Readership Awareness Week
February 25 to March 1

Living the SLO Life

Friday, March 1, 2002

Mustang Daily
Volume LXVI, Number 91, 1916-2002
www.mustangdaily.calpoly.edu

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO
Editor's note: In our daily bustle to finish the task at hand, it's hard to pay attention to the details, to those things that don't necessarily affect our daily lives, but are nevertheless part of our experiences. How people lived their lives before coming to Cal Poly is one of the things we often overlook. What classmates do outside the classroom often escapes us unless we are part of their social group. What happens in the lesser-known cultural circles is yet another aspect of Cal Poly that goes unnoticed by the majority. In this issue, we attempt to bring into the light small facts about the things we often overlook about each other.

From big city or small town - adjusting to SLO life

By Sarah E. Thien

Mustang Daily Staff Writer

People are raised in vastly unique ways that ultimately shape their individual personalities. Despite such different background however, these people can end up in similar colleges and professions.

Gena Fussell and Rianna Mebane are two Cal Poly students who share an interest in communications yet come from radically different places.

Big City

On a clear day, Gena Fussell can see the Golden Gate Bridge from the back porch of the house in which she grew up. Fussell was born in the University of California, San Francisco, hospital; her parents lived so close that they simply rolled her home in a stroller.

Fussell's home is on Fifth Street in the Sunset District of San Francisco. As a small child, she and her older brother played in the streets with the neighborhood kids. She went to the park like any other child, but it just happened to be Golden Gate Park. In third grade Fussell became a true citizen of the city when she began taking the MUNI (public transportation) to school every day. She said she would never forget the first day her mom put her on the bus. She looked back and her mom was following the bus in her car to make sure Fussell got to school all right.

"It was horrible at the time," Fussell said, "but it did give me a certain level of independence."

In junior high, Fussell used the MUNI to get to St. Ignatius Catholic School - a school that her mother selected so that she wouldn't have to go one of the public schools in San Francisco. Fussell and her friends did visit the tourist sites occasionally when entertaining out-of-towners. On most weekends though, they went to the beach, watched movies and shopped.

"Everybody always thinks that if you grew up in San Francisco you must have done cool stuff," she said. "But when you're not 21 in San Francisco, you can't do any of the really fun stuff."

Fussell first heard about Cal Poly when a representative from the university went to St. Ignatius to tell students about architectural and engineering possibilities there.

When it came time to apply to colleges, Fussell included Cal Poly on her list even though she had never been to the school or even seen a picture. She was accepted to Cal Poly, and later decided that the university was the best of the bunch. The first time Fussell came to Cal Poly it was Open House weekend, and she and her family ended up parking near the swine unit. Fussell said she was shocked, since she had no idea that Cal Poly had such a large agriculture department.

"There were horses and sheep, and I thought, what have I gotten myself into?" she said. "I almost cried."

She calmed down once she saw the rest of the campus, though.

"I realized I could go here and that it wouldn't be that bad," she said. Fussell's freshman year was shaky, she said, because she was on academic probation and wasn't sure about her major — city and regional planning.

Now in her fourth year, Fussell has recently switched her major to journalism and is used to the SLO life. Fussell said people drive slower and aren't as stressed out as they are in San Francisco.

When she graduates, Fussell said she will definitely come back and visit San Luis Obispo, but nothing compares to San Francisco.

"San Francisco stands out over other major cities," she said. "It has such energy."

When Fussell goes home for breaks now, she does visit the tourist spots.

"I miss the city so much," she said. "When I go home I just want to soak it all up."

Small Town

While Fussell started in San Francisco and ended up at Cal Poly, another student took a very different road to end up at the very same place.

Rianna Mebane said her home has rolling hills covered with green grass, few trees and plenty of stars at night.

"When you own a ranch, you want your kids to learn the value of work," she said. "When I go home I just want to help out on the ranch."

Mebane grew up on a cattle ranch outside of a small town called Woody, where her nearest neighbor was two miles away. When she was six years old, she learned how to ride horses and started helping out on the ranch.

"When you own a ranch, you want your kids to learn the value of work."

Rianna Mebane, a dairy science junior, has spent most of her life on a cattle ranch in a small town called Woody. The nearest neighbor lives two miles away. Mebane said moving to SLO wasn't much of an adjustment because she went to a big high school.
Electronic music plays on in SLO

The electronic music rave scene in San Luis Obispo is under attack. The common sentiment of the masses concerning electronic music contains attitudes that lean toward a negative, pessimistic slant. The majority of articles and television specials that come out on electronic music and the culture that supports it gravitate toward a stereotypical approach of implosive drug use and sex.

