CRIME ROUNDUP

Events from the week of April 5

April 5
At 5:32 p.m., the University Police Department responded to a stolen property report at Kennedy Library. UPD reports did not specify the items taken as the incident is still under investigation.

UPD received a request for medical aid at 6:35 p.m. after a student fell numb and dizzy following a workout at the Rec Center. An ambulance arrived at the scene and transported the student to Vista Hospital for further examination. The individual’s condition is unknown.

April 6
A student reported a stolen parking permit to UPD at 3:31 p.m. — officials are looking into the incident.

The UPD received notification of a lost wallet at 9:03 p.m., after a student said the property was last seen near the engineering patio.

UPD arrested a 53-year-old intoxicated male at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Chorro Street at 11:25 p.m. UPD transported the man to County Jail following the encounter.

April 8
UPD received a report of stolen property at 10:22 a.m. regarding a handrail from Santa Lucia Hall. Officials do not know the purpose of the theft, or the responsible party.

UPD arrested a 22-year-old female for public intoxication at the Rec Center. The student was transported to San Luis Obispo County Jail.

April 11
A male, described to be in his 20s, brandished a handgun following an altercation at the Taco Bell located at the corner of Santa Rosa and Olive streets. According to witness reports, the male waved the pistol around the room and ultimately ran out of the restaurant. Officials of the San Luis Obispo Police Department were not available for further comment.

April 17
The San Luis Obispo Police Department, San Luis Obispo Sheriff Department and California Highway Patrol announced a combined total of 17 arrests during Open House. The majority of the arrests were alcohol related.

INSIDE

‘Punisher’ exceeds expectations
Random humor and storyline save movie
IN ARTS & CULTURE, page 5

Motion-activated society
Is automating inanimate objects necessary?
IN OPINION, page 4

Student employee of the year honored
Liza Sullivan
MUSTANG DAILY
While fraternity brothers and sorority sisters arm-wrestled one another at Thursday’s UU Hour, another student employee was at the Albert B. Smith Conference Center receiving recognition for his service.

Now in its 10th year, the event recognized 37 outstanding student employees from departments over campus and named Michael Bruchelli the 2003-04 Outstanding Student Employee of the Year.

Department supervisors nominated their top staffers and a selection committee reviewed and deliberated over the nominees, looking for “pretty much whatever makes any employee a good employee,” event coordinator Luann McDonald said.

Sometimes referred to as “The Handyman” by his colleagues, Bruchelli, an applied math senior, works for Associated Students Inc. as the collegiate sport program manager. He coordinates, manages and supervises Cal Poly’s 17 club teams and more than 700 athletes. He also takes care of all safety and risk management requirements.

“He is truly an outstanding student employee and citizen,” McDonald said.

Bruchelli is also a volunteer firefighter for the company administrator.

BREAKING OUT THE CUBANS: ATHLETES CELEBRATE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE FEE REFERENDUM

Cal Poly officials released preliminary results from the advisory fee referendum. More than 7,000 students, or 44 percent, cast ballots during the two-day vote Wednesday and Thursday.

Students approved the Health Center fee to maintain existing services. Seventy-six percent voted “yes” and 24 percent voted “no”.

Students also approved the athletic scholarship fee increase. Fifty-three percent voted “yes” and 47 percent voted “no”.

All results are preliminary and must still be reviewed by the administration.

BRIAN KENT
MUSTANG DAILY

COTCHETTS DONATE $7M

Money will help launch a program to encourage science and math teachers to work at inner-city schools

Jake Ashley
MUSTANG DAILY

Last Friday, before Joe Cotchett and his wife, Victoria, were honored with a building dedication at Cal Poly, they walked into a classroom filled with fourth graders. The Cotchetts, like the students, came to see a science presentation.

But not just any presentation. “We’re here to learn and a magic show,” said Christian Rodriguez, 10, from Mary Burden Elementary School in Guadalupe.

“It’s a chemistry magic show,” Rodriguez said.

College of Science and Math Dean Philip Bailey, who has performed his “magic” show for decades, had the students spellbound, armed only with science.

But Joe and Victoria Cotchett didn’t come just for a show. Later that afternoon, building 2, the same structure where Rodriguez was plucked from his peers to ignite a balloon into a fury explosion, was named the Cotchett Education Building.

The dedication honored the Cotchetts for their $7 million pledge to launch a model program to get more qualified science and math teachers working in inner-city schools.

