iPODS!
The small white box that has become everyone’s best friend

COMING FRIDAY
Televised poker has brought the game into the limelight

RECAP
Online poker sparks interest with college students

Former Mustang football and wrestling coach dies at age 84

EVENTS CALENDAR
What: Bone Marrow Drive; Nu Alpha Kappa fraternity is sponsoring a bone marrow drive for the fourth year.
Where: Today, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
More Info: Call the Multicultural Center at 756-1405

Cal Poly students gather for a friendly game of Texas hold ’em. Clubs and fraternities on campus organize poker tournaments.

Problem signs include increased wager size and betting more than you can afford

MUSTANG DAILY 3-PART SERIES

Problem signs include increased wager size and betting more than you can afford

Melissa L. Dorcak
MUSTANG DAILY

“Out of all the forms of gambling, poker is the only one that has a real skill of, but what is really is, is a bunch of guys sitting around trying to rip each other off,” said Eric Geffert, a clinical psychologist in Los Angeles who specializes in compulsive gambling.

“It’s a complex phenomenon,” he said. “People think, if I study and learn (the strategies of poker) I can be good at it is it’s that fundamental belief that’s a viable form of income that causes someone to be hooked.”

Most students play poker as a hobby, either with a group of friends or casually online.

“I just play online a few times every couple weeks or occasionally with friends, I don’t take it that seriously though,” business senior Sunny Tong said.

Even Cal Poly entertains a poker scene. The poker club started more than a year ago. I kept meeting people who

Sheila Soreck
MUSTANG DAILY

GAMBLING:
An unstable lifestyle

Problem signs include increased wager size and betting more than you can afford

“The whole incident was started by a deranged individual that was suicidal,” the chief said. “He exited the vehicle and stood by as the train smashed into the vehicle before it was hit, Police Chief Randy Adams said. The man will be charged with homicide, he said. He was identified as Juan Manuel Alverze, 26, of Commerce.

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Gambling
continued from page 1
"It starts off as a harmless pastime; for most (students) it won’t progress, but about 15 to 20 percent of college-age adults will develop a problem,” Geffner said.
Problems signs include increased wager size over time, gambling on a regular basis, and the biggest red flag is wagering money you can’t afford to lose.
"This is something that would happen very quickly with college students," Geffner said. He said he has heard stories of college students betting tuition money and selling back books to gamble.
Problem gambling is that your money comes from a credit card or a checking account, something Geffner said you should never do. He also said that players can easily use someone else’s money, like a parent’s credit card.
Smyth does not gamble with his parents’ money, but he said they are not pleased with his source of income. Smyth said that he is too cautious to lose control of his gambling habits. On a good night, he will bring in $2,000 and on a bad night he will be down $200 or so. However, the good nights outweigh the bad nights.
"I quit when I lose over $200.” His online account has never reached zero and the only time he deposited money was when he set up the account.
But not all college students, or anyone for that matter, will be as in control as Smyth. The National Council on Problem Gambling Web site estimates that 2 million U.S. adults meet the criteria for pathological gambling. These people gamble longer than they plan to, borrow money to finance gambling, feel depressed over gambling losses and often gamble until all their money is gone.

Train
continued from page 1
Moorpark. Metrolink officials said. Passengers were sent tumbling down the aisles as the trains derailed.
"I heard a noise. It got louder and louder," said passenger Diane Brady, 56, of Simi Valley. "And next thing I knew the train tilted, everyone was screaming and I held onto a pole for dear life. I held on for what seemed like a week and a half it seemed. It was a complete nightmare.”
After the train headed to Union Station struck the SUV, one of the trains was propelled into a Union Pacific locomotive parked on a side track, said Kathryn Blackwell, a spokeswoman for Union Pacific in Omaha, Neb.
In a light rain, more than 300 firefighters climbed ladders into windows of a derailed train tipped onto its side. Los Angeles fire spokesman Brian Humphrey said firefighters freed about six people from the wreckage and no others were trapped.
Sherrif’s Deputy James Tutino, on his way into work from his home in Simi Valley, was killed in the crash, Baca said. He said Tutino had been with the department for more than 23 years.
Dazed passengers, some limping, gathered at tables in a nearby store while the injured sprawled on mats on the floor.
"I felt the train sliding so I braced myself and put my foot on the chair next to me and held onto a bar. We hit and then somebody’s head landed on my thigh.”
"She told me she was bleeding in the head and her arm was really hurting,” said Tuoma, who was near the scene of the accident searching for her. “I’m really worried because she has vertigo and when I tried to call back she wouldn’t answer.

