Countdown to GRADUATION

Winter registration has already begun. Seniors hoping to graduate are encouraged to visit their adviser to ensure they will meet all requirements.

By Micah Paulson

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Did you know that to take toward the end of the college experience, a degree can be as difficult as pulling teeth from a living, breathing alligator? As college life closes, the four day a week, sleeping until noon class schedule of a freshman or sophomore becomes impossible. Between the classes necessary to complete a major, a possible minor, general education courses and upper division electives the process can be difficult.

"The system is OK, they just need people to be more informed," said Courtney Dahl, social science senior. "They need a better way to inform students about going to an adviser. Some students don't even know they have the option."

Soon the curriculum sheets used to track degree progress will no longer be used. A computerized advising and tracking system, called "Poly Progress," will show what units students have completed, and give recommendations to reach individual degree requirements.

"Poly Progress is going to be wonderful once it is up and running," said Wendy Syrdalen, academic advisor for the College of Liberal Arts. "It will be the answer that everyone is looking for."

A "Poly Progress" assessment will be sent to students in a PDF file, via e-mail. It will require students to return.

Word Street

Students speak on campus issues

Do you feel prepared for graduation?

"I'm prepared if there is a job out there for me." — Alex Siegel, marketing and management senior

"No, because I'm not sure if I'll be able to get all my classes." — Jeff Cook, ecology and systematic biology senior

"Yes, because since I was a freshman I've been taking classes that will prepare me." — Anne VanHollebeke, liberal studies senior

Fires close down campuses

By Nancy Su

DAILY BRUIN (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES)

LOS ANGELES — The University of California, San Diego, as well as three California State University campuses, closed Monday in response to the fires that have engulfed Southern California.

CSU San Bernardino evacuated students Saturday before small spot fires northeast of the campus destroyed one temporary building containing five classrooms and damaged another temporary classroom and a temporary student fitness center, said Sid Robinson, a spokesperson for the university.

Residential students who did not have friends and relatives to stay with were evacuated to temporary shelters set up at the former Norton Air Force Base, according to a statement from the university.

UCSD, Cal State San Marcos and San Diego State University also closed down their campuses Monday because of their proximity to the fires but did not evacuate students. As of Monday afternoon, classes at all three campuses were expected to resume Tuesday.

California's deadliest fire outbreak in more than a decade has destroyed at least 1,134 homes, killed at least 15 people and consumed more than 400,000 acres stretching from the Mexican border to the suburbs north-west of Los Angeles. It is also threatening at least 30,000 more homes.

"This will be the most expensive fire in California history, both in loss of property and the cost of fighting it," Dallas Jones, director of the state Office of Emergency Services, said in a telephone news conference Monday.

Managers of California's power grid estimated that 70,000 to 85,000 Southern California customers were without electricity because fires had damaged transmission lines.
**EVENTS continued from page 1**

**McPherson will not run**

SANTA CRUZ (AP) — Sen. Bruce McPherson, R-Santa Cruz, has ended speculation about his future, declaring that he will not seek elective office next year.

"I'm not ready to retire and plan on being actively involved in politics and policy, but it won't be as a member of the California State Assembly or the United States Congress in 2004," McPherson said Tuesday during an announcement.

McPherson was rumored to be considering a run for Congress, where he would have challenged Rep. Sam Farr, D-Carmel.

Evacuees travel north to escape Southland fires

SANTA BARBARA (AP) — Some southern California residents seeking to flee the smoke, traffic and uncertainty caused by days of raging wildfires are traveling north.

The fires have created an unlikely boost to tourism in the Santa Barbara area.

Ammie Rogers, director of the Chamber of Commerce Garden Street Visitors Center, said people are calling to ask what the air quality is like.

"A lot of people are calling from L.A. We have been really busy because people were trying to get away from the fires, the traffic jams."

**HOMECOMING 2003: THE SPIRIT OF CAL POLY TODAY'S SPIRIT POINT TALLY**

**Corrections**

Mustang Daily is committed to correcting errors found in the newspaper. If you believe an error has been made please contact Mustang Daily via e-mail at mustangdaily@calpoly.edu.

• In a front page news article in the Oct. 29 issue wrongly stated that a Cuesta Grade fire was contained. CDF fully contained the blaze by 6 p.m. Tuesday.

• In the Spirit Point tally on page 2 of the Oct. 28 issue provided an inaccurate total for the Cal Poly Rose Float organization. The currently have 700 points.

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**Is Graduate or Professional School in your future?**

**Graduate & Professional School Day**

Friday, November 7, 2003
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Career Services
Cal Poly, Building 124 ▲ 756-2501 ▲ www.careerservices.calpoly.edu
KENT, Wash. — A man accused of raping his infant daughter has pleaded guilty in a deal that could spare him years in prison.

Joseph Lehman Jr., 36, whose father heads the state Corrections Department, pleaded guilty to child rape charges Tuesday in King County Superior Court.

If a judge concurs with the agreement, Lehman Jr. would serve six months in jail, receive at least three years of treatment for sexual deviancy and be under lifetime corrections supervision.

WHEELER — A 61-year-old man who stockpiled ammunition and told police a race war was coming pleaded guilty Wednesday to misdemeanor weapons charges, saying he had been demonized by the media and could never expect a fair trial.

Lovell Wheeler spent nearly four months in jail after police seized gunpowder, guns and ammunition from his home. He was unrepentant and said he would plead not guilty.

Lehman Jr., pleaded guilty to child rape charges Tuesday in King County District Court.

LONDON — A special commission on Wednesday backed controversial British anti-terror laws passed after the Sept. 11 attacks, rejecting the appeal of 10 suspected terrorists who argued there was not enough evidence to detain them without trial.

Prime Minister Tony Blair’s government welcomed the decision as an affirmation of its legislation.

But defense attorney Gareth Peirce said the decision “marks the entry of this country into a new dark age of injustice. Security has been chosen over due process.”