“Every child deserves to learn from a credentialed teacher,” said Joe Cotchett, an attorney and Cal Poly alumnus, “one who will inspire a lifetime of learning.”

Fourth graders from Mary Burden Elementary School in Guadalupe participate in the chemistry magic show.

Said the Cotchetts, the magic show is just the kind of education they said they hope their donation will promote.

“Even though this is a rural group of kids, this class represents the kind of kids that programs need to reach,” Victoria Cotchett said.

“We’re here to learn and a magic show,” said Christian Rodriguez, 10, from Mary Burden Elementary School in Guadalupe.

“The beauty of Cal Poly,” Joe Cotchett said. “It’s really hands-on operation, and what you saw here today is so graphic.”

The program, called the Cotchett-Cal Poly Initiative, started a year ago when Cal Poly President Warren Baker met with the President’s Cabinet to address what the university could do to improve the quality of teachers and education in the areas of math and science.

The result was a program that will be administered by Cal Poly’s University Center for Teacher Education.

The initiative will provide stipends for teachers earning their credentials who commit to teaching in low-income areas or who plan to teach math and science in the K-12 system.

It will also create a program to support teachers from high-poverty areas in California and provide programs for teachers already in the K-12 system.

see Cotchett, page 2

Breaking out the Cubans: Athletes celebrate preliminary results of the fee referendum

see Employees, page 2
Employees continued from page 1
in San Luis Obispo County. He facilitates training, organizes promotion and prevention programs and place Snakey that the Bear or Spunky the Fire Prevention Dog to educate the public about fire safety.

Cotchett introduced the nomi­nees, who were honored with a small gift and a message of congrat­ulation from President Warren Baker.

"The contributions that you make help us do things that other­wise would not get done," Baker said of the outstanding student employ­ees.

Next, the top three students of the year were named and a brief bio on each was shared.

Second runner-up, computer engineer Giovanni De Torres, was described as focused and cheerful while conducting public relations work for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

First runner-up, earth science senior Terry Hooker, was recognized for the week he led for the horticultural and crop science department and for the vision he had for developing the organic farm and commu­nity-supported agriculture program.

"Student employment on campus is so very important to us," Baker said, "What they do for the university is absolutely irreplaceable.

During that one minute, the legend of the city and the strength and resiliency of its people was forever carved into its history," said Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White.

The earthquake that shook San Francisco on April 18, 1906 left 3,000 people dead, 225,000 homes destroyed, and 18,000 buildings gutted. It also, according to Hayes-White, ushered in a new awareness of how cities and residents need to prepare for emergencies.

Across California, fear of whether the state is ready for the next big earthquake that scientists say is inevitable continues to shape public policy.

Survivors of the two people killed in last December's 6.5 mag­nitude earthquake in Paso Robles, for example, are urging the Legislature to impose fines on owners of unreinforced masonry buildings who do not post required signs warning the struc­tures are susceptible to collapse.

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, which was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, is currently undergoing the neces­sary seismic upgrades to its eastern

San Francisco (AP) — Nic­ole Jenkins, a violin student from San Francisco's 1906 earthquake gathered before dawn Sunday to share stories of an event they experienced as babies 98 years ago but which played a lasting role in both their and the city's development.

The annual commemoration at Lotta's Fountain, a landmark that served as a meeting point for those trying to find families and friends after the 8.3 magnitude quake and its attendant fires, included a wreath-laying, a minute of silence and the sounding of a dozen fire engine sirens at precisely 5:13 a.m.

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The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, which was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, is currently undergoing the neces­sary seismic upgrades to its eastern
State Briefs

VENTURA — Two bodies were found Saturday near the California State University, Channel Islands campus shortly after police received reports of suspicious activity in the area, authorities said.

The man and woman died of gunshot wounds, said Deputy Eric Buschow, of the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department. The bodies have not been identified, he said.

The bodies were found around 3:15 p.m. in a remote area west of campus, shortly after campus police received calls about suspicious activity near an electrical generating plant on the southwest side of the property, Buschow said.

SANTA CRUZ — Two former fraternity brothers at UC Santa Cruz have been sentenced to a combined 500 hours of community service and probation for stealing and killing a prized campus fish.

Casey Loop, 23, of San Jose, and Matthew Cox, 22, of Santa Cruz, pleaded no contest to misdemeanor vandalism and theft charges for the prank last May, when they stole a 20-pound Koi fish from a campus pond. They later fried the fish, an event filmed by a crew for a reality television show that was then filming at their fraternity.

