Veritas Forum
looks for
‘Truth’

By Rhiannon Feehan
MUSTANG DAILY CONTRIBUTOR

Some of humanity’s most sought after questions, such as what is the Truth and what Truth looks like, will be the topic of a series of open lectures set to begin Jan. 28.

Prominent speakers from around the world, community members and Cal Poly faculty will present their answers to such questions in this week’s Veritas Forum, a week dedicated to the exploration of Truth in relation to religion. The first Veritas Forum took place at Harvard University in 1992 and it has spread to numerous universities since.

This year marks Cal Poly’s second time participating in a Veritas forum, which is Latin for “truth.” Specifically, the Veritas Forum at Cal Poly seeks to explore the possibility of Truth in relation to all of life. Music, science, philosophy, morality, spirituality, history, poetry, art, personal life experience and sexuality.

The week’s activities include lectures by academic professionals, a formal discussion between an atheist and a Christian and an art and music day in the University Union.

Philosophy senior Mike Swanson took on the project to help people answer their basic questions about life and Truth.

“I went through a real process of searching for Truth when I came to Cal Poly,” Swanson said. “When you leave home, I think everyone eventually comes to a place where they say, ‘Regardless of what my parents taught me, what is True? How should I live my life?’ These questions are perennial, and they are important. Depending on what the answer is to these questions, a lot follows for how we should orient our lives.”

Last year, more than 6,000 people attended the different events of Veritas. This year’s structure will take on a similar format to that of last year’s, with small lectures going on throughout the day in UIU 220 and larger seminars happening at 8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium.

“We took that foundation that had been laid during last year’s forum and refined it,” Swanson said. “In particular, I would say that we tried even harder this year to bring in high-quality, engaging speakers. Honestly, some of the speakers that are coming this year are so prominent that when I told some of my professors that they were coming to Cal Poly, they jaws literally dropped.”

On Tuesday at 8 p.m. Garret

see VERITAS, page 7

A different kind of high

By Abby Kingdon
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

This is the first quarter Aida’s bookstore owner Larry Hershey didn’t order more books. Since he opened his store on Foothill Boulevard seven years ago, sales have increased every quarter, but fall quarter sales were down 5 percent.

Cal Poly Books sits directly across the street from Aida’s. Hershey said the location of the new bookstore and the drop in sales is no coincidence.

“If they run me out of business, they could have a monopoly again,” Hershey said.

Yet, Hershey and El Garra director Frank Cawley said neither store is prepared to back down in the face of competition.

“The atmosphere is nice; students like it,” Cawley said. “There is no way they opened Cal Poly Books in the northwest quadrant of the Central Coast through February. They will travel over the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

see TAPELLA, page 7

Student bookstore wars heat up

By Jenni Mintz
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly alumnus Robert Tapella visited campus Thursday and Friday to recruit students for jobs at the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO).

Tapella graduated from the graphic communications and printing management department in 1991.

“Tapped” works on any projects that we think need extra attention,” James said. “We call him the ‘Director of Thinking’ because of his depth of thinking, as a result of his education at Cal Poly and exposure on Capitol Hill.”

Tapella’s role is to implement new information technologies and help transform the GPO office into a 21st century information factory, said Andy Sherman, the GPO’s public affairs officer.

see BOOKS, page 2

Poly alumnus named
deputy chief of staff at GPO

By Jenni Mintz
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

With Cal Poly Books right across Foothill Boulevard, Aida’s business suffered during fall quarter.
**BOOKS**

continued from page 1

Even without Aida's, El Comal could not have a monopoly over the textbook industry in this area, Casley said. A whole system exists in the domes of students buying and selling books to each other, and there are online services, he said. Nevertheless, El Comal is taking the competition seriously. The store's customer service increased 25 to 30 percent, with accommodations for students such as textbook reservations. "We think competition is good," Casley said.

Casley said. Competition between Cal Poly Books and Aida's is not going to lessen in the future, he said. "If he left, we would still be there," Casley said. Hendley said Aida's wasn't going anywhere either. "They are fighting a little guy with a big store, but they are not going to (turn me out of business)," he said. "I'm too aggressive." Regardless of competition, the stores maintain a positive relationship. "We allow Larry access to textbook requisition and we only charge him the cost to copy them," Casley said. "Legally, we don't have to share that information with him." The modern, bright and clean atmosphere of the store is also up for debate. "It's like a show room; how they can justify their expenses is beyond me," Hendley said.

But Casley said it just might be the reason students choose one side of Football Boulevard over the other. "Some people prefer to shop at Nordstrom's over Ross for the atmosphere; it is an important factor in retail," Casley said. "Ultimately, the consumer will determine who is successful."
National/Briefs
Federal transport officials say Iraq's deadliest commercial aircraft accident in more than a decade was probably caused by ice on the wings of the single-engine plane.

