State rejects school bond act

By Emily Wong
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Tri-Counties Blood Bank presents an award to Cal Poly.

Cal Poly recognized for blood donations

By Emily Wong
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly students are saving lives every day. In 2003, students, faculty and staff donated more than 850 pints of blood to the community.

For its continued contribution the Tri-Counties Blood Bank presented Cal Poly with an award for outstanding community service Tuesday.

"Many blood donors for life start while they are in college," Tri-Counties Blood Bank executive Vickie Finson said before presenting a plaque to Interim Provost and Vice President Robert Detweiler. Detweiler stood in for President Warren Baker, who was unable to attend.

"I am not accepting this as an individual but on behalf of the university and the students," Detweiler said. "I hope that this is only the beginning of community and life-saving blood donations."

To kick off the awards ceremony, four recreation administration students held a blood drive as part of a class project.

"It has given us a glimpse into how important giving blood is," said recreation administration sophomore Matthew Gwerson, one of the students heading the project.

Other students involved included recreation administration sophomores Matt Stephenson and Ann Grapap and recreation administration junior Courtney Harris.

Student support for blood drives on campus has been high through the school year. The proposed Kindergarten-12th Grade Bond Act was slated to give $34 million to replace aging buildings, classrooms and equipment. Now, future plans for new architecture and engineering facilities are up in the air.

"Obviously it puts everything behind, but we will try to go back to the voters the next possible time," Interim Provost and Vice President Robert Detweiler said. "All the various growth projects will be delayed at least six months."

Cal Poly officials were relying on voters' history of approving school bond measures to pass Proposition 55.

"It's complicated because of public concern that they would be responsible for more debt," Detweiler said. "I am not accepting this as an immediate but on behalf of the university and the students."

"Yes. Prop. 55 affects us. It was important to me."

— Brian Tam, mechanical engineering senior

"No, because I'm not registered in SLO."

— Brittany Goehring, liberal studies junior

In 2003, students, faculty and staff donated more than 850 pints of blood to the community. Cal Poly is one of the greatest resources for blood donations on the Central Coast.

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

John Kerry cements presidential nomination

By Ron Fournier
ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Kerry cemented the Democratic presidential nomination, driving rival John Edwards out of the race with a string of Super Tuesday triumphs that catapulted the Massachusetts senator into an eight-month struggle to oust President Bush.

"Change is coming to America," Kerry said, capping a remarkable comeback that began this year with his candidacy on the brink of extinction in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"Dominating all the polls," a super PAC supporting Kerry put out in a Democratic-leaning newspaper, "Terry lawmaker won 27 of 30 elections as each victory fed on the next in a swell of momentum that no rival could overcome. From Edwards' Southern stronghold to the war-craving Midwest states of Ohio and Michigan to the growing Southwest battlegrounds of Arizona to his own New England base, Kerry racked up victories in a 15-week primary season that amplified Democratic calculations of the Republican incumbent.

In state after state, Democrats said their top priority was a candidate who could defeat a wartime president with the voters still reeling from Hurricane Katrina. Kerry, a decorated Vietnam veteran, won an overwhelming number of their votes, and now leads a relatively united party against Bush.

"I am a fighter, and for more than 30 years I have been on the battle lines, on the front lines, for fairness and mainstream American values," Kerry told cheering supporters in Washington, D.C., promising to close tax loopholes, offer new incentives for manufacturers, protect the environment, raise the minimum wage and cut health care costs.

The crowd shouted along with him as Kerry delivered his signature line: "I'll George Bush wants to make national security the central issue of this campaign, he understands — Bring. It. On."

Strategists in both parties say the general election may be decided by the last weeks of the first quarter of 2004, the time when the candidates will likely campaign in key states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Kerry's support is now spreading to new areas, a sign that he could sweep the general election.

"Kerry would choose a nominee well endowed with the potential to win the White House, won an overwhelming number of their votes, and now leads a relatively united party against Bush."

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Pivoting quickly to the Nov. 2 elections, Kerry ordered his staff to immediately put in place a process to review potential vice presidential candidates, according to senior advisers. They said it was possible, but not likely, that Kerry would choose a nominee well endowed with the potential to win the White House. Kerry's support is now spreading to new areas, a sign that he could sweep the general election.

Aides said Kerry had grown frustrated with Edwards' claim that he was the only candidate who could beat Bush, but it's not enough to preclude his consideration for a vice presidential nomination.
News

Voting

continued from page 1

think it's only the second time an education bond has been rejected!"

Other propositions on the ballot included the Budget Accountability Act (Proposition 56), the Economic Recovery Bond Act (Proposition 57) and the California Balanced Budget Act (Proposition 58).

Proposition 56

Proposition 56, which would have made it easier for the Legislature to raise taxes, was soundly defeated by a margin of 63 percent to 37 percent.

National

continued from page 1

Setting the party's reins, Kerry planned a new, less-visible role for Democratic National Committee chairman Terry McAuliffe, aides said.

The candidate's first general campaign stop will be Wednesday in Florida, one of the historic 2000 recount election that gave Bush the presidency.

His polling ratings slipping, Bush began a multimillion-dollar TV ad blitz Thursday designed to bolster his political fortunes. Kerry is pressed to slip into Democratic Party coffers to pay for his own ads, but Bush has a huge cash advantage.

Briefly setting aside their differences, Kerry took a congratulatory call from Bush.

"You had an important victory today," the president told Kerry, adding that he looked forward to a spirited fight.

