Agribusiness senior Katie Blandin makes pottery in the Craft Center. She gives most of her work away to friends and family. "It's always nice to make gifts around Christmas time," Blandin said.

SPENCER MARLEY / MUSTANG DAILY

Craft Center offers venue for HANDMADE GIFT IDEAS

By Kendra Hodges

With the holidays approaching, the pressure is on to find the perfect gifts for family and friends. In San Luis Obispo it's difficult to find a gift uniquely tailored for loved ones because there are few local shopping options.

For Cal Poly students, making a gift is as easy as stepping into the ASI Craft Center on the first floor of the University Union. Beginning to advanced crafters will find the Craft Center's extensive array of equipment and staff ready to help. Supplies range from surfboard shaping tools to knitting supplies, allowing for the creation of a wide range of handmade gifts on a tight budget.

"I discovered the Craft Center last Fall Quarter after following a girl in there I wanted to see," recreation administration senior Landon Smith said. "She showed me how to use the pottery wheel."

Last year, Smith created plates and cups for Christmas presents for his family. It cost him about $12 for supplies plus the Craft Center quarter activity fee of $15.

"My family thought I was all artistic and stuff. It was cool," Smith said.

Later, Smith learned to crochet bracelets at the Craft Center, which his family and friends can expect as Christmas presents this year.

"The Craft Center is really welcoming and the staff is patient and open to new ideas," Smith said. "You don't need to be a skilled artist, it's for anybody." Landscape architecture freshman Jackie Smith is making an oversized coffee mug for her mom for Christmas.

"She is always drinking coffee, so I wanted her to see CRAFTS, page 2"

ASS promotes student activities

By Caitlin O'Farrell

No commitment. No dues. No bull. Just ASS.

Members of Alpha Sigma Sigma invite Cal Poly and Cuesta College students to join their social community and promise a completely non-exclusive, non-committal outfit to get together and meet new people.

Club co-founder and business junior Sean Scollin began discussing the idea a few months ago with his roommate Joe Valente, who attends Cuesta College. After watching "Old School," they began to formulate a concept.

"We wanted something similar to a fraternity but without the dues, commitment and rules," Sean Scollin

co-founder

There are currently 66 members and has grown rapidly over the past couple weeks. Alpha Sigma Sigma started with 15 original members and has grown rapidly over the past couple weeks.

Valente and Scollin even designed a Web site, www.alphasigmasiswa.net, where members can buy T-shirts and shirts, look at pictures and view coming events. Those interested in joining can also sign up on the Web site.

"The money we make from selling the shirts goes toward subsidizing events so people won't have to put as much money to participate," Scollin said. "That's one of the reasons dues aren't necessary."

Representatives from Associated Students Inc. said they were not aware of Alpha Sigma Sigma and has not recognized it as a campus organization. One of the club's future goals is to get certified so they can have on-campus activities and recruit members on campus.

ASS's founders said they were frustrated after one of their roomsmates joined a fraternity on campus, and they barely saw him anymore. They also resented the fact that they were not allowed to go to the events he attended or the parties he went to.

"We decided to start this social society after looking at the big base of people that want to get together and do things but they have limitations," Scollin said. "That is why we think it is great to be completely free." see ASS, page 2
AIDS continued from page 1

"I pride myself in learning about it and spreading the word," Krause said.

Andlg said she saw demonstrations at Caesars College where tape-recorded bells rang every 25 seconds to symbolize a person who died of AIDS. At the same time, Andlg said she was surprised that so few people stopped by the table or paid much attention to the giant ribbon on Dexter.

"It surprised me a little bit just that people aren't more naturally curious," Andlg said. "Again, it's a stigmatized disease and maybe people feel even by stopping, it's somehow indicating that they have some interest."

Crider has been involved in Global AIDS Awareness Day for eight years. While working in South Africa last summer, she found a group of AIDS-stricken people that made leads to support themselves.

"Everybody has AIDS (there)," Crider said. "They have no basic medication. The government's not giving them medication."

Crider said she doesn't feel Cal Poly students have a grasp of how big the AIDS epidemic is in Africa.

"I think Americans are more concerned about maintaining our lifestyle and not what needs to be done in South Africa and all of Africa."

Crider said in the future she hopes students will become more aware.

