By Abbey Kingdon and Andrea Ceberry

The Saturday night Mardi Gras celebration ended with near gas, rubber bullets and a riot, police said.

What began as an attempt to keep people and traffic moving resulted in a clash between crowds and police officers from 20 agencies across the state, said Rob Byn, public information officer for the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

After being pelted with bottles, rocks and beads, officers dressed in riot gear reacted by deploying chemical agents and rubber ammunition canisters.

"If we can get them to leave with chemical agents we can avoid physical arrest," Byn said.

SLOPD made 71 arrests on Saturday night, with the majority occurring at the intersection of California and Foothill boulevards. Arrests were made after police declared unlawful assembly or a riot, and crowds failed to disperse.

"Crowd mentality is a problem," he said. "There is no rhyme or reason to why this happened."

Students were surprised by the incidents of Saturday night.

Civil engineering senior Kimme Schmidt said she was walking back to her apartment on California and Football boulevards when officers told her and her friends that they could not cross California Boulevard. When asked how they should get home, the officers did not answer.

"The only thing they said was, 'We are gonna arrest you guys if you keep this up,'" Schmidt said. "We just wanted to know how to get home."

Later, Schmidt said she was in a crowd outside her apartment when the police declared the area an unlawful assembly zone. Schmidt said police gave the crowd two minutes to leave, and Schmidt and her friends went into their apartment as "panic" crowd.

see SATURDAY, page 2

Music reminiscent of Carlos Santana filled the streets of downtown San Luis Obispo as women in grass skirts and bikini tops paraded the cold rain in celebration of Mardi Gras.

After Saturday night's events, the fate of the parade was up in the air, a decision was made the following morning.

"It was a joint decision to have the parade," said Rob Byn, public information officer for the San Luis Obispo Police Department. "The parade is not the issue."

Robert Kempf, president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, said, "I don't think the parade, and what happened (on Saturday night) are related at all. That was college kids by campus, the parade and that aren't related at all."

Saturday, the Mardi Gras parade got the go-ahead and, despite the rain, spectators started lining Moxie Street at early as noon, anxiously awaiting the start of the parade at 2:00 p.m.

Regardless of the events of Saturday night, the parade's turnout was not hindered.

"If anything, the weather will affect the turnout (of the parade) more than what happened on Saturday," a member of the Krewe of Sybarites said.

Despite the rain, crowds of onlookers huddled under a sea of multi-colored umbrellas pressing against the crowd barricades installed to keep the audience out of the direct parade route.

A San Luis Obispo Public Works spokesperson from the Streets Division, which helps direct and manage city traffic, said that the crowd barricades were nothing out of the ordinary and certainly not a result of Saturday night's events.

"Even on Saturday night there was nothing we helped with that was different from any other night we are asked to help. There were bigger crowds but nothing out of the ordinary," the spokesperson said. "Because of the size of the city we and the SLOPD help each other a lot. Actually the whole city helps each other."

In preparation for Sunday's parade and to avoid potential repeats of the previous night, Byn said SLOPD had employed additional resources in the area in case of a "flare out."

"We have specialized civil disturbance people deployed to make sure the right people are in the right place at the right time," Byn said.

Police squad cars and ambulances were highly visible throughout the downtown area.

Volunteers recruited by Mardi Gras officials dressed up and designed "Event Staff" and mixed with University Police Department and SLOPD officers to keep a watchful eye on the day's festivities.

However, despite the officers and police cars parked on almost every street corner in close proximity of the parade route the mood of the crowd was festive and exciting.

Amanda Bailey Root and Allen Root, the 19th king and queen of Mardi Gras in San Luis Obispo, reigned over the day's parade.

Mobs of costumed bicyclists and a flock of people clad in brightly colored bad costumes proceeded down Moxie Street dancing, singing and playing to the crowd.

"There wasn't as many people at the parade (as past years), but it was kind of good because it was easier to see," said Theo Zamaj, city and regional planning junior, who attended the parade. "It didn't hinder parade that much though — there was still a crowd there."

As soon as the parade finished the crowd ran to seek cover from the persistent rain.

Some people were spotted running to their cars while others ventured to the downtown bars to keep celebrating Mardi Gras.
By Lade Grimshaw

Last year Erin Partridge helped to plan BODY ’03 week but could not attend because she was readmitted to inpatient care for anorexia, a disease she’s lived with for 11 years.

