Trials and triumphs of 2004

Nicole Stivers

From the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal to the neck-in-neck race for the White House, the events of 2004 demanded attention. Here’s a look back at the stories that dominated the evening news.

The conflict in Iraq raged on with coalition forces battling insurgents. As of Dec. 16, 1,456 coalition forces died. Of those, 1,307 were American. Insurgent groups began kidnapping foreigners and beheading them in order to coerce occupying powers to leave the country.

In March, terrorists detonated 10 bombs on four commuter trains during rush hour in Madrid, Spain. Nearly 200 people were killed and more than 1,800 were wounded. By April, 15 people were arrested in connection with the bombing.

Scott Peterson’s double-murder trial began in June in Redwood City. By November, Peterson was found guilty of first-degree murder for killing his wife, Laci, and second-degree murder in the death of their unborn son. The jury recommended the death penalty.

The 2004 Atlantic hurricane season, stretching from June 1 to Nov. 30, was one of the most deadly and costly in recent history. Four of the biggest hurricanes of the season, Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, all made landfall in Florida. The storms killed nearly 3,000 people and caused an estimated $42 billion in damage.

The jury in the Scott Peterson trial recommended the death penalty.

Ronald Reagan, known as the “Great Communicator,” died on June 5 at age 93 after a decade-long battle with Alzheimer’s disease. Reagan followed up his successful Hollywood career by dedicating the remainder of his life to politics. His mission was to recreate a conservative “G.O.P.”

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Palestinian leader and presidential front-runner Mahmoud Abbas holds a Kaffiyah. Palestinians will hold elections Jan. 9 to choose a successor to the late Yasser Arafat. Between hostage-takers and Russian security forces, more than 300 people died, more than half of them children.

On Sept. 1, an elementary school in Beslan, Russia was taken hostage by a group of terrorists. The standoff ended on Sept. 3 with a shoot-out.

The jury in the Scott Peterson trial recommended the death penalty.

In August, over 31,000 athletes from 202 countries traveled to Athens for the XXXVIII Olympic Games. Running from Aug. 13 to Aug. 29, athletes competed in 301 medal events in 28 different sports. The United States led the medal count with 35 gold medals and 103 total medals, followed by Russia with 27 gold medals and 92 total medals.

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For 85 years, the Cal Poly landmark has endured fire, theft and vandalism; now it faces its biggest peril, erosion.

Erica Drummond

For 85 years, the Cal Poly “P” has served not only the university but also the community as a focal point of pride, unity and school spirit. However, setting on a hill for 85 years is no walk in the park. Vandals, student pranks and erosion are all problems the “P” has grown accustomed to, but to top it all off, the stone structure is now slowly sliding down its hill.

“The P” sides about two to three inches a year,” “P Keeper” and industrial technology senior Scott Barton said. “The whole right side is being held in by a quarter of the dirt, it’s just hanging in there. The hillside isn’t stable.”

In fact, Cal Poly alumni and past “P Keeper” Derek Marín said the entire hill is the result of a landslide, so it’s “not the most stable ground there.”

As if the “P” didn’t have enough problems, it also became the victim of theft during fall quarter when someone stole a string of the traditional home-game rope lights. This triggered the Mustang Maniacs and the University Police Department to put the “P” off-limits until June, although Barton says he may consider reopening it next quarter.

“The thief” was the straw that broke the camel’s back,” Marín said. “That wasn’t the first time someone stole the lights.”

Since the “P” was first put up in 1918, it has been a prime target for pranks and vandalism. Students have done everything they can to it, such as painting it and burning it down, in some high school students did in the 1950s when the “P” was made out of whitewashed barn doors. One of the biggest attacks on the “P” occurred when a student took a sledgehammer to it and broke off six feet.

It’s a giant battle to keep the ‘P’ alive,” said Mike Jarrett, Mustang Maniacs president and business administration senior. “It doesn’t help that people go up there and write on it or dig the dirt out from under it or take a piece with them.”

