The Body as a Canvas: Tattoos range from being bland to beautiful, 7

Don't Go, G.I. Joe: Hot soldiers a part of fetish, 4

TODAY'S WEATHER
High: 59°
Low: 41°

Duck and cover?

UPD: Poly should not worry

A Cal Poly student crouches under her desk protected by the duct tape that police and government officials have recommended for Americans' safety in case of a terrorist attack.

By Dale Quinn
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly has little reason to fear a terrorist attack on campus despite being considered a higher-risk target, a University Police Department official said Monday.

Politics and universities are among the places considered "soft targets" by the FBI, UPD Cmdr. Bill Watton said. This means they have a greater likelihood of suffering a terrorist attack.

Colleges and universities are "soft targets" because of the ease in which a person can enter and exit a campus and because they host events that attract large groups of people. Watton contrasted Cal Poly with a nearby "hard target," Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, which has high security.

Despite the FBI's warning, Watton said Cal Poly is a safe environment. The university's distance from population centers makes it less desirable for a terrorist attack. However, maintaining security on campus presents some difficulties.

"It does create some challenges to be diligent and watchful of our students," Watton said.

Multicultural fraternities, sororities left uninsured

By Stacee Doming
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly multicultural Greek community has seen hard times, but an even tougher future lies ahead. Associated Students Inc. stopped carrying Greek organizations on its insurance policy in 2002.

For social fraternities and sororities, this decision caused little change in the insurance coverage they receive from their national organizations. However, the multicultural Greeks were not so lucky.

Due to their smaller stature and lack of large national chapters to turn to, these groups were left uninsured. For Greek organizations, being uninsured means not being able to hold any type of event, whether it is a social function or a community service meeting, said Joseph Risser, Cal Poly risk manager.

Risser said facility owners can not risk having events for Greek clubs that don't have insurance. There is too much liability for both the club and the facility owner if something were to go wrong.

"We're considered high-risk," said Eddie Gomez, president of the Cal Poly Associated Students Inc. "We've had to stop doing most of our events."

Helping Kabul day-care not a masquerade

By Jordan Schultz
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

An excess of adult self-indulgences can typically characterize the San Luis Obispo annual Mardi Gras festivities. Strive to Provide, a fund-raising program within Student Community Services, has created a Mardi Gras event this year contradic­torily to tradition in its focus on children and the selfless act of donation.

Mardi Gras Masquerade, a charity ball to help raise funds for the Kabul University Children's Center Fund, will be held March 7 at 8 p.m. in the Vista Grande Restaurant. The semi-formal event will feature hors d'oeuvres, an auction, a live DJ and dancing, said business sophomore Chandani Patel, director of Strive to Provide.

"All proceeds from the event will go toward a childcare center at Kabul University in Afghanistan," Patel said. She got the idea for the benefit last spring and began planning with a committee at the beginning of this quarter.

"Our program aims to help other organizations on campus," Patel said. "We were looking for an important cause to assist with fund raising and it seemed like the Kabul University Children's Center Fund had almost met their goal. Hopefully our event will help them achieve that goal."
**ATTACKS** continued from page 1

what’s going on,” Watton said. “We must provide a safe environment without inhibiting academic studies.”

While the police department is not taking specific action in response to the FBI’s warning, they are maintaining a heightened sense of awareness.

Throughout the campus community, students exhibited little concern for the threat of terrorist attacks. Mathematics junior Wes Thompson said he never considered colleges and universities to be at risk.

“I would think they would focus on something that would hurt the country as a whole, not just the people in this community,” he said.

While he is concerned about the FBI’s warning, Thompson said it has little effect on his everyday activities.

Civil engineering sophomore Jeremy Johnson also said the threat of terrorism has had little effect on his daily life. He never considered San Luis Obispo to be at risk of attack.

“It’s always a possibility, but it never crossed my mind that they’d attack a secluded area with nothing around us,” he said. “If I lived in L.A., or a bigger city, I’d be more prone to think about it.”

Johnson’s comments mirrored Watton’s; terrorists would want to hit an area with a larger population, impacting as many people as possible and sending a message throughout the world, Watton said.

While some have reacted to the heightened terrorist alert by buying duct tape, plastic sheeting for windows, bottled water and flashlights, many of these items would be useful in the event of any emergency, specifically an earthquake or fire. These items should be kept on hand in every household, Watton said.

“Everyone should have a plan for earthquake and fire safety,” he said.