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombia’s new air force commander said Wednesday he would not hesitate to order suspected drug flights shot down if they are tracked by U.S. and Colombian authorities and ignore warnings to land.

President Bush in August authorized the resumption of drug surveillance flights over Colombia, suspended 2 1/2 years ago after a U.S. missionary plane was mistakenly shot down over Peru. Under new guidelines, the commander of the Colombian air force must give the order to shoot down a suspicious plane if it has ignored radio warnings and warning shots from Colombian warplanes.

The SARP Center has provided sexual assault recovery and prevention services to survivors, significant others and family members for over 25 years. Join us in saying NO! to sexual assault in our community.

PAID FOR WITH DONATIONS FROM THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
**JOBS**  
continued from page 1

work with my brothers and be my boss," Gallagher said. "By working with a medium-sized contracting firm it will open up some doors and help with networking, so I will be able to hopefully build relationships with industry professionals."  

The rate of employment for Cal Poly students is higher than other universities around the nation. In the 2001-02 academic year, 65 percent of graduates were employed full-time according to the Graduate Status Report and 24 percent went on to graduate school.

Industrial technology senior Jordan Thomas will begin the IT graduate program at Cal Poly as soon as he gets his bachelor of science degree. "I think some students need some extra time to find their direction and I think that obtaining a graduate degree shows prospective employers that you are willing to put in more work than other applicants," Thomas said.

Thomas’ ultimate goal is to get involved in technical consulting. After breaking into the industry, it is important to find a niche and know it inside and out. Thomas said. "The median salary of Cal Poly industrial technology graduates is $44,000.

"If you are having a hard time finding a jumping off point, it is beneficial to speak with a career counselor at the Cal Poly Career Center," Shed Burrell, interim director of Career Services, said. "There are counselors that specialize in each college and have a lot of expertise in the industry that are familiar with employers and can instruct you on applying to graduate schools."

Career counselors can show students how to contact perspective employers, find information of graduate programs, and help with resumes. Students can schedule an appointment or drop in everyday between 1 to 4 p.m., for advice, Burrell said.

"These without a plan shouldn’t panic yet. Mustang Jobs, on the Career Services Web site, is one of many resources available to job hunters. Seventeen percent of Cal Poly students who graduated last year and were job online, this week second to personal referrals, which came in at 34 percent.

Career Services offer numerous workshops, career fairs and will set up interviews with some of the most prestigious corporations in the nation throughout the year. For more information visit www.careerservices.calpoly.edu.

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**Check out the NEW Mustang Daily distribution units!**

(Open with caution)

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**GRADUATION**

continued from page 1

Graudates to inform the Office of Academic Records on information such as concentrations, minors and adviser approved electives so it can provide accurate course selection advice. 

Even though Poly Progress sounds less awkward than the system now in place, some are hesitant to embrace the change. "I've heard mixed reviews about 'Poly Progress,'" said John Hampsey, English professor and student adviser. "In terms of being able to decipher the information, some of it could be confusing."

Some students, like Dahl, do their own research to figure out what classes they need to take to get their degree.

Though every department is different, the English department requires incoming freshmen and first year transfer students to meet with an adviser prior to their second quarter at Cal Poly. "Students receive a personal letter that welcomes them and says we would like to see them by such and such a date," Hampsey said. "If they don’t show, we put their registration on hold. It’s a strong arm approach, but it works."

Besides going to the adviser, there is one staff member at each Cal Poly college that concentrates on advising rather than teaching. "Not all faculty fully understand all the requirements," said Kathryn Rumell, assistant chair of the English department. "Students get good advice for their specific majors, but not necessarily for general education courses.

"That’s where college advisers are hands."

The general consensus among students and staff is that seeking guidance is important. Along with visiting advisers and faculty, it is helpful to know the course catalog, submit a graduation evaluation at least one year before graduating and make sure upper division support courses are approved. "Sometimes students meet the requirements for their degree and end up without enough upper division elective completed to graduate," Speadlin said.

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**CAMPUS SURVEY: Graduation is approaching quickly**

Results from 50 students randomly surveyed reveal that while students have mixed feelings about the effectiveness of their adviser, a handful are confident they will graduate on time.

Q: Has your adviser helped you prepare for graduation?

- Strongly Agree 14 percent
- Agree 16 percent
- Neutral 14 percent
- Disagree 28 percent

Q: How positive are you that you will graduate on time/when you anticipate?

- Strongly Agree 14 percent
- Agree 36 percent
- Neutral 16 percent
- Disagree 16 percent

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**Simply Skin**

by Mary Lee

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**Check out the NEW Mustang Daily distribution units!**

(Open with caution)

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**MUSTANG DAILY**

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**Check it out the NEW Mustang Daily distribution units!**

(Open with caution)
House cats and ferrets can get the SARS virus and pass it to other animals, a new study shows, raising the obvious question: Can they give it to people?

"You might want to quarantine the pets as well as the people," suggested Dr. Robert Shope, an expert on emerging diseases at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. "If it's been shown that the virus can transmit from cat to cat, it doesn't make much of a leap of faith that it will transmit to humans."

Other scientists who have studied SARS say pet owners shouldn't overreact, however.

"These animals in all likelihood did not play a significant role in spread of (SARS) to humans," said Dr. Klaus Osterhaus said.

In China, where SARS festered for months before it grew into a world-wide menace this year, exotic raccoon-dogs, ferret badgers and civets imported into markets have been found harboring a germ that's almost identical to the SARS virus.

Researchers discovered the vulnerability of cats and ferrets to SARS while searching for animals to test potential vaccines.

Their study, which will appear in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature, also notes a separate report that cats were found infected with the virus in a Hong Kong apartment complex where residents contracted SARS last year.

Cats and ferrets are the first pets included on an exotic list of animals scientists think may be able to harbor the virus. However, the virus seems to be so versatile that it could have jumped to humans from a variety of animals, co-author Albert D.M.E. Osterhaus said.

"Cats and ferrets are only distantly related," he said. "So this demonstrates the promiscuous nature of the virus."