Hour earlier, Bush had dispatched Vice President Dick Cheney to TV studios to criticize the preventive foe. "He very clearly has over the years adopted a series of positions that indicate a desire to cut the defense budget, cut the intelligence budget, to eliminate many major weapons programs," Cheney said of Kerry, a 1970s Vietnam veteran.

Kerry called Edwards, whose lone win was South Carolina, "a great voice for our party." He contested another fallen rival, Howard Dean, in an effort to unite the party.

Calling Kerry "my friend," Edwards told supporters in Atlanta, "He's been an extraordinary advocate for causes that all of us believe in."

Kerry rolled up huge Super Tuesday triumphs in California, New York, Ohio, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Minnesota and his home state of Massachusetts, as well as a record for the first time Tuesday. As many as 6 million registered voters in California were using touchscreen machines, and all voting in Maryland was to be electronic.

They're upset that touchscreens computers to Windows, affected the inherent fallibility of machines got their biggest U.S. test so far.

Elections officials blamed improperly trained poll workers unfamiliar with new machines, especially in Maryland and California, where dozens of counties switched from antiquated punch-card and lever systems to touchscreen terminals.

"There have been a few human errors, which you have in any election, but there have been no voting equipment problems at all," said Linda Lamone, Maryland election laws administrator.

That argument didn't placate Ohio, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Minnesota and his home state of Massachusetts, as well as a record for the first time Tuesday. As many as 6 million registered voters in California were using touchscreen machines, and all voting in Maryland was to be electronic.

"The inherent fallibility of humans is precisely why we need a voter-verifiable paper trail," said Kim Alexander, president of the California Voter Foundation. "Things will always go wrong in elections."

In San Diego County, touchscreen machines failed to boot properly, causing delays up to two hours and forcing some voters to go to other polling places to cast paper ballots.

Country spokesman Mike Workman said poll workers became confused when computers booted to a Microsoft Windows screen, not the e-voting operating system. The problem, possibly triggered by a power fluctuation that reset computers to Windows, affected between 10 percent and 15 percent of the country's 1,611 precincts, Workman said.

Debeldub spokesman David Pear, in San Diego to help poll workers on Tuesday, said he anticipated that such problems would recede as poll workers learned touchscreen protocol.

Perplexed poll workers in Orange County swamped the voting registra's technical support phone lines Tuesday morning, as the "eSlate" system by Hart InterCivic debuted in 1,112 precincts.

"The problems are more with the poll workers scuffling through to find the right ballot under the right precinct," said Brett Rowley, a spokesman for the county's Registrar of Voters Office.

A record number of voters were expected to cast e-ballots for the first time Tuesday. As many as 6 million registered voters in California were using touchscreen machines, and all voting in Maryland was to be electronic.

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General Information Meeting

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Chess Club of Cal Poly

E-voting machines get biggest test run

By Rachel Konrad

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Super Tuesday voters in Maryland, Georgia and California encountered scattered technical problems Tuesday as electronic voting machines got their biggest U.S. test so far.

Elections officials blamed improperly trained poll workers unfamiliar with new machines, especially in Maryland and California, where dozens of counties switched from antiquated punch-card and lever systems to touchscreen terminals.

"There have been a few human errors, which you have in any election, but there have been no voting equipment problems at all," said Linda Lamone, Maryland election laws administrator.

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WASHINGTON — Honda Motor Co. is recalling 440,000 Civics and Insight cars because their low-beam headlights can fail without warning, the company said Tuesday.

No injuries have resulted from the defect, Honda spokesman Andy Boyd said. The recall involves 2001-2002 model year Civics and 2000-2002 model year Insights.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which also announced the recall, the headlights’ wire harness can overheat and cause the low-beam headlights to fail. Boyd said drivers could still use their high-beam headlights in all cases.

SANTA ANA — Orange County officials got a flood of calls from distressed residents looking for water after a water main break Tuesday near the airport.

All 20 staffers working the emergency phone lines were swamped from the time the polls opened at 7 a.m. through the number of calls dwindled by about 11 a.m., Ruwley said.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Spill response could be hampered by a planned overhaul and automation of pump stations along the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, according to a new federal environmental study.

Under the plan, spill responders would need up to an extra hour to reach the right ballot with the right precinct, "I am the chief," then clarified that he meant self the chief of Haiti's military,

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Rebel leader Guy Philippe declared himself the chief of Haiti's military, which was disbanded by exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and pledged Tuesday that rebel forces will disarm.

Havana — Thumping out joy, or thudding sadness, the "boom boom boom of drums" are enriched with life on this Caribbean island. "There is no Cuban who can hear a drum without feeling his heart skip a beat," percussionist Eduardo Cordova said.

Drums have enormous energy. Sometimes they make me feel like I'm someone else," said Cordova, who crafts traditional African-influenced drums from cedar and animal skins, adorning them with faces and figures. Made popular by African slaves brought to work on the plantations centuries ago, bongos, tamborines and other drums are now so intrinsic that Cuban musicologists say they should be declared national musical instruments.

JERUSALEM — Chef Yochanan Lambiashe thinks he has found a recipe for success: He's teaching the art of gourmet cooking to young observant Jews, a community starved not only for good food but also professional opportunities.

Through the Kosher Culinary Academy, Lambiashe wants to shake up a world known for its salty, scruffy and fatty cuisine. He hopes his students will be at the forefront of the fast-growing market for gourmet kosher food.

The program is more than a matter of taste. It's the first cooking school in Israel to cater to students from close-knit Orthodox communities.