“If you don’t, now is the time to make one.”

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**Crime Round Up**

Feb 19: A vehicle was stolen from 954 Lobelia. The owner told police that a drug dealer stole it.

Two cars were broken into in the R-1 parking lot. A stereo was stolen from one of the cars. A set of golf clubs, car stereo, CDs, speakers and tools were taken from the other vehicle.

Feb 23: A man was arrested for assault at The Grad. University police saw a man carrying a stolen Central Coast Transit sign. The man received a petty theft citation that could carry a fine of up to $1,000.

Feb 24: A female Cal Poly student was knocking over trash cans and throwing things around in front of the Administration Building. A woman reported a prowler near 1236 Cayucos.

Feb 25: A female was arrested for assault on a police officer at 3000 University. The officer received a cut on her hand.

Feb 26: A woman was arrested for shoplifting at Target.

Feb 27: A man was arrested for vandalism at 600 University. The man received a petty theft citation.

Feb 28: A man was arrested for vandalism at 800 University. The man received a petty theft citation.

Feb 29: A man was arrested for burglary at 900 University. The man received a petty theft citation.

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**Tides**

Low: 9:06 a.m./4.05 feet

High: 9:08 p.m. / 4.05 feet

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**Weather Watch**

5-Day Forecast

FRIDAY: High:61°/Low:42°
SATURDAY: High:64°/Low:41°
SUNDAY: High:66°/Low:42°
MONDAY: High:63°/Low:41°
TUESDAY: High:69°/Low:43°

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**Black History Month**

Did you know that Dudley G. Woodard invented the preparation of water soluble acrylic copolymers for use in water treatment on April 6, 1971?

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**What's Going On**

Coming up this week

*Theryn Kigumasud-Vashti* - This member of the African American Task Force Against Domestic and Sexual Violence will speak tonight at 7 in the Philips Hall in the PAC.

*Craft Center Throwfest*- The Cal Poly Craft Center will host their 24-hour throwfest marathon 12 p.m. Friday to 12 p.m. Saturday.

**"Broadway to Carnegie"** - The Cal Poly Wind Orchestra will perform Saturday at 8 p.m. in Hamman Hall in the PAC.

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**FUTURE**

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**Mustang Daily**

2 Thursday, February 27, 2003
National/International News

Thursday, February 27, 2003

National Briefs

The ultimate sin tax: Nevada considers taxing prostitution

Nevada lawmakers are looking into taxing prostitution as the ultimate sin tax. The only state with legal prostitution — Nevada is subject to federal income tax on the earnings of its workers. It is being considered as a potential revenue stream for the Nevada government.

North Korea tells its people to be ready for war

PEOPLE'S Republic of Korea officials have ordered people to be prepared for a potential military conflict. The announcement comes as tensions continue to rise between North Korea and the United States.

Supreme Court rules for abortion protesters in federal civil rights case

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that federal authorities could not use laws to interfere with the protests of abortion clinics. The court's ruling is a victory for abortion rights advocates.

Charity continued from page 1

Malika Zulfacar's work in Afghanistan and her history as a professor at Kabul University. Zulfacar teamed up with 2001-2002 Associated Student Inc. president Angie Hacker to begin organizing the grassroots work.

Mardi Gras Masquerade tickets are available for $10 per person or $18 a couple. If you haven't bought your tickets yet, you can purchase them now. Mardi Gras Masquerade tickets are only $18 a couple. If you haven't bought your tickets yet, you can purchase them now.
Lut and the military. They were my fetish. A soldier because I missed Europe and my time studying abroad. Last year, cowboys got me hot because I felt disconnected from my Midwestern relatives. Army to me now that I'm a horrible soldier. I don't think that Cal Poly should be diverse, with people from different walks of life free from harassment.

However, I find it disturbing that Cal Poly's administration is selective on who they deem appropriate to express their views on campus. Take the case of Steve Hinkle of the Cal Poly College Republicans and the flyers that he distributed. He is now facing the prospect of being kicked out of school, all because he simply put someone's words on paper that "weren't clear enough." This, to me, is a preposterous reason to kick someone out of school. To me it seems to be a form of institutional harassment of a conservative organization by a liberal school administration. If Cal Poly really wants to be "open," it needs all points of view. Tolerance goes both ways.

Dave Van Zaren is a civil engineering senior.

Letters to the editor

Opinion

Doll of unborn baby

creepy, not comforting

If the artist wants to create a baby for herself—fine. If she wants to sculpt a few for grieving friends—fine. But marketing these "portraits" as products on the Internet is overstepping far too many bounds of humanity.