BODY ’04 begins today with an art exhibit at 5 p.m. in the University Union gallery. BODY ’04 is a week dedicated to a healthy relationship and respect for the body. The Women’s Center, Student Life and Leadership and Associated Students Inc. sponsor the event.

“The upcoming week has been a goal,” said Partridge an art and design senior. “It was hard to bear about it (last year) and not be there to share in it.”

This year Partridge said she is taking things day-by-day and achieving little goals every week so she can remain an outpatient and participate in the week’s events.

“It’s great being around for the entire process, it’s a great personal achievement,” Partridge said. “I’m here and I’m fighting.”

Any unhealthy relationship with food is an eating disorder, Partridge said. Even if people don’t have an eating disorder they may struggle with body image.

“It’s important to bring it into the public eye,” she said.

BODY ’04 will promote healthy living throughout the week with other activities including a yoga class, body tracing, journaling, an open mic and a day trip.

“Anyone can benefit from the week,” said Natalie Mathews, student art and design sophomore. “It affirms that what you have is beautiful.”

The art exhibit will showcase various artists and there will be a discussion of the body and beauty led by art and design professor Joanne Brog. Partridge is one of the artists participating in the show.

Two of her pieces are artworks she created during her inpatient treatment.

“My work is really powerful, real and raw because people don’t like to talk about these things,” Partridge said.

Other exhibitors include art and design sophomore Matt Collins, graphic design junior Leonardi Bassener and Holly Peterson.

“There’s just something about the human figure, it has always been a subject; it never gets old,” Collins said. “When I’m drawing it just becomes line, shape and form, it’s not about ideals.”

The art exhibit is powerful because people can make a huge impact, Partridge said.

“People need to be confronted and shocked. They need an in-your-face representation of what it’s like to get things started.”

Mathews said:

“Art has a deep opening to what people are thinking but won’t always say,” she said. “From my experience art is a really good way to have people interact on an emotional level. It’s a different way for people to see how they feel inside.”

Partridge said she wouldn’t have made it through nine and a half months of inpatient care without art. She said, “Art helps me say things I can’t say in words; there are a lot of emotions I can’t put words to, but I can paint what I want.”

The main goal of the week is to educate people and help those in need.

“Anyone can benefit from the week. It affirms what you have is beautiful.”

Natalie Mathews student art and design supervisor.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A tanker boat and two smaller vessels for its crew members paralyzed major traffic on the Mississippi River on Sunday, stunning divers of long and shallow channels and thousands of cruise passengers.

The 176-foot oil tanker Lee III sank after colliding with a container vessel on a foggy Saturday morning, the Coast Guard said.

The accident shut down the Mississippi River for 80 miles southeast of New Orleans, near where the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico. And it’s going to hold things up for a while.

Commercial divers were expected to look for bodies Monday inside the partially submerged ship about 80 miles southeast of New Orleans, near where the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

There was no word to tell when the river may reopen, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Jonathan McCool. “Probably later than Tuesday,” he said. “And then they probably need a long time to get everything aside.”

One other cruise ship scheduled to dock in New Orleans had to be diverted to east New Orleans and Gulfport, Miss. The cruise lines used buses to get passengers to and from temporary boarding points.

Royal Caribbean’s Grandeur of the Seas and its 2,200 passengers were stranded in New Orleans, a city in the throes of Mardi Gras excess. Some passengers booked for the week-long Caribbean cruise didn’t mind being in town for more parades, but others were looking to get away from the revelry.

“It just wanted to kick back and clear my head,” said Tom Faraci of New London, Conn., a nuclear power plant engineer whose mother and brother died in the last nine months.

The 3,600-passenger Carnival Conquest was re-routed to Gulfport, to the chagrin of Baton Rouge residents. About 1,000 passengers, mostly 16-year-old Paul, chose to go on to see the cruise to the month of Feb.

“It might be the only chance we get to see the month of Feb. The only chance we get to see it on a different way,” he said. "We will investigate cases based on written complaints by those who filed a problem," Bryn said.

Some passengers omitted minor injuries. Bryn said police will remain prepared for celebrations on Tuesday night.