"I think it's students' responsibility to realize that they live in a global society and not just a California society," Crider said. "What happens in other countries affects us too."
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday it will clarify the impact of its ruling last year that juries, not a judge, must decide if a convicted killer lives or dies.

The high court issued changes in the death penalty laws of five states in 2002 because those states gave juries the final say, but the court did not make clear how its ruling should apply retroactively to inmates already on death row.

Lower courts have divided over that question, which affects more than 150 death row inmates, and the Supreme Court has agreed to clear up the confusion.

CHICAGO — Boeing Co. chairman and chief executive Phil Condit has resigned, the aerospace giant said Monday in a surprise announcement.

"This is a crisis," he told the Reno Gazette-Journal. "We've been fighting hard for the past year behind us."

Under the ruling, Colorado's seven congressional districts revert to the boundaries drawn up by a Denver judge last year after lawmakers failed to agree.

REN0. Nev. — The Sierra Safari Zoo is rapidly running out of money and may be forced to sell animals if additional funds to feed them aren't raised this month, the Reno facility's co-founder said.

"It's a crisis every year," said Dale McDaniel, who helped start the zoo in 1989 and now is its board of directors.

"Every year the zoo grows. Every year, there are more mouths to feed, which makes it more of a crisis," he told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Despite the constant money trouble, the zoo has never been forced to sell animals.

— Associated Press

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(open with caution)

University Wire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The federal government from workplace crackdowns of illegal employees years ago. The government has busted steadily fewer employers and arrested fewer illegal employees since the late 1990s, according to federal immigration data.

Immigration officials often attribute the marked decline in workplace enforcement to a new focus on national security, saying that agents once who once raided restaurant kitchens and construction sites have been reassigned to airports and nuclear plants. But in fact the decline began four years before Sept. 11, 2001, as the terrorist economy drove foreign nationals into bottom-rung jobs Americans wouldn't take, and as federal immigration policy-makers focused on deporting criminals and fortifying the U.S.-Mexican border.

On some occasions when agents did swoop in, lawmakers howled to see them do so. But raids on mom-and-pop shops are now less common, in part because investigators use subtler techniques such as cross-referencing employer records with federal databases to reveal concentrations of illegal workers, Courtney said.

An estimated three million new undocumented immigrants cannot work, a flour-eshing gray market says welcome. An Associated Press analysis of federal immigration data tracks the drop in workplace enforcement:

- The average number of convicted employer investigations fell from 6,120 a year during the 1990s to 1,025 over the past three years — a 70 percent decline. The average number of employers fined for having undocumented workers fell from 1,255 to 110.

- While more than 200,000 businesses are believed to employ undocumented workers, according to the General Accounting Office, only 53 employers were fined in fiscal year 2002.

- An average of 200 workers were arrested each week during the 1990s, peaking with 340 workers in fiscal 1997; Since fiscal year 2000, arrests have averaged 12 a week.

- As recently as 1998, the equivalent of 144 full-time agents worked on employer investigations by fiscal 2001 that number had fallen to 134, according to the GAO. While there's no separate line item in the immigration budget for workplace enforcement, officials say they had less agents because funding declined over the years.

Some immigration officials in Washington were against concluding that workplace raids have been all but abandoned, particularly since the Immigration and Naturalization Service was absorbed into the Department of Homeland Security this spring.

The Wal-Mart raids, which took place Oct. 21 and netted many more employees of cleaning subcontractors, are a prominent example. Garrison Courtney, a spokesman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also notes that agents bust 15 convenience stores last month in Northern California, arresting 31 foreign-born workers.

But raids on mom-and-pop shops are now less common, in part because investigators use subtler techniques such as cross-referencing employer records with federal databases to reveal concentrations of illegal workers, Courtney said.

Immigration data do show that in recent years a number of criminal cases are closed, and closed cases are increasingly likely to end with successful prosecutions.

Still, the fraction of businesses hiring undocumented workers that pay any penalty is minute. Workplace raids are not an active concern for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and national associations representing restaurants, small business and major retailers.

"It's a wink and a nod. We recognize that the work force is needed and so we simply don't enforce at the workplace," said Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz. "The reality is, there are some­me there are some­some are doing things above board, and some are not," he said.

Routine workplace inspections, however, can be uncovers even work­ place Oct. 23 and netted mosdy foreign-born workers.

