Poly group helps land mine victims

Wheelchair Foundation holds event to raise money to send wheelchairs to Ethiopia

By Katie Schiller
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation will hold its second Gift of Mobility benefit, "A Taste of the World," from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday to send wheelchairs to Ethiopian land mine victims.

The silent and live auction will take place at the Monday Club on Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo. Trips, gift certificates and other items will be up for bids.

"We have items ranging from vacations to Palm Springs to bottles of wine," said Erin Jackson, international business senior and team member.

California state champion auctioneer and Cal Poly alumni Jim Glines will conduct the live auction.

The benefit will feature exotic hors d'oeuvres to give bidders "a taste of the world." The recipes for the food will come from countries such as Indonesia, India, China, Japan, Peru, Brazil and more.

"For classical music lovers, this is the finest there is. These guys are superstars in the string quartet world," Alyson McLamore, Music department faculty member, said.

"We've never found the right kind of occasion where we could afford to pay what they customarily charge on this magnitude," Governor will release a revised budget plan to approve the budget by July 1, the first day of the new fiscal year.

By David Espo
AP Special Correspondent

Army forces launched a nighttime attack on Saddam International Airport just outside Baghdad on Thursday and fought running battles with Iraqis along the city's southern fringes.

"A vise is closing on the regime," President Bush told cheering Marines stationed in the south, where desperate Iraqis armed with ingredients that soared into the 90s.

There was fierce fighting in Kut, to the south, where desperate Iraqis armed with rifles charged tanks in a suicide raid. "We moved down" the attackers, said Lt. Col. B.P. McCoy. Tracer rounds lit the night sky and artillery boomed near the airport a few miles from the heart of Saddam Hussein's capital. Army units encountered little resistance along the airport road, their convoy passing dead Iraqi soldiers and piles of discarded military uniforms.

Along the city's southern edge, Army tanks and Bradley vehicles destroyed more than seven Iraqi armored personnel carriers and more than 15 Iraqi tanks in fighting that went on for more than four hours.

Two weeks into the war, American commanders reported a string of successes — on the battlefield and within an Iraqi population initially reticent about embracing invading troops. Kurdish fighters in the north chipped in, when a top leader suggested they may agree not to seek control of the northern city of Kirkuk.

Despite declarations that tough fighting lies ahead, the nation's top military official indicated there may not be an all-out battle for Baghdad. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested isolating members of the old regime in the capital — cut off from the country — with an "interim administration" in place to begin work on a postwar government.

There were battlefield setbacks, as well. An Army soldier investigating a destroyed tank in central Iraq was killed by friendly fire when he was mistaken for an Iraqi, the military said. Two Marines were killed and one injured in the close-quarters fighting in Kut. The Navy mounted a search for a pilot missing since his Hornet jet was lost to unknown causes on Wednesday.

The toll of American troops dead passed 50.

If these walls could talk

Mechanical engineering senior Sara Coleman writes on the wall on the top floor of the University Union, on which students can write their thoughts on the war in Iraq.

See BAGHDAD, page 2

See WHEELCHAIR, page 7

See QUARTET, page 7

See MUSTANG, page 6

See PAGE, page 5

See CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO, page 4

See VOLUME LXVIII, NUMBER 102, 1916-2003

Friday, April 4, 2003

Volume LXVIII, Number 102, 1916-2003

By the numbers

Student Fees

1. In response to mid-year budget cuts proposed by Gov. Gray Davis, the California State University System Board of Trustees voted Dec. 16 to increase the fees for full-time CSU students on all 23 campuses. Undergraduate student fees were raised by 10 percent and graduate student fees were raised by 15 percent.

2. The last increase in the CSU's State University Fee occurred in 1994. The fee then decreased in both 1999 and 2001 when California's economy was strong. The current CSU fee increase restores fees to just under the 1997 level, according to a Cal Poly news release.