A Dateline special on NBC, titled "Miles," broadcasted on Oct. 30, 2001, said raves are "where drug use is rampant."

In San Luis Obispo, articles are published yearly about "raves" that are banned by the local police. An article in the New Times published two years ago titled "The Agony of Ecstasy: Inside SLO County's Rare Culture," referred to the rave scene and touted that "immorality is the morality of the moment."

"There is a stereotype that the rave scene is a meat market, filled with drugs and drunken hookups," said Trevor Black, a local promoter and head of a Web site that advertises local electronic events.

However, he said, this isn't the case. A thriving electronic music scene exists in which the people are not there for the drugs and the free sex. They are there for the love of a music movement that is changing the conception and style of modern music.

Electronic music is produced when a DJ manipulates two records into a hybrid of beats and sounds, creating an entirely new musical track all together. In San Luis Obispo, there are groups of DJs, the people who produce their sets and the followers who love this hybrid music being created on the spot. Venues and gatherings in San Luis Obispo in which electronic music is promoted and played happen all the time in an underground scene that stays alive via the Internet and word of mouth.

Local electronic DJ Jim Meyer is involved in this underground network and creates electronic music with Bad Monkey productions, Virtual World Café and at parties. Having been around the San Luis Obispo electronic scene for the last four years, Meyer has seen where it has come from and where it is headed.

"Meyer said he feels that "the misconception that every event that features electronic music is a rave," one that has affected the scene through police interference and from general Cal Poly students. San Luis Obispo, like most of America, has yet to fully understand and embrace the music."

Black said that the acceptance of the electronic movement is inevitable. Black is involved in the scene through his Web site, Central Coast Raves. He said he appreciates the music and feels that it's on the forefront of modern music. Black's Web site features postings of upcoming events, local DJs and their contact information, and much more on the local electronic music scene. It is here that followers of the music can find events they need to know about to become immersed in the scene.

Word of mouth is the most effective way to get access to the larger private events. Though these gatherings may be harder to hear about than more general public events, they are out there and are accessible through the right people. Electronic music can be found without invitation at various events around San Luis Obispo and the near outlying areas.

Occasionally on Friday nights from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., Virtual World Café plays host to various local DJs in a free electronic music set. Anyone interested in hearing electronic music has without committing to going to a large event can take advantage of this free opportunity. Additionally, checking weekly on locally run Web sites and in Cheap Thrills for promotional flyers helps in keeping keen on the local scene. The more exposure and exposure to electronic music that the San Luis Obispo community sees, the more it will come into contact with, perhaps the stereotypes that continue to plague its image will be dispelled. Black summed up the collective sentiment of the electronic music community with his vision of things to come.

"The limitless and constantly morphing electronic music genres are the future of music and may someday become the music of choice for mainstream America."

Trevor Black
local promoter

His favorite show is Survivor.

He likes The Dave Mathews Band and Mozart.

He plays Basketball and volunteers for Local Charities. They say, "His 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 now...

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

For schedules and information visit www.slorta.org
Audiences will ‘Wolf’ down new French flick

By Bryan Dickerson

"Brotherhood of the Wolf," directed by Christophe Gans, is a fever dream on celluloid. It’s a beautiful mosaic of film genres, pieced together smoothly and somewhat coherently through fresh cinematography, cool slow-motion and fast-motion freeze-frame action sequences.

It’s a stunning, disorienting trip through film history, complete with familiar images from classic horror films, including a "Jaws"-like opening scene. There are also references to Westerns (there’s a showdown), Hong Kong cinema (French pensioner Kung-Fu), period epics, madmen with beaving bosoms, and even Hitchcock thrillers. None were contrived and irritate most viewers, but which could explain why this cinematic phenomenon has become a hit in France.

I mention the film’s nationality because Americans inexplicably attach adjectives like "sexy" and "cultured" to French products, which could explain why this cinematic hybrid works. These elements in a domestic film would chafe and irritate most viewers, but here they shine. The result is a product that, had it been a domestic release, couldn’t have been a domestic box office success.

Narrated by a young writer named Thomas (Jerome Renier), the film is based on an 18th century legend who tells of citizens disappearing from the French countryside at the maw of a giant beast. The King of France dispatches Parisian scientist Gregoire de Fronsac, played by Samuel Le Bihan, along with his sidekick with mystical ties, to investigate the gory killings. Fronsac is a man of science and reason who finds himself struggling against the "conqueror" mentality of the day. The film uses the opposing philosophies to illustrate how cruel historical injustices can be by those adhering to the beliefs of cruelty and birthright.