The origin of the virus that killed 774 people remains unknown. Scientists believe people may have gotten the virus from animals that were infected by another source.

In China, where SARS festered for months before it grew into a world-wide menace this year, exotic raccoon-dogs, ferret badgers and civets imported into markets have been found harboring a germ that's almost identical to the SARS virus.

The exotic animals were taken off the market for several months, but some markets have begun selling them again, said Dr. Henk Bolhuis, the WHO's representative in Beijing.

Because of the possibility that animals can spread the respiratory virus, WHO has suggested that animals in China and elsewhere be tested for SARS and other diseases before they are eaten.

"We should stay away from animals who are known or likely to transmit the SARS coronavirus," Stehr said.

A SARS infection can cause flu-like symptoms, including a high fever, head and body aches, congestion and breathing trouble. About 8,100 people are thought to have been sickened by the virus between November 2002 and July, according to the WHO.

For the Nature study, researchers inoculated six cats and six ferrets with the virus cultured from a person who developed cold and shaking chills before they were eaten.

"We should stay away from animals who are known or likely to transmit the SARS coronavirus," Stehr said.

The cats did not appear to have been infected with the virus. The ferrets became lethargic, and one of them died four days after it was inoculated.

Scientists also placed two healthy cats and two healthy ferrets with the infected animals. The healthy ferrets showed signs of SARS infection after two days. The ferrets became encephalitic and eventually died about two weeks later, though Osterhaus said he is uncertain whether this was due to the virus.

Stehr and Koplan both questioned the results of the study. Stehr said the healthy animals were infected so quickly that he wondered whether the cultured virus was simply rubbed onto them from close contact with their recently inoculated cage mates.

Koplan said too few animals were used to reach a firm conclusion about how cats and ferrets become infected.
Prescription drugs abused at many colleges

By Sherrie-Anne Stacy
DAILY PRESS (UNIVERSITY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA)

LOS ANGELES — The abuse of prescription drugs is common among college students.

Even with prevention programs and warning labels on bottles of prescription drugs, the pressure of college students sometimes be too much.

Students have so many things to juggle — from doing well in school to maintaining a social life — that they often look for ways to help them cope, said Dr. Fred Weissmen, associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy.

Students will take prescription drugs because the drugs help them temporarily stay awake, increase awareness and concentration, and give an overall feeling of elation.

Drugs are prescribed drugs, the pressure of college academic affairs at the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy.

Weissmen says that many students don't stop to think about what taking medication they don't need can do to their body.

Prescription drug abuse can happen when a person takes more than the prescribed dosage of a medicine or illegally obtains medication he or she does not need.

In 2001, the National Institution for Drug Abuse estimated that 9 million people 12 years or older used prescription drugs for non-medical reasons.

The 16- to 25-year-old age group was the most likely to abuse the drugs. Students may be trying to "remove themselves from the tension and pace of daily life, placing themselves in a fiction of happiness," Weissmen said.

The problem comes when people try to achieve that feeling of euphoria all the time.

"People think that if they feel good, they must do what they can to continue to feel good," Weissman said. "It's very much a physiological problem. The body will, however, eventually demand more medication to achieve the same effects."

After an incident at another university in the early 1990s when prescription drugs were dispensed to student athletes on the field without a doctor's consent, the student athletic program at USC implemented safety precautions, said Russell Ramano, head athletic trainer for intercollegiate athletes.

"At other institutions, there may be problems," Romano said, "but not on this campus."

Physicians and orthopedic doctors regularly see student athletes. They often prescribe a variety of anti-inflammatory drugs and antibiotics.

All the medications at USC are kept locked up and separated from each other as they should be, he adds. There are very specific records who gave how much medicine to whom.

Since 2001, every prescribed medication has accounted for and everything has come in and gone out balanced, he said.

FDA may reintroduce silicone breast implants despite safety concerns

By Jonathan Talbot
THE DAILY FREE PRESS (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)

BOSTON — Women in the United States may soon be able to buy silicone breast implants — the three-to-life alternative to the saline implants currently available in the states — a decade after the implants were banned amid concerns of negative long-term health effects such as cancer and connective tissue disease.

An advisory panel to the federal Food and Drug Administration split 9-6 on Oct. 15, recommending the FDA approve the marketing of a particular implant for breast reconstruction or enlargement, provided that its manufacturer agrees to additional conditions.

The FDA follows the recommendations of such panels in nearly all cases.

The advisory panel considered information from various sources in making its decision, including the results of a short multi-year clinical trial run by INAMED (a California-based company seeking approval for silicone implants) of about 500 women who received the implants.

That study suggested silicone implants have comparable or slightly fewer risks of complications than do implants filled with saline, which have been on the market for decades, according to the study.

The most common breast implant complication is the need for additional surgery. This problem occurred with both saline and silicone implants in nearly a quarter of breasts.

FDA may reinroduce silicone breast implants despite safety concerns

"I think that the study was about as good as it could be, but I thought the data was not analyzed sufficiently." Brent Blumenstein, a statistics expert who sat on the panel, voted against the recommendation.

"I think those of ens who voted against were all concerned with the risk characterization," he said, referring to the way the risks were described in the study. "I think that the study was about as good as it could be, but I thought the data was not analyzed sufficiently."

Four plastic surgeons on the panel, including Chang, voted as well to block approval, with conditions. No member of the advisory panel voted to recommend approval without additional conditions on the manufacturer.

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On The Rocks
WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Want to know how not to do it? Let us tell you where you could end up. Every Friday find your party specials in On The Rocks.
By Deanna Gallen

The tradition was passed down through the generations. Americans have been carving jack-o'-lanterns out of pumpkins for over 200 years. It is such a part of the Halloween spirit that it sparks pumpkin carving contests, where people will talk for years to come about the craziest costumes and the coolest jack-o'-lanterns of the night.

"The one I can remember was a carving of little monsters etched into a whole pumpkin," art and design senior Ruben Diaz said. "A small stove light flickered inside."

