the killing of a Black deputy sheriff in South Louisiana in 1985. Not all of the atrocities that have happened to blacks can ever truly be made up, but many believe the effort must continue.

KABUL
continued from page 3

Drake casts a snowball at another kid participating in 'Snow Night,' which has been taking place in January for about 20 years. The kids play in eight tons of shaved ice from the Oceano Ice Company.

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Gorillas Found Sniffing Glue

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Gauchos come to town Saturday night

By Andy Fahey
MUSTANG DAILY CONTRIBUTOR

Cal Poly will look to end one streak and continue another when the neighboring rival Gauchos of UC Santa Barbara are to visit Mott Gym on Saturday night.

Santa Barbara (10-4, 4-2 in conference play) has become Mustangs' saving grace in consecutive times, sweeping the last three seasons. Cal Poly (6-5, 3-3) on the other hand lost a home game this year (0-2).

Both teams have been struggling lately. Cal Poly has dropped two games in a row, while Santa Barbara has lost two of their last three.

The Gauchos tied for second place in the Big West, will come to Cal Poly armed with the conference's best defense, holding opponents to only 99.7 points per game and limiting them to a paltry field goal percentage of 39. Their defense has held the opposition to under 70 points in notable victories over San Francisco, Brigham Young, Pepperdine and Detroit.

Santa Barbara's offensive attack is led by junior forward Mark Hull (15.6 points per game) and sophomore swingman Brandon Bunnell (14.5 ppg). Both players are legitimate outside threats, shooting 41 and 43 percent beyond the three point arc respectively.

In addition to a strong outside game, Santa Barbara is tough inside. Adams Nkoli (PP), Mike Yakovich (10ppg), Casey Cook (6ppg) and Brian Whitehead (6ppg) all provide inside presence to complement the outside play of Hull and Bunnell.

"Those guys are big and strong and they put some real pop on their shots," said Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley.

This is an important game for Cal Poly. Not only does the team want to beat their Central Coast rival, they need to get back on the winning track.

After consecutive losses at Pacific and CSU Northridge, the team has fallen to seventh place in the Big West. "Saturday's game is pretty much a must win," senior forward Brandon Benson said. "It's a big game to get our confidence back, to get us rolling."

Cal Poly comes into this game as the confidence leader in rebounding with 77.3 boards per game. Benson is leading the team with 7.1 rebounds per game and sophomore center Varmi Dennis is right behind him with an average of 6.1. These two players are also the team's leading scorers. Dennis ranks sixth in the conference with 15.3 points per game, while Benson is ninth with 13.1.

Cal Poly point guard Steve Geary, who has been out with a back injury since the victory over Lipscomb on Dec. 1, has suited up the last two games but has yet to see any action, and is listed as day to day. Jason Allen, a transfer student out of Eastern Oklahoma Junior College, has started every game at the point since Geary's injury.

For Cal Poly, there's no place like home. The team has literally been unbeatable at Mott Gym this year.

Bromley credits the team's hard work for their success at home. "Well, I just think the kids have done a great job," Bromley said. "Before the season, one of the goals was to win all the home games and really establish a home court advantage which we haven't had in the last couple years."

"This is our place and Santa Barbara should be worried a little bit because we have some good stuff going on here," Benson said.

With a victory on Saturday night, the Mustangs will surpass last year's win total of nine. A win will also bring the team one step closer to achieving its first winning season since joining the Big West in 1996.

It's time to tomahawk the Baja Men

By Eric Rich
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

I'll be the first guy to say that I love sports. I can't deny it. I'm the prototypical guy, scouring the channels at 2 a.m. to watch a football coach, already on the verge of having a heart attack, get doused from behind with freezing cold sports drink. I don't really understand this tradition. What's next, petting the coach with a heel of football until he cries? Personally, I'd rather have my eyebrows peeled open and be forced to watch an XFL marathon than be drenched in cold liquid like so many coaches have before me. I recommend something a little bit more fun, like keeping a bucket of water balloons on hand to throw can-lure next in line, the world must watch as the fans break into a monotonous war cry. Not only is the chop one of the worst rallies ever, but it has been routed as a racist action against Native Americans. The chop needs to go almost as bad as the Braves need to miss the playoffs.

I would like to know where it is written that showrooming a coach with Goredo is the defining sign of a successful game. I cringe each time I watch a football coach, already on the verge of having a heart attack, get doused from behind with freezing cold sports drink. I don't really understand this tradition. What's next, petting the coach with a heel of football until he cries? Personally, I'd rather have my eyebrows peeled open and be forced to watch an XFL marathon than be drenched in cold liquid like so many coaches have before me. I recommend something a little bit more fun, like keeping a bucket of water balloons on hand to throw.

"The chop needs to go almost as badly as the Braves need to miss the playoffs," at the opponent coach as he rushes to the locker room. Now that would be sports.

Playing songs at arenas and stadiums is a huge part of our sporting culture. Classics like "Start Me Up" by the Rolling Stones and the chant "We Will Rock You" by Queen set the tone for any game and leave the fans with intensity and emotion. Unfortunately, these songs are becoming less recognizable by new, modern artists. So many songs have been shuffled out and left behind in the stadium.

The first shake is in disbelief that such a song was recorded, and the second shake is to get it out of my head. Any sports organization whose nickname is remotely related to a canine uses the second-rate Baja Men song at one point or another during a game. I feel strongly that this song needs to removed from all play lists as fast as a Mariah Carey movie is removed from the theatre.

Tradition or not, some things in sports just make no sense and are foolish. Why play a Baja Men song when there's a multitude of classic rock artists available to choose from? Like most of the traditions, there is no explanation. Oh yeah, and to those fans who think it's cool to creep up behind home plate with a limited number of brain cells, as well as those who think it's cool to creep up behind home plate with their permanently attached cell phone and wave to people at home, it's not. Please stop this annoying tradition before I lose any more sleep.

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