Fronsac plays a sleuth, uncovering clues about the disappearing peasants. In the process, he comes across revolutionaries ("horrors") Monaca Bellucci, a sorceress, and whore, and Emile Dequenne, a young lady named Marianne, and antagonizes much more than their crossbows.

But the plot seems secondary when contrasted against the film’s overall appeal as a big bucket of action (de bucket du action!). There is some amazing Kung Fu by Native Americans (Mad Max-type bad guys), French scientists and wealthy landowners. In some truly visually stunning scenes there is painting, helpless women and corrupt priests being chased through the forest. There’s "hide your eyes" monster attacks and "edge of your seat" suspense. These beautiful scenes are adeptly pushed together in such a seamless way that the audience tends to ignore transgressions — the cliché sidekick with mystical powers, the victim’s clumsiness (they always grab that one branch that breaks) and the fact that lead man, Bihan, looks a lot like David Lee Roth.

Overall, "Brotherhood" is fun. There’s an appealing couth syndrome-like cadence as scenes speed up, heightening the adrenaline surge, and slow down, filling the screen with a gory frozen image.

I could just be caught up in the whole "Oohh, it’s French so it must be good" sentiment, but I recommend the film to anyone hungry for a refreshing take on familiar themes.

Billy Bob Thornton's latest gets the 'Monster’s Ball' rolling

By Shiva Nagaraj

(COURTESY PHOTO/WORLDWEB.COM)

Halle Berry, and Billy Bob Thornton star in the film 'Monster's Ball.'

That said, "Monster's Ball" is also one of the most powerful, well-acted, socially conscious, and gripping films that has come out recently. Not only is it story heart-breaking, but "Monster's Ball" is radical in tackling weighty issues like race tensions and sexual identity. Set in a sleepy Georgia town, its web of subplots is held together by the execution of Lawrence, a cop-killer, played by one Sean "P. Diddy" Combs. Thankfully, in this film, Combs is nothing like he is in his music videos. He is instead repentant, humble and one of the film’s many pleasant surprises.

What’s not important to Swiss director Marc Forster is the veracity of Lawrence’s guilt — we simply must presume it. Indeed, what takes priority is his actual execution. Step by step, Foster meticulously shows us how barbarian the death penalty is.

With each buckle that fastens Lawrence to the electric chair, with each visitor that enters the prison to watch Lawrence burn, "Monster’s Ball" further prods the question of whether this is really necessary in our society.

Lawrence dies early in the movie, but the ramifications of his death are widespread. Specifically, his death is disastrous for his wife Leticia (Halle Berry) and Hank (Billy Bob Thornton), the corrections officer responsible for executing the execution. Both are eternally doomed, and thanks to a series of tragic events they are brought together for an unforgettable night of Jack Daniels and passion. And what follows is a rocky relationship built on sorrow, kept alive by loneliness.

To say that Berry and Thornton are brilliant is to low-ball their talent. Thornton, who was born in Arkansas, is right at home with his Georgain accent. He chemistry with Berry is nothing less than a casting director’s dream: many times over during the later stage of the movie, the two of them are featured in long, extended scenes that would have no chance with lesser actors.

The supporting cast, too, is worthy of its weight in gold. Australian Heath Ledger performs admirably as Hank’s son, even if his accent is more Sydney than Savannah. He’s rebellious, emotional, and — unlike his father — empathetic. Hank’s father (Peter Boyle), on the other hand, is nothing more than an archetypal a hateful, racist old fart who still wields the "n-word" without shame.

The beauty of "Monster’s Ball" is its lack of one-dimensionality. It doesn’t dig itself into a single niche. Rather, it concerns itself with several problems at once. In the end, the film may have found it impossible to be all things to everyone in under two hours. But, boy, does "Monster's Ball" go down fighting.
"Dragonfly" can't revive Costner's credibility, career

By Stephen Curran
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"Dragonfly," Kevin Costner's most recent work, is a film with an identity crisis. One half of this split personality is a story of a man's inability to cope with the death of his wife. On the other half, the film attempts to rival such recent paranormal blockbusters as "What Lies Beneath." Unfortunately, it succeeds at neither.

The film starts as protagonist Joe Derry (Costner) is plagued by one supernatural occurrence after another following his wife's untimely death, making the once-agnostic physician believe that his wife is trying to contact him from beyond the grave. Friends and neighbors try to shake him of this notion, but his conviction only grows stronger and his life begins to fall apart around him.