Diaz offered an artist's tip on pumpkin carving.

"Don't use a big chef's knife but an exact knife to get in and detail the back out of the sucker," Diaz said.

He also said small, intricately carved pumpkins get more attention than huge, overstuffed jack-o'-lanterns.

Some have neither the time nor the ability to create a Van Gogh, but there is hope.

The Internet offers free printable templates, or, if you'd like me, you can keep it simple and freehand a face with a few geometric shapes.

The key to carving the perfect jack-o'-lantern is just a little Halloween spirit — and some elbow grease.

Deanna Gallen

MUSTANG DAILY
TRICK-OR-CHEATERS?

While some residents welcome college-aged trick or treaters, others cry foul when older kids try to score some candy.

Story by Meghan Reeslev
Photo Illustration by Matt Wechter
**Kids vs. older ‘kids’: the trick-or-treating dilemma**

By Meghan Reeslev

**MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER**

Children look forward to Halloween. The holiday brings haunted houses, jack-o’-lanterns, ghosts and goblins, funny costumes and trick-or-treating.

Most Cal Poly students have long forgotten the days of dressing-up for candy, but some still eagerly await it when Halloween comes around.

“My roommates and I plan on handing out candy to trick-or-treaters,” biology major Mia White said. “Collecting for UNICEF is a little too old-fashioned for me.”

“My first reaction is that college students would be competing with the little ones for the candy,” San Luis Obispo resident Clara Becklund said. “I think that this is a sign of immaturity.”

“I would rather have them do something benign and harmless like trick-or-treating than something malignant that is going to harm them,” aerospace engineering junior Brett Toepper said.

Other residents agree with White and Becklund. Halloween nights of their youth to illustrate their opinions.

“I think it’s kind of funny if (college students) are trying to fool people into thinking they are younger by dressing up,” San Luis Obispo business consultant Matt Herlihy said. “When I was in high school my friends and I dressed up as Barbie dolls. Trick-or-treating is all about fun.”

Ron Schmitz, another San Luis Obispo resident, concurred that college trick-or-treaters are harmless, as long as they are doing it in good, clean fun.

“No, I can’t wait. They’re all weird.”

“I think trick-or-treating is more of a kids’ thing,” aerospace engineering junior Brett A. V. said. “I think that 13 or 14 should be the cut-off for trick-or-treating.”

Despite most people’s welcoming of young trick-or-treaters, some are weary of all participa­tors of the Halloween tradition. One resident, who wanted to remain unnamed, conveyed this message in two words: “Grow up.”

Freaky flicks: get gory, eat candy, laugh and scream in terror

By Joel Moore

**Oxford, Miss. — Halloween is just around the corner and, as a personal favor to each of you, I’ve compiled a list of horror movies you may find enjoyable.

This 1988 British film centers around a young art student named Lloyd. Lloyd, by 28 Days Later, is the story of a viral epidemic that wipes out the population of England by turning them into brain-zapping zombies.

There’s something about a “Book of the Dead” and people getting trapped in alternate universes, but the real fun comes from watching Campbell kick some serious butt. “Dead” is the prequel to the bigger-budget “Connecticut Yankee” twist, “Army of Darkness,” which you might have seen.

“Jacob’s Ladder” is a fittingly spooky film. The deliberately hammy script and overbear­ing images are a perfect complement to some incredibly funny death scenes.

There are two movies that I have mixed feelings about. San Luis Obispo resident Don Lyle said, “I would rather have them do something benign and harmless like trick-or-treating than doing some goofy image out for eyes and knock on doors with my kids.”

“When the person answered I would say, ‘Trick-or-treat, smell my feet, give me something good to eat,”’ a San Luis Obispo student said.

“I think trick-or-treating is more of a kids’ thing,” aerospace engineering junior Brett A. V. said. “I think that 13 or 14 should be the cut-off for trick-or-treating.”

Despite most people’s welcoming of young trick-or-treaters, some are weary of all participa­tors of the Halloween tradition. One resident, who wanted to remain unnamed, conveyed this message in two words: “Grow up.”

We’ve never been freaked out until we’ve been freaked out by a possessed 12-year-old girl masquerading as a crucifix.

Actually, I take that back. There is another way to be freaked out:

**“Hell House”**

Having been to an actual “Hell House” in a small town not too far away, I can honestly say that, man, those people were weird.

For the uninitiated in Southern Baptist prac­tices, “Hell Houses” are haunted houses put on by churches that try to scare the hell out of folks by exposing them to gruesome drunk driving accidents, bloody abortions gone wrong and gory people dying of AIDS all alone in their little hotel rooms. Really. The documentary “Atrocities” follows the nation’s largest such operation in Cedar Hill, Texas.

In fact, each year, more than 10,000 people tour this Hell House.

It’s one of the more even-handed documen­taries I’ve seen. The filmmakers never go for the easy laugh, rather, actually doing a pretty good job explaining people’s justification for it.

It’s alternately funny and frightening, but never less than engaging.

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Letters to the editor

Articles sent the wrong message to men

Editor,

I got a little upset while reading a letter to the editor by Justin Faustino. "Ladies should use common sense (Oct. 23)." How can anyone in this day and age still think it's okay to blame us for the actions of a criminal. But then I thought, "No, wait, maybe there's some reason for this young man's complete lack of respect for women." I decided to look back at the previous Mustang Daily with the mind-set a lesser, more ignorant (a man's) mind, and I had to admit, there are times I probably would have to tell myself I was just a little bit drunk, too. The Mustang Daily had an article about how we women need to watch our drinks, but they never told men to stop drinking them.

They had an article about police finding girls who had too much to drink, but nothing about police finding men who have committed rape. They had an article about a victim of rape and her battle with the trauma, but they never mentioned the consequences men have to face for raping women (i.e. jail time or a future ruined).

They chastised women for drinking too much, but neglected to implicate on the male reader the severity of this crime and the reality of the discrimination that underlines this act. The sole focus was on what women must do to stop rape, so why shouldn't some young impressionable male assume that it is completely a woman's responsibility.