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Come on in, the water's fine

Cartoon Network's nightly Adult Swim gives big kids the chance to play
By Graham Womack

One of the more unconventional shows on one of the more unconventional network lineups on television certainly doesn't feature conventional writers.

"Aqua Teen Hunger Force," one of the shows on Cartoon Network's nightly Adult Swim lineup, broadcast Sunday through Thursday between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m., is a yowling hit, just like many of the shows on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim lineup. The show has hit it big, though.

"We didn't want to kill off any of our villains," Maiellaro said. "... Plus, I think it's cool not to have any resolution." Before Adult Swim, only "Space Ghost," which Maiellaro and Willis wrote for, existed. The writers stumbled onto the idea for "Aqua Teen" in 1999 after pitching an episode of Space Ghost that exceeded that show's weirdness quota.

Maiellaro and Willis then set about creating a show. The characters evolved from Fox. The shows diverge from the usual Cartoon Network fare featuring darker, edgier humor on these shows aimed at male viewers aged 18 to 24.

"Aqua Teen Hunger Force," is a case of Maiellaro and Willis not wanting to write a typical show. Their characters spout random lines. Story settings change between the inner city and the moon within single episodes. Endings never wrap up story lines either.

"It's just retarded," Cal Poly electrical engineering junior Jan Kotzin said. "... The humor in it, I don't like and each time I watch it I feel like I get a little dumber.

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The episode's premise was that Space Ghost goes to Disney World and visits a hamburger stand manned by Willie Nelson. When Space Ghost buys 200 hamburgers and refuses to pay, Nelson calls in a force consisting of the milkshake, fries and meat.

The pitch bombed, but Willis and Maiellaro were intrigued. Like the characters in their own right. With other Adult Swim shows in development at that point, the writers named their characters Master Shake, Frylock and Meatwad and drew a house for them to share in New Jersey.

Maiellaro and Willis then set about creating their show. The characters evolved somewhat. Willis lends his voice to Meatwad, who became a dim-witted youngster. Willis had to stop doing the voice of Frylock after the character changed from a Dungeons and Dragons geek into a tech-savvy, street-wise black man.

"Sometimes it gets too random," Cunningham said. "("Aqua Teen?) is a good mix.

"Aqua Teen Hunger Force" is a yowling hit, just like many of the shows on Cartoon Network's nightly Adult Swim lineup. The show has hit it big, though.

"He's kind of like a 75-year-old man trapped in a 28-year-old body," Willis said.

Over the two years that the show has been around, plots have taken the characters through various scenes of turmoil: Meatwad has landed in jail at the hands of moon invaders, Shake has been charged with crimes against the environment by the Environmental Protection Agency and Frylock has created a super computer.

The show has also caught on with viewers, sticking out among other shows on Adult Swim. "Generally, I like 'Aqua Teen' the most..." said Chris Cunningham, a psychology and international relations junior at the University of Southern California. "Its randomness is great.

Not everyone likes the show's sense of humor.

"It's just retarded," Cal Poly electrical engineering junior Jan Kotzin said. "... The humor in it, I don't like and each time I watch it I feel like I get a little dumber.

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Maiellaro said he heard Fox may start running original episodes of "Family Guy" again, but for now, it sounds like "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" and the rest of Adult Swim will stay on Cartoon Network.

"I'd be fun if there was an entire network," Maiellaro said.

Cunningham looks at it differently, though.

"It's a good late night thing... makes for good cult TV."
‘Bad Santa’ brings holiday gloom, tired jokes

by Caitlin O'Farrell
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

‘Bad Santa’ — aptly named, it seems — wasn’t the typical heart-warming Christmas tale that seems to materialize every holiday season. Sex, bad language and violence are not often a part of the holiday season, but in this movie they run rampant.

For those of you who don’t mind vulgarity and are still reading, the premise follows two crooks, Willie T. Stokes (Billy Bob Thornton) and his manager (Tony Cox), who spend every Christmas season setting up heists to rob big name department stores after the shopping rush. Stokes poses as Santa, and the primary reason the pair get the good jobs at high-end stores is because Marcus, Santa’s manager, is a little person and fits perfectly as the head elf at the work shop.