Barton said cleaning up the “P” is see Poly ’P” page 2
In October, the Boston Red Sox came from behind to beat the New York Yankees for the American League pennant. Fans rioted in the streets of Boston, leading to the death of college student Victoria Snelgrove. Later in the month, the Red Sox ended the 86-year-old "Curse of the Bambino," defeating the St. Louis Cardinals in four games to win the World Series. ... The November election was one of the biggest stories of the year, consuming the spotlight for months on end. A record number of voters hit the polls and re-elected President George W. Bush to a second term in office. The Democratic candidate, Sen. John Kerry was unable to muster enough votes to overcome the incumbent. Republicans also gained more seats in Congress, ensuring a Republican controlled government for the next few years. ... Yasser Arafat, the controversial Palestinian leader, died on Nov. 11 at age 75. Arafat was the co-founder and chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, president of the National Palestinian Authority and co-winner of the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize. His supporters viewed him as a symbol of the national aspirations of the Palestinian people while opponents labeled him a terrorist. ... On Dec. 26 an earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale struck in the Indian Ocean. Tsunamis created one of the deadliest natural disasters in the last century. The tsunami reached a larger number of countries including India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The death toll has reached 155,000, with thousands still missing.

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JAKARTA, Indonesia — World leaders pledged Thursday to work together to help tsunami-stricken regions recover from the worst natural disaster in living memory, saying it was a race against time to get aid to survivors before the threat of waterborne disease was receding, thanks to relief efforts.

A UN official said last month while seeking work at a U.S. base have been found in a field near Mosul, police said Thursday, as the Iraqi government extended a deadline for giving Nugent the mushrooming problems in Ohio.

The documents include Reagan’s handwritten drafts of the scripts for his national syndicated public review at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, which aired from 1975 to 1979.

WASHINGTON — A group of Democrats on Thursday planned to interrupt Congress’ ceremonial counting of the electoral votes that gave President Bush his re-election victory and force the House and Senate to debate Election Day problems in Ohio.

The challenge does not jeopardize the Iraq War, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said. It’s “just a matter of principle,” he said.

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration plans to appeal the decision by a Texas federal judge to throw out the capital murder convictions for the former President Bush’s personal papers.

The documents include scripts for his national syndicated public review.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The bodies of 18 young Iraqi Shiites killed last month while seeking work in a U.S. base have been found in a field near Mosul, police said Thursday.

Police said the insurgents shot the workers from a nearby rocket on Dec. 8 after stopping their two minibuses about 15 miles west of the volatile city, 225 miles north of Baghdad.

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine’s Supreme Court on Thursday rejected losing presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko’s appeal of last month’s repeat election, bringing the former Soviet republic a step closer to resolving its political crisis.

Ukraine’s leader has not exhausted all of his options, however. His campaign has said that the main appeal would be filed with the court only after the Council of European Union announces the final outcomes of the Dec. 26 vote.

SEATTLE — Must be something in the coffee.

Seattle has been named the fittest city in the United States in the February issue of Men’s Fitness magazine, leaping past the last month’s repeat election, bringing the former Soviet republic a step closer to resolving its political crisis.

All of the 10 fittest cities are in the West. Following Seattle were Honolulu; Colorado Springs, Colo.; San Francisco; Denver; Portland, Ore.; Sacramento, Tucson, Ariz.; San Diego; and Albuquerque, N.M.

Washington was named the fattest city for the fourth time in five years, followed by Philadelphia, Detroit, Memphis and Chicago.
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which local businesses are best for Cal Poly students' needs. Vote for your favorite business in each category and turn in the survey to the Mustang Daily for a chance to win gift certificates from your favorite restaurants and clothing stores.

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Last year brought with it excitement and scandal thanks to the likes of Michael Moore and his controversial film, "Fahrenheit 9/11," along with Usher's No. 1 album, "Confessions" and the ladies of "Desperate Housewives."

Kristen Oato
MUSTING ONLY

From Janet's breast on CBS to Ashlee Simpson's acid reflux on SNL and both of Britney's marriages, entertainers did not fail to amuse and intrigue us in 2004. Here's a look at a few of the year's biggest hits with Usher's "Confessions," along with Britney Spears' "Yeah!" and C'ara's "(Go'odies."