Cathy Haselhuhn is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letters to the editor

Editor, Mustang Daily

March 21, 2003

Vol XLI, No. 80

Editorial:

"The flaky crust is not that tasty.'

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Malia Spencer, managing editor
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Carl McGorty

"Mmmhmm," they growl hotly, "an innocent baby," and then they' ll be saying we reclaim the true spirit of peace rallies: The bra burnings, the heavy drug thins and big belt buckles run a very close second to M-16s and toys or getting tied up is wonderfully refreshing. As long as you're not "crying." it's all in the game of love.

Shallon Lester is a speech communication senior and Mustang Daily contributing writer.

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Shallon Lester is a speech communication senior and Mustang Daily contributing writer.
More letters to the editor

**Opinion**

*Out of love to teach others,* (Feb. 13), who never mentioned Campus Crusade. Your motive for writing, that is. There have been less than tactful letters today. I'm not saying this is right or wrong, simply that it's what we explicitly say that if you are not Christian, you do not go to heaven. I'm not a Christian, but so are members of all other religions. Do not rail against the beliefs of others if you do not understand the beliefs of, yet I see in these letters attacks this belief without even understanding where it comes from.

All Allah, would you cut them down? Would you show contempt for that this is exactly the case with Christianity. Do not continue the quest for truth.

Letter is in response to Justin Fraga's letter, "Christian groups need to step school teaching" (Feb. 24). His base position Christians believe what they tell us, they do not "find their own path," and so any discussion about the truth of Christianity Fraga's letter was based solely on rhetoric, and not on all real evidence. Example: "Hate of cliques church kids inform you that your "doomed" unless you join their lemming line," "Christians" who have been relieved of thinking for themselves." His is a rhetoric letter in this thesis; no logical support to be found. I am not even going to argue your claim that Christians do not think for themselves; you have given me no evidence to argue against it. I will tell you this, and I will keep it brief, Church is the right, or they may be wrong. If they are right, I am currently making more money than you do, and I could not be happier to show them to myself. Surely if you had a cure for AIDS, you would tell as many people as possible about it. And if the soul for the dead exists, it is certainly even more important than one for the body.

Dan Koch is a philosophy sophomore.

**Editor,**

To either be Christian or hate is far from being the same thing. As I read the letters in the Mustang Daily, I was shocked and sickened at the hate-filled responses to Christian beliefs. My point here is not to convert people who are right or wrong, but just to give you something to think about.

If someone of Islamic faith wrote in to state why they pray to Allah, would you cut them down? Would you show contempt for their beliefs and ridicule the Koran, like Justin Fraga in his letter ("Christian groups need to step school teaching," Feb. 24)? No, because it would immediately be accused of being prejudiced and bigoted and hated. You would also be probably ridiculed for criticizing a religion you do not understand. The belief that Jesus is a symbol of love, of these letters is that this is the exact case with Christianity. In the Bible (that book Christians base their religion on), it explicitly says that if you are not Jesus, you do not go to heav-

en. I'm sure none of them had intentions of harming Americans. I am writing in response to Justin D. Kaechele's letter ("Christian groups need to step school teaching," Feb. 24) about all the people who are at risk to cause harm. I am against this unnecessary war, and I do agree that no one should be EVER tried in fear. What many anti-war protesters are rallying for is a peaceful solution. It is possible and it can be done when our government ends its support for the citizens living in the Middle East, under horrible situations, as the nuclear weapons that still cannot be found. These are the true concerns, our government should be a lot more worried about North Korea, which poses a much larger and more detrimental threat. It is about oil and greed. Carinle Peck is an animal science senior.

War serves to protect American lives

**Editor,**

I am writing this letter in response to Daniel Nutting's letter titled "Bush policies anything but patriotic." (Feb. 20) Although I disagreed with almost everything he wrote, there was one thing he said in particular that bothered me. It was when he stated that "Bush is using a phony war on terrorism as the pretext." Phony War? Hm. I don't know where you were, but I was in New York City, about five miles from the World Trade Center. I will never forget what I experienced that day. Let me just say it was anything but phony to me.

My brother's school is located in New York City, and I think most people were just as much as we had to be careful from the reasoning behind it. Before you try to slander the Church faile. Let me understand it. This is the same treatment that all other belief systems receive. I also understand that some Christians are not Christians, but are members of all other religions. Do not judge us as a group, but as people. We should not judge all American citizens by their lowest elements (criminals).