If the Oct. 23 issue of Mustang Daily did anything, it made matters worse. It didn't say: "Hey, men, stop raping women!" It said: "Hey, women, are going to try to rape you, but here are some things you can do to better your odds."

What kind of message did you think this would send? Men need to start taking responsibility for their actions.

Shea Ellison is an aerospace engineering senior.

Police work hard to prevent sexual assault

Editor,

I agree that the quote box that appeared in "Police Ride-Along (Oct. 23)" might lead the LPD back as if they were blaming victims, but the truth of the matter is, again, it was not very good judgment on Mustang Daily's part.

While I applaud the Daily in presenting very important information on sexual assault, it is a matter of presenting that information in the most accurate way.

The statement was made by Sue Murphy, and I believe she is one of the most concerned individuals in San Luis Obispo with regard to sexual assault. I think that many people on this campus and in the community have very good intentions to help but will hang in line with regard to what they have done on behalf of survivors from both the LPD and SLOPD.

The University Police have been working and bending over backwards to add more resources to this serious issue and I am immensely thankful for their partnership. I would be willing to guarantee that anyone reporting a sexual assault will find services of both SLOPD and LPD to be respectful and helpful.

Maya L. Andlig is the coordinator of gender and sexuality programs for Student Life and Leadership.

Thank you for devoting the front-page articles of Oct. 22 Mustang Daily to sex crimes on campus.

I also appreciate the Mustang editor's response in the "staff editor" to the complaints voiced with regard to the sex columns. I was personally appalled by the Sept. 25 "Nothing finer than fresh" column written by James Whitaker. I found it, indeed, horribly degrading to women.

My sincere hope is that Mr. Whitaker while endeavoring to be "edgy and fresh," will also keep in mind that this campus has an excellent tradition of trying to raise awareness of sexual assault on campus and seeks to promote safety, particularly, for women. Outstanding efforts to this end have been made, especially, through Remember Week during Spring semester. Hopefully, what appears in Mustang Daily will support, not be in direct opposition to this effort.

Sister Mary Pat White is an employee of the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry.

Letter policy

Letters become the property of the Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation and length. Letters, comments and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing.

By mail:

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

By phone:

(805) 756-6784
mustangeditor@calpoly.edu

Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

Attention: Your letter will not be printed unless you submit it in the correct format.

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Brian Kent, Crystal Myran, photo editors
James Murdy, Student Life editor
Sister Mary Pat, Student Life adviser

Mustang Daily continues to serve the San Luis Obispo community and seeks to promote safety, particularly, for women. Outstanding efforts to this end have been made, especially, through Remember Week during Spring semester. Hopefully, what appears in Mustang Daily will support, not be in direct opposition to this effort.

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Mustang Daily
A holiday to remove our masks

Halloween isn’t about scaring anyone anymore. It’s about becoming the person we secretly want to be... or at least embody some of his or her characteristics. It’s sometimes hard to imagine people who are dressed in the same cliché ensembles, year after year: Pimp’s n’ ho’s, gang-sters, and comic book characters. The truth is, dressing up is a form of self-expression. Whether it’s a costume that exudes confidence or a costume that makes you feel inferior, dressing up allows us to escape from our normal routines and social norms.

Opinion
Halloween is traditionally for adults

Halloween’s just around the bend, and it’s time I got my cave costume out of the closet. You know, the costume I’m talking about. It’s a club and some animal skin. Oh dang, those pesky moths ate my loincloth... again. I guess I’ll have to go au naturel for another year. It’s okay though, because real cavemen do it in the nude. I’m not the only adult who enjoys “All Hallows’ Eve.” Year after year, more grown-ups are dressing up and taking their holiday back.

Commentary
They’re doing it. Those marauding Celts have been celebrating the feast of Samhain (the end of summer and beginning of a new year) for centuries. They believed that when the cyclical nature of time reverted upon itself and the veil between the dead and the living was thinnest, the dead could supposedly come back to the land of the living for one day of the year (I knew I wasn’t really a witch when I went to my grandmother’s tomb and opened it up, leaving the way well-lit so she could come join me for supper).

These traditions associated with the Feast of the Dead have moved into the new millennium as just another day of candy and partying in a mask. In fact, dressing up in Halloween costumes goes back to those feisty British islanders, as well. This was the day the Scots were allowed to revere gender roles. That’s right. Cross-dressing and getting drunk were the predecessors of modern Halloween trick-or-treating.

The catch: It was an adults-only game.

The Catholic Church usurped the seventh feast of Samhain, much as it did nearly every other pagan holiday and meaning again within the Christian tradition. The only dead it allowed to be celebrated were its dead canons of saints, and thus the name “All Hallows’ Eve.”

All Hallows’ Eve eventually become Halloween, and in turn got trivialized and commercialized by today’s pop-culture to the point that we don’t even know why we are dressing up.

It’s not bad for adults to dress up. Or dress down, as is the case for some of the more overtly sexual costumes that are being sold in stores. All Hallows’ Eve eventually became Halloween, and in turn got trivialized and commercialized by today’s pop-culture to the point that we don’t even know why we are dressing up.

More letters to the editor

A list of suggestions to improve the UU
Editor,
As this is my second year at Cal Poly, I have had plenty of time to think of ways to improve our tiny campus. More than anything, the University Union needs improvement. I have compiled this list of ideas for “The Amazing University Union Renovation 2004.”

1. Sell all chairs on eBay and use the profits to buy beer. Everyone sleeps in the UU anyway, so we might as well make easy cash.
2. Take down all the abstract paintings that no one can make sense of and replace them with posters of John Wayne, Luke Skywalker, Peter Griffin and the kid from “A Christmas Story.”
3. Replace all the chains in Chumash Auditorium with a gigantic Slip ’n Slide. Finally, but most importantly, we need to hook up an X-Box to that big screen TV. Everyone knows that a good way to win over a girl is to point out some problems with the system that screwed you over. My friend and I are just a couple of the many girls who are turned off by the University Union.