The year started with the Super Bowl's "Nipplegate," 2004, consisting scandals. Then celebrity weddings hit the stage. Following the death of Jennifer, J Lo got married for the third time — the lucky man was Latin singer Marc Anthony. After a quick annulment, Britney Spears married some guy known as Kevin Federline. Not to be outdone, Mary-Kate Olsen entered a treatment facility for anorexia and the queen of Kmart, Mariah Carter, headed to jail in West Virginia, aka "Camp Chipchase." Pop culture also made some waves. Lil' Jon, along with Dave Chapelle, got everyone and their mother to say "what?!," "okay?" and "yeah!" Lil' Jon also gave us two of the year's biggest hits with Usher's "Yeah!" and C'ara's "Goodies." Hollywood made out big in 2004, with box office revenue totaling $9.23 billion. This ranks second to a record $9.27 billion in 2002. Sequels were an audience favorite, with "Shrek 2," "Spider-Man 2," "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," "The Bourne Supremacy" and other follow-ups ranking in the top 20 films. "Shrek 2" pulled in an impressive $436.7 million, making it the No. 1 movie of 2004. Two controversial and highly successful films Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" and Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" also made that hit. Cult favorites include " Eternal Sunshine of the Spotted Mind," "Napoleon Dynamite" and "Garden State." Ben Stiller can be thanked for providing many of this year's comedies, appearing in "Eryz," "Starsky and Hutch," "Dodgeball" and "Meet the Fockers." On the music front, country, R&B and pop were all represented in the top 10 albums of 2004. Usher claimed the No. 1 spot with his "Confessions," inching ahead of OutKast's "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below." Alicia Keys, Maroon 5, Toby Keith and Britney Spears are just a few singers who also performed well in sales last year. Kanye West were among the standout hip-hop artists of 2004. Gretchen Wilson emerged as relatively unknown to join Tim McGraw and Kenny Chesney as the top country singers. Indie bands such as Yellowcard, Franz Ferdinand, the Shins, Death Cab for Cutie, and Ben Kweller also enjoyed greater exposure this year.

The television industry made quite an impression on viewers in 2004. Reality shows monopolized most stations with shows like, "The Simple Life." Americans laughed and cried with the "Friends" cast as they bade farewell after the series finale in May and faithful viewers gasped when Big's real name showed up on Carrie's cell phone at the end of "Sex and the City." From their ashes arose a new generation of shows. After many thought the death of scripted television had come, viewers embraced "Desperate Housewives," "24" and "Lost."
New Year's goals you can achieve

It's a new year, which probably means you have some ideas for a new you as well. Now that the holidays have come and gone, we're all off to a running start with great plans and resolutions for 2005. But here's a reality check, so read on to see whether your New Year's goals are achievable—or merely empty promises.

One of the major tendencies when it comes to making New Year's resolutions is to overdo it. By not setting realistic goals you're just setting yourself up for failure. That's not to say you shouldn't aim high, but keep within your reach. For example, all too often people declare, "I'm going to lose 30 pounds," without thinking through the steps it's going to take to achieve that goal. Losing 30 pounds is an excellent investment in your health, but it's also a seemingly endless undertaking once you actually commit to it. Breaking the goal into smaller pieces can make it more easily see results and feel a sense of achievement, which is key for staying motivated.

But then ask yourself: "Was it worth it?" (continued the next day)

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

University wasted money on historian, speaker Ilan Pappe

This is in response to Farhan Don't's Article "Speech on Israeli-Palestinian conflict was fair, balanced" (Jan. 6).

The ability to disagree with your government's policies is a sacred freedom of democracy, of which Israel is the only one in the Middle East, and Ilan Pappe has that right as an Israeli citizen. However, he does not have the right to use anti-Semitic propaganda to push his own agenda, especially by lying about policies that the Israeli government had a Nazistyle "final plan" for the Palestinians in 1948. Disagreeing with settlement building or the security fence is one thing, inciting hate through libel and slander is another and is inexcusable.

The US partners with Israel because Israel promotes democracy and equal rights the freedoms of religion, press and sexual orientation. Try finding that in any Arab country. I am the first to admit that mistakes have been made on many sides, but the use of terrorism as a political tool in modern times is abhorrent. There will be peace in Israel when the Palestinians love their children more than they hate the Jews.

Anti-Semitic rhetoric has been used for centuries, such as the Blood Libel of Poland and the Pogroms of Russia. But you know what? Using the university's money to promote hate is not right. Why did Cal Poly pay all this money for this speaker? Because they were duped by the actions of Manzar Foroohar, or perhaps the administration truly believes this is an intellectual dialogue from a "respectful historian." Either the administration is naive or foolish, take your pick.

