East pounds West with 38 point unanswered run

IN SPORTS, 12

Interview with up-and-coming New York band French Kiss

IN ARTS & CULTURE, 6

ALL-STAR SHINES

Mustang linebacker Jordan Beck represents Poly football in all-star game. See page 12

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Black students travel to Washington

Impact, a Cal Poly bible study group, is trying to become a recognized club so it can participate in campus events

Caitlin Donnell

As part of Cal Poly’s Campus Crusade for Christ, one Cal Poly student and one recent graduate joined 2,000 other black students at a national conference in Washington, D.C. from Dec. 27 to Jan. 1, representing a group on campus called Impact, a black Bible study group.

“The national conference was a life changing experience,” electrical engineering senior Daniel Wesonga said. “It was a great ethnic and cultural experience for me.”

Wesonga went to the national conference with the leader of Impact, Jonathan McAlister, who coaches ethnic student ministries through Campus Crusade. McAlister graduated from Cal Poly with an architecture degree in June 2004.

Impact in a national ministry movement reaching out to African-American students,” Wesonga said. “Impact is now trying to change the focus from being a bible study to do more evangelism and reaching out to the community.”

Impact at Cal Poly is part of the Cal Poly club campus Crusade for Christ, and is trying to get club status on campus. McAlister said that Impact is part of the Ethnic Student Ministries within Campus Crusade. There is also a group called Epic designed for Asian-American students and a group called Destino reaching out to Hispanic-American students.

Impact is about mobilizing and empowering African-American leaders to affect change on campus, in the community and throughout the world,” McAlister said. “We are present on campus and our group hopes to play a role in creating a greater cohesiveness of the black community on campus.”

Wesonga participated in many different seminars and focus groups while at the national conference. In addition, there was a day of outreach where students traveled to the rough neighborhoods outside of Washington, D.C. distribute boxes of loving blessing food and items that the people needed.

see Washington, page 2

CA budget hits CSU campuses

Allison Terry

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s proposed 2005-06 budget honors the agreement he made with California State University officials, but it may still be inadequate to maintain or improve the quality of higher education in California.

On Jan. 10, Gov. Schwarzenegger released his proposed budget including his plans for California State University funding. According to a statement released by the California State University, the governor honored the higher education compact, which is a six-year plan that the governor will provide certain increased percentages of funds for specific programs.

CSU officials said they were pleased with the governor’s proposed budget because California is experiencing a $10 billion deficit.

“The governor provided what was agreed upon in the compact, which was generous because many more agencies in the state were expecting more money,” said Clara Pontes-Fellow, manager of media relations for the CSU. “The state financial situation is still very precarious.”

Under the compact, the CSU had to compensate funding by issuing a student fee increase for 2005-06, generating $101.2 million. The budget requests an 8 percent increase for see CSU, page 2

CA budget hits CSU campuses

Past fee increases average increase among CSUs

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KATIE ZAKAR MUSTANG DAILY

Abbas travels to Gaza for cease-fire talks

Ibrahim Barzak

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas traveled to Gaza on Tuesday for meetings with militants, saying he is hopeful he can persuade them to halt attacks on Israel, but a bombing attack shortly after his arrival cast a shadow over the prospects.

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up near a major road used by Israeli settlers and soldiers in the southern Gaza Strip, wounding at least six Israelis. A Palestinian bystander was also injured, according to Palestinian rescue officials. The Hamas militant group claimed responsibility.

Earlier, as Abbas headed to the Gaza Strip, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon warned the Palestinians that time was running out for them to take action.

Abbas said in an interview that Israel must do its part by halting military operations: “I am going to Gaza with the hopes of reaching an agreement.”

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The bombing at the Gush Katif intersection came just two hours after Abbas arrived in Gaza, evidence that militants will not give up attacks against Israelis easily. Since Israel announced a year ago that it would pull out of Gaza in the summer, militants have been stepping up attacks, trying to show that they are driving the Israelis out.

Abbas met Tuesday with David Pearce, the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem, and said he is serious about Abbas, page 2
Washington
continued from page 1

"I want to bring back my passion and a new attitude from this conference," Wowosga said. "Impact brings more..."
STATE NEWS

REDDING — Four men were arrested on hate crime charges after allegedly vandalizing a display that symbolized the country’s daily abortion rate.

The men are accused of knocking down nearly 3,000 white crosses erected by Redding churches and Christian organizations.