4. On top of the $326 million cut, the CSU must accept an additional $7.6 million in unfunded mandatory cost increases. These increases include employee salary increases, increased health care costs, workers' compensation and costs to open new classrooms, laboratories and offices.

5. Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker said in a news release, "We remain committed to do all we can in every possible way to preserve access and maintain the quality of a Cal Poly education, but cuts of this magnitude cannot be made without some pain."

6. Prior to the Dec. 16 increase, the CSU's State University Fee was $1,428 per academic year for undergraduate students. With the increase, fees are now $1,572 per academic year — still the lowest fees in the nation, according to the Chancellor's Office. The increase works out to $48 per quarter, $4.36 per week or 62 cents per day.

7. Both the California State University System Board of Trustees and the Legislature have the authority to change state university fees at any time.

8. The governor's budget proposal anticipates that the CSU System Board of Trustees will increase student fees in 2003/04 by 25 percent to compensate for the reductions. Such an increase would raise undergraduate fees by $936, bringing the total annual CSU fee to $1,968.

9. In March 2002, Cal Poly students voted to approve college-based academic fee increases. Students in the colleges of Agriculture, Science and Mathematics, Engineering, Architecture and Environmental Design and Business now pay $220 per quarter in college-based fees. Students in the College of Liberal Arts now pay $125 per quarter in college-based fees. These funds will not be diverted from the individual colleges to compensate for state budget cuts.

10. In May, the governor will release a revised budget request known as the "May Revise." The Legislature will then pass a budget bill for the governor to sign. The governor is supposed to approve the budget by July 1, the first day of the new fiscal year.

U.S. troops roll to edge of Baghdad

By By David Espo
AP Special Correspondent

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Full-time CSU undergraduate annual fees timeline

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and Bush visited Camp Lejeune, N.C., which has lost 13 more than any other installation. "He's in heaven," the commander in chief told the family of one fallen Marine in a private moment.

"Fight them with your hands. Gtxl exhortations in Saddam's name."

But the daily urgings seemed increasingly at odds with the military situation across the country, and Myers said Saddam had lost control of 45 percent of Iraq's territory.

Iraq issued the latest in a series of exhortations in Saddam's name.

"There's other operations ongoing."

As conventional units fought American or British forces and Kurdish militiamen captured a close-in facility where they made their way toward the regime were found.

"That's all right," he added, "but the daily urgings seemed increasingly at odds with the military situation across the country, and Myers said Saddam had lost control of 45 percent of Iraq's territory."

Iraqi intelligence complex. Diehard defenders have held out for days inside the city of 1.3 million. American officials cited continuing examples of Iraqis cooperating with invading troops. In Najaf, they said a prominent cleric under house arrest by the Iraqi government had urged the population not to interfere with the operations of American or British forces.

A small group of Iraqi defenders has been holding out inside the city in a mosque, considered a Shiite holy site, and local clerics said one religious leader had recently arrived in hopes of arranging for their safe passage out of the shrine.

Details were sketchy on the attack on the airport in Baghdad. But its capture would give American and British troops control of a close-in facility where they could airlift equipment and troops. For the first time in the war, large parts of Baghdad lost electricity.

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National/International News

Health officials: New SARS cases reported in Orange and Santa Barbara counties

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Orange County health officials said two people who recently traveled to Middle East countries are suffering from flu-like mystery illness that has killed 78 people worldwide.

There is no organized Health Care Agency would not release information about the patients on Wednesday except that one was a 21-year-old woman and the other around 60. Neither of the cases were related and the victims did not travel together.

Neither person is very ill, but they have been asked to stay at home until 10 days after their symptoms disappear to ensure they don't spread the disease, said Dr. Myrl Hidy, medical director of Orange County health agency.

In Santa Barbara County, health officials said Monday that it is the first case of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, has been found in the county.

Several relatives of a woman in her 80s who traveled in early March to several Asian nations, is now being treated, said Dr. Elliot Schuman, public health officer for Santa Barbara County.