Loop was ordered to serve three years of probation, perform 300 hours of community service and attend 50 Alcoholics Anonymous meetings this year. Cox was sentenced to two years of informal probation, 200 hours of community service and 25 AA meetings.

Both were also ordered to pay $500 for a new filtration system for the campus koi pond.

Loop apologized in court. His attorney said the university disciplinary process would have been more appropriate for the case than criminal charges.

— Associated Press

National Briefs

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — A day after the five-month search for University of North Dakota student Dru Sjodin ended with the discovery of her body, the campus community reacted with shock, remorse and relief Sunday.

Allonso Rodriguez Jr., the man charged with kidnap­ ping Sjodin, could face a federal murder charge now that her body has been found. Rodriguez, 51, a convicted sex offender, has pleaded innocent. He was arrested in December and is jailed in Grand Forks on $5 million bail.

MIAMI — Democrat John Kerry on Sunday accused President Bush of being "stunningly ineffective" at foreign policy and stuck by his argument that the war against terrorism isn't primarily a military struggle.

Kerry, in a wide-ranging interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," also stood by his promise to create 10 million jobs and halve the deficit in his first term if elected, though he conceded that soaring red ink could squeeze some proposals.

WASHINGTON — Twelve midsize sedans earned the lowest safety rating from the insurance industry in crash tests designed to show what happens when pickup trucks or sport utility vehicles hit cars in the side.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, which released the test results Sunday, said they could spur appropriate for the case than criminal charges.

— Associated Press

World Briefs

MADRID, Spain — The prime minister ordered Spanish troops to pull out of Iraq as soon as possible Sunday, fulfilling a campaign pledge to cap a national swing recovering from terrorist bombings that al Qaeda militants said were a reprisal for Spain's support of the war.

The new Socialist prime minister issued the abrupt recall just hours after his government was sworn in, saying there was no sign the United States would meet his demands for staying in Iraq — United Nations control of the postwar occupation.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi security forces will not be ready to protect the country against insurgents by the June 30 handover of power, the top U.S. administrator said Sunday — an assessment aimed at defending the continued heavy presence of U.S. troops here even after an Iraqi government takes over.

The unusually blunt comments from L. Paul Bremer came amid a weekend of new fighting that pushed the death toll for U.S. troops in April to 99, already the record for a single-month in Iraq and approaching the number killed during the entire war.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Hamas threatened "100 unique reprisals" against Israel for killing its leader, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, as hundreds of thousands of mourners flooded the streets Sunday in a show of strength and fury.

It wasn't clear if the Islamic militant group was strong enough to carry out large-scale attacks after a sustained two-year Israeli campaign against it.

Despite promises of revenge, Hamas still has not struck in the three weeks since Israel assassinated Rantisi's predecessor, Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

— Associated Press

THIS WEEK

IN ASI EVENTS

HIGHER GROUNDS ENTERTAINMENT SERIES

Featuring RAINING JANE

Wednesday, April 21
6- 8 p.m. UU Gallery (in the UU Epiphany) - FREE

The all girl band brews together rock, folk, funk, pop, and hip-hop.

The group is characterized by interwoven melodies with intertwining lyrics and harmonies, supported only by electric and acoustic guitars, hand-drums, rap, vocals, bass and shakers.

UU HOUR

Featuring RAINING JANE

Thursday, April 22
11 a.m. — Noon in the UU Plaza - FREE

Inspired by rock heroes like Dave Matthews and Art Garfunkel, having Javan's music is a fiery and minimizes a new outlook for the new millennium. They invite their audience to participate in, or just enjoy the sound coming from the stage.

UU GALLERY

Featuring ART FOR THE PEACE MOVEMENT

Through April 30

Located in the UU Epiphany

Saidha Bearey is a fourth year graphic design major whose art focuses on the United States' treatment of Iraq. Through her posters and works of art, she seeks to convey her views.

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Country singer BLAKE SHELTON

Wednesday, May 12

Show at 7:30, Doors at 6:30 in the Cal Poly Recreation Center

Presale tickets at all Valley locations, 1-888-VAL-LLTIX and 283-0008. Cal Poly student discount available at the Mustang Ticket Office only.

The other day we walked into the bathroom at a gas station (separating you protects and were amazed by what we found. No, it wasn’t clean, per se, but it had all of the modern technolo-
gical advances with which one expects a bathroom to be equipped. Toilet paper, seat covers, automatic flushers and motion sensor sinks. It was glorious.