Police said a pager led to the arrest of Michael Lane, 19; Clayton Heath, 20; Brian Fitzgerald, 20; and Aaron Krzywicki, 20. The four were booked on suspicion of felony vandalism and misdemeanor civil rights violations.

Damaging property to intimidate or interfere with civil rights based on religion is illegal, said police Sgt. Roger Moore.

UPLAND — A dive team found the body of a 7-year-old boy Tuesday who fell into a rain-swollen creek over the holiday weekend, authorities said.

Search-and-rescue teams continued to search for the boy’s 3-year-old mother, who was swept away Monday when they tried to rescue her.

Frank Zarava of El Monte was found about a quarter-mile downstream from where he was last seen Monday, said Robin Haynal, a spokeswoman with the San Bernardino County sheriff’s department.

The boy fell into San Antonio Creek while trying to wash his hands during a picnic at Mount Baldy. His mother, Sibilla Flores, jumped in after him and both were swept away by water moving as fast as 40 mph.

Another boy from Huntington Park drowned in the same creek after he was swept under by current moving up to 25 mph, authorities said.

— Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq will seal its borders, extend a curfew and restrict movement to protect voters during the Jan. 30 election, in which Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly and regional councils.

Minister Ayad Allawi, the latest in a series of conversation between the two leaders on Iraq’s efforts to ensure maximum participation in the election.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide bomber struck the Baghdad headquarters of Iraq’s biggest Shiite political party Tuesday, killing three people, as the government announced plans to close borders and restrict movement to bolster security in the national election.

Three candidates were slain as insurgents intensified their campaign to subvert the ballot. The Cabinet member responsible for internal security urged fellow Sunni Arabs to disregard threats by Sunni extremists and vote in the Jan. 30 election, in which Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly and regional legislators. Otherwise, the minister warned, the country will slide into civil war.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — In the biggest test of his brief tenure, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas told senators on Tuesday that a U.S. exit strategy from Iraq depends on that country’s ability to defend itself against terrorists after this month’s elections. She vowed to work to ease ties with allies frayed by U.S. policy there.

“The world is coming together behind the idea that we have to succeed in Iraq,” she asserted at a confirmation hearing on her nomination to replace Colin Powell in the top foreign policy post.

— Associated Press

— Associated Press

OTHER NEWS

SAN JOSE — The city is hosting a convention this weekend of about 1,700 “furries” — people who love animals so much that they take on their identities and sometimes dress up like them.

Part costume party and part role play, Further Confusion, or FurCon, gives grown-ups a place to act out their inter-species fantasies.

The convention includes workshops on such things as puppetry, costume making, writing about mythical creatures and “furry anatomy.”

“Just because it’s weird, it’s still perfectly normal to the people involved in it,” said raccoon wannabe Lee Simon, 36, of San Leandro, one of the event’s founders.

Prancing through the lobby of the Doubletree Hotel as a fox among goats, tigers and other animals, Katie Matthew, 20, said she likes the fun of dressing up and escaping into her made-up animal character, which she calls Shadow and has written about in stories.

— Associated Press

— Associated Press

UNDER FOUR? OR KICKED OUT THE DOOR?

80% of students haven’t had trouble with authorities due to drinking. The average CP student drinks less than 4 in a sitting.
Mexico presses U.S. for new immigration agreement


Associated Press

CALIFORNIA — Mexico will continue to rally for an immigration agreement establishing a right for Mexicans to work temporarily in the United States, the country's interior secretary said after meeting with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

The secretary, Santiago Creel, also denounced an Arizona ballot measure — approved by voters in November — that limits government services for illegal immigrants.

"It's incompatible with human rights and does a disservice to both countries, the United States as much as Mexico," Creel said Monday following the meeting in Calexico, a border city about 100 miles east of San Diego.

Ridge, who is departing his job Feb. 1, said an immigration agreement was a high priority for President Bush in his second term, but added that a temporary worker program would be an uphill battle in Congress without provisions for stricter enforcement of immigration laws.

He emphasized that the United States would reject any amnesty proposal for Mexicans who are living in the United States illegally or any plan that gives priority to temporary workers when they apply for permanent residence.

Ridge avoided criticizing the Arizona ballot measure, saying that states have a right to deny state but not federal aid.

The measure requires proof of legal immigration status when obtaining certain government services and proof of citizenship when registering to vote.