Activist: Shipments are like deadly 'dirty bombs'

TOKYO, Wash. — Four activists groups have sued the U.S. Department of Energy, seeking to prevent plans to ship as much as 4.5 million radioactively contaminated radioactive trash to the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington.

"These shipments are like deadly 'dirty bombs' of plutonium waste trucked through the countryside," said Gerald Foller, director of Heart of America Northwest, a Hanford-based watchdog group.

The groups are suing to participate in the Department of Energy's ground-breaking exercise to determine whether the United States should build a repository for storing high-level nuclear waste.

Congress deals bills of nearly $80 billion for war, terror

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration tried to shut down a key defense effort Thursday by using House Republicans to cut aid to Turkey as the House and Senate debated bills to fund the Iraq war and other foreign aid.

Bush administration aides have removed to reduce the $1 billion the measure contains for Iraq's northern neighbor, the White House circulated letters to lawmakers from national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and Richard Armitage, deputy secretary of state, supporting the aid.

"Despite recent difficulties, the prospects for a resolution to the strategic partnership between the two countries, Rice wrote. Turkey crises were considering trying to ease the aid, arguing its refusal to allow the United States to open the bases to American troops it had used to train Iraqi forces in their war with Iran.

"Turkey has a role to play in the region," the Bush administration has said.

In the Senate, Democrats pushed to issue a declaration of war to replace the resolution that passed in November. Bush said he would not support the legislation.

International Briefs

First wave of trials of Cuban dissidents begin in Havana

Havana — Cuba pressed forward with its hardest crackdown on dissent in years, holding the first trials Thursday for dissidents rounded up after days of protests against the government's handling of the war in Iraq.

At the trial, 36 defendants have been arrested since March 18, accused of working with U.S. diplomats to subvert Cuba's communist revolution and of being mercenaries in the pay of Washington.

Rising tensions with the United States have coincided with a string of hijackings by Cubans trying to leave the communist island. On Wednesday, passengers forced a Cuban ferry to head toward Florida. Last week, a plane carrying 40 Cubans on a Thursday morning. Two airliners recently hijacked were keyed West. Florida, one on March 19 and a second on Tuesday.

As international criticism of the Bush administration grows, several dissidents complained Wednesday that their husbands were subjected to cruelties with attorneys and had not even seen the prosecution's written case against them.

"I feel so defeated," said Elsa Pollan, whose husband, Hector Fernandez, was charged on Wednesday.

Police suspect in deadly Philippine bomb attack, president promises justice

DAVAO, Philippines — The Philippine president Thursday promised swift justice for the bombing that killed 16 people on Davao's bustling wharf, and she warned that rising terrorism can be contained only with "collective vigilance."

Tension is high in the Philippines after Wednesday's blast in the southern city. Early Thursday, parliament lobbed two grenades and staged a Davao mosque with automatic gunfire, but no one was injured.

A bomb grenade was found in a plastic bag in a Manila train station late Wednesday, though that explosion failed to deter a Manila to Los Angeles flight by almost five hours.

At least 49 people were wounded in Wednesday's blast, the second deadly attack in the southern Philippines in less than a month. The government has blamed a Muslim rebel group for a similar explosion in a southern city where a plane that killed 21 people, including an American. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, or MILF, has denied responsibility and says it was not involved in the latest attack.

Huge squid caught in Antarctic waters only second ever captured

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Fishermen working in Antarctic waters have made an extremely rare catch — a colossal squid with eyes the size of tennis balls and razor sharp hooks on its tentacles, a marine researcher said Thursday.

The 330-pound, 16-foot-long squid was caught in the Ross Sea, said Steve O'Shea, a research fellow with the Auckland University of Technology. He said the squid was a young female; adults are much bigger.

Going by the scientific name Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni, the animal is unrelated to the smaller and more common giant squid, O'Shea said.

"This animal is formidable," he told New Zealand's Stuff website.

While he said the giant squid eats "quite small prey," the colossal squid preys on the Parisorgon toothfish, which can grow more than six feet long.