Halloween isn’t about scaring anyone anymore. It’s about being the person we secretly want to be... or at least embody some of his or her characteristics. It’s sometimes hard to imagine people who are dressed in the same cliché ensembles, year after year: Pimp’s n’ ho’s, gang-sters, and comic book characters. The truth is, dressing up is a form of self-expression. Whether it’s a costume that exudes confidence or a costume that makes you feel inferior, dressing up allows us to escape from our normal routines and social norms.

I'm reminded of Jim Carrey's character in the movie “The Mask.” When the lawman refused to buy the “real” mask, Carrey revealed the author of the book “The Masks We Wear.” The psychologist tells Jim Carrey’s character that people wear many masks to shield their own insecurities. Perhaps it’s a way to shield ourselves from our own insecurities.

I’m not here to tell Cal Poly to do its own thing. I’m here to point out some problems with the system that screwed me over. At age 18, there are a few of us who were blessed enough to know what we wanted to do with our life, but for the rest, like Matt, this choice was just a bubble-in on the Cal Poly application. It cannot be expected that students should have to adhere to their career decisions as an 18-year-old or face the consequences of being kicked out of school. I see a problem with this school’s focus on failure. Matt was kicked out of school and not let back in due to his failure in engineering. This failure was extrinsic, because he was a mechanical engineering student. This was a poor career choice in a few short months, instead of the years it usually takes. The university needs to fix its career counseling, which is dismally poor. Matt has already picked out his pumpkin and repeatedly assured me that he is going to “… get the most candy, and be the coolest kid in town.”

I'm not the only adult who enjoys “All Hallows’ Eve.”

Bill Wright

More letters to the editor

Election editor,
In response to “Abortion is about health, not politics” (Oct. 28), I must ask Mr. Hayes if he can provide any documented medical cases (even a hypothetical one would do) of when a partial birth abortion could save a woman’s life. The way I understand the female reproductive system, and here my understanding is certainly lacking, that in order for the opportunity to perform a partial birth abortion to come about, any damage that could be done as a result of the pregnancy has been done. The argument of the columnist may hold water concerning other types of abortions, but a simple look at the old uterine/hollow tube/gagina diagram seems to show that partial birth abortions would not have any effect on mincing the body caused by a ectopic pregnancy or the like. It’s too far downstream.

The point of the article is based on practical arguments, which are grounded in situations so abstract they lose any touch with the real world, and thus, their practicality.

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The point of the article is based on practical arguments, which are grounded in situations so abstract they lose any touch with the real world, and thus, their practicality.

Stephen Aker is a mechanical engineering sophomore.

An unborn child is human and alive Editor,

Barry Hayes’ article “Abortion is about health, not politics” (Oct. 28) assumes that the unborn is neither human nor alive by saying, “It’s a matter of supporting the rights of women who choose to continue to do so.”

If the unborn is human and alive, doesn’t it deserve to live? So shouldn’t the debate be over whether the unborn is human and alive or whether the Constitution supports the rights of everyone continuing to live?”

Andrew Hatfield is an aerospace engineering sophomore.
School districts inspect defective buses

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Nevada school districts are inspecting buses for defective welds that safety officials say could lead to serious injuries if there is an accident.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in June recommended a nationwide inspection of Carpenter buses after one overturned in Florida. The roof of the bus collapsed to the level of the seats. No children were on the bus.

The Washoe County school board on Tuesday approved an additional $200,000 to buy about a dozen new buses on a lease-purchase program. The district has already budgeted $400,000 this year to buy new buses.

"This is not only a problem for us, but also for many other school districts in the state," said Washoe County Superintendent Jim Hager.

Washoe County crews found 69 out of 71 Carpenter buses had cracked or broken welds. In all, the district has about 300 buses.

Officials said 15 of the defective vehicles have been taken off the road. Minor problems were found in 56 buses will be repaired and the buses remain in service. "It is absolutely safe to transport students in these buses," said Kurt Stowe, the district's transportation director. "If it wasn't, we would have parked them ourselves."

In Carson City, officials are inspecting the district's 17 Carpenter buses to assess the possible damage. So far, four of six buses inspected need rewelding, said Kevin Curnes, Carson City schools transportation director.

Curnes said the district's other 11 Carpenter buses are being inspected by the Nevada Highway Patrol. "We're only allowed to repair once if the weld is not too bad," he told school trustees Tuesday. "After that, they have to be taken out of service and can only be sold as scrap."

In its advisory, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said buses with minor problems could remain in service for short, in-town routes that didn't require high speeds.

"That was the recommendation we got from both the national and state transportation authorities," said Mike Mitchell, Carson City schools' director of operations.

At top speed, they'll only be going 25 to 35 mph through town," he said.

The Clark County School District, the largest in the state, has taken 21 of its Carpenter buses off the road.

School buses are being inspected for defective roof welding. Many of the buses had cracked or broken welds.

Los Angeles schools cut candy, junk

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Candy bars and fried chips will disappear from vending machines in the city's schools next July, joining a ban on sodas in a push to fight childhood obesity, officials said.

The Los Angeles Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday for the stricter nutritional guidelines, joining New York City and other school districts that have imposed similar rules.

Vending machines on the district's 715 campuses will be stocked with alternative snacks such as pretzels, fruit snacks, nuts and baked chips.

While the junk food ban doesn't affect snacks already sold in cafeterias, the plan requires each meal to include at least one vegetarian option and calls for larger salad bars. It also urges administrators to eliminate contracts with fast-food vendors now operating on some campuses.

The nutritional plan joins a ban on soda sales set to go into effect in January. The school board on Tuesday voted unanimously to adopt a new cell phone policy that allows a former ban on their use. The one-year pilot program allows students to use cell phones and pagers during lunch breaks but gives school officials the ability to revoke privileges if the phones are disruptive.

The previous policy was largely ignored. Under the new rules, effective immediately, students may keep phones in their lockers, purses or pockets, but use them only during lunch or other nutrition breaks.