Although not everyone is taken with the holiday spirit, this movie does a lot to support those bah-humbug’s out there. Stokes and Marcus end up taking advantage of a child and his senile grandmother (Cloris Leachman), staying with the makeshift family for the days leading up to Christmas.

Stokes does come up with a pea-sized portion of redemption toward the close of the movie, but don’t worry — it isn’t nearly enough to give you warm fuzzes.

Stokes is an alcoholic and has some obvious womanizing issues. He finds his match in love interest Sue (Lauren Graham), who has a Santa fetish — enough said. The sex scenes in the film were a little much, especially watching Santa have sex with a larger lady in a public restroom at the mall.

While the role is vulgar, Thornton does a better job than his last performance in “Bandits,” since that was hard to top. He is the only thing that saves this movie from being a boring Home Alone spin off.

The shock value eventually wears off, but his approach never misses. Bernie Mac and John Ritter have small parts that deliver little comic, further showing that no one in this movie really poses a challenge to Thornton’s character. The talent these two men, as well as Leachman, possess could have been put to much better use.

Director Terry Zwigoff follows up Ghost World with a decent job on Bad Santa, especially with a script that could use some humor. I must ask if writers John Requa and Glenn Ficarra read over the script before completing it, or if they meant to employ the same old jokes again. This may have been an attempt at humor, but for me it got old real fast.

If you are looking for some crude holiday humor than this is a safe, if repetitive, bet. There are a several great movies out right now and holiday movies don’t always measure up, but if you are into the Christmas spirit, there are better flicks out there that you don’t have to pay about seven bucks to see. Try “A Christmas Story,” it plays about eight times a day on TBS.

The one redeeming factor: it never gets old seeing a guy have sex in a Santa suit. Like I said, not one for the children.
Opinion

It's time to plan for the future

As the average human lifespan has increased about 25 years in the last century, some new problems have emerged. With the rapidly increasing number of elderly people, whose responsibilities is it to take care of the elderly?

Some argue that it is the responsibility of the family, while others say it is a job for the government. Certainly the best-case scenario is that loving family members will take care of their elderly relatives and make sure that they are being properly cared for, but this is more the exception than the rule.

Even the most well-intentioned children often do not spend time or energy caring for their elderly parents because they simply have too many things going on in their lives. So if the care of the elderly is left up to the family, then what are elderly people with families who struggle financially or those with no family at all to do?

While there is no legal obligation for adults to take care of their elderly parents, it cannot be a legal obligation. Many families are estranged, and it is not fair to expect a grown child to support their parent if the child cannot afford or be neglected. It is often a struggle for even loving, well-off families to take care of an elderly family member.

Diseases prevalent in an elderly population, such as Alzheimer's, are difficult for family to deal with and to watch progress in their loved one. They also require large amounts of time and money.

Many people count on government support after retirement, but this may not last for long. Social Security is not enough to live on alone, and the future of the program is highly uncertain. If Americans could count on governmental aid to the elderly it would help, but the reality is that this assistance may or may not be available to future generations when it is needed. Until then, Americans need to plan for the future for themselves. The question, then, is personal responsibility. Just as it is the responsibility of the individual to clothe, house, and feed him or herself, it is also his or her responsibility to plan for his or her own life. There will always be people in society who are unable to take care for themselves, but Americans should be encouraged plan ahead for themselves.

We need to be able to look at the situation realistically and plan accordingly. Our generation has paid into social security and likely will for some time, but we are being told that by the time we are ready to retire there will be nothing left for us.

Whether or not this is fair, it is something that should be dealt with now. This is hard for our culture; it may mean less "toys" or luxuries now so that we can have security when we are old. Americans must be willing to give up things today for security in the future.

Amy Hessick is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letters to the editor

'Voices' columns are inaccurate

Editor,

The past few "Voices" columns have forced me to comment. Apparently, we all share the troubled role of the "diva thong" and being typecast as "bitches."

Bitches breaking barriers (Nov. 4) was a "modern girl-who-cried-wolf" story. I don't believe there is a mutual understanding that Hillary Clinton is a bitch. Nor do I believe that all women in power are presumed bitchy by the male population.

The men on this campus have been taking some heat recently. They've all been deemed sexual predators who "people" (I'm sure the author meant male) who "test women, push them down, and break them."

Just for the record, not all women fear falling out of their clothes; my sweats have some give. And not all women believe they have to become an "ice queen" to be assertive ... except for soccer moms. But that's another story.