But, instead of chronicling the downfall of an ordinary man, the film fails to develop any kind of through plot, instead relying on such formulaic characters as a fallen nun and a strong-willed neighbor (Kathy Bates).

As the writing moves clumsily from one event to another, it becomes apparent that the film has not only lost its direction, but appears to have not had one to begin with.

The film begins to show some promise as the viewer learns that his wife has been trying to contact him through doing pediatric cancer patients, to whom she devoted her life. While it is clear the spiritual elements were supposed to add depth to an otherwise generic film, it fails, falling back on unsolved mysteries and stereotypes of near-death experiences.

This film is director Tom Shadyac's first foray into drama, having directed such comedic blockbusters as "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" and "Liar, Liar." Upon learning this, I was willing to cut the director a little slack, but once I saw the movie, I realized that even a novice drama-director should be able to better develop his characters. And, while shallow characters and weak plots are often tolerated, they can make for an almost unbearable two hours of drama.

"As a supernatural thriller, the film also falls flat. While the trailer promises two hours of haunted houses and possessed children, it fails to deliver, instead waffling between being the cinematic equivalent of a supermarket romance novel and a made-for-the-SciFi Channel movie.

"Instead of focusing on a few themes and characters, the film bounces between wanting to be a psychological thriller and a love story. However, it adds yet another dimension toward the end as Costner travels to South America in search of a mystic village who holds the key to his late wife's message. There, the film shifts into action mode, as he must cross raging rivers and battle hostile natives. Unfortunately, this added dimension does not work either.

"Usually, a reviewer is able to find something redeeming about even the worst movies. After some thinking I found something to like about "Dragonfly," the previous.

As the writing moves clumsily from one event to another, it becomes apparent that the film has not only lost direction, but appears to have not had one to begin with.

As a supernatural thriller, the film also falls flat. While the trailer promises two hours of haunted houses and possessed children, it fails to deliver, instead waffling between being the cinematic equivalent of a supermarket romance novel and a made-for-the-SciFi Channel movie.

"Instead of focusing on a few themes and characters, the film bounces between wanting to be a psychological thriller and a love story. However, it adds yet another dimension toward the end as Costner travels to South America in search of a mystic village who holds the key to his late wife's message. There, the film shifts into action mode, as he must cross raging rivers and battle hostile natives. Unfortunately, this added dimension does not work either.

"Usually, a reviewer is able to find something redeeming about even the worst movies. After some thinking I found something to like about "Dragonfly," the previous.

"As the writing moves clumsily from one event to another, it becomes apparent that the film has not only lost direction, but appears to have not had one to begin with.

As a supernatural thriller, the film also falls flat. While the trailer promises two hours of haunted houses and possessed children, it fails to deliver, instead waffling between being the cinematic equivalent of a supermarket romance novel and a made-for-the-SciFi Channel movie.

"Instead of focusing on a few themes and characters, the film bounces between wanting to be a psychological thriller and a love story. However, it adds yet another dimension toward the end as Costner travels to South America in search of a mystic village who holds the key to his late wife's message. There, the film shifts into action mode, as he must cross raging rivers and battle hostile natives. Unfortunately, this added dimension does not work either.

"Usually, a reviewer is able to find something redeeming about even the worst movies. After some thinking I found something to like about "Dragonfly," the previous.
SLO has some hidden treasures

Conscientiously seeing there is nothing to do in San Luis Obispo county is a far cry from the past, quite frankly, one that is used too often. There is no room for excuses not to get out, when you could take breaks through Montaña De Oro, at the world-famous Taco Temple in Morro Bay, or lose yourself in the El Capitan State Park stretch throughout downtown San Luis Obispo.

Contrary to what I think, many others see living in San Luis Obispo as nothing but a backdrop of a lack of imagination. The Central Coast has so much more to offer than one might think. Maybe the reason why some students think San Luis Obispo lacks excitement is because these people don't get out of San Luis Obispo itself. Go wine tasting in Paso Robles, take a day trip to Cayucos or take it one to one of our world-renowned beaches in the Central Coast. Just please stop telling me San Luis Obispo has nothing to offer. The fact that our beaches are world-renowned and mentioned in Surfer Magazine as one of the best surf spots in California should make you want to get off the couch and enjoy the scenery.

I think too many times students are reluctant to try new things because they tend to get stuck in a rut and find themselves trapped. School itself is monotonous enough that, without any set of breaks, one might just as well stay stuck. Yet, I have found this because it almost happened to me, but fortunately, I saw myself before I did, and I think if you are going to try the hard it is to change habits, but I can guarantee this will enlighten your life and strengthen your soul.