Calendar
continued from page 1
SWE office in Bldg. 40, room 120.
What: Poly Escapes rock climbing trip. Poly Escapes will be taking a group of 30 to 40 students on a trip to Joshua Tree National Park. 100 miles east of Los Angeles. The group will be car camping in a group campsite. No experience is needed because they will set up routes for all levels of experience. The cost is $13 plus the cost of gas.
Where: Joshua Tree National Park
More Info: Call Sarah Flanders at the Escape Route at 756-2743
What: 10th Annual International Conference When: Saturday Feb. 12, 2005
Where: Embassy Suites Where: Embasy Suites
More Info: For more info, please check out our Web site at www.icc.calpoly.edu
What: Open House Clubs Representatives meeting. This meeting is mandatory for all clubs planning to run a booth during Open House. Please come prepared to take notes and report back to your club. Attendance is required and a raffle is held for all those in attendance.
When: Thursday Feb 17, 11am Where: Bldg. 3 Room 213
More Info: Call the Open House office at 756-7576 or visit the Web site: orientation.calpoly.edu/openhouse

UNDER FOUR? OR HITTING THE FLOOR?
69% of students never injure themselves due to drinking. The average CP student drinks less than 4 in a sitting.

Based on a survey collected by Cal Poly Reality of 517 randomly selected Cal Poly students with an error range of ±5%
STATE NEWS

RIVERSIDE — An investigation into an alleged white supremacist group led to 19 arrests over four months in rural Riverside County, authorities said. The investigation began with the arrest of Howard Michael Marshall of Ménifee, a volunteer assistant football coach at Paloma Valley High School who allegedly tried to recruit teenagers into an armed white supremacist group, authorities said. Marshall, 44, was arrested in August and November on drugs and weapons charges, and police recovered ammunition from his home, as well as 45 guns, body armor and steroids, which he was suspected of giving to athletes.

SACRAMENTO — The office of California's top election official used the "spoils system" in a number of hearings, including rigging the application process to ensure a job for the son of a financial backer, according to a new state report.

The report also suggested Secretary of State Kevin Shelley created an environment with frequent outbursts and excessive demands on staff, and couldn't produce copies of a sexual harassment complaint filed by an ex-staffer against him.

LOS ANGELES — Equipping every U.S. airman with anti-missile systems would be a costly and impractical defense against terrorists armed with shoulder-fired rockets, according to a study by the Rand Corp., the Santa Monica-based think tank.

Researchers said it could cost $40 billion over 20 years to deploy such defense technology on the country's 6,800 passenger jets. The federal government currently spends about $4.4 billion a year on all transportation security.

—Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. military transport helicopter crashed during sandstorms in Iraq's western desert Wednesday, killing 31 people, all believed to be Marines, while insurgents killed five other American troops in the deadliest day for U.S. forces since the Iraq war began.

Militants waging a campaign to detail Sunday's election carried out at least six car bombings and a flur­ry of other attacks on schools to be used as polling stations, political party offices and Kurdish sites, party offices and Kurdish sites, killing or wounding more than two dozen people.

KRAKOW, Poland — Ukraine's new President Viktor Yushchenko is an "ally of freedom's cause," Vice President Dick Cheney said Wednesday in trouncing the democratic leader who plans to lean toward the West yet maintain his nation's historic ties with Moscow.

Echoing President Bush's inaug­ural address, Cheney talked about overcoming tyranny and hatred in his remarks at a dinner with the new leader of the former Soviet republic and, earlier, at a reception with survivors of the Holocaust.

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Palestinian Authority resumed diplomatic contacts Wednesday after a two-week freeze, and Israel agreed to suspend targeted killings of Palestinian militants.

Also Wednesday, Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs held their second meeting in several hours on completing plans for the deployment of 1,500 Palestinian officers at flashpoints in central and southern Gaza. Commanders met at a key junction in southern Gaza, ahead of Thursday's deployment.

About 100 Jewish settlers came to the junction to protest the security coordination.

—Associated Press

IN OTHER NEWS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — When five dozen dones didn't work, an estranged husband took out a full-page newspaper ad to ask his wife for forgiveness.

"Please believe the words in my letter, they are true and from my heart," read the ad in Tuesday's edition of The Florida Times-Union. "I can only hope you will give me the chance to prove my unending love for you."

Larry, who declined to give his last name, sent the $17,000 apol­ogy to Marianne, his wife of 17 years. She left him almost two weeks ago, he said.