Jessica Vanitie is an electrical engineering senior.

Hunting doesn't respect wildlife

Editor,

I have heard nothing more ridiculous than a hunter saying, "I've learned to respect wildlife." M. Reese Snell interviews Cal Poly student Ben Potter about hunting in her article "The way of the gun" (Nov. 20).

"Hunting may be a way of life to many," the article states, "but this may not last for long. Social Security is not enough to live on alone, and the future of the program is highly uncertain. If Americans could count on governmental aid to the elderly it would help, but the reality is that this assistance may or may not be available to future generations when it is needed. Until then, Americans need to plan for the future for themselves. The question, then, is personal responsibility. Just as it is the responsibility of the individual to clothe, house, and feed him or herself, it is also his or her responsibility to plan for his or her own life. There will always be people in society who are unable to take care for themselves, but Americans should be encouraged plan ahead for themselves.

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Strikers don't fathom the holiday spirit

It's not about whether I support their cause, and it's not about compassion. It's about being realistic during the holiday season.

A Notre Dame graduate and the behemoth consumer spore called Christmas approaches, shoppers in San Luis Obispo are likely to encounter labor protesters outside of their local Von's supermarket.

What exactly this entails is unclear, and how each person reacts to these protests probably depends more on what mood they're in that day than how much they understand the demands of these ostensibly unappreciative laborers.

Call me Grinch, but I don't want to listen to it anymore. I don't want to see the plight of workers who have labored, nor do I care to delve into the details of their irrational complaints. They bore me and have little affect on my ability to move into the working world.

Commentary

What labor protesters don't realize is that they're extremely lucky to have a union in the first place. There are thousands of other jobs out there where laborers toil to finish a product or stamp the next pair of Nike Air Jordans. They don't have the option of invading other people's space with their complaints.

In fact, I would venture to say that many of the same people who work for these low wages and expose themselves to corporate corruption don't have the time or resources to even consider what their own workforce is enduring.

It's extremely bothersome, if not downright annoying, to observe well-off employees inhabiting the richest country in the world who don't realize just how lucky they are to have a job with benefits. If my past employment taught me anything, it's not to bite the hand that feeds you.

What labor protesters have anything to complain about? Since when did bagging groceries necessarily require health care benefits?

Let's get one thing straight. There are clearly jobs out there where people don't even have the option of protesting. And as the holiday season manifests itself in this seemingly un-united country, many people will come to grips with the fact that they've got money left for that North Face fleece your spouse was looking forward to.

Looks like you'll have to wait until next paycheck. Well, that is, if you're making minimum wage at say, the local car wash, where your protestor's benefits wouldn't even be considered by the hard-working employees who brake their backs so your Dayton rims sparkle. But those people are the same ones who work your grocery stores, like many of the protesters I see.

I don't sympathize with the plight of seemingly privileged laborers, nor do I care to delve into the details of their irrational complaints.

Celebrity race divisions are unequal

According to Jermaine Jackson, Michael Jackson's older brother, he is experiencing a "modern day lynching." (Many have questioned his remarks on debate shows, such as "The O'Reilly Factor" and CNN. Kobe Bryant, Mike Tyson and O.J. Simpson are other cases that decided divisions among the races. According to USA Today poll, blacks were 66 percent more likely to support Kobe, while whites were equally split.

Why are African-Americans more likely to stand beside accused black celebrities? When African-American celebrities are accused of any crime, be it rape, molestation or murder, blacks are more likely to take it personally because of the often-confused justice system.

Many blacks have had experience with the viciously imbalanced justice system within their own personal lives, be it through family, friends or the connection of wrongfully convicted criminals in the media. In turn, when black celebrities are shown in the media while being accused of crimes, we are more likely to question the justice system rather than the celebrity being interrogated for their crimes.

Taking a look outside celebrity cases and into the lives of convicted murderers on death row in Illinois, Gov. George Ryan released 156 inmates because of the countless number of loopholes in various cases.

Anthony Porter served 17 years of his life behind bars and was on death row until a group of students from Northwestern investigated the case, and he was later released along with three other convicted murderers.

According to BBC World News, "He had halted executions three years ago, after courts found that 13 death row inmates had been wrongly convicted since Illinois resumed capital punishment in 1977."