--- Mustang daily staff writer Tarrah Graven contributed to this report.

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National Roundup

WASHINGTON — Consumer advocate Ralph Nader announced Sunday he is running again for president, this time as an independent, and rejected claims that a long-shot candidacy would merely siphon enough votes from the Democrats to ensure George Bush's re-election.

Nader's decision was greeted with a chorus of condemnation from Democrats, longtime friends and former supporters who blame him for Al Gore's loss four years ago. They said Nader would not pull close to the 2.7 percent of the vote he won before without the backing of an established party and some of his past supports.

LOS ANGELES — NASA's Spirit Rover continued probing a trench Sunday that may yield clues about whether there was life as an oxidizing planet, and rejected claims that a long-shot candidate declared Sunday would not relent on its boycott of a mass vaccination program which it called a U.S. plot to spread AIDS and infertility among Muslims.

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Mustang Daily

World Roundup

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti — Rebels captured Haiti's second-largest city.

Cap-Haitien, after just a few hours of fighting Sunday, claiming their biggest prize in a two-week uprising that has driven government forces from most of the country's north.

Rebels that celebrated ransacks into the air and people looted and torched buildings. Some of the rebels boasted that their next target was the capital, Port-au-Prince, still under the control of police and militiamen loyal to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

KADUNA, Nigeria — A northern Islamic state in Nigeria that is at the heart of a spreading Africa polio outbreak declared Sunday it would not relent on its boycott of a mass vaccination program which it called a U.S. plot to spread AIDS and infertility among Muslims.

U.N. aid agencies said the drive to inoculate 63 million children in 10 west and central African countries, including Nigeria, is critical for preventing a growing polio outbreak spreading out from Nigeria's predominately Muslim north.

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up on a crowded Jerusalem bus Sunday, killing eight passengers one day before the world court was to begin hearings on Israel's disputed West Bank barrier.

Israeli officials said the suicide bombing — the 110th in more than three years of violence — proved the need to continue building the barrier to keep out future bombers.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a militant group loosely affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack and identified the bomber as Mohammed Zool, 23, from the village of Hussan near Bethlehem.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — A businessman who admits aiding an international black market in nuclear materials was cleared of wrongdoing in Malaysia and is free to leave the country as authorities abroad widen investigations into his role in selling atomic secrets.

— Associated Press

College Roundup

NEW YORK — In some ways Alexandra Kerry, Cate Edwards, and Rebecca Lieberman are just like other women their age. They're intelligent, well-dressed, and technologically savvy. But in one way, they're part of a very small, select group: They vote.

While the current generation of young women aged 18 to 24 are more civically engaged than ever before, they are voting at the lowest rate in the history of women's suffrage, according to new surveys and candidate focus groups. A panel discussion at New Rochelle's Rockland University was titled "No one is keeping us from voting, but we don't want to vote, either," said Cate Edwards, the executive chief of Glamour magazine. Why are we hesitating? There's no right way we have to vote."

"There are the issues at Google, and the issues at Glamour," she said, "and the issues are, 'Should I vote at all?"'

Women under 30 — a group of 22 million potential voters, who constitute about 8 percent of the total population — are the least likely voters of any demographic group, with only one in five likely to cast a vote in the 2004 election.

— University Wire

THIS WEEK IN ASI EVENTS

BODDY '04 OPENING RECEPTION
Monday, February 23
5 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the US EP Center - FREE

The BODDY '04 theme focuses on body image and eating disorder awareness. Opening will include a fashion and group art project. On display through spring break. Co-sponsored by the Women's Center.

M O N D A Y M O V I E M A D N E S S

Featuring KILL BILL VOLUME 1
Monday, February 23
6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. admission in Chamann Auditorium - FREE

Come watch "KILL BILL" on the big screen. Popcorn will be provided (while supplies last). Seating is limited.

Featuring Simple Plan, MXPX, Sugar Cult and Billy Talent
Tuesday, February 24
7 p.m., doors at 6 p.m. in the Cal Poly Rec Center

Tickets available at all瓦llitix outlets and 1-888-VALLITIX or VALLITIX.COM. Student discount at the Mustang Ticket Office only.