With the many stresses school has to offer, why not take advantage of beautiful scenery throughout the Central Coast and let all your stress disappear. My personal favorite place to leave all my worries behind is the driving range. I know it sounds cold, but there is something rather soothing about being on a golf course alone with nothing else but the sounds of golf clubs swinging and birds singing. Call me sentimental, but it works for me. It does not have to be a special driving range, just any special golf course; all I need is lots of open space to take out my stresses and anger. This is my relief. I’m sure everyone has different habits for dealing with stress, but for you golfers out there, I highly recommend it.

And from taking my anger out on the driving range, I do enjoy finding new places to eat. I understand how repetitive the food in San Luis Obispo is, but I have even found that we have a Firestone in one week! And the Mexican food in this city can do great things as well. I would like to try the best fish tacos I have ever had. I strongly encourage taking the initiative, especially if it involves finding new places to eat.

So why not try new things? It’s good for the mind, and nobody likes a homesteader. As someone who once thought San Luis Obispo lacked in unique activities, I understand now how wrong I really was and have a newfound appreciation for the Central Coast and its beaches. Hopefully, my recommendations will inspire those couch potatoes running out of excuses to find some hidden places of interest.

Cory Dougan is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letters to the editor

Get used to the real world

This is in response to the recent letter to the editor (‘There are bigger fish to fry’ Feb. 26). I agree with Mrs. Pearly that Jesus Christ should move on. She might as well get used to this wonderful, money-driven, steel-other-people’s-minds-up-and-take-all-the-funds-until-society, as well as the values that it imparts on those who wish to climb the corporate ladder. I must, they don’t suffer any penalties, I just get rewarded with promotions and pay raises. So in this “learn by doing” environment, why stray away from real world consequences?”

Irmak Arica is a biological sciences senior.

Fliers were unfair to speaker

I am writing this letter because I am upset at how the Cal Poly College Republicans hurt the speakers and the by posting their “Dear Cal Poly College Republi can’advertising that instead served as racist comments.

The CRC sponsored Reginald Jones to come speak about black empowerment. Mr. Jones is a black QED who has very conservative views, a perfect candidate for the Cal Poly Republicans. His message was very insightful, and I know that everyone who was in there came out with a new perspective.

I was quite proud of the CRC to sponsor such a great speaker until I found out about their heartless methods of advertising. In the hopes of drawing a larger crowd, they had posters telling people to see Reginald Jones, the controversial “In your face whites,” and not to see Reginald Jones because they needed to “boycott this UNCLE TOM.”

Many people did come to the speaker because they saw the posters around campus and they brought attention to the speaker of the CRC. I have never seen someone so hurt. It was obvious when he saw both sides that he was disabused and felt that it was a thoughtless act of racism.

What should the CRC learn from this?

Through controversial posters grab people’s attention, sometimes they do it for the wrong reason. Their thoughtless advertising not only discredited the speaker and his well-plagiarized wonderful speech, it also discredited the club, which had a chance to show the campus that they are not the “fringe” people call them.

I hope they will think twice about who is affected by their posters before posting them, because some of them didn’t hurt the people Jones, opinions, they hurt the person they were promoting.

Lillian Andre is a business senior.

Diversity is more than skin deep

Editor,

Your special edition on diversity (Feb. 26) really didn’t focus on the issue of diversity. The issue basically stated the facts we all know if we just look around and in the majority of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly is nowhere near diverse. Rather than getting opinions of people on how lame the night might be, or on how “this isn’t what I expected when I thought about college” in terms of the real world make of this campus. Daily should have celebrated what diversity we have on this campus. We can learn from our fellow students that not all Hispanics or Latins are Mexican, or other wise media dub them insane diversity among people. Rather than think about ways to make this campus more diverse, which by no means is happening anytime soon, we should look at the people among us and diversify our minds on the thoughts and culture that are here at Poly.

Rafael Castillo is a highschool listening, Plinor of Pismo Beach, Papaya eating, city and regional planning junior.

Marijuana is not addictive

Editor,

A support from Monday’s paper,”Marijuana is an addictive drug, Pernosa, said that those who want to quit need help.” Marijuana is indeed cognitively addictive, as is skateboarding, and listening to music. There is, however, no evidence to support a chemically addictive property of marijuana.

Daniel Brownowell is a computer science sophomore.

People just don’t get sarcasm

Editor,

I would like to correct Brian’s fault to the flames, Feb. 26, (which was in response to my letter, “Race is a useless fact in this article.”)