A colossal squid would be "larger than any giant squid I have seen," and I've seen 105 of them," O'Shea said.

Only one other colossal squid has ever been caught before. Scientists knew of their existence because their beaks have been found in the stomachs of sperm whales.

Briefs compiled from The Associated Press wire service by Mustang Daily managing editor Malia Spencer.

By Karsten Swindell

SALT LAKE CITY — An alleged kidnapping plot by Elizabeth Smart's abductors was accused at a 15-year-old cousin, neither an older cousin, the girl's father said Thursday.

It's been widely reported that David Brian Mitchell was allegedly trying to abduct 18-year-old Jessica Wright during a break-in at the family's home July 24.

But father Steven Wright said he has known since the night of the break-in that the likely target was his younger daughter, a favorite playmate of Elizabeth who is the same age, 15.

Jessica Wright and her younger sister shared a bedroom before Elizabeth disappeared, Steven Wright said. The Wrights later removed their home, and the younger girl moved to another room.

During the break-in, a screen covering her bedroom window was cut. Mitchell has been charged with attempted kidnapping in connection with the break-in.

Salt Lake County District Attorney David Yocom blamed the move to keep the home and the other girl moved to another room.

In talks, Powell fails to narrow gap over U.N. role in postwar Iraq

By Barry Schwed

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Secretary of State Colin Powell told Wednesday that the United States and European Union nations might accept a NATO peacekeeping role next week.

However, he told British reporters Wednesday that the Europeans want the United Nations to play a larger role in the reconstruction of Iraq that provoked one of the worst and costliest disputes in recent years.

"I think the coalition has to play a leading role," he told a closing conference of the Strategic Partnership meeting.

"Without acrimony," he said Thursday, "there will initially have to be a U.N. presence to set up an interim Iraqi administration. Thereafter, NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson told reporters.

He said that while there was no "collective vigilance," there were no casualties. A hand grenade was found in a plastic bag in a Manila train station late Wednesday, though that explosion failed to deter a Manila to Los Angeles flight by almost five hours.

At least 40 people were wounded in Wednesday's blast, the second deadly attack in the southern Philippines in less than a month. The government has blamed a Muslim rebel group for a similar explosion in a southern city where a plane that killed 21 people, including an American. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, or MILF, has denied responsibility and says it was not involved in the latest attack.

Yocom said. "Because the press got it wrong, it's not means that we have to go out and correct it."

Yocom has said it appeared missing. Steven Wright said that Jessica Wright worked as a than object sticking through her window. The woman said she was unable to consult with attorneys. The Wrights later removed their home, and the younger girl moved to another room.

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**Arts & Culture**

**Mustang Daily**

**Television**

**War impedes TV sweeps; people sitting on couch**

By Sharon Gayle Tanenbaum

Washington Square News (New York U.)

(U-WIRE) NEW YORK — In a time when war coverage is so extensive that Americans can actually explain the difference between Bush and Rumsfeld, many students continue to tune in to favorites like "Friends" and "American Idol" for a break from the breaking news.

"You reach a certain point where you need to watch something else," said Habiba Mandour, a junior in New York University's College of Arts and Science. "There's only so much bombing and explosions that you can watch." Although millions of viewers like Mandour rely on cable news channels such as CNN for war coverage, round-the-clock programming has reached the point of saturation. As a result, many viewers have been channel surfing, resulting in a ratings drop of some top 10 favorites. The Nielsen Media Research ratings for two weeks ago, which included the first days of war, showed a drop of almost 30 percent of viewers for "Friends.

Even with the drop, entertainment programming continued to dominate the list — not war coverage.

"This is not like Sept. 11, when we were glued to the set," said Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University. The fact that a return of "Friends" still received a higher rating than war coverage proves that, he said.

Many students said they hinged their viewing habits during news-heavy times.

"I watched more in the beginning, but now it is just all the same," said Rohan Talwar, a junior in the Stern School of Business.

Although the number of viewers watching war coverage has been decreasing as the war goes on, more than three times the normal viewers are watching the cable news channels, according to Nielsen numbers.