But what surprised us the most about this bathroom was the newest innovation: motion-activated paper towel dispensers. We tugged and tugged at the paper to rip it off of the roll and it wouldn’t give, but as soon as we placed our hands under the sen-
tor, it came to us.

Which begs the question: Are we an extremely germ-phobic society, or are we just plain lazy?

Sor, it came to us.

Wouldn’t give, but as soon as we placed our hands under the sen-
tor, it came to us.

This leads us to the second option, that automatic towel dispensers aren’t about hygiene but about sloth. And, as we learned from Brad Pitt and Kevin Spacey, sloth is one of the seven deadly sins. This means next time you go to the bathroom, you may be stricken down by the hand of whatever deity you worship.

OK, maybe that’s a bit dramatic. Still, automatic towel dispensers are a bit odd. We understand the need for automatic flushers and water savers — who knows what body parts touch when they are excerting waste — but the paper towel thing takes the cake. Just pull the paper towel out of the dispenser, deposit it in the trash and go on your merry, sanitized way.

True, this may seem like a trite argument. You’re probably thinking, “Who cares about some automatic dispenser? I like that I don’t have to make contact with inanimate objects!” But what we are more concerned about is the epidemic that could spawn from this obsession with hand sensors and those tiny blinking red lights.

Next thing we know, there will be motion-sensored keyboards, where all you do is have your fingers hover above the keys and, voila, the words magically appear on screen. If the per-
son using the computer before you has a cold, or worse, a debil-
ted immune system, that person could be in for a treat.

That automatic sex thing, though, could catch on.

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 226, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
By fax: (805) 756-6784
By e-mail: mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Let us know what you think, but when you sniff them, they get all weirded out.

Steve Hill and Chrisy Roth are journalism seniors and Mustang Daily columnists who appreciate a good germfest every now and then. And then, email us at QuitYerBitchinCP@yahoo.com.

Commentary

The it didn’t start out like a normal episode of “The Howard Stern Show” There were no long-end rants against the Bush administration. And there was nothing about Bush, not a word in opposition to Stern’s newly crowned devil incarnate, Dr. Laura. The radio was quiet without the pitter-patter of bioterrorist mud-slingers running to and fro. Instead, there was an intimate and quiet conversation, voices on the air — and they didn’t suffer.

“Cross and Lopez” were intro-
duced as the new personalities squeezed into Stern’s former spot. “Howard’s out, and we’re in,” announced Cross triumphantly before going on to discuss Stern’s on-air cancellation by the FCC. He and Lopez were there to bring “Fun out of the Folds,” a clean, wholesome entertainment show. As he yammered on, sounding more and more like “American Idol” Ryan Seacrest with each shallow, gaping breath, the swiftly infuriating bell of Lopez’ voice entered the airwaves to discuss how exciting it was to bring back something to American entertainment.

Then came some music that Michael Bolton wouldn’t touch with a 10-foot comb over. Next, some head-poundingly stupid “Guess That Movie Laugh” contest, with a sound bite of Scooby-Doo and Lopez wetting.

“Try, oh my, who can that be?”

Just then, as every loyal Stern fan was wondering what hereditary funk-comination rose in the background. A storied voice growled random phrases of insult. Cross and Lopez were confused. Then, triumphantly, a
telltale fart sound rang and Stern was back on the air, laughing hysterically. Oh yeah, it was also April 1.

Stern’s joke, aside from being a giant gag on his jaded, mostly liberal fellowship of listeners, illustrated a possible future of radio if the FCC/Bush administration succeeds in their attempts to clean our air-

waves. Stern himself has been at the center of the battle since he was fined megabucks by the FCC for an “obscene, indecent and profane” episode on which he made headlines for by incorporating its content into the first episode of “Oprah,” Clear Channel, owner of seemingly every major radio station, slapped Howard with a six-station airwave cancellation.

In the left corner, Howard Stern. In the right corner, the FCC and chairman Michael Powell.

Stern swears he’s being bullied off the radio by the FCC, against Bush, and that he won’t go out without a fight. He has yet to sue the government, though, largely because he’d have a tough case to prove against them. It was Clear Channel, not the FCC, who fired him, although the government agency applied the pressure The self-

proclaimed “King of All Media” now finds himself under more FCC- ers in the bedroom, with more cancellation threats looming.