I never meant to say that those types of prejudices are unjust and outright stupid. Unfortunately, the show was not much of a success because more students who wish to climb the corporate ladder. I can guarantee this will enlighten your life and strengthen your soul.

Daniel Brownell is a computer science sophomore.

NEW

Letter policy

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters to the editor, for length and clarity. Please limit to 250 words. All letters must include the writer’s full name, telephone number, and class standing.

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

Letters should be hand-delivered to an editor.

By fax:
(805) 756-6784

By e-mail:
Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Mustangdaily@hotmail.com Do not send an e-mail attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

Attention:
If you have submitted letters in the last few days without the above information, your letter will not be printed unless you resubmit it in the correct format.

Chris Roth is a journalism sophomore.

Someone is missing the point

Editor,

I would like to clear up a misunderstanding that Andrew Hunt has apparently been with several members of the student body concerning Associated Students Inc. fund. We are not saying that no one benefits from ASI money going to fund ASI Events and Poly Escapes. We are just saying that the number of members who benefit from ASI money are nowhere near the number who pay for them.

In your letter Thursday (“What’s Cal Poly without ASI?” Feb. 28) you don’t seem to recognize that there is a difference between ASI limiting funding less-than-necessary programs and totally dissolving ASI. You wrote “What would Cal Poly be like without our clubs, or concerts, or student government?”

What if clubs had to raise their own money through fund-raisings or like? Then only the members would be responsible for raising money for their activities. If concerts are really only popular with students, why isn’t private? If it was popular enough to support itself, I’d say to myself “Let’s do it to do its own thing, and let’s rent it space on campus” that’s where it decides to hold concerts.

Concerning student government, you said yourself that most of its members worked for free (and do a good job, I’d add). It’s not student government costing a lot that I worry about; it’s much too much it spends on activities that I think about. But as long as our elected officials have the final say in how we are going to spend our tax dollars.

But I do have a question for you. I don’t remember voting for you last year, and yet in your letter you made it sound like you personally saved ASI money. “So if saving money means increasing the quality of student life, then I guess I’m guilty as charged.”

Let’s just agree to keep the financial responsibility with our elected officials like Angie Hacker, who after all, was chosen to oversee our money.

Alex Vassar is a history junior.

Letters to the editor

Your special edition on diversity (Feb. 26) really didn’t focus on the issue of diversity. The issue basically stated the facts we all know if we just look around and in the majority of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly is nowhere near diverse. Rather than getting opinions of people on how lame the night might be, or on how “this isn’t what I expected when I thought about college” in terms of the real world make of this campus. Daily should have celebrated what diversity we have on this campus. We can learn from our fellow students that not all Hispanics or Latins are Mexican, or other wise media dub them insane diversity among people. Rather than think about ways to make this campus more diverse, which by no means is happening anytime soon, we should look at the people among us and diversify our minds on the thoughts and culture that are here at Poly.

Rafael Castillo is a highschool listening, Plinor of Pismo Beach, Papaya eating, city and regional planning junior.

Marijuana is not addictive

Editor,

A support from Monday’s paper,”Marijuana is an addictive drug, Pernosa, said that those who want to quit need help.” Marijuana is indeed cognitively addictive, as is skateboarding, and listening to music. There is, however, no evidence to support a chemically addictive property of marijuana.

Daniel Brownowell is a computer science sophomore.

People just don’t get sarcasm

Editor,

I would like to correct Brian’s fault to the flames, Feb. 26, (which was in response to my letter, “Race is a useless fact in this article.”)

I never meant to say that those types of prejudices are unjust and outright stupid. Unfortunately, the show was not much of a success because more
SLO gets chance to spin wheel

By Renée Shadforth

Mustang Daily

For those who have always wanted to say "I'd like to buy a vowel" and low $250 in the process, their chance has arrived. The Wheelmobile crew is coming to the Cal Poly Rec Center on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. to give away prizes and search for contestants for "Wheel of Fortune."

Wheelmobile coordinator Strathern has visited 22 cities across the United States in the past year. More than 1 million people auditioned and fewer than 600 were chosen to appear on the show, according to the "Wheel of Fortune" Web-site.

Last year, several Cal Poly students tried out for the television show when the Wheelmobile came to the Central Coast. Jeff Buckley, a recreation administration senior, tried out for the program in Atascadero.

"They pulled my number and I ran up to the stage," he said. Then, Buckley said, the Wheelmobile came to the Central Coast. Jeff Buckley, a recreation administration senior, tried out for the program in Atascadero.

"I had to boast the show for a while," he said. "I thought, 'how could they not choose me?'