Sequentially, the division of the races on their opinions of convicted high-profile black criminals is an eye-opener. The "modern day lynching" that Jermaine Jackson accused the media of having may have people saying that he is taking things slightly too far.

Michael Jackson has had previous instances in child molestation accusations in 1993, but his mistake was when he announced to the media in a well-publicized interview that he slept with children in his personal bedroom.

This was undeniably playing fire. And while being such a well-known celebrity with a considerable amount of money, he was making himself available for harsh criticism and future law suits.

Some have called this a conspiracy against his album release date, which was the same day the Los Angeles Police raided his Neverland Ranch.

To totally disregard race and socioeconomic class in the legal system would be blindly ignorant. I would be ecstatic if O.J. Simpson's murder trial and Rush Limbaugh's drug allegations would be handled the same as a crack head off of the streets of Chicago.

Legal injustice has left a staple in the minds of blacks who view this in the media and who have experienced it personally. The court system seemingly does not run on the justice of common humanity, but rather by the mighty dollar that most common convicted criminals lack.

Tifair Gilpese is a writer for the Daily Egyptian at Southern Illinois University.
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Boston building a better baseball future

BOSTON (AP) — Theo Epstein did an outstanding job building Boston's offense in his first year as general manager. Now he's focusing on pitching, and the acquisition of Curt Schilling is only the beginning as general manager.

Schilling fills the Red Sox's need for a top starter who remains strong as the innings go by. The next step is a quality closer, with free agent Keith Foulke at the top of the list.

"This season has its own challenges," Epstein said. "And we've only started to address them." After being named general manager on Nov. 25, 2002, Epstein added Bill Mueller, David Ortiz, Kevin Millar and Todd Walker to a lineup that already had Nomar Garciaparra and Manny Ramirez. Mueller led the American League in batting, and Boston set a major league record with a 491 slugging percentage.

But the Red Sox's 4-48 ERA was just eighth in the league, and only three of the 14 AL teams had fewer than their 30 saves. The pitcher responsible for 16 of them, Binghamton's Keith Foulke, appears headed for the starting rotation. Foulke's 11-0 record and 3.94 saves were more than the entire Red Sox team had, but he may decide to remain with Oakland. He visited Boston last week and attended a Boston Celtics game last Monday night with Epstein. As a backup plan, the Red Sox could pursue lefty Edgardo(ArrayList missing)

The next manager will have perhaps the best starting rotation in baseball — Pedro Martinez, Curt Schilling, Derek Lowe, Tim Wakefield and, perhaps, Kim. He also could have last season's best closer — Keith Foulke and best hitting team in the AL.

None of that guarantees that the Red Sox will win the New York Yankees' streak of six AL East titles.
By Graham Womack
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Kameron Gray pays tribute every game.

When he's at the free-throw line, the sophomore point guard on the Cal Poly men's basketball team passes before shooting. Standing behind the charity stripe, he takes his right wrist, an "L" emblazoned on it, and his left wrist, a "K" emblazoned on it, and rubs both wrists together. Afterward he kisses each wrist. The "L" stands for love and the "K" for Kameron, a tribute to Gray's 2-year-old sister Kameron Jr., who lives in Oakland with Gray's former girlfriend Danielle Duckworth. Gray relives each visit with his sister.

"That's when I'm at my happiest," he said.

Gray's dream of playing professional basketball are about more than just personal glory or fame. It's about providing for the toddler who bears his name. Gray says he wants to make it a way to "pay off" for his name sake. "So I can make it happen for him I had it."

Gray's on his way to achieving his desire. In his first season at Cal Poly, Gray is averaging a team-leading 13.7 minutes per game, has the second-most assists on the team with 33 and is also third in scoring, averaging 9.7 points per game. Gray hasn't always been a basketball standout or even a success story. Long before his transfer to Cal Poly this season, before his short but stellar career at Chabot College in Hayward, before even getting his

life on-track, Gray was a young boy in West Oakland. His hometown street saw the rise of Tupac Shakur and the fall of killing Black Panther Huey Newton was part of the preparation and danger.

"I have a lot of friends who are into the criminal life," Gray said.

His parents, Orlando Gray and Evelyn Gray, said when Gray was seven but helped protect him.