Government workers who don't report illegal immigrants who try to get benefits could also face jail time and a fine.

Ridge said other states were unlikely to follow Arizona's lead if the United States introduces a program for temporary workers.

"There will probably be far less inclination by any states to vote a similar way again... because the people that will be here will be here legally and they will certainly be in a much better position to support themselves without relying on any public funding," Ridge said.

The meeting was billed as a progress report on a 2002 agreement aimed at beefing up border security without disrupting trade.

The two Cabinet secretaries also used the occasion to formally open a new lane for prescreened truckers to enter the United States or Mexico.

California and the Texas cities of El Paso, Hidalgo, Laredo and Brownsville.
In Slovakia, a new generation grows up largely ignorant about communism

Andrea Dudikova  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — They confuse Stalin with Hitler, echo their parents’ nostalgia for a supposedly "golden age" and think the worst part of the communist era was not being able to travel freely.

Fifteen years after communism collapsed across eastern Europe, some young people worry about the generation born since then growing up largely ignorant of the hardships, repression and lack of basic rights and freedoms when the Marxsists ran things.

The lack of knowledge may be especially acute in Slovakia, which took a five-year detour from the path to democracy after splitting off from the Czech Republic in 1993. Critics here blame parents, the education system and the absence of a spirited public debate about the recent past for the skewed picture many young people seem to have about it.

Young Slovaks like Marian Timm, 14, admit they don’t know much about the system that held the former Czechoslovakia in an iron grip until Vaclav Havel — the playwright who would become president — galvanized the masses into a Velvet Revolution that ended decades of repressive rule in 1989.

Asked what he knows about communism, Marian first debates with a teenager buddy whether it was Adolf Hitler or someone else who was behind the regime.

Eventually, they agree it wasn’t Hitler, but their mental picture is still murky. Marian says his parents describe their earthly lives as a time ruled by "golden communists" who offered "lots of jobs and discipline." "People dressed in a funny way then, but things were cheaper," he says. "We keep hearing that rolls were then, but things were cheaper," he says. "We keep hearing that rolls were cheap, but also that it was not good, as I don’t understand what it was about. My mind is full of chaos when it comes to this, because we haven’t lived through this."

"I don’t understand what it was about. My mind is full of chaos when it comes to this, because we haven’t lived through this."

— LINDA RECNA  
Slovakian university student

Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar’s regime was marked by cronyism and little commitment to democracy, isolating the young country from the West. Meciar’s loss of power in 1998 has been followed by rapid political and economic reforms that have brought Slovakia back into the democratic mainstream. Last spring, it joined NATO and the European Union.

But the sheer variety and speed of changes over the past 15 years — the sudden availability of freedom of choice, free elections, free travel, consumer goods — have left many youngsters with a warped view of the preceding era.

The sheer variety and speed of changes over the past 15 years — the sudden availability of freedom of choice, free elections, free travel, consumer goods — have left many youngsters with a warped view of the preceding era.

They hear little about it at school, and many of the parents of the news generation aren’t eager to discuss the communist years in detail.

While history textbooks in school spell out the communist era accurately and clearly, teachers say they have little time to cover the material.

"It’s dealt with very briefly...we never go too deeply into these themes," says Anna Gregorova, a history teacher at a primary school in Levice in southern Slovakia.

Ildiko Andracskova, who teaches at a high school in the central town of Revuska, says her students — who live in an area saddled with high unemployment — tend to look at things from the perspective of their parents, some of whom are nostalgic for the old days.

"When I teach them about communism, some nod in agreement, but some just smirk," she says.

Martin Simcak, editor in chief of the national newspaper and the son of an intellectual who was imprisoned as a dissident under communism, thinks the worry about youths is not overblown but he feels it’s simply too early for people to clearly see and understand the past.

"I think that in 10 years this generation of 15- to 20-year-olds will start to ask their parents: ‘How could you have lived in something like that?’" Simcak says.

The nation’s collective consciousness will awaken when the young generation starts asking "whether those few (cheap) rolls were worth freedom," he adds.

Emil Dohnane, who was jailed by the communists and served five years in the uranium mines in the 1950s for allegedly competing against the regime, also counts himself among the optimists, but is still troubled by young people’s lack of knowledge.

"The nostalgic feeling that communism was not so bad is simply too early for people to clearly see and understand the past."