The PenAir-operated Cessna 208 crashed in the twenties shortly after takeoff from Dillingham on Oct. 10, 2001, killing eight passengers and the pilot. The sole survivor died a day later.

The National Transportation Safety Board also said it may rectify pending litigation, because of its findings.

Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, Daschle says Bush must prove

Iraq ordered the United Nations nuclear inspections for the Cessna 208. The National Transportation Safety Board will be on display through February.

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**Stuff-O-Rama dishes kitsch**

By Chris Welke

Shoppers can find bud-leaf posters and Grateful Dead nostalgia at head shops like The Sub, but they'll have to go to Stuff-O-Rama if they want to buy a toy rubber doll that squirts water out of his crotch area.

"It's kind of a 'Pee Wee's Playhouse' of pop-culture inspired retro," said Teri Peterson, the store's owner. "I try to find things that are inexpensive but not cheap."

Peterson opened the store in 1997 because there was nothing else like it on the Central Coast. She said the only other place that sold this type of stuff was a place called Wacko's in Hollywood. Now she has her own store that has a little bit of everything that defines retro.

"We have a little '60s rockabilly, a little '60s bachelor-pad, a little outlaw-biker-fringe," Peterson said.

The store attracts a wide variety of customers. "We get customers of all types, from kids to hipsters to everyday normals," Peterson said. "Pretty much everybody." In addition to the odd products Peterson has, she also sells leopard-print handbags and purses she makes herself.

Of course, what retro store would be complete without retro toys? Two of them are real classics. The potato gun and the trapeze monkey. "You remember those, right?" With the potato gun, a shooter can break off small chunks of a potato spud, with which he or she can shoot siblings via the magic of air pressure. The trapeze monkey swings around a parallel bar when you squeeze the sides of it. Speaking of "squeeze the sides of it," perhaps the most curious item there is the Pee-Wee Wee Water Squirtur. It is a small rubber doll with the semblance of a young boy. You can fill him with water, pull his pants down, and squeeze his sides to make him squirt water out of his crotch, mimicking the effect of a young boy urinating.

Equally amusing is the Donkey Cigarette Holder. Fill his 'pack' with cigarettes, close the lid and press down on his back to dispense cigarettes from the 'ass.' "And yes, if you need a porcelain dashboard hula doll (the high priestess of kitsch), your search is over."

"I bought some Bettie Page stuff and the leopard-print light-switch covers."

Eliese Scott customer

**Employee Casey Henderson checks inventory beneath the watchful eyes of a 'Super Vixen' movie poster. The store is located inside Insomniac Video.**

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**TRIPS ARE OPEN TO ANYONE AT CAL POLY MEETINGS ARE 7:00PM EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT UPHOLSTERS IN THE ROOM 2110**
Inside the Cal Poly Theatre, about three dozen dancers leap, spin and strut in preparation for their annual showcase. Cal Poly’s Orchesis dancers swear it out on stage as several of their own choreographed pieces come to life.

They are rehearsing for “Dance Mosaic,” Orchesis Dance Company’s 33rd annual concert. “Dance Mosaic” will showcase the choreography and dance skills of both Cal Poly students and guest choreographers. The diverse performance includes a variety of dance styles, including ballet, jazz, modern, tap, hip-hop, traditional Irish and Mexican.

“Dance Mosaic” is under the direction of Cal Poly's Maria Junco, the theatre and dance department chair, but the student performers manage much of the production aspects of the show. Orchesis club officers learn practical skills required to run a dance company.

“We push students to produce professional work,” Junco said. “We want students to go beyond just arranging steps, to conceive of their work as an artistic statement.”

Students are selected to present their choreographed pieces as part of the performance.

“We look at all student choreography and choose the pieces with the strongest artistic viewpoint,” Junco said. “We choose pieces that have strong coherency with the show.”

Caren Carreiro, Orchesis president and mechanical engineering junior, choreographed a modern dance piece for the performance.

“The piece is about society and how people feel the pressure to conform,” Carreiro said. “It conveys the constant struggle to fit in.”

Carreiro said that she sees “Dance Mosaic” as an opportunity to present Orchesis as a diverse student body with a common interest in the arts.

“We are representing the theatre department and the College of Liberal Arts, even though we come from a variety of majors,” Carreiro said.

Orchesis vice president and liberal studies senior Kristin Fraisse added variety to the show with a choreographed tap number. Fraisse said the creativity of each piece and choreographer will make a dynamic two-hour show.

“I think we have talented dancers this year,” Fraisse said. “Their uniqueness won't let you feel like you are watching the same thing over and over again.”

Guest choreographers for “Dance Mosaic” include Kalis Jude Clark Warnisher and Lisa Evey. Cal Poly faculty member Diana Stanton and Los Angeles choreographers Dennon and Sayheber Rawles.