Despite not making it to the final round, Buckley said the best part about auditioning was the story he got to tell his friends.

"College students are perfect prospects for "Wheel of Fortune,"" said David Strathern, a Wheelmobile event coordinator. "They know the alphabet, first of all," Strathern said. "And college students try to out - 'just be yourself and be super enthusiastic.'"

"Wheel of Fortune" hopefuls will line up for applications at noon. Then, applicants put the forms in bins, which are brought to the stage. The host will randomly draw five names, and show organizers will conduct a two- to three-minute interview with the chosen contestants to get a feel for how they will act on stage.

"After that, we will basically put on a mini-show — like we do in the studio — with a purle board, sound and everything," said Karen Palumlx), "Wheel of Fortune." promotion and publicity coordinator.

She said there will probably be three mini-shows, depending on the turnout. Coordinators will invite the most promising candidates back for final auditions for "Wheel of Fortune," held at a later date.

Palumlx said the Wheelmobile will be "looking for people who think they could be on the show."

"As a 'Wheel of Fortune' audition veteran, Buckley offered advice for people who aspire to try out. 'Just be yourself and be super enthusiastic.'"

SLO LIFE

continued from page 2

and labor," she said.

Mebane is the second oldest of six children. Her childhood was spent on her parent's ranch, riding horses, watching television and working.

The nearest big city was Bakersfield. She said the worst part about living on the ranch was the isolation she occasionally felt.

"There is more tension sometimes because you're always around the same people," she said. "You couldn't go next door or get away."

Throughout high school, Mebane attended a small school of about 100 students. Her eighth grade graduating class had nine people in it. She said this made dating hard.

After junior high, Mebane went to North High School in Bakersfield, a half-hour drive away. In high school she was president of her school's Future Farmers of America chapter. FFA is a high school agriculture education program with more than 102,000 members in California. Though an important program in some areas, FFA is not common in major cities.

"I was watching Jeopardy one day, and they had the acronym FFA and nobody got it," Mebane said. "I could have won!"

Weekends in high school were mostly spent working on the ranch. At the time, Mebane said she would have liked to go out more, but now it doesn't bother her at all.

"If you live in the city, I would think there's so much to do, but there's not," she said. "You run out of things to do eventually and it's the same if you live on a farm."

When it came time to apply to college, Cal Poly was Mebane's only choice. She didn't apply to any other school. Mebane said the size of Cal Poly was not too much of an adjustment, because she went to a large high school.

"People here are more accepting," she said. "There is more diversity here and it's opened my mind up to more things."

Mebane is a dairy science student interested in agriculture communications, and she plans to go back to the ranch when she graduates, because she misses her family and her boyfriend. Someday Mebane wants to own her own business, something related to agriculture, but not necessarily like the ranch on which she grew up.

"Gena Fussell and Rianna Mebane are in the same public relations class this quarter. They see each other every day, but they were never aware of their different backgrounds. Within each class there are people who grew up in the city, in the countryside and everywhere else in between.

---

'Vello! Have you tried our high-quality water filters and accessories at our store?'

---

"I've been working with children. Competitive salary. Great work environment. For more information and an application Call 530-274-9577."

---

"Horseback riding and camping jobs. Summer counseling positions available."

---

"Summer camp jobs. For information, call 782-0597."
Sports

Rugby team comes home to face San Diego

By Barbara Bowden
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Sweet 16 comes but once in a lifetime, but the men's rugby team is trying to make it an annual event.

Sixteen Tournament in late April. The team must win its next two games in order to make it to the tournament.

Before this weekend, the team has been nearly flawless this year and will enter the game with a 5-1 record, close to the 4-1 record of the Toreros.

In the normal game, you play 15 players and only (one) some when you need to," he said. "We've gone to a concept where we use as many substitutes as we can to get fresh players in the match and try to add a little bit of pace to the game.

Furthermore, Zanoli credited the team's rigorous conditioning program as a strong asset at their disposal.

"We are more fit than most of the teams on the West Coast," Zanoli said. "That and the experience of our returning players from last year seems to put us on pace."

Presenting Mike Ranneys a construction management junior, listener scrumhalf Jimmy Hamlin, lock Jason Lauritsen, prop Rod Stinson and hooker Matt Westcamp as exceptional performers in previous games.

Health acts as a link between the forwards and the backs, Ranney, and has demonstrated exceptional speed and agility in his performance this season. The team plans to benefit from his ability to come through for them on Saturday.

"The scrumhalf can be compared to a quarterback," Ranney said. "He kind of directs everybody."