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"The nostalgic feeling that communism was not so bad is simply too early for people to clearly see and understand the past."
The French (Kicks) are coming soon!

Sunday night, San Luis Obispo will get a little more continental when the French Kicks tap SLO Brew. This prominent, young NYC band is currently touring in support of its album, "The Trial of the Century." They are performing Sunday with Dios Males, Red Lights and Service Group, boasting a tight, post-punk melodicism and some seriously intriguing lyrics. They've been hailed by MoJo, Maxim and Time Out New York for their "perfect pop restraint" and "seductive...of the Century." Even more importantly, they care about their fans. Their Web site, www.frenchkicks.com, hosts a feature called "W.W.F.K.D.?" which features the wittiest, most acerbic commentary ever to arise from a rock band's advice column of questionable religious allusion (high praise, surely).

The Art Beat interviewed lead singer/drummer/keyboardist Nick Stumpf late last year. He proved to be an articulate and friendly gent who spoke with Capitol Hill poise and, at one point, pulled the impressive coup of turning the tables and interviewing himself. Yep, the guy could really go places. But, President Stumpf, you might want to declare your American allegiance now by renaming to the Freedom Kicks, perhaps?

Art Beat: So what are you listening to? What bands can you recommend?

Nick Stumpf: The Joggers are great. They're an unsung, great band. There are some bands we've done tours with I really like — Ambulance is one. The Unicorns I really like, too.

AB: What music changed your life and made you want to be a musician?

NS: Well, I studied classical piano as a kid and I never really took it to it. I was never in love with it because I didn't listen to the music. When someone taught me to play songs I was actually listening to, I thought that was one of the most exciting things, and not just to do that, but to write your own and have it affect you.

AB: I was looking on MTV.com and I saw your band has a bio online...

NS: We do!

AB: Yeah, you do! So...

NS: What do you think of MTV?

AB: Yeah, what do you think of MTV and the music it normally plays?

NS: Wait, do they play music? I sorta thought they play, like, reality shows. MTV2 still plays stuff. There's a show called "Sobriestream" that plays new obscure videos. (Thoughtful pause). Actually, I think we're supposed to host it in a couple of weeks.

AB: Would you ever want to be on mainstream MTV someday?

NS: Yeah, for us, it's the more the merrier. I think what you're maybe getting at is if I would consider that to be selling out, and I don't. I think the only way to sell out is by, like, changing the way you write, changing the music itself. Like, if you change the way you dress to improve the mainstream, then that's selling out. But as long as you're good at what you do, and it makes sense to you, and feels right to you...

AB: What's been your most rock-star moment?

NS: Oh man, I don't know. We're sort of light on those. I dunno, I just got tons jumping into the crowd a lot during the tour we did with Hot Heat Band, but that was because there were enough people there and I was drunk enough that it seemed like a good idea. In general, we're a little bookish about that stuff...I guess we're musicians first, and still kind of nerdy about it.

AB: Why do you think some rock bands last longer than others? Is it musicianship, the way they package themselves?

NS: I think there's always a little bit of both. It's really songs, though — they keep you around. It's amazing how powerful (packaging) is and

see Art Beat, page 7

Music lovers are in for a treat this weekend as indie-favorites, French Kicks and Dios Males make their San Luis Obispo debut Sunday night at SLO Brew. The two Startime Records labelmates are currently on a West Coast tour that will take them from Seattle to San Diego. Advance tickets are available for $10 at Boo Boo Records or $12 at the door. Also on the bill are the Red Lights and Service Group. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Stay safe during Mardi Gras

Don't risk:

> Personal injury
> Arrest
> Triple fines
> Possible expulsion from Cal Poly

Loss of future jobs

> Avoid large crowds
They can become dangerous without warning, especially if alcohol is involved.

> Discourage visitors
Last year, one half of those arrested during Mardi Gras were from out of town.

> Campus parking will be closed
To visitors the weekend of Feb. 4-6, except for official Cal Poly event ticketholders.

> Nearly 400 law enforcement officers
will strictly enforce the law regarding public behavior during Mardi Gras weekend.

> Check out www.MardiGrasSLO.com
Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

Tony Aelits, Chief
Cal Poly University Police
Genre-bending Oakland hip-hop at SLO Brew

Tonight at SLO Brew, Public Radio KCPX, KJAZ, and Beacon Records are co-presenting a performance by Oakland-based band Crown City Rockets. The band's unique aspects of vintage Sonic Youth's garage-rock and organic-hip-hop styles. Doors open at 8:30 pm and tickets are $12.