L Y R I C A L O R I G A M I

Featuring J. TURTLE
Wednesday, February 25
6 - 8 p.m. in BackStage Pizza - FREE

J. TURTLE's music blends vibrant lyrics and catchy melodies with a percussive style of guitar playing that stands uniquely on its own.

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live on KCPR Sessions, Tue 7pm

feated show--

Lyrical Origami

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Hosts: Dr. Destructo and Johnny Utah

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The Friday Night Sessions are for Wussies

Western National/International News

Mustang Daily

Monday, February 23, 2004

3
Empowerment, open-mindedness — straight from the vagina

Male and female reporters react to this weekend's performances of "The Vagina Monologues"

The Female Perspective
By Leah Mori
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"The Vagina Monologues" means different things to different people. For some, it simply provides entertainment for an evening. Others go to please a friend or significant other, and for others it serves as a way to discover new information or a new perspective about women.

Even as a woman, I was unsure of how I would receive the performance, as I had heard about the vulgurities used in the monologues. Instead, I was shown a wonderful presentation by a number of extremely talented, empowered actresses who had quite an effect on me and the rest of the audience.

Although some may believe the monologues are obscene, I do not believe they could convey their message any other way. Though we often hear about violence against women and the daily objectification that some are faced with, there are few who have presented the facts in such a manner.

While sitting through the performance, I was more aware of the comedy involved than the painful issues I was watching, but after a discussion with my roommates as to what we saw, I came to realize the full effect of the monologues and the impression it left with me.

We constantly hear of the atrocities of war on innocent people, I never considered how women were directly affected. After the performance of "My Vagina Was My Village," I was brought to tears by the story of a woman who was sexually abused and was maimed by soldiers.

In addition, more tales of the abuse women have suffered, from having acid poured on their faces, causing skin to melt off, to sexual abuse and rape in the United States, were simply appalling. It is difficult to fathom the depths of the pain those women experienced.

The facts incorporated between the stories were disturbing as well. I never knew that 130 million women suffered from genital mutilation, that the average annual rate of rape or sexual abuse is 3.5 times higher in South Africa than all other races that 550,000 women are raped in the United States yearly.

These statistics alone were enough to inspire me to want to make a difference in the lives of women. I was moved and impressed with the abilities of the actresses to convey such emotion to the audience.

Along with the poignant moments were the comical skits, which encouraged women to embrace their sexuality and be proud to be a woman. "The Angry Vagina" jokes fun at societal norms and more imposed upon the female gender, including the use of tampons, thigh underwear and douche sprays. Though said in fun, this performance was one to which almost every woman could relate.

The lightestheartedness and fun incorporated into the script made what would be hard concepts to approach much easier to talk about and reflect on.

Before I saw the performance, the topics of abuse, rape and any type of violence against women were impersonal to me.

"The Vagina Monologues" were inspirational and altered my perspective on women's issues.

The Male Perspective
By John M. Pierson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cont. Citr. Trop. Snatch. Paws. Vagina. Six words from the English language which roughly 49 percent of the population (that's the male half, guys) has absolutely no idea of the true meaning.

"The Vagina Monologues," which played Friday through Sunday night in Chumash Auditorium, seeks to educate both men and women about the true importance of the vagina.

The show, which one would assume is intimidating and man-bashing, is surprisingly friendly and inviting, despite the symbolic pink curtain that is draped from the ceiling and the far less subtle six-foot-tall painting of a vagina, ons chiors, at the foot of the stage.

There is no talk about how men stole the vagina from women, even if those men are bad. There are funny, sad, intelligent, inspiring, eye-opening, frank monologues from women who shared their experiences about life, particularly incivilities regarding their vaginas and their lack of experience and knowledge about them.

The first monologue of the show is from a 72-year-old woman. The image that idea conjures up would make any man quake with fear, once she states talking it becomes drastically apparent that there are women in this world who have absolutely no clue about the most intimate part of their body.

Women aren't as lucky as men; they can't just reach down, pull it out on your hand and look at it. The vagina is not something readily available for them to view. As one woman said in her monologue, "You have to lay down on your back in front of a self-standing mirror and try to wriggle your head around so you can see it."

At times, it's painful to watch "The Vagina Monologues" because it is clear that women don't understand what's going on with their bodies. At one point, the entire audience lined up on the stage and described what happened to them the first time they got their period.