Elliot Klotz is a computer engineering freshman.

Letter misrepresented Christians, groups

**Editor,**

This letter is in response to Justin Fraga's rash and malicious let-

ter, "Christian groups need to step school teaching." (Feb. 24). I have never had my beliefs attacked so immediately. My name is not mentioned in his letter. Your motive for writing, that is. There have been less than tactful letters flowing freely in the Mustang Daily about "believing" and "doing" in a way that you would not want to do if you were to even begin to do it. It doesn't accomplish anything.

This is not a Christian student and a teacher, to our course. I can see that Justin Fraga is an expert in a field of knowledge. I know of one person who has written so much about this topic that he has written a book. I believe that you are right, and I am not going to debate with you. However, I do not believe that Justin Fraga is qualified to do so. In the Bible (that book Christians base their religion on), it explicitly says that if you are not Jesus, you do not go to heaven. I'm sure none of them had intentions of harming Americans.

God the Bush administration was able to trade their every step for ordering the reporters on Fox's news team to declare his cousin a success in making a positive contribution to the state of affairs in this country. I will never forget what I experienced that day. Let me understand it. This is the same treatment that all other belief systems receive. I also understand that some Christians are not Christians, but are members of all other religions. Do not judge us as a group, but as people. We should not judge all American citizens by their lowest elements (criminals).

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Greeks
continued from page 1
Multicultural Greek Council and member of Nu Alpha Kappa. "It's too hot of an item; nobody wants to touch it."

After the loss of ASI insurance, multicultural Greeks have been searching for a solution to their prob­lem. With the help of Risser, the multicultural Greek council found Kirklin & Co. This has been the group’s best prospect but is still more expensive than its members can afford, Gomez said.

The multicultural Greek council is now asking ASI, Student Life and Leadership and community sponsors for financial support to help pay for the $5,000 policy. Risser said the multicultural Greeks have two options. The first is for each fraternity and sorority to insure them­selves individually, which would mean they each have to pay for an individual policy. The second option is to insure the governing multicultural Greek council as a whole with one policy. That policy would cover each fraternity and sorority within the council.

Risser said both options have pros and cons. While insuring each individual chapter would be more expensive, insuring the council as a collective unit would also mean sharing liability. That means that if one fraternity’s event had a problem, all of the multicultural fraternities and sororities would be held responsible.

"It’s a tough decision of high cost or high risk," Risser said.

Gomez said he is impressed by the initiative Cal Poly is taking on the issue.

see GREEKS 2, page 10
The earliest tattoos in recorded history can be stopped liking a tattoo. enable us to experience the prime intensity of great pyramids. When the empire expanded, it is estimated it disappeared from Western culture from the 12th to 16th century. Tattooing made a comeback in London during the late 1700s. Capt. Cook brought back a heavily tattooed Polynesian named Omai from one of his voyages, inspiring the upper class. They responded by starting to get small tattoos in discrete places. The tattoos were all hand-punctured, then ink was applied. In 1891, Samuel O'Reilly patented the first electric tattoo machine, allowing the average person to get a tattoo. Since tattoos were more readily available, they lost their prestige and the upper class stopped getting them.

By the turn of the century, tattooists were more diverse. Beau Price, tattoo artist at Mother Ship Tattoos in Pismo Beach, said his clients range from attorneys to X-ray technicians. "Tattoos are slowly losing the stigma they have had for so long," Price said. It was Price's love for drawing — along with receiving his first tattoo — that got him into the body art business. Six years ago, he began a year and a half informal apprenticeship before venturing out on his own. Price said he is always learning new techniques along the way to keep up with changing styles.

"I liked tattoos, and it adds some character to my body," McGrathman said. Although drawing on the skin is completely different than drawing on paper, he said that's an easier transition if one knows how to draw.

"He said he enjoys it when he sees tattoos done in the beginning of his career, he can compare how his technique has changed. He added that some of his favorite types of tattoos to do are traditional tattoos, such as stars and daggers. Although they are common, not all star and dagger tattoos are just for decoration."

Animal science sophomore Erin McGrathman got her tattoo a year and a half ago. It consists of red and blue stars on her lower back. Having been born on the Fourth of July, the tattoo is symbolic, she said. She originally thought of the image in high school but made herself wait a year before she got it.