The question is, why is all this happening now? As demonstrated by the FCC’s outward jabbing, the Bush press is now interested in our air-

waves, the only limited natural resource they seem keen on preserv-
ing. That they chose Stern’s controversial programming toward the end of the administra-

tion is surprising; the beginning of its unusual war against Stern took place well after the Super Bowl and in Janet Jackson-induced taunting of censorship. The FCC has been under scrutiny since the singer and her highly-sexed personality gave away the milk for free, and knee-jerk reactions against any possible thing to be their response. Now Stern is staring down the end of his career for talking about his career choices (about a slightly perfected one) and with no more “Sex than the City” or “Friends” to go, it seems sometimes he is edgy and outrageous, but he caters to listeners who are the same. Those who disagree should not talk.

As Stern said during his show, “The second that I started saying, ‘I think we gonna get Bush out of the presidency,’ that’s when Clear Channel banged my ass outta here.” He’s since gone into detail about the personal and political ties between Clear Channel and Bush has insisted that political speech, not indecency, got him into trouble.

Now the FCC has power to pull stations and people off the air with the flick of a wrist. Some complain their rules are obscure and unfair, such as Reed Hunt, former FCC chair under President Bill Clinton —

and they really do seem to be biased against the left-leaning Hunt, haven’t made room for Rush Limbaugh on the chopping block? But if Bush’s FCC wants to turn the country’s entertainment into a monopart system of Polymannas, they have to be fair to whom they per-

sue and set the solo Stern witch hunt aside, stop abhorrence and let free speech, in all its glorious

Stacey Anderson is a journalism sopho-

more and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Sterng can’t be FCC’s Scapegoat

UH Hour performers were inappropriate

At just past 8 p.m. this past Monday, I haven’t made the effort to get to school in time to attend UH Hour. I thought, though, since this is my last quarter at Cal Poly, I would go to UH Hour for one of my last chances. First, I went to the bookstore, and while I was in line, a prospective student’s father was commenting on his visit. One of his comments was that they liked the feel of the campus. Then, I walked over to watch the music group and could not believe my ears.

The performers threw a CD into the crowd and told the usually friendly audience to sure to smoke a lot of weed with it. I complained to an Associated Students Inc. event coordinator, and that person spoke to one of the group members. But come on, it’s Open House weekend, and this is what we want alumni and prospective student and parents to think we are about! Just hope this is not allowed in the future and that it didn’t alter their per-

Baley Thomas is an agriculture mas-

ter’s student.

Letters Policy

Letters become the property of the Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, pro-

ficiencies and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer’s full name, phone number, major and class standing.

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 it follows the correct format.

By fax:(805) 756-6784
By e-mail: mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Letters to the Editor

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Animals sniff you all the time, but when you sniff them, they get all weirded out.

Steve Hill and Chrisy Roth are journalism seniors and Mustang Daily columnists who appreciate a good germfest every now and then. Then, email us at QuitYerBitchinCP@yahoo.com.
GRADUATION DAYS
A special 4 day event for all June Graduates

APRIL 20-23
Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

ORDER FOR GRADUATION
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• Thank You Cards
• Certificates of Appreciation
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• Join the Alumni Association

GRAD CENTER OPENS May 17th for cap, gown, and commencement tickets
check out the graduation section on our website

Still thinking about studying abroad for the upcoming fall or academic year?
Plan to attend the Study Abroad Fair
Tuesday, April 20th, 10:00-2:00 PM
Chumash Auditorium - University Union

Where will it take you? Through USAC, a consortium of U.S. universities, you can choose from 31 programs in 21 countries. With 20 years of experience, you can be sure that you have someone to turn to throughout your educational adventures.

Learning has never taken you this far...
University Studies Abroad Consortium

To find out about the full range of study abroad opportunities, visit the USAC table at the Study Abroad Fair.
Plan to also attend the USAC Information Meeting, Wednesday, April 21st, 12:00-1:00 PM, Building 3, Room 104. Pizza will be served!

ARTS & CULTURE
Monday, April 19, 2004

‘Punisher’ makes good on the original version

Dan Watson
MOVING ON

Dark and desolate with a periodic escape in humor, “The Punisher” mixes a cloud of gun smoke with a cast of amusing characters in a remake of the Marvel Comic story of a man out to avenge his family’s death.

Frank Castle, an FBI agent played by Thomas Jane, is on his final undercover mission before retirement, but the sting goes wrong when the son of powerful money launderer Mr. Saint (John Travolta) is killed.

Saint orders for Castle’s death, but Saint’s attractive wife Livia (Laura Harring) adds her request for the death of Castle’s entire family.