Today's youth rides technology wave

WASHINGTON (AP) — If kids today seem more wired than ever, it's because they are.

About 90 percent of people ages 5 to 12 use computers and 59 percent of them use the Internet — rates that are, in both cases, higher than those of adults.

Even kindergartners are becoming more plugged in. One out of four 5-year-olds uses the Internet.

The figures come from a new Education Department analysis of computer and Internet use by children and adolescents in 2003.

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IOC to retest for steroid use

By Krystyna Rudzki

LONDON — The IOC is looking into whether drug tests at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics can be tested against the recently discovered steroid THG. IOC medical director Patrick Schumacher said Wednesday.

London-based International Olympic Committee are studying the legal and financial issues surrounding the issue of samples taken to Los Angeles from the temporary Olympic drug laboratory at the University of Utah Research Park.

"The samples exist. Now we have to look into all the jurisdictional issues," Schumacher said in a telephone interview with IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"We are reviewing all these different jurisdictions," he said. "We can't do anything without the information on the potential legal issues, so we will have to talk to our legal experts... and then we will decide." The IOC also is asking scientists if the frozen 19-month-old samples are suitable.

"It's not a simple process for a long-term sample. It's easier when you have to go into an event which took place three or four months ago. When you have to go to an event that took place almost two years ago, it's more complicated." Don Catlin, who heads the Olympic drug-testing laboratory at UCLA, where 200 to 300 samples from the 2002 Winter Games are stored, said in a telephone interview Wednesday that retesting is still possible for THG, a previously unidentified steroid.

"Catlin, whose lab performed the drug testing at the 2002 Games, developed a test for THG after an unidentified track coach sent a sample to his lab, according to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

The World Anti-Doping Agency has urged retesting of all stored samples worldwide. Officials from international track and field and from swimming plan to retest hundreds of samples from their world championships meets this summer.

"Everybody around that has old samples is interested in knowing whether they could or should retest them for THG," Catlin said Wednesday, where there are any legal issues. They want to know if the samples are stored under chain of custody. There are a myriad of issues that arise.

The IOC's doping rules only require drug testers to keep back samples of positive tests for 10 days, while backups of negative tests must be kept for 50 days.

Catlin's lab has samples from as far back as the 1994 Winter Olympics and retested them last year for testosterone levels. Such testing is done to catch the stability of such samples over time.

"In Las Vegas, fans scrambled up a chain-link fence to get a glimpse of Bryant as he got off the bus before the Lakers' final exhibition game. They chanted his name when he took the court, microphone in hand, to tell them he loved them. One had a sign on it.

It could be Bryant was simply tired of being the target for Kobe Bryant to be fighting with anyone. Especially because he has a much bigger fight on his hands already; two weeks from now Bryant will stand before a judge in Colorado, who will tell him in no uncertain terms the he be sure to go to prison for the rest of his life if he convicted of raping a teenage hotel worker.

So why is he and Shaq going at it again in a nasty courtroom as the Lakers open a season that once held such promise? The legal details are pesky, but Bryant's fans don't need to wait for any tried to render their verdict. "It would be easier just to believe in them, think they're the greatest achievement in their life to be near celebrities or they think they know them," said Richard Lachmann, a University of Albany sociology professor who studies popular culture.

A 7-year-old fight over copyright is the publicity brought by a sexual assault charge against Bryant.

"We're cool. We talked this morning. He said what he said, what I said. We put it behind us," Bryant said after the Lakers victory over Orlando. "We're all going to go away just today, so we... We're just going to get past it." O'Neal wouldn't comment.

"I don't want to address it, nor calm it down, and I went back to him and I didn't say anything to comment on," Jackson said. "But we did have an exchange, and that's one thing I will verify."
Sports

BIG WEST continued from page 16

held Saturday, with the men running at 8:30 a.m. and the women racing at 9:30 in the morning.

Head men's and women's coach Mark Conover said the team is excited to run at its home course in front of friends and family. It also affords several other advantages.

"(Fairbanks Memorial) is a challenging course, but my runners know how to run it," he said. "There are more hills here than Riverside. That can be advantageous for us though because we practice on hills a lot."

Even though Riverside's course offered different topography than Fairbanks, the Mustangs will be ready because their training does not vary much for individual courses, Conover said.

The Mustangs have experience at the conference championship's new site. It was the location of the 2003 Venture/Cal Poly Invitational. Both the men and women's teams finished third at that race. Seven of the men's top runners were in Iowa that weekend for the Pre-National Meet.

Running at home also allows the Mustangs to keep a fairly normal routine because they can sleep at home.

Conover was not ready to concede his team the title, though, just because they do not have to load up the van and head for the Inland Empire.

"Meets like this have a special meaning," Conover said. "Kids can get themselves to do amazing things. It will come down to who wants it the most."

Being at home will only offer more distractions since Halloween falls on the eve of the championship.

"They will have to be adults and get good rest to prepare their bodies for the race," he said. "Hopefully it won't be too loud outside and they can get a good night's rest."

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0918

ACROSS

25 Leaf beneath a bloom
27 Algoriphagia
30 Fast escape
33 Commuter option
34 Sesar
35 Ice cream additive
37 Indecent
39 One's partner
40 Translate
41 Thick sandwich
47 Alphabet
48 Coffee size
49 Historic women's group
50 Bedtime call, informally
51 Duty, Honor, Country, Speaker 1962
52 Can't stand
53 Compressor's base
54 Taps
55 Jacob's brother
57 Sacred text
58 Squal
59 Like many a palace
61 Greek cross
62 Rousing cheers
63 Two-stater in 1954
65 Coalition honor
66 Flying Circus actor John
67 "Nymphéas le"
68 "C.B.I."