"I liked tattoos, and it adds some character to my body," McGrathman said.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CRYSTAL MYERS

For Cousins the tattoo was like a right of passage. Many of her older friends did something when they went away to college, so Cousins decided to get a decorative sun on the small of her back.
TATTOO ART

continued from page 7

She likes this tattoo, but said she wouldn't get another one because she couldn't think of anything else she wants bad enough to permanently put on her body.

While tattoos can be considered symbols, they don't always start out that way. Some choose the design simply because they like it.

Juliana Cousins, speech communications junior, got her tattoo in March 2003. For her, the tattoo was almost like a right of passage, she said. Many of her older friends did something when they went away to college, so Cousins said she decided to get a decorative sun on the small of her back. She got it because she was of an age where she could start making her own decisions, leaving the house and venturing into adulthood.

"I think that it is more than a guy's artwork on my back," she said. "It is a visual way of expressing myself."

She said she likes her tattoo and is considering getting another one. The tattoo has become a part of her, she said.

"Unlike jewelry, it is something that can never be taken away from me," Cousins said.

Keith Dagman, a tattoo artist at Tiger Rose in Pismo Beach, has been doing tattoos for the last five years. As a self-taught tattoo artist, he first learned techniques by practicing on his own skin. After that, he said he used his friends as guinea pigs before working professionally.

"Everyday you are learning something new from other tattoo artists and through different skin types," Dagman said.

If you are considering getting a tattoo, they do not come cheap. Dagman said that some shops charge hourly fees with rates around $100 to $150, while others quote a set price for the entire tattoo. Dagman said certain parts of the body could possibly increase fees.

Although the shop brings in a constant flow of customers, Dagman said evidence of diversity in designs and price ranges. Some of the most popular tattoo requests include stars, tribal and Chinese characters, he said.

Many customers come in not knowing what they want. Dagman helps them decide by showing designs in books called "flash."

Cary and regional planning senior Jake Smith was someone who didn't know what kind of tattoo he wanted. He said what he likes best is the originality of the tattoo, that it isn't the standard tribal band.

Unlike a math equation, art has no set definition. It can be found in the most predictable places, such as The Louvre and an artist's canvas, to the most obscure, like in a preschooler's scribbles and on your grandfather's arm.

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By Carly Hasselhuhn
March 23, 2003

Eighty-six auditioned. Twenty-five proved they were a "triple threat" — that is, they showed equal talent for singing, dancing and acting ... the works. Twelve hours of auditions. Decisions. Twenty-four hours of rehearsal a week. No pay — well not monetary anyway.

"There is no ramshackle community theatre production; it's life for the cast and crew of 'Guys and Dolls.'" Cal Poly's latest mainstage production is the first musical since "Into the Woods" in 1997, though the goal was to offer one every four years. Students who are multi-talented in performing arts need to be offered this rare educational experience and all of the pieces were able to come together this year, director and theater professor Pam Malkin said.

"This production marks the fusion of students, professors and guest artists, including a choreographer and light technician from outside the Central Coast. "It's a great learning experience for students. It's a great experience for Pam Malkin," she said, as compared to the lack of talent that often plagues directors."}

MATT WECHER/MUSTANG DAILY

Eric Johnson, left, as Benny and Ryan Ernst, as Nicely Nickely, made the cut to become cast members in "Guys and Dolls."

Of the 25-member cast, more than half came from the widest variety of majors Malkin has seen for any production, not just the theatre, music and dance departments. "Talent resides everywhere," she said.

And talent they must be. Malkin admits to balance the six nights a week, four hours a day schedule she sets up for rehearsals.

"It's a huge time commitment, but all have risen to the task," she said.

Some actors welcomed the practice schedule, while others weren't prepared for the lack of talent study. "It takes over your life," said thears arts senior Sarah Bukirk, who plays Sarah Brown. "(But) I actually do the homework academically and in shows when I'm ridiculously busy." Jamie Marx, a music senior playing Nathan Detroit, found herself dropping every class but one to work around his intense practice routine. "It's been tough," he said. "But even though you lose your social life, you gain a ton of new friends."

Malkin started working on the play in July, analyzing the text and coordinating with scenic designer Kathy Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and coordinating with scenic designer Kathy Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens, deciding how the production should be staged and costume designer Tim Dugan and choreographer Kathryn Stephens.

Malkin explained that the casting and rehearsal, with students

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News

BUDGET
continued from page 1

schools and Lopez Continuation High School are part of Lucia Mar Unified School District, a non-basic aid area. Lucia Mar faces a possible $1.5 million to $2 million cut to its $70 million budget, much less drastic compared to the possible cut for San Luis Coastal schools, and district deputy superintendent Mike Sears.