Director Jonathan Hensleigh shows a slew of emotional family moments before the disturbing scene of Castle’s relatives, acquaintances and extended family being mowed down by Saint’s gunmen.

Castle walks on the beach with wife Maria (Samantha Mathis), hugs his young son and meets the mysterious and overweight opera-singing goof; and Spacker Dave (Ben Foster), a little man with obscure piercings on his face.

Before Castle can help, his wife and child are killed in a tragic drawn-out scene that doesn’t end until Castle is beaten, shot and blown off a cliff. For some, the scene could be too much to take, yet for others it might make the rest of the movie more passionately excusable.

Somehow, the rugged and ripped Castle survives and takes to alcohol, loneliness and an obsession with revenge. His preparations are made in a shabby hotel room where the story is introduced to three off-beat characters: Joan (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos), a beautiful out-of-place woman trying to escape her former boyfriend; Mr. Bumpo (John Pinette), an overweight opera-singing goof; and Spacker Dave (Ben Foster), a little man with obscure piercings on his face.

In the end, the audience is actually left with a legitimate plot, which was lacking in the 1989 Punisher movie that featured Dolph Lundgren in the title role.

The film easily could have become nothing but a violent heap of bod­ies — the original film punished unlucky viewers in this way, but instead progresses on an emotional journey of a man embattled by mis­fortune. It has its gun-happy moments but also provides some intense sit­uations where the outcome is not certain.

A lot of the action scenes are unique and creative and don’t seek to just show a brute blowing things up.

Castle meticulously maps out his plan and in the end gets Saint to do his dirty work for him. Random humor also gives the film another ele­ment. There is a scene where Castle pretends to torture a man by cook­ing meat and poking him with a popsicle, but the man thinks he’s being burnt to death.

One of the more comic scenes involves Castle vainly trying to fight Saint’s giant hitman Kevin Nash, who is a professional wrestler in real life. This takes place after an odd scene where the disgruntled Castle is invit­ed over to enjoy dinner and ice cream with Joan, Mr. Bumpo and Dave. In the end, any movie with the name “The Punisher” exceeds expec­tations if it has a plot with a storyline, and this one does.

ON THE ROCKS

Get the lowdown on SLO Town
Every Friday in On The Rocks
Drunken driving arrests, injuries up last four years

DMV statistics reveal an increase in felony drunken driving arrests and alcohol-related injuries and deaths

Don Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WOODLAND, Calif. — After more than a decade of decline, felony drunken driving arrests and alcohol-related injuries and deaths have increased in California in each of the four most recent years for which records are available.

Alcohol-involved injuries and deaths also have crept up as a per centage of total injuries and deaths, according to the 2004 Department of Motor Vehicles report. It contains statistics through 2002.

“...It’s not only here, it’s across the country that it’s inching up,” said California Highway Patrol spokesman Tom Marshall.

“We probably haven’t kept the public pressure up, and there’s a new generation of drivers out there that maybe hasn’t gotten the message.”

The troubling trend is spurring new legislation, including a package of five anti-DUI bills by Sen. Tom Torlakson, D-Martinez, slated to be heard Tuesday in the Senate Public Safety Committee.

Police made 10,623 fewer DUI arrests in 2002 than in 1999, mainly because misdemeanor arrests dropped by more than 11,000 even as felony arrests increased. Felonies are generally filed in cases resulting in deaths, injuries or after three previous DUIs in seven years.

Changing that last provision by removing the seven-year limit is the most controversial of Torlakson’s proposals.

“I’m paying the ultimate price now because of that law. Maybe my kids might not have been killed,” said Bob Pack of Danville, whose two children, Troy, 10, and Alana, 7, were riding their bicycles one October when they were struck by a hit-and-run driver.

The alleged driver, now awaiting trial, has a record including nine license suspensions and two recent drunken-driving arrests. But two DUIs from 1991 and 1992 couldn’t be considered under the law, according to Department of Motor Vehicles records, and the sentencing judge at her last conviction couldn’t consider a public intoxication charge that didn’t involve driving.

Torlakson’s bill would let prosecutors and judges consider a driver’s complete record, including non-driving public drug or alcohol use that he argues also indicates a substance abuse history. The state report found 23 percent of the nearly 180,000 people arrested for DUI in 2002 were repeat offenders; Los Angeles police in December began intensively monitoring such habitual offenders.

“This woman continually had drug and alcohol problems, yet the court system treated her lightly,” Pack said. “She should have been punished — imprisoned and put away.”