ATHENS, Ohio — Ohio University's mascot, the Bobcat, officially went off duty at the men's basketball game Sunday.

The mascot is taking a short vacation because he senses a lack of spirit and pride for Ohio University's bicentennial celebration, said Adam Covington, a member of Senior Class Council. The Bobcat is asking Ohio University students, faculty members and even Bobcats to prove him wrong and show their spirit by voting Friday for the Senior Class Council's class gift fund.

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| National Roundup | World Roundup | Los Angeles — Late ballots are as rare as awesome for students as gearing up for the last four weeks of the quarter.

"Last year, I got it and had to turn it in the next day," said Heather Johnston, a first-year marine biology student.

Johnston, a Colorado resident, votes via absentee ballot. She has yet to receive her absentee ballot for Tuesday's election.

Since new deadlines were established to live away from home, they face problems with absentee voting or aren't aware of deadlines. Unlike the general voting population, which votes in fixed permanent addresses, students face an unique problem of having dual residences.

The common strategy among the mechanisms of voting carried over to Tuesday's Democratic primary as many of the winners did not vote."
Estrogen alone is too risky, study says

By Lauran Neergaard
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The government, ending the last major study of estrogen, says taking it alone isn’t as bad as using it with the hormone progesterin. Officials advise that estrogen still is too risky for long-term use.

Women who took estrogen alone after menopause had a significantly increased risk of stroke, and possibly a higher risk of dementia too, the National Institutes of Health announced Tuesday.

That doesn’t mean that women who just started using estrogen to relieve menopausal symptoms like hot flashes should panic, cautioned Dr. Barbara Alving, director of the NIH’s Women’s Health Initiative.

“This isn’t an emergency,” she said. There are women who have used estrogen for many years, even decades, and “this provides them with an opportunity to say, ‘Do I really need to be on this still?’” Alving added.

The government’s advice for now: If you use hormones for menopausal symptoms, use the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration, she stressed.

Doctors long thought that using estrogen, alone or together with progesterin, would keep women healthier after menopause, in such ways as reducing heart attacks and keeping the brain sharp.

Millions of women have quit using the estrogen-progesterin combination since 2002, when a major federal study concluded that those pills raised the risk of breast cancer, strokes and heart attacks.

Scientists weren’t sure whether estrogen alone was as risky. Only women who have undergone a hysterectomy can even consider taking estrogen alone, in other women, progesterin use with estrogen is crucial to protect against uterine cancer.

Now, the NIH is shutting down a study of estrogen-only use, too, telling the 11,020 women enrolled to quit their pills — essentially ending the hope estrogen alone would have some overarching usefulness that the hormone combination did not.

The women, who were healthy 50- to 79-year-olds, took either estrogen or a dummy pill for nearly seven years. The study’s primary purpose was to see if estrogen could prevent heart disease after menopause.

Among the findings released Tuesday:

• Estrogen alone increased the risk of a stroke as much as estrogen-progestin does. For every 10,000 women, those taking hormones suffer eight more strokes per year than nonhormone users.

• Estrogen alone had no effect, good or bad, on heart disease. In contrast, the estrogen-progesterin combination increased heart attack risk by 29 percent.

• Estrogen alone didn’t increase the risk of breast cancer, a surprise to the NIH. Again in contrast, the estrogen-progesterin combination had increased that risk, by 26 percent.

Neither type of hormone therapy seems good for women’s brains.

Preliminary data from a related study of women 65 and older suggest those taking estrogen alone were more likely to suffer some degree of dementia than those taking a placebo, the NIH said.

Likewise, scientists announced last May that the estrogen-progesterin combination doubled the risk of Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.

Both estrogen alone and with progesterin have some benefits. Both types decrease the risk of a hip fracture from bone-thinning osteoporosis, although the NIH said only women who cannot take one of the nation’s many other osteoporosis treatments should consider estrogen for that.

And Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, maker of the Premarin estrogen brand used in the study, stressed that estrogen remains the most effective treatment for such menopausal symptoms as hot flashes, which drive some women to be a serious problem.

Women now taking hormone therapy, or considering it, for these two reasons must discuss their individual risk factors with their doctors, cautioned the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

Alving reiterated that, noting that women in the study were generally very healthy yet still had the increased stroke risk. A risk that would be even greater for a woman who also smokes and has high blood pressure.

“The average woman needs to look at what her own individual risks are,” she stressed.

The NIH decided to stop the estrogen-only study last month, a year before its planned completion, saying enough data had been collected to assess overall risks and benefits. The agency plans to report details of the data within two months, but released preliminary findings Tuesday to coincide with letters telling study participants to quit their pills.

As an engineer in the U.S. Air Force, there’s no telling what you’ll work on.

(Seriously, we can’t tell you.)

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As a Student Government, the Cal Poly University Police Department, and the San Luis Obispo Police Department work closely together on many issues concerning the campus. At this time, we are continuing to communicate and work together in order to exchange information, concerns, and ideas. The goal is to ensure that the alcohol-driven events of Mardi Gras weekend do not reoccur. We are developing a process for even greater student input related to these issues and we will continue to have an open, honest dialog.

Sincerely,

Alison Anderson, ASI President
Chief Deborah Linden, San Luis Obispo Police Department
Chief Tony Aelts, University Police Department, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Ambulance services are underfunded

By Roger Alford
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARLAN, Ky. — Dawn Nunez sat by her husband’s hospital bedside, worrying that he was having a heart attack and praying he would survive the wait for an ambulance to take him to another hospital.