The experiences ranged from being embarrassed, to not wanting to be touched, to not wanting to leave the bathroom alone. Men, on the other hand, could only dream of having a similar experience.

The audience was deathly silent during one monologue, in which a Native American woman describes the abuse she suffers at the hands of her husband and the steps she takes to get her revenge on him. During another monologue, as the actress described the various ways to morn during sex, the audience was in fits of silent laughter trying to hear what the woman on stage was saying while reacting to her outrageous antics. "I should be studying" will never be heard.

Come Aboard The SS VG Sea Cruise
By Tonya Strickland
CAMPUS DINING STAFF WRITER

Come Aboard! Here is a chance for students to be on that four day dinner cruise that many have always wanted to try but never could afford. Set sail with The SS VG, formerly known as VG Cafe, and take part in its annual themed week Feb. 23-26.

From getting lei'd to winning prizes, students have a week long lineup of themed events Monday through Thursday from 5pm-7:30pm.

On Monday, students can get ready to limbo during the "Limbo Lunch" where a free leis will be given out to the first 300 attendees. Tuesday is their seventh annual Mardi Gras party where students can take part in a guessing game and win those colorful and long sought after Roasted Red Potatoes and salad. On Wednesday, set sail with The SS VG's Sea Breeze Punch and their special Flaming Cherries Jubilee which will be served from 8pm - 9pm.

Recreation administration sophomore Crystal Simison gets excited about the cruise. "I think it would be a great experience for most of the students. They won't have to worry about transportation. It's a great deal for what you get."

The SS VG Sea Cruise promises to give students the world when a panel of travel agents come aboard.

While students won't be taking scuba diving lessons, they will be transported into a world of cruise cuisine, beginning with a shrimp cocktail appetizer followed by a scrumptious gembo and other mouth watering dishes.

Not a fish fan? The SS VG will not disappoint you. The sea cruise will also be offering regular menu items in addition to their specialty items. Some selections include: Stuffed Pork Loin with Marsala Sauce, Coq au Vin (Chicken cooked in wine), and reflect on.

BRIAN KENT/MUSTANG DAILY

See VAGINA, page 5

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BRIAN KENT/MUSTANG DAILY

See VAGINA, page 5
There were certain words in the English language that stop all forms of rational thought. "Fire" and "help" are two of them. But starting about a month ago, some other words appeared on Cal Poly's campus—words that not only stopped rational thought but also encouraged some to complain angrily about the words, meaning on a college campus. One of the words was "vagina."

"The Vagina Monologues" played at Cal Poly last weekend at Chumash Auditorium on the University Union.

Before the show even opened, there was controversy not only surrounding the play but also the use in which it was advertised. In Cal Poly's halls and classrooms, flyers not only said the V-word but also asked women, "Have you pleased your vagina today?" More specifically, a flyer that read "Cunt: not a four-letter word" sparked debate.

No sooner had the flyers appeared than they started to... disappear. The flyers were covered by other flyers and ripped down. In addition, angry and offending students wrote into Mustang Daily regularly to oppose the play's use of the advertisement.

Animal science senior Sarah Benoit wrote a letter to the editor. "Vagina Monologues' "ads offensive" (Feb. 4), in which she said she was planning on seeing the play until she saw an advertisement with the word "cunt" on it. She called the word "nothing short of verbal abuse" of her and her peers.

More letters were submitted against the ads, forcing supporters and the producers of the monologues to respond and explain the significance of the ads and the words used in them.

In response to Benoit's letter, graphic communication senior Pam Eidman's letter to the editor (Feb. 9) said the ads should spark dialogue and are meant to be offensive. She ended her letter by telling Benoit she needed to attend the performance "more than ever."

Even if Benoit did not attend one of the three showings of "The Vagina Monologues," many students and local supporters did. The cast of 18 women performed in a packed auditorium both Friday and Saturday night. The crowd roared with laughter with pieces entitled "Haze," "Flood" and "A Six-Year-Old Girl Was Asked." The show also had serious tones when it approached the subject of spousal abuse in "Crooked Braad" and the rape of a woman in "My Vagina Was My Village."

Theater arts senior Jonathan Bench has seen the play performed several times. He said "My Vagina Was My Village" is always difficult to see and listen to.