Micael Dedoffsky
Business graduate

It's time to get used to the ever-present parking problem

On the first day of classes I took the earlier possible opportunity to go to Chumash Auditorium to pick up my immigration card, but still appreciated, financial aid check. At first I was annoyed (like always) by all the people in line, but then I noticed all the signs in line to pay for parking passes.

Think of the inevitable frustration these suckers are setting themselves up for. You don't even need a pencil to figure that one out.

Parking on campus has never been good, and with more cars and fewer spaces, it keeps getting more entertaining, especially like the looks on the bun's faces when they are fighting to find a spot at 1 ride past on my bike. I'm sure it's worth the $4 a day, or $85 a quarter or whatever the cost is now. You can thank extremely wealthy alumni (some of you may want to think about it) for that.

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Buchanan continued from page 8
to coach a gifted competitive gentleman who represents himself, the institution and the game as well as I can imagine," Ellison added.

Beck, a three-time first-team all-NCAA Division I-AA Independent linebacker before Cal Poly joined the Great West this fall, was a second-team The Sports Network All-America linebacker in 2003 and a I-AA.org preseason all-America prior to the 2004 campaign. The honors Beck received this fall, in addition to the Great West Defensive Player of the Year award, include the Walter Camp Foundation All-America Team as well as The Sports Network All-America first team. Earlier this week Beck was named to the American Football Coaches Association All-America team as well as the Associated Press Division I-AA All-America second team.

His career totals include 449 total tackles, 270 solo stops and 51.5 tackles for lost yardage, all school records. He also notched 16.5 career sacks, four interceptions and 15 pass breakups.

Beck also recorded 36 tackles in a game three times and 15 tackles in three others. He recorded double-digit tackles in 24 of 43 career games.

Beck finished the 2003 season 13th in Division I-AA with 11.6 tackles a contest. He recorded 73 tackles as a freshman, 113 as a sophomore, 128 as a junior and 155 as a senior.

Gocog finished the 2004 regular season as the nation's sacks leader in Division I-AA with 17.5 (1.59 sacks per contest) and was No. 2 in tackles for lost yardage with 21.5 (1.95 a game).

Gocog recorded 71 total tackles and also notched one interception (Humboldt State), one punt block (North Dakota State) and two forced fumbles.

He recorded a personal-best 11 tackles against Eastern Washington and his 17.5 sacks this fall broke the school record of 17.0 set by Tom Carey in 1987.

Gocog's list of postseason awards includes first-team The Sports Network All-America, Walter Camp Foundation All-America Team, first-team Associated Press, Division I-AA All-America and first-team All-Great West Football Conference.

The three finalists for the Walter Payton Award were William & Mary quarterback Larry Campbell, Appalachian State wide receiver Dyron Forrester and Sam Houston State quarterback Detra Long.

Gocog will return next year among a number of other Mustangs including quarterback Anthony Clement.

The Great West, which was also in jeopardy of losing a number of members, looks as if it will remain intact after several schools were not accepted into the Big Sky.

Basketball

continued from page 8

Senior post player Katy Paterson, a second-team All-Big West selection a year ago, is Cal Poly's leading scorer to date with a 9.7 average and also is the top rebounder with a 5.1 mark. Herke also has a 5.1 rebounding mark while Eggleston averages 6.9 points and 4.2 boards.

Junior forward Courtney Cameron averages 6.8 points, 4.0 rebounds and 2.3 assists a game.

Next week, Cal Poly plays two more home games, hosting UC Santa Barbara on Thursday and UC Davis on Jan. 15. Both games start at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

Support Cal Poly sports... Go to the games!

Saturday - Utah State, 7 p.m. in Mott Gym

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The fact that no one understands you doesn't make you an artist." - Pablo Picasso
Cal Poly football 1-2 in the Buchanan Award

Mustang Daily Staff Report

Cal Poly linebacker Jordan Beck didn't gloat when he won the top defensive honors in Division I-AA.

He could have. Besides, he was also a finalist last year in the same category, and this year made a mockery of Great West defenses in leading his team to a 9-2 record and conference championship.

"I feel honored to get the award, but I know there are a lot of other great defensive players across the country who are just as deserving," Beck said. "I am thankful and feel blessed."