An agonizing 14 hours after doctors at Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital decided he needed treatment that wasn’t available locally, an ambulance finally arrived to take him to a larger hospital in Lexington, about 120 miles away.

“Time is of the essence when you’re dealing with an emergency,” Nunez said. “Even one hour is too long to wait for an ambulance. It is frightening. You just feel so helpless.”

In some of the nation’s poorest counties, where many people don’t have health insurance to pay for ambulance rides, the emergency transport system is spotty at best.

Rural ambulance companies sometimes don’t have the same financial base available in more populated urban areas, said Dan Summers, director of the Center for Rural Emergency Medicine at West Virginia University.

“First of all, they have fewer resources as far as manpower and equipment,” Summers said. “Population doesn’t support a great deal of funding.”

At 4 Wednesday, March 3, 2004

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Rec Center hosts Hold 'Em tourney Friday

Poker game growing in popularity makes its way to campus for a friendly competition

By Amy Kocot Mustang Daily Staff Writer

With two playing cards in hand, the strategy is simple: Make a bet and raise the stakes. The competition is fiercer than a two-mile Olympic race, but the challenge is friendly competition frenzy to heat opponents waiting to take the entire stack of chips.

The name of the game is Texas Hold 'Em, and its competitive spirit created an intense strategic battlefield in the racquetball courts at Cal Poly’s Rec Center 7 p.m. Friday.

The free, no-limit tournament will allow 24 players to compete in the poker-like card game for an intramural championship T-shirt.

"The game has attracted a lot of people," said biology senior Matthew Stone, event pit boss and intramural student manager for the Rec Center. "My friends and I used to play it in high school, and now we are bringing it back, giving people something to do on a Friday evening.

Anyone who is eligible to use the Rec Center can participate in the tournament, which will be head-ed by four intramural supervisors acting as dealers.

Stone said the rules will follow typical game guidelines.

The competition will be an individual effort, with everyone getting the same amount of Cal Poly-spirit ed green, yellow and white chips.

Business senior Ray Motta, a dealer in Friday’s tournament, said interest in the game is increasing due to hype-up media coverage.

"Texas Hold ‘Em is becoming more popular thanks to games shown on ESPN," Motta said. "Fox Sports Net also shows late-night poker games and people have been getting into online poker-playing.”

The structure of the game, according to TexasHoldEm-Poker.com, depends on the type of players and atmosphere, but most games begin with two players laying out a predetermined amount of money, known as the "blinds," so there is an initial pot.

Next, each player is dealt two cards face down, which is followed by a round of betting, beginning with the player to the left of the two who placed the blind.

As in most poker games, players can check, raise or fold, and after the betting round ends, the dealer discards the top card of the deck to prevent cheating.

The dealer then turns the next three cards face up on the table. These are cards anyone can use, along with their two cards already in hand, to form a full poker hand. Two more cards are flipped over, one at a time, and the best five-card hand is formed from the seven total cards.

Stone said there will be a total of four rounds of betting. At the end of the game, the player with the best hand wins.

Stone said sign-ups were originally scheduled to continue through the week, but all 24 spots filled quickly.

For now, anyone who wishes to join in Friday’s excitement will have to attend as a spectator, but wannabe Hold ‘Em players may get another shot at gambling glory.

"Depending on how Friday’s tournament goes, we want to have another one spring quarter," Stone said.

SOURCE: TexasHoldEm-Poker.com

Let it Ride
Become a Texas Hold ‘Em expert — keep reading

Most Hold ‘Em games being with two players betting a preset amount of money, also known as the "blinds." This gives an initial amount to play for.

Next, each player is dealt two cards face down, which are known as pocket cards. A round of betting is placed on these cards.

From here, the dealer "burns" a card from the top of the deck to prevent cheating. The dealer then places three new cards face up on the table in what is known as the flop. Anyone can use these cards, as well as the next two that are subsequently flipped after the bet-burn cycle, to make the best hand of five cards possible.
By Courtney Linehan

"Hip-hop is a little more than music. It's how you dress, speak and carry yourself. I believe hip-hop to be more along the lines of music, expression and a way of life, with emphasis on the last two rather than the first." Edward Moses

Urbana-Champaign Hip-Hop Congress treasurer

This week marks the third annual Hip-Hop Awareness Week, an opportunity for UC Hip-Hop Congress to spread understanding of hip-hop culture and debunk common myths through events such as breakdance competitions and hip-hop performances, said Derek Lo, senior in commerce and promotions and marketing head of the organization.

"This is the third time, and by far the biggest," Lo said. "I think the week is really important for us to open up to everyone. It's tough because of the negative connotations of hip-hop, so one of our goals is to negate the negative. We're trying to open up people to the positive side."

Lo said there are four basic elements that combine to form hip-hop culture: dance, music, poetry and art. More specifically, breakdance, DJ's, rap, the spoken word and graffiti are the key elements of hip-hop. Lo cautioned that graffiti does not necessarily mean defacing public property, as one common myth suggests.

"Graffiti can be done on canvas as well," Lo said. "It usually gets a pretty bad connotation."

Although hip-hop is often perceived as a genre of music, its role covers all aspects of life, said Edward Moses, the group's treasurer and sophomore.

"Hip-hop is a little more than music," Moses said. "It's how you dress, speak and carry yourself. I believe hip-hop to be more along the lines of music, expression and a way of life, with emphasis on the last two rather than the first."