"Every time the word starts coming... it makes you want to cringe," Bench said. "It's important, but hard to listen to."

Another piece, "The Woman Who Liked to Make Vaginas Happ" explored the world of female sexual satisfaction and the many different moods that can erupt from a woman, i.e. the "triple orgasm morn."

And of course, the infamous word "cunt" in the piece entitled "Reclaiming CUNT" was probably one of the most enjoyable and inappropriate pieces of the night.

Computer science graduate student Dave Gridley saw the play for the first time Friday. Instead of being offended by the advertisements and subject matter of the play, he was intrigued.

"I didn't know what to expect beforehand," Gridley said. "I thought it was going to be something about female empowerment."

Gridley said the cast and the play's content educated both men and women. The cast took signs up for women who wanted to be involved in the production next year.

"I didn't know what to expect...

"But the production this year may just be a case of the flavor of the month."

"On any campus there is controversy about anything," Gridley said. "This really isn't all that different from other controversies."

---

**KCPR...**

... because you're sick of Maroon 5

**by JoAnn Sanders  Mustang Daily Staff Writer**

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Decorated in masks, adorned with feathers and stocked with plenty of colorful beads, participants in the annual Mardi Gras parade were high in spirits despite a steady drizzle and cold weather.

Over the weekend San Luis Obispo welcomed thousands of visitors for Mardi Gras celebrations. Police said Saturday night events ended in rioting, but on Sunday afternoon the parade brightened the streets downtown.

Police officers from 20 agencies across the state were on patrol in San Luis Obispo this weekend. Authorities will remain on duty through Tuesday. Officers made 130 arrests during the weekend, mostly drunk in public.
Saturday night police made 71 arrests, used tear gas and rubber bullets on crowds and declared a riot on Foothill and California boulevards. Students allegedly pelted officers with bottles, rocks and beads.

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Education Bldg. (152), Rm. 205
Thursday, February 26, 11 am
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Mardi Gras
Monday, February 23, 2004
Stealing entertainment harms the industry

A lowly set designer, talking about how piracy in the entertainment industry hurts workers like himself, is not as entertaining as copyrighted material to laugh at when his anti-piracy plea is shown on the big screen. Laughter can be a very effective tool, but not if it is directed at your favorite file-sharing software and downloads a copyrighted work for free.

For the rest of us, piracy hurts the entertainment industry. Industry groups say they lose between $3 and $4 billion annually due to piracy. While these figures are subject to debate, every dollar lost through piracy is a dollar that could be spent on the next great film or album.

Piracy puts the studio in a cash crunch. Someone buys a pirated copy from a metropolitan theater. The sound engineer whose paycheck may never come. The setup and tear-down workers who may not support same-sex marriages. The photographer who may not support same-sex marriages, is that the institution of marriage is only seen as "sacred" by them.

The view that American conservatives have as marriage existing solely between a man and a woman is not only narrow-minded, it's foolish. Marriages, at their core, are economic constructs that benefit both partners. Look at arranged marriages. In Europe, when countries were ruled by monarchies and the nobility system in full swing, many marriages were arranged for financial gain. A family's wealth could increase immediately by marrying a daughter to someone rich.

Even today, although most people marry for love, there is an economic benefit to marrying. In a two-income marriage, it is far easier to meet expenses and pay bills because the family has two paychecks. It's like having roommates but having a legal contract defining your economic relationship. What the conservative Christian right needs to realize, beyond the fact that marriages are economic-based contracts, is that you do not have the luxury to dictate some even in the middle of the United States.

"It's some cultures, such as the Cheyenne, same-sex marriages are seen as socially acceptable," said social sciences professor, John M. Pierson is a Journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer. "But in our society, it is waning, where parents hire English professors and editors to "help" their high-school senior classmate write a paper. When an essay is turned in to a plagiarism detection site, such as Turnitin.com, the computer will compare the student's paper to others stored on the hard drive, and determine if it has been plagiarized.

The student, Jesse Rivinfeld of McGill University in Montreal, told CNN that anti-plagiarism Web sites make money off students' work. While these sites do profit from students' work because submitted essays become part of the company's database, students still retain full ownership of their work.