DOWN

1 Lighthanded pitcher Shawn
2 H.P. parts
3 Evidence hard to relate in court
4 Game sites
5 Movie promo
6 Letter on Superman's chest
7 Certain stage show
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9 Tarleton
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11 "Cats"
12 Last of the Sturts
13 "1-, 5-, 10-, 20-, 30-
14 "24 and 40 are a manner of speaking"
15 Trash
16 Alliance created
17 Treasure map distances
18 "Harp of Tyana"
19 "Sceletus" in "Madman"
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21 Eye sore
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27 Monet's "Nymphéas le"
28 Catalina, e.g.
29 "Who starred in "Spartan" 1948"
30 Fast escape
31 Golden-57
32 Duty, Honor, Country, Speaker 1962
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Thursday, October 30, 2003

Sports

Mary's, but even coach Rich Ellerson said Peterson was only at 90 percent full capacity.

Needless to say, Peterson had needed time to catch back up in his conditioning and get back into shape.

These aren't the only two teams hit by the injury bug, though. It doesn't take Michael Stipe to say that every athlete hurts — sometimes.

Graham Womack is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer. Writing Golden Graham has left him with a severe case of carpal tunnel syndrome. He can be reached at galexand@calpoly.edu.

GOLDEN continued from page 16

the Southern Utah Thunderbirds more appreciative of rest than ever.

The Mustangs have spent the last week on bye, with a week off after the 54-10 win over St. Mary's.

Bye weeks offer coaches a chance to restold and players a shot to take some time off to nurse aches and hit the weight room.

Senior quarterback Chris Peterson certainly has spent the last week recuperating. Peterson often plays more like a fullback than a quarterback, with his penchant to take the ball on perilous runs through breaches of bulgy line-

men.

Peter son has no doubt cashed a check his body needed to clear. He had to miss the Oct. 11 loss at Akron with a back injury, and couldn't practice in the week leading up to that. He took over half the snaps against St.

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Garrett Routon and laptops.
By Amanda Hippe

The men's and women's cross country teams are looking to give a strong performance at this weekend's Big West Conference meet.

Coach Mark Conover said he is proud to see his men's team move up eight spots to No. 16 in the nation, according to the MONDE men's cross country rankings. They will also go into this weekend's meet as the conference's top-ranked team. The women's team is fifth in conference.

"Runners are we are expecting to stand out in this weekend's meet are Sean Ricketts, Mario Macias and Ryan Moorcroft," Conover said. "Our standout women's runners are Amber Simmons, Kate Murphy and Kathryn Schlegel."

The men's rise is attributed to their strong performance at the Pre-National Meet in Waterloo, Iowa. Sean Ricketts' 27th-place finish in that meet helped the team place seventh overall.

"Our men are ranked No. 1 in conference," Conover said. "Rickerts is definitely a big part of that placement."

The roster that ran in Iowa will probably not be the one at the Big West Conference Championships.

"It will be hard because I have 12 guys running well right now, and only nine can run in the race," Conover said. "At least one of the runners who ran at Pre-Nationals will be resting for regionals."

Conover said he is still undecided who will make the roster at the conference meet.

Nine runners compete in the championship with seven running as part of the team. The five fastest times count for the team score. Two runners will run as unattached individuals.

West Regionals will be held Nov. 15 in Portland, Ore. One of the women's standout runners, Kathryn Schlegel, is coming off a six-week lay due to an injury.

"Kathryn has been rehabilitating from an injury but she will be back on Saturday," Conover said.

Hancock also mentioned that Schlegel's return will be a benefit to the team. She did, however, say that a couple of the girls have stepped up since the loss of a key runner.

"Amber Simmons is doing an awesome job," Hancock said. "She has shaved off a good amount of time in her runs and has definitely stepped up to lead the team."

Big competitors for the men are UC Santa Barbara and defending champion Utah State. For the women, they need to watch for UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine and Idaho, the 2002 champions.

The men's cross country team enters the 2003 Big West Conference Championships and the conference championship has been moved this close to its completion.

The race was originally scheduled for Saturday at the UC Riverside Agricultural Operations Unit, but smoke from the blazes are making less-than-ideal running conditions. Cal Poly will now host the race at the Fairbanks Memorial Course near Cuesta College, scene of the 2001 conference championships.

Safety was the main reason for the move.

"In light of the danger posed by the ongoing wildfire situation in Southern California, this was the right decision to make..." he said in a press release. The competition will still be seen BIG WEST, page 15.

By Sean Martin

The fires burning throughout Southern California have forced this weekend's Big West Championships to move to San Luis Chico.

It is believed to be the first time in more than 20 years a Big West Conference championship has failed constantly with the ladies.

Still, with the way things have been going around Cal Poly recently, Stipe ought to be invited to come singing to the athletics department. His lullaby could soothe the seeming myriad of athletes battling injuries, trying to make it a few more weeks to the ends of their respective seasons.

Take women's volleyball.

Ever seen the action movie so bittersweet that even the family dog gets shot? Injuries are so pervasive among the women's volleyball team right now that personnel are calling in sick.

While participating last week in a scrimmage during practice to make up for the number of girls hurt with injuries, coach Steve Schlick ripped his Achilles tendon. Although treatment were on-hand, Schlick required a trip to the hospital. He had to miss Friday's 3-2 loss at UC Riverside and Saturday's 3-0 win on the road over Cal State Fullerton.

It was the first time Schlick couldn't be at a game in 17 years, between Cal Poly, James college and his days of coaching high school volleyball.

Schlick will pace the sidelines this weekend on caches and in a cast as the Mustangs host Pacific and Cal State Northridge, two top-notch teams. With some luck, he'll be out of his cast around the begin-ning of December, when the NCAA tournament begins, if Cal Poly qualifies.

When asked about his injury, Schlick is reluctant to tout too much, saying he prefers that emphasis be kept on his athletes. He attests to the "number of nagging injuries" that senior outside hitter Molly Duncan has played with or the season-long injury that has kept sophomore middle hitter Lindsey Martin out of action.

Schlick also pointed out that he is not the only team suffering from injuries. Schlick's testimonial could apply to a variety of other teams.

Cal Poly football heads into its homecoming game Saturday against see GOLDEN, page 15.