"There is no real pressing reason why regular programming needs to be put off so every single network can air the war coverage," Thompson said. While only one 24-hour news channel aired during the Persian Gulf War, now there are three.

"We don't need 24-hour coverage on the networks," said Thompson. "They have that voice on cable.

NYU-TV offers all three cable stations, CNN, MSNBC and Fox News Channel, so NYU students can choose between cable's 24-hour coverage or the latest episodes of their favorite shows.

Networks, in a race to compete with cable news coverage, have gone so far as to delay shows' premieres or even put them on hold indefinitely in favor of war coverage. NBC delayed its premiere of the new reality talent show "Most Talented Kid in America" by one week and MTV held its skin-burning, booty-shaking "Spring Break Special" for a week because of the war. ABC shelved two of its ratings-challenged reality shows, "The Family" and "Are You Hot?" indefinitely in favor of more thorough news coverage.

On March 23, ABC aired the 75th Academy Awards. As best actor Adrienne Brody planted a wet one on presenter Halle Berry and a very pregnant Catherine Zeta-Jones belted out best song nominee "I Move On" from "Chicago," only 13 million viewers tuned in, the lowest Nielsen rating since they were first tracked in 1974. While the average number was the lowest, the network reports that almost twice as many viewers tuned in at some point during the show.

Viewers' restlessness during the Oscars is just one of TV watching habits during news-heavy times.

"Everyone's been dipping into it," Thompson said. "War has taken the biggest bite out of commercials.

In fact, the Oscars lost a quarter of its viewers during commercial breaks, according to TV Guide statistics.

CBS decided to undo its decision to air March Madness, although it did shift some of the games to accommodate war coverage. While the NCAA Tournament shows have been seen in viewers by about 25 percent from last year, many students are glad to have the choice.

"It provides a nice distraction," said graduate student Matthew Roy, who is rooting for the University of Kansas. "But you're not completely isolated. If anything major happens, they'll break to Dan Rather." CBS's decision to cut some games in favor of war news, however, may have a more negative impact. Cable news channels have already claimed their stake on the subject, and Fox News Channel's ratings have become as high as their Persian Gulf veteran CNN in Nielsen ratings, retaining its No. 1 cable news channel status. For cable news channels, therefore, the war is big business.

"It's like getting the Olympics," Thompson said.

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**Music**

**Ataris bring fresh sound to aging punk scene**

By Pablo Saldana

The Occasio (U. South Florida)

(U-WIRE) TAMPA, Fla. — With several indie releases and a half-decade of constant touring, the Ataris venture out with their first major label record, "So Long, Astoria." Spending the majority of 2002 writing and recording this record undoubtedly caused the band, tackling the issue of fatherhood. The track is the album's emotional center and is included in two versions. The second is a stripped-down acoustic version that serves as a bonus track that also wraps up the 57-minute record.

"So Long, Astoria" offers nothing new to fans acquainted with the group's previous efforts except for an abundance of more mature themes, which in some cases hinder "Astoria" from becoming a great pop-punk record.

"The record's overblown productions are a change from 2001's "End Is Forever," which had a more experimental and fresh feeling.

Upon first listen, "Astoria" doesn't offer any songs as instantly gratifying as "San Dimas High School Football Rules" was to their 1999 effort "Blue Skies, Broken Hearts ... Next 12 Exits." "Astoria" does deliver a head-bobbing cover of Don Henley's "Boys Of Summer," though.

Kris Roe wrote all the original material at home in Indiana to reflect his childhood and the experiences he gained. The leadoff single, "In This Diary," paints the picture of his typical summer and the revelation that growing up is better than being grown up.

"I moved a letter from a dying fan in Australia, Roe wrote one of "Astoria"'s finest tunes, "My Reply." The song mixes poignant lyrics that don't depress the listener and music that captures the feeling reflected through them, creating a song that is a welcome antidote to the current pop-punk scene (i.e. Sum 41 and Good Charlotte).