Two companies from Santa Barbara will also perform with Orchesis. During the first week of performances, the University of California at Santa Barbara Dance Company will perform a modern piece under the direction of Delila Moseley. The performances during week two of the run will feature the professional company Santa Barbara Dance Theatre, directed by Jerry Pearson.

Junco said last year's Orchesis concert attracted over 2,200 spectators during its two-week run. She expects similar attendance this year.

Tickets for “Dance Mosaic” are $9 for students and senior citizens and $12 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased at the Performing Arts Center, online at www.paclootg or by calling SLO-ARTS at 756-2787.
Politics

Letter to the editor

Life is the central issue around abortion

Editor,

I am writing in response to Jordan Schulte's commentary from Wednesday ("A woman's right to choose needs to be protected") Jan. 22). I do not like to state that women are strongly against abortion but at the same time I know women should have their rights. I would not in any circumstance tell a woman what she should do with her body, but rather I am more than willing to take responsibility for my actions if she chooses to keep our child.

I would also be lying if I lost a little respect for a woman because she had an abortion because of its convenience. That leads me to one question: Why do women do abortions (except for rape and/or incest)? Because it is convenient, there is no other reason. They'll give up every excuse...they won't be able to go to school, they won't have a job, they aren't old, their life. What are those but a bunch of excuses.

It is not surprising, then, that you take the real solution to inconveniences. Here's an analogy to simplify it. You've grown up and had a couple kids. You're in your 40s and already have children. Do you think you've ever had your coffee yet? Your youngest has spilled milk all over the kitchen floor. Your middle child thinks her imaginary friend is trying to kill you, but you catch your oldest child smoking dope in his bathroom. Talk about your day of ask. Ask yourself this, would you choose to "terminate" your child because it is convenient? Hey, all your problems would just go away if you could just find a way to ride of your kids, right? That's abortion...taking the easy way out.

Greg Mata is an industrial engineering major.

Letter to the editor

Editor,

I feel compelled to respond to Jordan Schulte's commentary from Wednesday ("A woman's right to choose needs to be protected") Jan. 22). Schulte stated that "there has been much debate about...whether abortion constitutes murder, yet I don't think this is the real solution. Hold on a minute! Since 1973, there have been over 40 million abortions in America..." We're all human beings. Does the idea of killing a human being in the womb make it okay? I do not want to go on and on about the issues of abortion in America, but I do want to take a stand for my country and we have to respect its independence.

Iraq invaded Kuwait a decade ago with no regard to its independence. Fortunately, America did not get involved and‐fortunately, it was the U.S. that did. Saddam Hussein made Iraq sign a peace treaty. For those of you that actually have a life, let me explain to you how that treaty was "signed off" = less enforceable. When he broke a treaty, we have the right to step in and (how do I put this delicately?) we will kill you if you don't abide by it.

Could you imagine what would happen if countries didn't enforce peace treaties and stop violent states from arising again after a war? I mean, what would have happened if, after World War I, the allies allowed the Germans to re‐turn and to open the militaristic dictator that was in power? OH, wait, they did. It didn't work then and it won't work today.

I'm not asking any of you to blindly believe in me, the current administration or our country. I am just asking you to think realistically about the world you live in and how we can realistically make this world a better place. World peace and global harmony are not bad goals to wish for and I'm not saying that at all.

I am saying that they become bad when they interfere with the chance of bringing the world a child that is actually attainable. I'm glad and I am glad that Saddam's life and way of life are not part of that world. We should, can and will eliminate both them.

John Holub is a political science junior and Mustang Daily columnist.
"He is a very sharp, very talented young man," Sherman said.

Tapella served on the House of Representatives Oversight Committee, where he supervised the Office of Member Services from 1996 to 2000.

He was also chief of staff to Rep. Bill Redmond, R-CA, and served as district representative for Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif, from 1986 to 1993.

"We're extremely fortunate to have an individual of Bob's training and experience to work on GPO's strategic planning efforts," Thomas said. "His educational background and practical expertise in legislative information systems will be essential to our efforts to guide the transformation of the GPO into an information factory designed to meet the demands of the 21st century."

As a young child, Tapella said he never considered printing as a possible career. Instead, his dream was to become an architect.

"But at Cal Poly, I discovered a love for the process of transforming ideas into physical objects," Tapella said. "It's the process of taking a design and bringing it to life."

"I'm looking at the future and strategically planning," Tapella said. "We need to figure out where we are. I'm starting the year with fact-finding, and learning all I can about the GPO. It's a lot of fun."
Cal Poly Women's Basketball

No. 21 Gauchos top Poly

By Graham Womack

MUSTANG DAILY CONTRIBUTOR

Saturday's game against U C S A n t a

It was a game of turnovers, missed shots and missed calls. Even during

shots and missed calls. Even during

the brief stretch when it was close,

Mott Gym.