Dan Finnerty, founding member of UC Hip-Hop Congress and senior in commerce, said misconceptions about hip-hop often limit students' understanding of the genre.

"One belief is that it is black music," Finnerty said. "Its origins lie within Latino and African-American urban youth, but immediately after hip-hop was invented, people of all races were involved."

Finnerty also pointed out a correlation between hip-hop and punk rock that he said many people do not know about.

"Punk rock was developing at the same time (hip-hop was)," Finnerty said. "A lot of people supported both genres."

The range of artists appearing at the various events should appeal to those familiar with the hip-hop world, Moses said.

"We're bringing down a lot of what I would call our 'favorites,'" Moses said. "We've got (Grammy Award-winning) Scratch from the Roots and Brother Ali coming to the Canopy Club, and we've got world champion breakdancer Kujo coming down to judge the breakdance competition and hold a workshop.

Finnerty said the purpose of the week is two-fold. "It's to celebrate what we do," he said. "But it's also getting those people who think that what they see on TV is hip-hop and showing them what it is really about."

More information about Hip-Hop Awareness Week or UC Hip-Hop Congress can be found at www.ucuc.edu/uhiphop.

By Jake Seaton

RALEIGH, N.C. — I was really starting to wonder what happened to electro-core. Videodrome broke up. Deadal is missing and I haven't heard from Orgy since 2000's "Vapor Transmission." Godflesh is still lingering around but they dropped their industrial roots for a mainstream rock approach — still good, but not electro-core. Well, Orgy is back, and they brought with them an arsenal much stronger than what came with "Vapor Transmission.

"Candyass" years with synth-guitars and haunting background vocals. Jay Gordon also produces this track, which may be why it stands out from the rest of the bunch as superb.

"Vapor Transmission" failed. "Punk Statik" excels. Though "Vapor Transmission" really was not a bad album, it reached a bit too far for that radio hat. "Punk Statik" for a "Blue Monday" rip-off and "Opticon" was everything Orgy was not.

When I call a band electro-core I guess I am talking more about '80s music with a hardcore edge — think Flock of Seagulls with Chino Moreno on vocals — however, it may be ironic that Orgy's hit track off "Candyass" was "Blue Monday," the band neverlasted in the synthesized big. From day one, the band grew and progressed, eventually garnering mainstream radio fans. Well, with "Punk Statik" there is no difference; the band continues to mature.

The album opens with a Godhead-esque track entitled "Beautiful Disease." While the track is a bit softer at first listen, it is far from a disgrace. With the signature Orgy distorted guitars and bass riffs, the song introduces the listener to a different side of lead-singer Jay Gordon — he can actually rap. Don't get me wrong, this is not a pop album, but it is a welcomed change up to the '80s vocal distributions found on previous releases.

"The Olivia" is the stand-out track on this new LP. The track comes the closest to revisiting the "Candyass" years with synth-guitars and haunting background vocals. Jay Gordon also produces this track, which may be why it stands out from the rest of the bunch as superb.

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The album opens with a Godhead-esque track entitled "Beautiful Disease." While the track is a bit softer at first listen, it is far from a disgrace. With the signature Orgy distorted guitars and bass riffs, the song introduces the listener to a different side of lead-singer Jay Gordon — he can actually rap. Don't get me wrong, this is not a pop album, but it is a welcomed change up to the '80s vocal distributions found on previous releases.

"The Olivia" is the stand-out track on this new LP. The track comes the closest to revisiting the "Candyass" years with synth-guitars and haunting background vocals. Jay Gordon also produces this track, which may be why it stands out from the rest of the bunch as superb.

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It’s time for women to pop the question.

**Opinion**

How many men and women remember the days of Sadie Hawkins dances? When boys应邀 in relief because they weren’t expected to ask a girl to go with them, but saw an invitation as the asking, but lately, things have started to take a Sadie Hawkins-like turn.

More and more women are coming up with the initiative to propose to the men in their lives and more people have found it socially acceptable. Women are thus doing the asking in one out of 10 proposals today, said Bernice Kerbel in her book “Are You Normal About Sex, Love, and Relationships?”

In a poll conducted by Kerbel in 2003, 77 percent of men believed it was “socially acceptable” for a woman to propose. Only 63 percent of women believed this to be true.

Hopefully this trend will continue and more women will take the initiative to propose to the men they want to spend the rest of their lives with.

Women have come far in their gender battle for equal rights that they should find it socially acceptable to propose to a man. Why wait for another day when they can do it themselves?

One of the traditions during Mardi Gras was created to indulge in vices one last time. This supposedly stems from fifth century Ireland when St. Patrick complained to St. Patrick that women had to wait for men to propose. He declared the day as such and the tradition has gone on since then.

In 2004, women don’t have to wait four years for the special day to come around in order to propose. They can choose any day they wish.

Though this means the absence of the engagement ring on the appropriate finger of a woman, asking a man for his hand in marriage can have many positive effects.

There are few gifts in life for a woman than to know that she will forever be a part of someone’s life, regardless of who did the proposing.

This year, women may spend years waiting for their significant other to “pop the question,” which may or may not come at the time they want it. Proposing shortens the wait and allows women to discover more quickly if the man they think is “the One” is really the one they are with.

Other women like to have every aspect of their lives planned out. In proposing, these women can take charge and have everything exactly as they wish. They can plan every aspect, from the location to the ring, down to the people who will be attending.