"Unopened Letter To The World" is probably the only example of how the band uses lyrics to describe settings and help the average listener see the image they craft for themselves. The former delivers a line that could come straight from Kurt Cobain: "If I die tomorrow / would this song live on forever / here is my / unopened letter to a world / that never will reply.

"The Saddest Song" explores new territory for the band, tackling the issue of fatherhood. The track is the album's emotional centerpiece and is included in two versions. The second is a stripped-down acoustic version that serves as a bonus track that also wraps up the 57-minute record.

"So Long, Astoria" holds its own against modern pop-punk classics such as Green Day's "Dookie" and Blink-182's "Enema of the State." Although it is not a revolutionary record that will change the face of popular music, it is a giant leap forward from the excursions of All-American Rejects and New Found Glory.

www.MustangDaily.Calpoly.edu
By John Duda

Mustang Daily

The story of a renegade cop who seeks revenge against the man who can bring him down — his former partner, a kingpin, a mysterious new drug lord

"IT's a circus — and after a while, it becomes an addiction," Griffin fancies himself the heir to Richard Pryor's comedic throne, with material that originates from a bleak, abusive childhood.

"I have nothing new to say with his concert film, like Pryor did with 1979's "Live in Concert," Griffin's irreverent, then he's really — has more in common with Martin Lawrence's similar stage rant in last summer's "Rundisick."

Director George Gallo repeatedly cuts away from the stage to shots of audience members hooting at Griffin's jokes — sometimes before he's even delivered the punch line — as if we need to be convinced that Griffin is funny. His funniest jokes are his clearest reason that it's his Michael Jackson impersonation is a crutch — and after a while, it

After a visit to Griffin's treatment he witnessed in his Uncle Bucky's mixed in with his comedy act, are more interesting. The documentary-style footage was shot on handheld video during a return to his hometown of Kansas City, Mo., where his concert took place. But the film only superficially suggests the impact his child-hood torment may have on him now that he's 34 and the star of films including "Uncovered Thief" and "Defective Take.

The belt-buckle beatings he endured from his mother, the homemade pom...
How much should the past really matter?

The fascination stems from the possibility that past decisions are the ones that make us who we are. Whether the term evokes recollections of an old friend, the painful memories of a failed relationship, or even the trauma of living through a devastating war, the past is a powerful force that shapes our present. It is through the lens of past experiences that we understand our actions and decisions. The past is not just a collection of events, but a story that influences our behavior and decisions in the present.

In the grand scheme of things at here at Cal Poly, choosing your seat in class isn't one of the biggest decisions you will make, but for some budding young academics it is either bliss or doom for the next 10 weeks of their lives. The question is, how much should the past really matter?

T he first week of classes is here again and, more importantly, this week holds the pivotal question: Where is the ideal seat to make the quarter not so much a drag? For the most part, where students choose to plant their tushes on the first day of class can determine, actually, all about location. There is the front of the class, where there are more distractions like a classmate that might as well be a brown-noser or a fellow classmate that might as well be a brown-noser or the professor. The middle? Where the professor is likely to observe and occasionally dole out. Now the middle - that seems to be a safe haven to be in, a superficial way, what kind of student are you?

There's another component that may be thrown into the crucial decision making of finding the right seat: Who are the familiar faces in your class? Everyone wants to know to sit with someone they can bond with. But does the past truly affect one's current societal role? The producers of Fox's "American Idol" think so. Frenchie Williams, picked as a contestant to compete on the show's second season, was disqualified after she told judges up front that she had admitted to stripping and was not disqualified. The producers of "American Idol" thought that the past will definitely impact a person negatively. It is true for all past historical events, the collective past of a nation, is ingrained into us. It is the United States that placed Saddam Hussein in power. It is the United States that trained and supplied Osama bin Laden. Maybe one day the world will find that it is not wise to be involved if it is the United States that placed Saddam Hussein in power. It is the United States that trained and supplied Osama bin Laden.