Beck led one of the best 1-2 punches in Division I-AA alongside junior defensive end Chris Gocong. For his performance, Beck earned the 2004 Buck Buchanan Award presented by the Sports Network to the nation's Defensive Player of the Year in Division I-AA.

Beck received the award at the 18th Annual Division I-AA College Football Awards held in the Chattanoogas' Choo Choo Holiday Inn in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The runner-up was none other than teammate Gocong who will return to the Mustangs next year.

Beck remained humble in receiving the Buck Buchanan Award which goes to the best Division I-AA defensive player.

"As an individual, he's very deserving," said Mustang head coach Rich Ellerson. "I love how the award reflects on him, the game, Cal Poly and the football program in particular."

"Jordan is among the very best line backers I've ever had the privilege to work with," added Ellerson.

With 17.5 sacks this season, Chris Gocong broke the Cal Poly record of 17 sacks previously set by Tom Carey in 1987.

Hoops return to home court

The Mustangs haven't been shooting a high percentage from the field, but defense has keyed continued success on the court.

After splitting its first two Big West Conference games, the women's basketball team returned home to face Idaho last night and will face Utah State on Saturday.

The game against Utah State tips off at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

The Mustangs opened Big West Conference play last week by defeating UC Irvine 55-48 in the Bren Center on Tuesday, then falling 57-48 to Long Beach State at The Pyramid on Thursday.

Despite shooting just 27 percent from the floor and averaging 51.5 points, the Mustangs got the split.

Senior forward Heidi Wittstrom scored 14 points and junior guard Michelle Henke made four straight free throws in the final 17 seconds to preserve Cal Poly's win over UC Irvine.

The Mustangs struggled on all nine three-point attempts and made just 27.3 percent of their floor shots in the loss to Long Beach State. Sophomore forward Jessica Eggleston came off the bench to score 14 points, sinking six of 10 floor shots, and she also led the team with eight rebounds.

Utah State, coached by Raegan Pebley, already has as many wins as in the 2003-04 campaign (5-22), the Aggies' first after a 17-year hiatus. After an 0-10 start a year ago, Utah State earned its first win against Cal Poly on Jan. 10 in Logan. After losing to Idaho last Wednesday, the Aggies bounced back to beat Montana State 59-52 in a non-conference contest Friday.

Brittany Tresler is the top Aggie scorer to date with a 13.0 average and 53rd in interceptions (.36).

"It has been a great experience — one of the best times of my life," said Beck. "The relationships I built at Cal Poly will last the rest of my life. The best thing about it all was the camaraderie and friends I had on the team."

Beck returned two of his four interceptions this season for touchdowns — 36 yards against Humboldt State and 40 yards against Idaho State in the first two games of the year.

Beck also returned two fumbles for touchdowns in his Mustang career. He scooped up a fumble against UC Davis last year and ran 41 yards for the go-ahead score in the third quarter, and also ran 20 yards with a fumble for a touchdown against Alcorn State in 2001.

Last month, Beck was named Great West Football Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

Beck remained humble in receiving the Buck Buchanan Award which goes to the best Division I-AA defensive player.

"It's one of the best things of my life," said Beck. "The relationships I built at Cal Poly will last the rest of my life. The best thing about it all was the camaraderie and friends I had on the team."

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Wrestling's off to the Beaver State

Two weeks ago, the Mustangs faced the No. 1 team in the nation, Oklahoma State, and lost 32-9 at home.

Nevertheless, Vic Moreno, Steve Esparza and Ryan Halsey performed well in the loss and will have a chance to bring a couple more wins the Mustangs' way when they travel to Oregon this weekend for the Oregon Classic Duals Friday followed by a Pac-10 conference dual meet against Oregon State on Sunday.

At home, Moreno defeated Derrick Fleming 6-1 in the 125-pound weight class moving him to 9-2 on the year.

Esparza defeated Ronnie Dolk 2-2 scoring a takedown with 1:43 left in the match to seal his victory.

He is now 6-5 on the year. Halsey was the only other Mustang to get win after he defeated Clay Kehrer 4-1 to improve his record to an impressive 15-3.

The Mustangs will return home Saturday Jan. 15 to face No. 10 Oklahoma followed by a triple to the Menlo College Invitational the following day.

The Mustangs participate in the Oregon Classic Duals before a Pac-10 meet with Oregon State on Sunday.

beach state