Beeson, Henry to be honored on Sunday

By Matt Szabo
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Senior forwards Brandon Beeson and David Henry are scheduled to play their last game at Mott Gym on Saturday night against Cal State Fullerton, but the team hopes the duo can stretch out their careers for at least a couple more games.

The Cal Poly men's basketball team (14-10 overall before Thursday's game) will conclude its season against Fullerton (4-21, 1-15). The team hopes to simultaneously give their seniors a great send-off and gain some momentum heading into the Big West Tournament, which starts March 6 in Anaheim.

The Mustangs have struggled lately, losing their last three games in a row (they beat Stanford on Thursday) on a recent road trip.

Although its seeding is unknown, the team has already clinched a spot in the conference tournament.

"We're trying to focus on these games right now," Beeson said. "Every team in the league is a good team. We need to get through Fullerton, get our seed, and get as far as we can."

Since the Mustangs were 8-8 in league before Thursday's game, they can still finish 10-8 and in a tie for third place in the league. That would mean avoiding a difficult first-round tournament match-up with either Utah State or UC Irvine, generally considered the top two teams in the league. Cal Poly has lost to Irvine in both meetings this year.

Head coach Kevin Bromley emphasized that the team is not looking past Cal State Fullerton, even if the Titans have a 1-15 league record and lost to the Mustangs on Dec. 20. "Cal State Fullerton is really long and athletic," Bromley said, mentioning Titan big man 6-foot-10 forward Pape Sow and 6-foot-11 center Babacar Camara, who have played in every game.

"But we've worked too hard to let (losing to them) happen. This is for a seeding," Bromley said.

A key for the Mustangs in facing Fullerton will be getting rebounds and they have been out-rebounded in several recent games. Beeson and sophomore center Vannie Dennis will probably have to shoulder much of the responsibility around the boards.

Continued stellar play from the point guard position is also important. Starter Jason Allen and reserve Steve Greer have combined to average 12 points per game this season. Still, Beeson said the team works best as a collective.

"Everyone needs to give it their all," he said. "Everyone needs to go for every rebound and every loose ball."

One thing Cal Poly has in its favor is its excellent home record. The Mustangs are 10-1 at home this season. Guard Eric Jackson has combined to average 1.7 points per game this season. Still, Beeson said the team works best as a collective.

"Everyone needs to give it their all," he said. "Everyone needs to go for every rebound and every loose ball."

"The ultimate goal is to win games," he said. "We have to seize the moment. You set yourself up for failure if you look ahead to the conference tournament."

Jackson said although he isn't overconfident, he has no doubt the team will be emotionally ready for Saturday's game.

"One of the big keys is going to be coming out with a lot of intensity," he said. "We're ready to kick someone's butt and try to get a blowout in here.

Women's golf holds off CSUN for tourney title

CAL POLY SPORTS INFORMATION

ARRUYO GRANDE, Calif. -- The Cal Poly women's golf team won the 2002 Cal Poly Women's Spring Invitational, holding off CSUN Northridge for the team title. CSUN shot a final team-round of 316, six shots better than the Mustangs, but it wasn't enough to overtake Cal Poly's first-round eight-shot lead.

The tournament was held at the par 72, 5,916-yard Cypress Ridge Golf Course in Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Individual medallist honors went to Beth Allen from CSUN. Allen shot a final round of par 72 and a tournament total of 151 (79, 72). Five-time local leader Stacy Dawson dropped to third with a final round of 81 (78).

"We have to seize the moment. You set yourself up for failure if you look ahead to the conference tournament," Jackson said. "We've taken a lot of pride in protecting home court," Jackson said. "The crowd has been fantastic here. A lot of people have been excited and have supported us."

"The fans have made our home games exciting to be a part of. We've definitely brought Mott Mania back."

Another possible subplot is Dennis and his pursuit of the Cal Poly single-season block record. Before the Riverside game, he had 39 on the year, tying Shawn Kirkby's mark, set in 1991-92.

Bromley said the game will be exciting, but the team is definitely focused.

"We're trying to focus on these games right now," Beeson said. "Every team in the league is a good team. We need to get through Fullerton, get our seed, and get as far as we can."

"The fans have made our home games exciting to be a part of. We've definitely brought Mott Mania back."

Another possible subplot is Dennis and his pursuit of the Cal Poly single-season block record. Before the Riverside game, he had 39 on the year, tying Shawn Kirkby's mark, set in 1991-92.

Bromley said the game will be exciting, but the team is definitely focused.

"The ultimate goal is to win games," he said. "We have to seize the moment. You set yourself up for failure if you look ahead to the conference tournament."