In some cases, the past will deservedly impact a person negatively. For instance, if a broker is convicted of stealing money from his clients, he should not be able to get a job. If he were able to, it may be a financially acceptable way of saying "nothing done," does it really matter? Nikita Khrushchev, a founder from the doss's first women, admitted to stripping and was not disqualified. The producers claimed that the difference is that the Web site in question has been used for over 20 years, but Fox's "American Idol" is only 10 years old - and therefore of age - at the time of her involvement. Did wearing some skimp underwears four years ago affect Frenchie's single shirt choice today? There is a big difference. Does the past really affect one's current societal role?

Letters to the editor

Bush's policies should be about peace

Editor,

It saddened me that a world community could rally around such an unjust war, one that will take the lives of thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians. The Bush administration hollers about weapons of mass destruction and the world threat created by Iraq's evil tyrant, Saddam Hussein, but about North Korea and China, where people already have nuclear weapons and significant military capability to wage war against any nation.

Iraq is a war that can be won, that is the only reason it is being waged as we speak. This is not just a war about oil. This is a war about Neo-American imperialism, the underlying causes of terrorism. This is a war about social and religious prejudices. For some reason, the world did not learn after World Wars I and II, and now we are Vietnam that is unanswered. Unresting diatics is the answer.

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David Haskell is a speech communication major and class president. Today's victims become tomorrow's molestors

Editor,

This letter is regarding Megan Meckowlowski's commentary "Molestors: Sickened Mentality, Not Physical." (March 14). While I wholeheartedly agree with her statement that a molestor's disease is psychological, I was not satisfied with the overall impression I got from reading her article. She spoke of child molestors as if they are some unrepentant evil that just came out of the darkness and should be punished.

This is just not the case. Child molestors are not born, they are made. Today's molestors are merely the victims of their victims. A particular type of child, possibly the worst, is just like child abuse in a whole. Child abuse is a disease of child molestors. It is the United States that placed Saddam Hussein in power. It is the United States that trained and supplied Osama bin Laden.

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such as Peru and Ethiopia, where the foundation has provided wheelchairs in the past. The chapter would like to raise $35,000 this year to cover the cost of the benefits and to send 280 wheelchairs to Ethiopia. Last year the foundation met its goal of $18,000, which funded 240 wheelchairs to Peru.

"Ethiopia has a large number of land mine victims, and the lack of mobility resources there, is a problem," Jackson said. "We want to raise at least $21,000 to send a larger container of wheelchairs this year," Cal Poly chapter adviser Lynn Metcalf said.

The team decided to support Ethiopia this year because of the lack of mobility resources there, Jackson said. "Ethiopia has a large number of land mine victims, and the Wheelchair Foundation has delivered that many wheelchairs to them," Jackson said. Once the delivery arrives in Ethiopia, local agencies distribute the wheelchairs to those in need, Metcalf said.

The family of founder Ken Behring sponsored two students who accompanied the delivery to Peru last year.

"Ethiopia has a large number of land mine victims, and the Wheelchair Foundation hasn't delivered that many wheelchairs to them," Jackson said.

The Cal Poly chapter was the first collegiate chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation. Behring's speech in April 2001 inspired the students to help the cause, Metcalf said.

The Gift of Mobility team consists of 11 Cal Poly students who work closely with the Wheelchair Foundation to provide wheelchairs throughout the world. It costs $75 to send each wheelchair, and any donations are appreciated, Metcalf said.

The ticket price for the auction is $30. "As one of the icons in classical quartet music, I wanted to see them at Cal Poly before they retire," Hoskins said. "The name may continue, but it won't be the same. It'll be a different brand."

The performance will feature compositions by Beethoven, "They all have excellent technique, wonderful tone, the best instruments, make excellent choices for their repertoire and are well-balanced with their instruments."