Plagiarism detection sites helpful

Since Turnitin.com launched in 1998, a handful of online plagiarism-scrubbing services have sprung up. According to its Web site, Turnitin.com services some 22,000 student papers daily and is used by 1,200 universities.

When a document is sent to Turnitin.com, a digital fingerprint of the content is made and compared with every paper in the site's database, along with 2 billion pages of Internet Web sites. Text that is deemed to have been stolen or improperly cited, is color-coded (each color denoting a degree of originality) and linked to the source it allegedly came from.

Turnitin.com, like its competitors, is not foolproof. For instance, Turnitin.com will indict students who have plagiarized Web sites or books they have been properly quoted and referenced. The firm's founder, University of California Berkeley alum John Barrie, acknowledge that a "human being must take that report and interpret it, to make sure that we're saving lives with reality." he said in a June 1999 Salon.com article.

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Letters to the editor

Women desire respect

Editor,

I am writing to address the issue of respect for women. As a member of the campus community, I believe it is essential to foster an environment where everyone, regardless of gender, is treated with dignity and consideration.

Respect is a fundamental principle that should guide our interactions with one another. It is important to recognize and value the diversity of perspectives and experiences that are present in our campus community.

In order to create a truly inclusive environment, we must actively work towards promoting respect and understanding among all members of our community. This includes listening actively, being open to different viewpoints, and taking responsibility for our words and actions.

Let us strive to build a community where everyone feels valued, respected, and supported. Together, we can create a more equitable and just campus environment.

Thanks for your consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important topic.

Sincerely,
[Name]

Opinion

Much ado about nothing

Every week, local readers come to this column in all of its shining glory. No topics. No run-on sentences. Pure, unadulterated genius grace this page every Monday and we are all the better for it.

But it is a bitch to write. You wouldn't believe some of our thought processes going on in our heads before we start our usual "I'm, what do you think you would write about this week?" This is followed by a slow, almost Spock-esque, "Uhhuh, I don't know. We'll see." It goes on like this for a good two or three days before we actually sit down in front of the computer to be productive. And when that finally happens, it goes like this:"

"How about we write about how everyone is sick right now, but they walk around with an innocent smoker's cough honking and sneezing and spreading germs like a three year old?"

"or about a dream she had where she was stuck in a cave and we have to stop because we are blown away that someone has more ridiculous ideas in her head than we do (OK, we lied about the no run-on sentences comment)."

Can't you feel the frustration? It isn't as easy as we make it look. It goes like this every week, and somehow we manage to churn out the hits. We are starting to wonder if we can ever be stopped, that's how invincible we feel. No kryptonite could destroy us; we are invincible. Our fingers are acrobats. We can type a word with our eyes closed. We can type while sleeping. We can type with our arms amputated. We can type with our fingers as raw as they can stand, while we continue to crank out the hits. We are starting to wonder if we can ever be stopped, that's how invincible we feel. No kryptonite could destroy us; we are invincible.

Maddie Smith is a journalism freshman.

Letters become the property of the Mustang Daily. Letters must include the writer's full name and major. Letters to the Editor should be 300 words or less. E-mail letters to letters@mustangdaily.org.

Letters to the Editor

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Respect is a fundamental principle that should guide our interactions with one another. It is important to recognize and value the diversity of perspectives and experiences that are present in our campus community.

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Let us strive to build a community where everyone feels valued, respected, and supported. Together, we can create a more equitable and just campus environment.

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Sincerely,
[Name]
Tibetan monks protested a festival at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana to note the Chinese occupation of the country on New Year's Day. They called for a boycott of the exhibit, consisting of 200 sculptures, paintings, and other art works never before shown in a Western country.

They also called for a boycott of the festival, noting the Chinese occupation of Tibet. They called for the Drepung Gomang monks, said they understood the protesting Tibetans' concerns. They are fighting for the same cause here, he said.

"This is not China," said Tenzin Dhamcho, president of Los Angeles Drepung Gomang Monastery in India.

"We have to remain neutral. It's inappropriate for the Bowers to take a political stance," Dhamcho, president of Los Angeles Drepung Gomang Monastery in India, said.

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader and a Nobel Peace Prize winner, heads a government-in-exile in India. This is not China, said Terence Duan, president of Los Angeles Friends of Tibet. "We live in a free, democratic America. It is truly sad to see that the long arm of Beijing has found its way into our very own backyard.