Torlakson’s other bills would expand when drunken drivers can be compelled to attend an alcohol and drug problem assessment program; require drivers to prove they completed a DUI program before they get back their driver’s licenses; consolidate the DMV’s authority over drunken drivers; and clarify that local governments can collect fees to cover their costs of arresting drunken drivers and any damage they cause.

The CHP’s Marshall said the public may have become complacent with the long period of DUI declines. Police, though still vigilant for drunken drivers, turned more attention to other priorities, such as speeding and seat belt enforcement, anti-terrorism efforts and Amber alerts.

Near Woodland, northwest of Sacramento, CHP Officer Patrick Brown made three DUI arrests in the first 10 days of this month, working the graveyard shift. His first call of the day last week with a reporter and photographer in tow was a suspicious rear-end collision involving four young males in a new Cadillac, blocking Interstate 5.

Brown conducted a partial field sobriety test on the 19-year-old driver, who came up clean. The only visible beverage in the vehicle was a liter bottle of Shasta Cola.

The district’s DUI arrests are down the last few years as officers spend more of their time coping with such collisions in the rapidly growing area, said Loren Jacobs, the district’s accident review officer.

Yet education may be more the answer than increased enforcement, said Marshall. He suggested the statistics show the social stigma attached to drinking and driving through anti-DUI campaigns in the 1980s and 1990s is waning with a new generation.

Social drinking declined, less potent wine and beer became the drinks of choice and communities established designated driver programs.

“The first reaction is they’re too young to drink and too young to drive,” Marshall said. “The answer is, some of them do it anyway, and two, we’re trying to get to them before their peers do.”

Similarly, the Department of Traffic Safety is funding new experimental programs in Santa Clara and San Joaquin counties in which high school host real DUI trials and middle school students witness DUI sentencing in hopes of teaching them the consequences before they are of drinking age.

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--- | ---
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For a complete list of Cal Poly/Hancock equivalent courses offered this summer, go to www.hancockcollege.edu and click on “Cal Poly Students”.

Register May 3-June 11 online at www.hancockcollege.edu and click on “WebReg”.

Classes begin June 21
Proud to be Cal Poly's No. 1 paper!
The Mustangs are now 5-1 in the Big West after the sweep.

Brian Koser

MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly baseball team improved to 5-1 in the Big West and 33-13-1 on the season after beating the Pacific Tigers 8-3 on Sunday at Baggett Stadium.

In the first inning, Brandon Roberts hit a chopper to left field and took second base after an over­throw. When Matt Guinnado did into third, he saw the wild throw get past Tiger Jesse Kovacs and scored. Roberts went on to steal third and Kyle Bernhardt slapped a pitch to left to send Roberts home.

The Tigers scored two of their runs in the third inning when catch­er Brandon Gomter and first base­man Kyle Harper hit back-to-back home runs off pitcher Tony Saape. Saape shook off the two cracking hits to retire the rest of the side without giving up any more hits. Also in the third inning, Roberts came to the plate with two outs and was walked. Right fielder Chalon Tietje followed and slammed his fourth home run of the year to get the lead up to 2-0.

In the fifth inning, Roberts was walked again and went on to steal second. Tietje helped advance Roberts again following a line drive that fell into the gap between right and center field. Blumenfeld stepped up to the plate and hit a smoking ball to first that resulted in a double play. Roberts tagged up and ran home to tack on another run for the Mustangs.

In the bottom of the sixth, first baseman Brett Berghland hit a line drive down the left-field line that scored shortstop Josh Mayo. After center fielder Sam Herbert popped­ up to center, Bernhardt tagged up and scored to increase the lead 7-2.

The seventh saw both sides go three up and three down with a series of groundouts, pop-ups and one strike out. In the eighth, Mustang Dennis LeDoe came to the mound and watched his first pitch went to the top of the center-field wall and bobble over for Harper's second home run of the game.

The Mustangs scored their final run of the day in the eighth when Herbert singled to center to score Mayo. In the ninth, LeDoe retired three straight batters to end the game and improve his record to 28-17. Pacific second baseman Octavio Amezquita had a great day on defense that included multiple diving catches and turning a double play that rochedet of the first base­man's foot. Despite his play, Amezquita said he was a little frustrat­ed that they were being played our hardest but not getting things done. Amezquita also said the Mustangs need to play more as a team if they want to improve their 15-21 overall and 0-6 Big West record.