Ralph Hoskins
Cal Poly Arts director

Hoskins said. "We have generous contributors who make up the difference between ticket sales and expenses, excellent facilities and support, the best artists, make excellent choices for their repertoire and are well-balanced with their instruments."
The Mustangs' sweep of Southern Utah last week came in a pair of doubleheaders and was highlighted by the first Cal Poly no-hitter in 32 years. Freshman Garrett Olson went 7 2/3 innings and sophomore Tony Saepoe finished off the Thunderbirds to preserve the no-hit effort in last Friday's 7-0 win in the second game of the doubleheader.

In addition to the quality pitching, the Mustangs batted exploded for 53 runs on 62 hits in the series. "Ofensively we've stepped it up quite well. We're still not quite sure if we can beat a quality pitcher," head coach Larry Lee said. "Defensively we've worked on it at times, but have a tendency to self-destruct."

Junior outfielders Sam Herbert and Pat Breen lead the offensive attack for the Mustangs. Herbert recorded six hits in game one of the series against Southern Utah and has boosted his batting average to a team-high .404. Breen also had a strong road trip, with three home runs and seven RBIs.

"Herbert and Breen have been our most consistent players throughout the season," Lee said. "Herbert has been hot since day one. He's really our catalyst at the top of the lineup. If he's having a good day, we're going to have a good day offensively." But Breen, meanwhile, can suddenly spark the Mustangs.

"Breen is our impact player who with one swing of the bat has been able to change the complexion of the game," Lee said.

"Realistically for us, we know that we need to either come in first or second in order to make the playoffs and attend a regional," Lee said. "As a team, we think that's definitely a goal that's within our reach."

"In Nebraska it was cold, and it snowed in Utah," second baseman Adam Leavitt said. "It will be nice to have a three-game series here at Baggett. The weather will hopefully be cooperative."

The Highlanders enter the Big West opener as the league's best hitting team at .338. Ryan Harvey leads the offensive barrage with a conference-best .464 average and is followed by teammates Randy Blood (.384) and Bruns Woddenbrock (.383). Although they are focused on the series at hand, the Mustangs can't deny that the postseason is weighing on their minds.

"Forget the team's early-season struggles and poor offensive performance. Herbert and Breen have been our most consistent players throughout the season," Lee said. "Herbert has been hot since day one. He's really our catalyst at the top of the lineup. If he's having a good day, we're going to have a good day offensively." But Breen, meanwhile, can suddenly spark the Mustangs.

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After Cinderella run, best is yet to come for Poly athletes

Great things often go unnoticed. When I first learned I'd be doing this column a few weeks ago, a number of different sentiments passed over me: Excitement, nervousness, nauseousness... I also felt somewhat disheartened.

There are so many sports I can't write much about. It seemed when I started considering my column options that every sport I felt passionately about had already ended. I wish I could forecast the success I envision for next year's football team or describe what a wonderful surprise it was discovering women's volleyball last fall, but each team finished their seasons ago.

Then there's men's basketball.

For anyone who spent last quarter comatose, in a Siberian prison or somewhere else far, far away from Mott Gym, it hopefully comes as no surprise that the Mustangs came close to winning the Big West Tournament and qualifying for the "Big Dance" — the NCAA Tournament.

Cal Poly went on a Cinderella run through the Big West Championships but it ended against Utah State, as the Aggies beat the Mustangs 57-54 March 15 in the tournament finals.

What a season, though. Forgive Cal Poly fans an unspectacular 16-14. Forget the team's early-season sluggishness. From the beginning, the Mustangs were stacked and talented at every recent Mott ambassadors. I remember attending a preseason exhibition and thinking, "Damn, these guys are loaded," as I fist-bumped through the media guide with hues of returning stars like Vannie Dennis and Jason Allen along those of big-name transfers like swingman Shane Schilling (Minnesota) and power forward Dakota Cumberland (University of Portland).

The situation for next season is not markedly worse. Schilling could join Dennis on the All-Big West first team. Rebounding presence Phil Johnson will also be back.

Only the guard core is graduating, and the Mustangs go up against 22-6 UC Riverside this weekend.

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