Hearing about women proposing can be inspiring to male readers. With the push for women’s rights, it is time for society to stop stereotyping and make it socially acceptable and desirable for women to propose to men.

Leah Mosi is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.

**Letters to the editor**

**Police created anger**

**Editor,**

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the police who came out to crack down on our civil rights. It’s nice to see that they cared enough to shoot my friends with paintballs full of pepper spray while I was standing on my own balcony.

No, in all seriousness, the cops here are good. They caused the "riot" on Feb. 21 by breaking up several large parties on Highland Boulevard in and around Mustang Village. Where did they expect these people to go? Do you think that a ton of students are going to go through the trouble of getting all dished up, drunk and strung with beads and then just go home when their parties are broken up?

In breaking up those parties and preventing the gathering at Cal Creek, the police created a situation full of angry students and cops with tears. Have fun with all the lawsuits.

Sky Kelley is a computer engineering senior.

Mardi Gras always wild

**Editor,**

As I sat here recovering from a T&A hangover (tear gas and alcohol), I couldn’t help but wonder why such excessive force was used Feb. 21. Mardi Gras was created to indulge in vices one last time before the start of Lent. As a result, massive amounts of drinking, partying, flashing and other vices were inherently present during this time. Yet in San Luis Obispo, officials were trying to crush this time of relaxation and reform it into something little Timmy and Caitlin could watch. Well. Mr. and Mrs. Tromp, let me say that you have taken a holiday for purging and mold it into a clean, sober event that your children can participate in. It may work for the parade, but when the sun goes down, the “big kids” will go out to play, no one can stop this, something will be made. But any attempt to crush such an event will only make it more popular.

This year’s increase in party festivities clearly demonstrates this case. With the media attention given to these parties, it’s almost guaranteed that more festivities will be going on next year. San Luis Obispo officials wanted to turn this event as the largest Mardi Gras party west of the Mississippi. Well, they’ve certainly got it, and they should have known what they were asking for.

Instead of fearing their creation, they should let us enjoy our night of crazy celebration. A once-in-a-life time event shouldn’t be this painful.

Jason Oseza is a general engineering sophomore.

No fair-weather fans

**Editor,**

My friends and I have attended home football games this season, and each game we get to stay, just right of ball court. We stand up and cheer and yell at the Texas National Guard (Bush) and who served in Vietnam (Kerry) and who was captured and returned as a manly point to Bob Holsby compared a traditional politician (Bush) who should be trying to draw comparisons between a corrupt politician (Bush) and another less corrupt politician (Kerry), because that’s the relevant issue and that’s what the American people are going to have to decide on in November.

Julian Corwin is an electrical engineering junior.

Poor comparison made

**Editor,**

I am responding to the Policing column “Kerry’s war record doesn’t make him electable” (Feb. 18) about John Kerry’s war service in comparison with John McCain’s service. First of all, I don’t know a single Democrat who has a problem with McCain; he is the exception among many of us liberals in favor of Republicans. If he had won instead of Bush in the 2000 primaries and I were an eligible voter, I would’ve voted for him even though I normally vote Democrat.

McCain is a stellar example of character and morality, George Walker Bush is not. None of the evidence released by the White House is conclusive that he was actually present during his National Guard service. We can go on and on about who dodged the draft (Clinton), who went ABD at the Texas National Guard (Bush) and who served in Vietnam (Kerry) and who was captured and returned as a manly point to Bob Holsby compared a traditional politician (Bush) who should be trying to draw comparisons between a corrupt politician (Bush) and another less corrupt politician (Kerry), because that’s the relevant issue and that’s what the American people are going to have to decide on in November.

Alison Gerdting is a mathematics junior.

Police became brutal

**Editor,**

The law enforcement agencies involved with crowd control on Feb. 21 were unequally con- frontational and brutal. Admittedly, there were bottles being thrown and police being targeted on California Boulevard. However, the police, armed with pepper ball-loaded paintball guns, rubber bullets and beanbag guns, were in a war zone as they tackled and trampled helpless students, some of which were in such a panic, trampled each other while trying to escape further, police on more than one occasion forced crowds into dead-ends, shutting them like fish in barrels, even as people tried to scale backyard fences to escape the aim of the masked mercenaries. As soon as I arrived home, I began calling local law offices, leaving messages with the hope that one might accept a class action lawsuit against the city and every law enforcement agency involved in the horrendous events.

It would be hard to believe, however, that even if my lawsuit were to go forward, the city, California Highway Patrol and every other organization implicated with the brutality of Mardi Gras, will escape unscathed as a result of their actions.

Matt Mackey is a political science junior.

**Letter policy**

Letters become the property of the Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, proficiency and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Letters must be 250 words or less. 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 fax: (805) 756-6784
By e-mail: mustangdaily@mustangmail.com

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.

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

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Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Opinion

More letters to the editor

Basketball not over yet

Editor,

Granted, our men's basketball team has played some of the respectable level of a junior varsity high school team, but we can't write them off as the Big West tourney yet. As I was sitting bored in class I figured out that if they win three out of the four remaining games this season (which is highly possible since they play the lowest seeded teams from here on out) they should be in. It's possible because those lower-ranked remaining teams still have to face Utah State and University of the Pacific before the season ends, meaning that Cal Poly would end up with a better overall record and with the seventh or eighth seed in Anaheim.

Keep in mind that just because they've been on a season-long losing streak, we still have to name a team on the court that beat Cal Berkeley and University of Southern California earlier this year. It can happen!

Danny Prokosch is a business senior.