MuStangs failed to close out USD Toreros

the Mustangs battled the Gauchos
gallantly, but could do little to stem

the top-23 team, failing in the second

half and suffering a 65-49 loss before

1,245 spectators Saturday night in

Mont Gym.

Mott Gym.

MuStangs failed to close out USD Toreros

A ntereo Uiagalelei led the

MuStangs with 11 points, the bulk of

them coming from 3-of-6 shooting

beyond the arc. Uiagalelei and Kayen

Brennan went the only Mustangs to

shoot at

least 50 percent from the field. The

team struggled mightily to put the

ball up, seeking just 14 of 55 shots on

the night.

"It's very disappointing," Cal Poly

coach Faith Mimmagh said after his

team's 0-9 overall and 3-3 in Big West

play. "Our shooting perfor-

mance, our offensive sync didn't seem to

be there."

The Gauchos (13-3 overall, 6-1 in

Big West), who came into the game

ranked No. 21, were at their

most dominant in both ends of the

floor, frustrating Cal Poly with a highly

effective man-to-man defense.

Sophomore forward Heidi Wittstrom drives to the hoop during the

MuStangs' cheap game.

Sophomore forward Heidi Wittstrom drives to the hoop during the

MuStangs' cheap game.

M uStang s also comm itted 17

turnovers and only had eight assists. "We weren't getting good looks at

the basket and finishing on our

shots," said Cal Poly point guard Kari

Dapener, who finished with 10

points and seven rebounds.

The MuStangs particularly suffered

during a 15-minute stretch from the

end of the first half to the middle of the

second, where they failed to make

a shot from the field and were

ousted 28-7.

"We played a pretty good game,

but we shot horribly," said the

MuStangs' Courtney Uphoff, who had

seven points. "Imagine if we shot a decent

percentage.

Cal Poly will host Saint Mary's for

a three-game series next weekend in

Cabrillo High School

La Verne. T he Mustangs took a 1-0 lead in

the third inning on an RBI single by

Saul, but Cal Poly was held off the

scoreboard the rest of the way while

San Diego scored four unanswered

runs for the win. Cal Poly had a

double play in the eighth.

The loss went to senior southpaw

Josh Koulj despite a strong perfor-
mance. The Cabrillo High School

and Hancock College product gave

up three runs and eight hits in 6 2/3

innings with no walks and three

strikeouts.

"When your starting pitcher goes
down deep into the game and gives up three

runs, that's good enough to win," Lee

said. "We were not opportunistic hit-
ing-wise today. Koulj pitched well,

only made a couple mistakes and kept

the hitters off-balance."

On Friday, the Mustangs opened

their 2003 series with a 12-5 win over

San Diego, earning Lee his first win

as Mustang head coach.

The MuStangs scored their 12 runs on

17 hits and committed only one

error while USD scored five runs on

10 hits and made two errors.

Tyler Fitch earned the win as he

went six innings allowing six hits and

two earned runs. Fitch, who

threw 75 pitches, did not walk a bat-
ter and struck out three.

First baseman Lucas Wen nensten

and San Diego's 11-hit attack with two

singles and a solo home run in

the seventh inning. Right fielder Joe

Prosot added two singles while
centerfielder Josh Hansen contributed a two-run

single that gave the Toreros the lead

for good in the third inning.

Cal Poly's eight hits included two

singles and a double by Saul, who also

drove in a San Diego runner at the

plate in the third inning.

Second baseman Adam Levitt added a single

and a double while right fielder

Chalton Tietje also had a double.

"Saul swung the bats well and

made a key throw-out that kept it

close," Lee said.

Levitt and Saul each had two hits.

"Wilson was on fire and was really

a catalyst of our offense," Lee said. He

hit the ball extremely hard and, when

your best hitter does well, everyone

else feeds off of it."

Cal Poly scored twice in the third

inning on RBI singles by Saul and

Wilson. The Mustangs added two

more runs in the fourth on an RBI

triple by shortstop Scott Anderson and

a run-scoring double by Herbert.

Cal Poly scored one more in the

fifth on two singles, a sacrifice bunt

and third baseman Bert Berglund's

error while U SD  scored five runs on

three hits and four runs in the

seventh and four more in the eighth.

Taulion singled to drive in one run and

San Diego's two errors accounted

for the other two runs in the seventh.

Herbert and Tietje drew bases-loaded

walks for Brake in the eighth and

Taulion and Levitt each singled in

runs as well.

Lee was satisfied with his team's performance on opening day.

"We were a little nervous at the first time around offensively," Lee said.

"Putting the first runs on the score-

board allows you to chill a bit."

Cal Poly was swept by the Toreros

last season in a three-game series at

Bracero Cage at the SDSU Sports Deck. Lee went on to post a 29-32 record and qualify for the

NCAA Tournament.