Cal Poly won the match-up of the Tigers on Friday 11-3, and also Saturday's game 16-6. Tietje said he was happy with his hitting and pitching, but is more concerned about the "big week ahead." Coach Larry Lee said the Mustangs had a great approach all weekend to keep the team closer to leading the Big West.

The Mustangs will face Long Beach State beginning on Friday, where in 2003 lost shown face­senational LBSU pitcher Jera Weaver.

"We'll be facing the best pitcher in the country, and he's having the best season of anyone I've seen since I've been coaching," Lee said.

Other Sports

Lacrosse scores easy win

Graham Womack

MUSTANG DAILY

In women's lacrosse, there is a rule stipulating that the game clock must remain running if one team gets ahead by more than 10 goals.

That was the case for Cal Poly on Sunday. The Mustangs gave Arizona State a 21-8 beating, making it the third time this season that game officials had to apply the mercy rule for a Cal Poly opponent.

With the win, the Mustangs' nearly undefeated regular season came to a close. The Mustangs put the Sun Devils away early, never trailing before the small crowd at the sports complex.

Nine Mustangs scored. Senior attacker Liz Mejia finished with five goals and two assists. Mejia and others said the Mustangs' offensive success stemmed from pre-game preparation and great defensive play.

"We've been working all year on our transition, and it shows," Mejia said.

The Mustangs also exhibited excellent stick-to-stick ball movement.

"For our last game, it was picture perfect," said two-time Intercollegiate League MVP Jeana Gevas - game-winning RBI (HBP) and three runs.

"I think our defense did really well, considering we only had the ball (on offense) for five minutes in the first half," Henley said. "To keep the score to what it was, was really good." At times, the Sun Devils, described by the Mustangs as a scrappy, run­and-gun team, also posed problems on offense. After the Mustangs jumped out to a 4-1 lead just a few minutes into the game, ASU cut the deficit to 4-3, then countered Cal Poly's subse­quent 6-0 run with a brief 2-1 re­covery of their own.

Still, the Sun Devils never really kept pace with the Mustangs, Cal Poly captain Lindsay Kanewischer said.

SCORES

Baseball (7th place) vs. Pacific

Softball (1) vs. No. 20 Long Beach State (0)

SCHEDULE

W Golf @ Big West

Weber State

W Tennis vs. Big West

Baseball vs. Long Beach State

Baseball @ UC Santa Barbara

SPE N C E R  M A R L E Y

MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly finished home play in Style, winning 23-8.

"I don't think we played down to their level," Kanewischer said. The mercy rule was in effect 10 minutes into the second half. Though Lawrence said the Mustangs had trouble getting in the middle of the field, Sunday morning's game was easy, even in comparison to Saturday's 10-4 victory over UCLA.

"I think the big difference between (Saturday's) game and (Sunday's) game was there was more of a lull (against UCLA)," Lawrence said. "Today it was more us."

It remains to be seen if Sunday's stunning of ASU will offer adequate preparation for the playoffs.

Beat SF: Dodgers take three at SBC

Josh Dubow

MUSTANG DAILY

SAN FRANCISCO — Even two home runs and five RBIs by Barry Bonds weren't enough for the San Francisco Giants to beat Los Angeles.

Bonds connected twice to move within 50 of tying Babe Ruth for second place on the career list, but it wasn't enough to stop the Dodgers from sweeping the three-game series with a 7-4 win Sunday.

Adrian Beltre, Juan Encarnación and David Ross homered in a four­pitch span of the fifth inning against Brett Tomko (9-8) to lead Los Angeles to its first sweep in San Francisco since April 2000.

Jeff Weaver (1-1) allowed five runs in five-plus innings for his first win with the Dodgers, who have won five straight and nine of 12 for their best start since 1983.

Eric Gagne struck out three in the ninth for his sixth save of the season and record 68th straight save since Aug. 28, 2002.

Bonds has homered in all five games he's started this homestand to give him seven on the season and 665 for his career — 90 shy of Hank Aaron's all-time record. He is 36-15 with six homers and 13 RBIs on the homestead, raising his average to .500 this season.

Bonds tied a career high with four hits, hitting an RBI double in the first inning and a run-scoring single in the seventh. He also had his 65th multihomer game, moving within two of Mark McGwire for second place on the career list. Ruth holds the record with 72.

Last year, the Dodgers came to San Francisco in April and were swept by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who crushed the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruised to the NL West title by 15/2 games. Both teams were well­behaved by the Giants, who cruis