Download of the day

Annie

“My Heartbeat”

Not currently available in the United States, Annie is the latest Norwegian musical gem following Ryooskopp and The Concretes. On “My Heartbeat,” her voice seamlessly blends with the organic, electronic beat to create a song so Scandinavian you could hunt whales with it.

Art Beat

continued from page 6

how people respond to it, but that’s more important in the beginning for bands, so people can digest something up front. In long term, it’s about the songs and not doing the same thing over and over, wanting to take chances, change what you’re doing so when people buy your next record, they know there will be some surprises on it.

AB: Any tips for young bands? Pitfalls to avoid?

NS: The thing to do is become the biggest band in your hometown first, and then a lot of other things will follow from that.

AB: Even if your hometown is New York?

NS: Yeah, even then. Find out what’s the best venue in town, and sell it out. Make sure that you can step out in front of people and feel that if they don’t like it, they’re stupid.

If you can believe that, you’ll probably be OK.

AB: What’s the best question you’ve gotten for “What Would French Kicks Do?”

NS: I was doing an interview once and this guy told me some incredibly personal and embarrassing story in the middle of it, something about how he’d had an office party and, like, screwed his best friend’s girlfriend, and he asked what he should do! I didn’t know! I was like, “You shouldn’t have done it!” It’s surprising how personal some people get.

AB: How did the band name come about?

NS: It was a late-night session—we gave ourselves an ultimatum and wouldn’t leave without a name. Everyone was throwing names out, and we sort of chortled at that one. Hey, we hated it the least. Now we’ve grown to sort of like it.

AB: What do you think a French Kick would feel like?

NS: (laughs) I don’t know. I don’t think I want to imagine it.

Stacey Anderson is a journalism and music junior, KCPX DJ and expert Chinese-Norwegian kicker. Catch her Thursdays from 10 a.m to noon on 91.3 FM or e-mail her at stanley@calpoly.edu.
80's Night
On Wednesday Night

MISSION GRILL
STEAKS • SEAFOOD • PASTA • PRIME RIB

805.547.5544
One fish, two fish... red fish, blue fish

We all know the stereotypes about people in "blue states" and "red states." People in the "blue states" are often referred to as "liberal elites," "Hollywood liberals," or "my personal favorite, "lefty liberals." These individuals can usually be found roaming the local Borders bookstore with a $8 cup of coffee and browsing the works of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and Wittgenstein. As for people in the "red states," we think of "NASCAR dads," "security means," "Christian fundamentalists" and "...Christian fundamentalists."

If you're lucky, you can usually find these individuals on TV saying, "Feminism encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians." (Actual quote from Pat Robertson).

What scares me about these stereotyp- ices is how true they've become lately, especially for the "red states." During the 2004 senate race in Oklahoma, Republican candidate Tom Coburn said, "liboimanism is so rampant in some of the schools here in Oklahoma that they'll only let one girl go to the bathroom." Lesbians in Oklahoma! That's like a Jew eating pork at a Passover Seder! Whatever the case, Oklahoma voters chose Coburn in their new senator. So maybe "rampant lesbianism" is a real dilemma in Oklahoma schools? It's true, I know someone who's going on my next track meet.

Now if you feel like making fun of Oklahomans, you better be careful. Oklahoma voters look like Richard Simmonss compared to the voters in California. While Oklahomans may have been a little worried about "lesbianism," our good friends in California turned against an amendment which would have removed segregationist language from their state constitution. Don't worry, there is good news. The amendment was only shut down by 1,850 votes or 0.13 percent. Although segregation is outlawed in California, keeping it on the books is a must, and I sincerely hope they enjoy their day off for Martin Luther King Jr.

If you thought Oklahoma and Alabama were weird, a school district in Georgia required their biology textbooks to have a sticker on the cover that says, "This text book contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be required." This text book contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered.

Supporters of the stickers believed this was a show of "tolerance." Fortunately, last week, a federal judge decided the stickers were unconstitutional and ordered their removal. Finally, abortion-only education programs recently came under fire for giving out completely false information. A report conducted by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., found abortion-only education programs giving out false information such as, "half of all gay men are teens, "fifteen percent of all gay men are teens," "half of all women are teens," and "half of all women are teens." These programs also taught how condoms are ineffective and how HIV can be transmitted through sweat and tears. Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who is a medical doctor, wouldn't even referee these claims completely when he was interviewed by George Stephanopoulos.