Byron Hann

Columnist

Commentary

Being politically self-conscious has always been a part of my personality. How many of us actually think about the effect of our political beliefs on the greater world? Voting is a part of our democratic process, but do many of us really think about the effect of our votes on the society in which we live?

I believe that eventually causes people to adopt a cynical view of the realm of politics, which of course makes them lose the power to change things, and it garners support for sinister purposes. This group consists mostly of those that have a certain personal cultural identity. Yet, what if an adolescent does not believe that the political ideas of an individual often coincide with those of their parents, but that if the case were, then why has my generation become so detached? Why does pop-

ular opinion change?

The media are partially responsible, as they are the ones that control the content of our information, they control the content of our information, they control the content of our information. Therefore, this issue: I feel it is very important bringing that to light in order to gather as much information as they can about their family background. As a society we can relate to a certain cultural identity and may even feel more comfortable knowing that they can call their own.

Tara Gibson is a psychology major.

Peter Creek is a Masters of Business Administration student.

Basketball not over yet

Editor,

The shocking headline in Mustang Daily ("The price of chocolate" Feb. 18). For the many who did not know that Cal Poly would promote the slave labor of millions of children in Africa. Now there is a boom in demand for chocolate for the next nine months on Herdys to motivate them to promote safe working conditions in conditions mandated by international labor guidelines.

What are we chocolate lovers and addicts doing to ourselves that is cause for concern? That is not just too high. But ware, Herdys is the only chocolate manufacturer that promotes sustainable working conditions in other countries. There are chocolate manufacturers that do turn a blind eye to those with whom they do business. Africa is not the only place where coca plants are grown. It is simple to promote the boycott of Herdys without cutting chocolate from your diet. Just keep in mind that Herdys is the only chocolate company. Herdys also makes McVit, Rowes and a large assortment of other candies.

For those who cannot live without chocolate, you still have one chance choice. For a complete list of companies, see www.radicalthought.org.

Byron Hann is a mathematics sophomore.

More culture needed

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

By John Heilprin

10 Wednesday, March 3, 2004

WASHINGTON — On his Texas ranch, President Bush gets back to nature by cutting down cedar trees with a chainsaw to give the native oaks more water and light. Visiting the Santa Monica Mountains, he should list to fix a trail — an image the White House keeps alive on one of its Web sites.

The hands tool he favors and the immediate results they produce reflect how in just three years Bush has reshaped the debate over environmental protections.

Making life easier for people now gets more priority than protecting an endangered salamander. Preventing a wildfire from engulfing a home near trunks not cutting down a tree. Cheap electricity prevails over cleaner air, at least for the time being.

Bush sells his policies in the simplest of terms, like "Healthy forests" and "clear skies."

Environmentalists call those labels deliberate misnomers, intended to mask an agenda for different and more complex. They say Bush wants nothing less than to recast a society that he and those around him believe has become too soft, and a government that, though well-intentioned, helped make it that way by over-promising to protect people from risks in life.

“They are very careful to present themselves as being in the mode of solving the same problems that environmentalists want to solve,” said Carl Pope, the Sierra Club’s executive director. “But when you look at what they do, and what they say in the fine print, they don’t actually want to solve the same problems. They don’t think they are problems.”

Environmental groups have tried to call attention to some of the president’s actions, but they acknowledge the environment is far down the list of voter concerns this election year.

The “Healthy forests” law Congress passed last year is a prime example of how Bush reversed decades of government policy. He announced the initiative from a mountain peak highbiled by wildlife in Oregon, a state he narrowly lost in the 2000 election and where battles over logging and water rights polarize voters.

“There’s a philosophy that everything is put on earth for humanity’s sake. And that’s a very arrogant and somewhat selfish perspective,” said William H. Meadows, president of The Wilderness Society. “Those of us who have worked around wildlands believe nature takes care of itself and, in fact, the biggest problem is where men has interfered.”

When it looks like persuading Congress to change the law will fail, Bush uses executive orders, regulatory changes and court positions to carry out his pledge to protect both the claims of nature and the legal rights of private property owners.

As his predecessor, Democrat Bill Clinton, filled top environmental jobs with a cadre of environmental group activists, Bush packed lawyers, lobbyists and experts from environmentally regulated industry.

The result is a catalog of policies that reflect a sophisticated insider’s knowledge of government. “He has figured out on environmental issues that you sometimes need to do what Clinton did, which is to use the regulatory agencies, rather than try to get something out of Congress — especially environment, where 60 votes can block the Senate,” said William L. Knous, a vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

That the policy changes in most cases have conformed to ideas put forth by the industries that were among his biggest campaign contributors has fed an outrage and cynicism about his motives.

“Disconcerting to people in the environmental movement, pleasing to people who want to see their regulato­ ry apparatus relaxed or rolled back someday” is how environmental historian John R. McNeill of Georgetown University characterizes Bush.

Arizona canyon may close due to mountain lions

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Usually, hold mountain lions may force officers to close, at least temporarily, the popular Sabino Canyon area northwest of Tucson, which ordi­ narily draws more than 1 million visitors a year.

Lions are native to the canyon, but in recent months at least three of the normally shy, nocturnal cougars have been seen repeatedly in broad day­ light, close to visitors and the main road.

“I’m very concerned with the safety of the public. There are areas we feel are unsafe,” said Larry Raley, the ranger for the Santa Catalinas.

“We’ve done all we can to try to educate people of the risk of coming into wildlife habitats, but throughout the last couple of months there have continued to be sightings.