"We are fighting for the same cause here," he said.

"We are fighting for the same cause here," he said.
Sports

BASKETBALL continued from page 12

The Mustangs' despair shone through on the bench Saturday night. At 6-7 overall and 5-4 in the PAC-7, the team proved they could still compete without their star player, Varnie Dennis. Though the team lost, there was an understandable somberness, Bromley's optimism about the future echoed through his team.

Kevin Bromley continued on the team's perseverance in the face of all of their distractions.

"We just got to come and play hard...continue to play hard because we played hard tonight," Bromley said. "They showed tremendous character to come back. They dropped their heads and they buried back."

"All though the team lost, there was an understandable somberness, Bromley's optimism about the future echoed through his team."

Kevin Bromley and the team continued from page 12

due to an aggravated knee injury, Dennis no longer played from the sidelines and saw them struggle without his average 18 points per game. However, with Dennis out of the picture, other Mustangs took more offensive responsibilities.

"They showed tremendous character to come back. They dropped their heads and they buried back."

"All though the team lost, there was an understandable somberness, Bromley's optimism about the future echoed through his team."

Kevin Bromley and the team

PACIFIC continued from page 12

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Kevin Bromley and the team

CAL POLY SOFTBALL Softball splits games at the UCSB tourney

The Col Poly softball team went 6-8 overall as they defeated Florida International 4-1 on Saturday in its second game of the "Softball By The Beach" Invitational hosted by UC Santa Barbara.

The Mustangs put together a three-run inning in the fourth inning and held on for the win.

Ethan Myers went 2-for-3 and knocked in two runs for the Mustangs. In the third inning, Myers doubled and then scored on a Lisa Meldrin single in the top of the third to give the Mustangs a early 1-0 lead.

In the bottom of the fourth, Kristi Alvers led the inning off by getting hit by a pitch. Shannon Brooks stepped up and knocked a single, advancing Alvers to second. Amyso Nazareno knocked another single to load the bases. Myers singled to score Alvers for a 2-0 Mustangs' lead.

The Cal Poly softball team lost 7-3 to Central Florida in the first day of play at the UCSB-softball tournament. The Mustangs' second game, at against Florida International, was cancelled due to darkness.

Central Florida scored seven runs on nine hits while committing four errors in the game. Cal Poly scored three runs on five hits and committed three errors.

Chey Strofer led the Mustangs with a 2-for-4 performance while Chelsea Green went 1-for-4 but drove in two runs on her single.

Freshman Emily Hively started and suffered the loss for the Mustangs when she surrendered three hits and two runs over 2 1/3 innings.

With the loss the Mustangs fall to 5-8 for the season.

CAL POLY SOFTBALL

Swimming teams finish fourth at Big West championships

The Mustangs' despair shone through on the bench Saturday night. At 6-7 overall and 5-4 in the PAC-7, the team proved they could still compete without their star player, Varnie Dennis. Though the team lost, there was an understandable somberness, Bromley's optimism about the future echoed through his team.

Kevin Bromley and the Mustangs were not able to keep their halftime advantage.

Swimming teams finish fourth at Big West championships

BRIAN KENT/MUSTANG DAILY

Kevin Bromley and the Mustangs were not able to keep their halftime advantage.
**Wrestling pulls out close win**

By Jake Ashley  
**SPORTING STAFF WRITER**

The Mustangs took an 18-0 lead in their match with UC Davis.

---

**Busted stuff: Mustang basketball dubs their Big West ditch**

• Cal Poly pulls close late against conference's top team, but loses by 12

By JoAnn Seder

There are two words to describe the performance the Cal Poly men's basketball team put forth in their game against the Pacific Tigers Saturday night: heart and dedication. However, even heart and dedication did not give the Mustangs the points they needed to win the game, but they carried them a long way and gave them a glimpse of hope for the future.

The Mustangs fell 76-64 to the Tigers Saturday night: heart and dedication did not give the Mustangs the points they needed to win the game, but they carried them a long way and gave them a glimpse of hope for the future.

In the first half, the Mustangs had a 9-8 lead in their match against the Tigers. The Mustangs had 17 points and the Tigers had 14.