Gray's years revolved around sports, not gang. The nephew through marriage of former San Louis Cardinal right fielder Willie McGee, Gray played football, baseball and basketball.

"He was outstanding in all three," Orlando Gray said.

Gray quit football in high school. Gray also dropped basketball while at San Lorenzo Valley High School. Gray has played shortstop, wearing No. 10, but lost his passion.

"It wasn't fun to me anymore," Gray said..."There wasn't enough action, movement."

He settled on baseball but did not immediately dazzle college coaches.

"I got no offers at all, but Cal Poly offered him which is the jacc I went to," Gray said.

Arriving at Chabot in the fall of 2001, Gray took the California junior college scene by storm. He averaged 1.1 points and assisted 6.1 throughout the '01-'02 season to lead the school to a 31-7 record and the quarterfinals of the state tournament. After the season, Gray also played in a summer showcase and became the No. 1-ranked junior college point guard in the country. Gray red-shirted the next year before transferring to Cal Poly. Gray had offers from Fresno State and other Big West programs but chose Cal Poly. It is one of the only schools, Gray said, that offered him three years to come. Orlando Gray liked the opportunities Gray would have to play and get a degree at football.

By Shane MeFFten
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — It's Tuesday, Nov. 25, and Dick Vitale, the world's most famous college basketball Analyst, is on a whirlwind tour of the Kansas Union.

It's 11:45 a.m. and Vitale is in town to talk about providing for the toddler who bears his name. "I'm looking forward to seeing my son, Kameron Jr. for the first time, the day before Christmas," he said.

Vitale is at Oread in Kansas City, Mo., where college basketball fans form a line that extends around the block and up the streets. It's 11:45 a.m. and Vitale walks up to Vitale and asks him to sign his latest book, "Living a dream: A day spent with Dick Vitale"

"I think it helped them understand the heroism of a father who should've gone Pac-10," Sampson said.

Looking up to NBA players like Mike Bibby and Nick Van Exel, and fellow Oakland products Jason Kidd and Gary Payton, Gray stays in the gym four hours a day and wants to eventually play in the NBA. "We talk about that all the time," Orlando Gray said..."That's going to be your year.""An

Vitale's higher-pitched, less-polished voice was in line with his on-camera persona, Dickie V., but not quite the same.

"I was not used to Dickie V. in the morning," he said.

Andy Katz, one of Vitale's colleagues who covers college basketball for ESPN.com, "Dickie V. is humble.

"He's not as loud in daily life," Katz said.

Patrick Lawson, the ESPN producer who is Produce walks up to Vitale and asks him to do a promotional spot for the network's "Friday Night Lights," the 12 college games aired during the week of Thanksgiving.

"He's a real professional. Lawson leads Vitale outside, where the loudness of the noisy KU fans are waiting to get into the game. The camera lights up and so does Vitale as he signs the spot while scores of people surround him and scream. They screamed so loud in fact, the microphones can't pick up Vitale and they are forced to shoot again.

"You are quite the trooper," Lawson says to Vitale as they rush back inside to tape Dick's Stock Report, an analysis which will air during halftime of a Preseason NIT game the following night. Vitale again works a script and after three takes is satisfied. "Maybe have been a little long," he says, thinking a bit. "You know what? They can edit it."

Next, it's time to go live on ESPN.com.

"Sometimes it's unbelievable. You're sitting here like you're naked," Vitale says after finishing the segment despite difficulty hearing the anchors in his earphones.

He takes a few sips of water to help

By the numbers

Cal Poly is in third place in the Big West's Commissioner's Cup standings after the fall season. The award goes to the school that performs the best in the conference's 12 sports.

UC Santa Barbara is leading the standings. Cal Poly and UCSB each had two teams win BWC titles.

S e c t i o n 1

Schedule

By 8:00 p.m., Vitale and Shulman have begun calling the game. Vitale works more than 30 games a year and this will be the first time in 20 years he will spend Thanksgiving at home, in Sarasota, Fla. He has to wake up early on the morning of the game. The students are now in the building, and as Shulman and Vitale walk in front of them, there is a rousing reception.

"It's like everywhere we go," Shulman says in his booming broadcast-baritone voice, a sharp contrast to Vitale's, high-pitched, low-pitched delivery. "It's like touring America with Elvis."

ALL- AIRPORT TEAM

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