With all these issues, I've been wondering what century we live in?

One fish, two fish... red fish, blue fish.

Josh Kob is a political science senior and Mustang Daily columnist.

COMING TOMORROW

Campus Troubleshooter by Mustang Daily columnist Carrie McGourty

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tactics to shut down

Mani Gras are a joke

Neither I nor my close friends parted on Mardi Gras; however, that does not change my view that the city's tactics toward shutting down the festivities are a joke, at best.

The Web site devoted to this cause is pure, demonizing propaganda. In our opinion, the city should do the following to "fix" Mardi Gras: reduce police presence, ignore noise parties, help drunks get home safely and allow people to make choices.

This seems counter-intuitive to stopping the problem, but it allows people to learn what works through experience, not propaganda (after all, isn't our motto learn through experience, not propaganda).

If someone wants to drink themselves to death, fine; should enough do it, we'll either weed out the stupid or learn to watch out for one another. If a woman wants to express herself to the world, that's her choice; it can only come back to haunt her later. If your neighbors are too loud while enjoying themselves, then get yourself same random DUI stops won't stop drivers from avoiding them.

More police in riot gear escalates problems and kicking drunk people out of houses into the street causes the exact opposite of what is intended. America can stop the problem by propaganda tactics, making demonic the act of a good party. Instead, focus Martin Gras toward community celebration, in whatever form that happens to take.

Tim Herman

Computer engineering junior

Battle of Christmas is twnst on the English language

This battle is mentioned every year, but with the optimism of Christians as of late... even the Los Angeles Times has taken notice to the escalating concern.

I wish I had a copy so I could quote it properly when it spoke words like these: "God played a major part in America's history; to ponder your words around this fact is inappropriate."

Yes, like the time he walked across the oceans to sink Britain's ships, could for get that time he touched the earth with fiery 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.

By e-mail: op/ed@mustangdailynet.

Merry Christmas, happy holidays?

Morgan Flan

Gradual engineering senior

MUSTANG DAILY

Graphic Arts Building, Suite 226
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

(805) 756-1796 editorial
(805) 756-1143 advertising

editor in chief Emily Wong
managing editor Allison Terry
associate editors Michele Paulson, Dan Wason, Katie Zeleznik
special sections editor Rachel Mungiz
photo editor Matt Wechter
photographers Felix Carrera, Nick Howard, Tori Sanders, Sheda Sobchik, Amyng Heck
media relations Anne Cooper

LETTER

POLICY

Send your less, hate and more.

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Letters, graphics and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 290 words.

LETTER

Merry holidays, happy Christnas?

Our language has become so twisted by time that there is barely a mention of any Greek gods in any of these holies. How do we define our own heritage, our history, not one word to remember the true origins of these holies (Hestes, "moat-"ed" maze; "festive"). Christians came along, adapting things as their own; words changed, practices shifted...

With the old in, with the new, the theme of all living things. Just remember who's shoes you'll be fill ing in this modern day version.

Merry holidays, happy Christmas.

What some men give a shit.

Morgan Flan

Gradual engineering senior

MUSTANG DAILY

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M A R G A R E T  S C C T T  S C O T T

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

OP/ED
Iraqis from California to London register to vote in historic elections

Gillian Flaccus

IRVINE — Enduring long drives, tight security and sometimes disorganized polling stations, thousands of Iraqi expatriates have begun registering to vote in their homeland's first independent election in nearly 60 years.

Potential voters drove from as far away as Phoenix on Monday to add their names to the list of some 35,000 Iraqis expected to register at the polling station set up at a decommissioned Marine base in Orange County.

Many shared tales of their escape from Saddam Hussein’s rule and hope for the future of the country, saying any difficulties of the voting process paled in comparison to the tribulations that have gripped Iraq.

“I don’t mind even going to Alaska to vote because I left Iraq as a high school teacher and there was oppression,” said Nick Kenaya, 60, of San Diego.

“Four these people, it makes a difference to vote… This is the first time in three decades that people have that freedom,” he said.

Cities in Michigan, Tennessee, Maryland and Illinois have also opened registration sites for a seven-day period ending Jan. 25.