There have been reports of lions growing and not backing down when confronted by people in the canyon and surrounding neighborhoods, but no injuries have been reported. Raley is now assembling a team of government officials to consider options, including prohibiting young people in the canyon, restricting access where the danger is highest and closing the canyon for awhile to allow trackers to find the cats.

The Forest Service has posted warning signs about the lions, but many visitors on Monday said they weren’t worried.

“If we’re going to get it, it’s gonna get us, you know,” said David Spaulding, a weekly tracker for the service. “I’m very concerned with the safety of the public. There are areas we feel are unsafe,” said Larry Raley, the ranger for the Santa Catalinas.

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Sports

Golf wins CSUSM tourney

For the second time in the program’s four-year history, the Cal Poly women’s golf team has won a tournament. The Mustangs shot a season-best 308 in Tuesday’s final round to win the Cal State San Marcos Cougar Invitational on the 6,146-yard, par-72 Twin Oaks Valley Golf Course. Coach Scott Carrighan’s golfers finished with a season-low 621 total for 36 holes, defeating Southern Nazarene by 21 strokes.

Individual honors went to Cal Poly freshman Jessica Huss, who matched par Tuesday for a two-over-par 14 total. Staci King finished fifth.

Mustang Daily STAFF REPORT

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Attention all you girls who wanna party. Don’t miss out on the Coyote Ugly Night. SLO Brew Thursday Nights.
Wrestling finishes in second at Pac-10s

By Katie Schiller

Ben Palmer knows the way to culminate a swimming career at Cal Poly — with a record-breaking time and the Big West Swimming and Diving Athlete of the Year award.

In the Big West Championships in Long Beach on Feb. 21, Palmer won the 200-meter breaststroke, breaking the school record with a time of 2:00.27. The points he earned from that race, as well as those he collected in previous races, helped coaches at the meet decide to award Palmer with the prestigious Athlete of the Year title.

"The coaches just saw a dominating win," Cal Poly head coach Rich Firman said. "In the first 50 yards, he was tied with the second place swimmer, and each remaining segment he expanded his lead." Palmer was surprised and proud of the award.

"My main goal was to make my goal times," he said. "The award was secondary, but it was always in the back of my mind." Athlete of the Year is based on how many points a swimmer garnered for his team for the entire season, but his goal times were faster, Firman said.

"At the championships, I dropped a lot of time and saw what the other teams," he said. "All of a sudden, they noticed I was swimming well." Originally from Sunpoint, Idaho, Palmer started swimming with friends at age 9, when his mom had him join a team.

"It's not a glory sport like basketball or football, but I just feel good after a workout," he said.

Palmer wasn't recruited, and he was an outstanding swimmer when he came to Cal Poly, he said. He was just happy to make the team.

"He's very mature and confident now than when he came in," Firman said. "He was just a little fish in a big pond and not realizing how good he was." Influence of older and better swimmers inspired him to reach their levels they were in their careers.

I improved more than I thought I could," he said. "I think I surpassed some of them." Qualifying for Olympic trials would culminate any athlete's career," he said. "He could get a taste of swimming with the best in the world." If that doesn't pan out, Palmer, a biology senior, has been applying to optometry schools.

At the end of his career at Cal Poly, he wants future swimmers to realize that despite the hard work, swimming on a team is a fun experience that most people don't get to have.

"Waking up four to five days a week at 6:15 in the morning with no one is rare," he said. "When your friends are sleeping in or partying, you have to think of why you are doing this." Palmer's great attitude has paid off, and his dedication is a superb example for any athlete.

Bonds copes with steroids accusations

By Rob Gloster

Barry Bonds walked slowly through the San Francisco Giants' bustling clubhouse. Asked about a report that he had received steroids and human growth hormone from a nutritional supplements lab implicated in a drug-distribution ring, Bonds softly replied: "Get out of my locker." Similar scenes were repeated Tuesday at other major league teams' sites. From Florida to Arizona, the focus of training was on steroids again.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported Tuesday that Bonds was given the substances by his personal trainer — who got them from the Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative. According to the newspaper, federal investigators also told that steroids were given to New York Yankees star Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield, three other major leaguers and one NFL player.

Trainer Greg Anderson gave the players the drugs from BALCO, according to information given to the government and shared with the newspaper. The report did not show how federal investigators received the information.

Payton, Jackson clear air

ATLANTA (AP) - Los Angeles Laker point guard Gary Payton and coach Phil Jackson met to discuss the triangle offense and Payton's role within it, and both felt the session was productive.

Last week, Payton complained about his lack of playing time and the offense limited him. Payton also said he was growing disenchanted with his decision to join the Lakers.

He and Jackson talked after practice Monday. "Athletes are going to express disappointment, that's natural," Jackson said Tuesday night before Los Angeles played the Atlanta Hawks. "I liked what Gary had to offer. I had some things to say." Payton is averaging 16.6 points, his lowest offensive output since 1992-93, despite leading the Lakers in minutes.

"It was good for both of us," Payton said. "I got a sense of what he wants, and he got a sense of what I want. As long as you just tell me what's going on, I'm cool." Jackson has used the triangle offense since his days as coach of the Chicago Bulls. It essentially overloads one side of the court with three players, with one posting up the other two on the perimeter.

"It's about how to be innovative in this offense where everybody has an equal opportunity," Jackson said. "That's really the frustration I see. He's got to find a way to be totally comfortable in the offense without the ball, to know how to do the things that this offense will allow you to do with and without the ball."