Sears speculates that 15 employees will be let go and class sizes will increase by one student per class. "We're certainly going to be able to cope with (the cut), but they hurt," he said. "There's no doubt about that."

GREEKS 2
continued from page 1

The future of the Cal Poly Multicultural Greek System is still unclear.

Some say they are confident a solution will be reached.

"This issue is a high priority to us," Barclay said. "I don't see the multicultural Greek system coming to an end. We are going to pursue every avenue possible."

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**Sports**

Thursday, February 27, 2003

The increased enthusiasm may help lead Cal Poly athletic teams to wins, but it also should make games more fan for students, political science senior Shane Anderson said.

“If every game was like Thursday’s game, I’d be there all the time running around with green volleyballs on my head cheering my head off,” he said.

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**Employment**

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**Personals**

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**Sports**

**Cal Poly Men's Basketball**

**From fans to Maniacs**

By Sean Martin

Thousands of green-and-gold chat fans pound their feet and clap in unison. Cheers of "De-Fense" form an impermeable wave of noise, vibrating the atmosphere of Mott Gym. A whirling ocean of foam sticks and homemade signs cause the opposing team to lose their zone.

There is a movement brewing on campus to bring this scenario to more and more Cal Poly home games. It is called Mott Mania.

"We wanted to kick off an idea for a spirit (association) where the whole student body is encompassed," associate athletic director of marketing Chris Baker said. "Once students step on campus they will be a member. It gives them a pack mentality (at games)."

The athletic department is working in conjunction with Cal Poly's existing spirit organization, Running Thunder, to make Mott Mania a reality.

"Running Thunder has gotten stuck with the stigma of being a club that you have to be a member and go to meetings to participate," Thunder president Travis Ervin said. "Our goal now is to start an organization for all students."

Mott Mania made its debut Feb. 20 at the men's basketball contest against UC Santa Barbara. The athletic department unleashed the Mania at that game because of the combination of television and the rivalry against the Gauchos, Baker said.

Baker called the game a "success," while Ervin tried to quantify how important the crowd was.

Mott Mania made its debut at the Feb. 20 game against UCSB. A new student cheering section has been implemented and T-shirts will be distributed at tonight's game against UC Irvine at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

**Commentary**

**Blaming the referees isn't always justified**

By Michael Marquez

Abusing sports officials is no longer just for Dennis Rodman, John McEnroe, Roberto Alomar, Nick Van Exel, Magic Johnson, Jerry Sloan and Lou Piniella. Some Cal Poly Mustang fans are joining in and, sadly, are taking it a little too far.

After recently attending the Cal Poly men's basketball game against rival UC Santa Barbara, I never expected to witness the Mustang Militia and Mustang fans verbally abusing the referees to such an extreme degree.

The typical hostility toward rival fans was still present, but I also watched a Mustang Militia fan hit the referee with a foam stick. This action crossed the line.

The referee wouldn't continue the game, but instead the crowd made a difference of 12 points for (Cal Poly). Everyone in athletics was extremely grateful for the difference (the crowd) made. It's what we want to see at every game."

Mott Mania continues with tonight's men's basketball game against UC Irvine at 7 p.m. Another 500 T-shirts will be given out to students before that contest.

Baker said he hopes the program will continue to grow and extend to every athletic contest held on the campus. He said it is not something that will happen overnight, but Mott Mania will continue to build.

He said shirt giveaways and pep rallies for the big games will continue to be a part of the program. Baker also said a possible points program is in the works, which would award repeat attendees of Cal Poly games.

There is currently a contest to give a name to the new student cheering section in Mott Gym. Baker said. The contest was established at the game and open to those fans wearing the Mott Mania T-shirts given out that day.

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Baker called the game a "success," while Ervin tried to quantify how important the crowd was.

"It was the best thing I've ever seen at a game at Cal Poly," Ervin said. "The crowd was excited the whole time. People estimated the crowd made a difference of 12 points for (Cal Poly). Everyone in athletics was extremely grateful for the difference (the crowd) made. It's what we want to see at every game."

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The name of the author that is chosen will win a 32-inch television set from the San Luis Obispo Best Buy. Baker said. Students can enter on Running Thunder's Web Site, www.calpoly.edu/th-rclub.

Men's basketball assistant coach

see MOTT MANIA, page 11