About 240,000 people are eligible to vote in the Jan. 30 election in the United States, according to Roger Byrne of the International Center for Migration, which is in charge of the overseas voting for the Iraqi government.

Eligible voters can be American citizens, but must be 18 or older, have been born in Iraq, hold citizenship or prove that their father was Iraq.

Preparations for the election around the world mirrored those in Iraq itself, where the top U.S. general there predicted violence during the national election but pledged Monday to do “everything in our power” to ensure safety of voters.

The U.S. polling stations were monitored by armed guards and metal detectors. In Nashville, those seeking to register could not go directly to the two election sites, but had to gather at a hastily arranged location to board a bus.

Still, parents brought along their children to share the experience, and some said they felt overwhelmed at the opportunity to vote for Iraqi leaders.

“I can’t explain how I’m feeling right now,” said 79-year-old gas station manager Shaker Alkadhim, holding a registration card in the town of Southgate, Mich. “My whole life, I hope this day would come. I want to cry now.”

At a Maryland polling station, Nazar Mohammadali, 22, of Richmond, Va., said his family was hoping their votes would reduce continuing violence in Iraq.

“We are happy that Saddam is gone; we had hoped the U.S. government had better plans for safety and security,” he said. “Hopefully, the election may end that.”

Some complained about too much security at the polling station in Nashville, where 3-foot concrete barriers forced vehicles to zig-zag as if entering a checkpoint. An armed officer checked credentials.

“Everybody saw the barriers coming in here. Some people are saying, ‘We’re not in Fallujah’,” said Ahmed Mossa, a volunteer at the polling place.

In Irvine, the few Iraqis that made it to the polling site said they had spent hours searching for an address that wasn’t found.

Eligible Iraqis abroad — estimated to number 1.2 million — can vote in Britain, Australia, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Jordan, the Netherlands, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Amer Alshemari, right, who drove in from Phoenix, registers to vote for the upcoming Iraqi election with the help of Alleya Eld, at El Toro Marine Air Station in Irvine, Monday, Jan. 17.
...the unexamined life is not worth living." - Socrates

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"Of course, the best day is going to visit the kids. It's a blessed experience. And to know the proceeds go to the Shriner's hospitals," Amey said.

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One of my movies was called "True Lies." It's what the Democrats should have called their convention.

- Arnold Schwarzenegger

CLASSIFIED
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Wrestling’s Ryan Halsey
Nicole Stivers

Wrestler Ryan Halsey won't be content with a remarkable college career. He's already got his eyes on the Summer Olympics in 2008. The Mustang Daily got a chance to sit down with the 6-foot, 220-pound junior and talk about his personal goals, how he balances school with wrestling and the team's relationship with Ultimate Fighter Chuck Liddell.

Q: What got you interested in wrestling?
A: - When I was younger, my dad wrestled and he got me involved in a bunch of sports when I was younger. Wrestling was the one sport I stuck with. If the one I succeeded in and enjoyed the most.

Q: You would like to work on as an individual?
A: - With both wrestling and academics, there is always room for improvement. It's hard when you're practicing twice a day to keep your academics up. Time management is a big thing. On the wrestling mat, I'm trying to make all the improvements I can to be ready by the end of the season for nationals. I'm just working hard, getting in shape and putting my best effort out. I think if I do all those things it'll come together at the right time.

Q: When you're on the mat, are you able to stop thinking about classess for the five minutes you're there?
A: - I think it's easier to stop thinking about school. When I'm stressed out over school and go and have a really good wrestling practice I think it takes a little bit of the stress off me. It's hard with all the traveling. You've got to bring your studies on the mat. This whole week I've been trying to catch up. It's harder when you're in school not to think about wrestling.

Q: What's the relationship between Ultimate Fighter Chuck Liddell and Cal Poly wrestling?
A: - Chuck is a big supporter of Cal Poly wrestling. He wrestled for Cal Poly back in the late 1980s and he still comes in when he's training for fights. He works out and wrestles with the team to get himself in shape. He's also a booster and he's a good guy to have as an alumnus. He's helping out himself and some guys on the team.

Q: What do you plan on doing after you graduate?
A: - I'm thinking about trying to go for the Olympics. If it looks like I've got a good shot at making the Olympics, then I'll dedicate a few years to that. If that doesn't work out then I'll probably go into the work force and I might do some basketball coaching or helping out a kids program.

Beck shines in the Shrine

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