"I am desperately trying to save our marriage," he told the newspaper.

Larry said his wife is staying with her parents. But they blocked him from entering their gated community and she changed her cell phone number so he can't contact her. A relative told him that Marianne saw the advertisement.

"She said my wife read the ad and started crying. But so far I've had no response from her," Larry said.

But the ad drew the attention of many other readers, who con­ tacted the paper.

"They want to know if she has responded and if they have worked things out," said Jay Weimar, director of display advertising. "We tell them we are pulling for him."
ASSOCIATED PRESS

One month after tsunami tragedy, schools reopen in Indonesia

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — One month after an epic tsunami ranged southern Asia, children and teachers in Indonesia's worst-hit Aceh province on Wednesday made an emotional return to school, where thousands of schoolmates and colleagues' desks sit empty.

A 6-year-old boy with neatly parted hair, arrived at school with his mother and wondered where his best friend Andi was. But reality soon dawned on him.

"I don't think he's coming," whimpered the boy, one of six in his class of 43 who showed up at a primary school. Of the school's enrollment of 600, only 260 came Wednesday. The others are presumed dead.

Mourners along a road on Sri Lanka's shattered coastline lit candles and set colored flags in silent memory of at least 30,957 people who died there Dec. 26.

"In memory of that day, for the missing and dead in all the countries, we are praying that a tsunami will never return," said L. Chandaransi, head monk at the Ariyakara Viharaya temple near the southern Sri Lankan city of Galle.

Up to 147,000 people are still missing across South Asia, and differing death tolls from between 147,000 and 178,000. But workers continued to find bodies under mud-caked rubble, and the toll was expected to rise.

Children returning to schools for their first official day of class since the tsunami in Indonesia found buildings filled with mud and debris. Books were soggy, new microscopes were ruined.

British teacher Rodina Ramli — who lost her four children to the tsunami — was the first of 25 teachers to show up.

"There were 75 teachers here before," she said, wiping tears with a tissue.

The government estimates that 700 to 1,200 schools in the province were destroyed by the tsunami and that 1,760 primary school teachers are dead or missing. Nearly 180,000 students have no schools to go to, Welfare Minister Ahez Shishah said.

In one classroom, workers doing last-minute clean-up found a body Wednesday while shoveling out thick mud.

As least 96,232 people died in the province, the government says.

In Thailand, where at least 3,384 people were killed and more than 3,100 are missing, two residents of the island of Koh Lanta were to mark the anniversary of that day of the disaster.

"I will go through all the evidence and if I am not satisfied, I will order a DNA test," said Judge M.P. Mohahden.

The U.S. military, meanwhile, said it is scaling back its tsunami relief efforts in Indonesia after nearly a month of airlifting food and medicine.

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, which was diverted to Sumatra within four days of the Dec. 26 disaster with 17 SH-60 Seahawk helicopters aboard, is preparing to sail in, the need for the helicopters is less important," said Rear Adm. William Crowder, who commands the Lincoln's battle group.

The international Red Cross said Wednesday it was winding down fund-raising efforts because it had raised enough money — $1.17 billion — to sustain long-term aid.

Behind Wednesday's commemorations and public grieving was a deepening sense of frustration among some survivors over the slowness of recovery efforts.

"We have not received any assistance yet," read a banner strung between plastic tarp housing survivors in Sri Lanka's Galle.

The Party Is Over.

It's simple: Mardi Gras weekend in SLO will be different this year. Violence and property damage will not be tolerated. Out-of-town visitors are not welcome. Gatherings on streets, sidewalks and parking lots near campus and downtown will not be allowed.

Count on:

• Nearly 400 law enforcement officers on duty the weekend of February 4th
• DUI check points throughout San Luis Obispo
• Violation costs tripled citywide
• Jail time & big fines for lawbreaking
• Possible expulsion for student violators

www.MardiGrasSLO.com
What’s in a name? Lots, find businesses called ‘Tsunami’

Some companies want to distance themselves from the word ‘tsunami,’ other firms find the association helps business.

Jim Murez
THE REGISTER-GUARD

EUGENE, Ore. — In the weeks since the catastrophic Indian Ocean tsunami, Scott Landfield has seen his bookseller’s online sales quadruple.

But he doesn’t carry a special selection on earthquakes or natural disasters. The spike in business appears related solely to the store’s name: Tsunami Books.

The progressive, independent store on Eugene’s south Willamette Street has used the name since opening nine years ago. It meaning “harbor wave” and the added word tsunami are referring on the connotation of the Japanese word meaning “harbor wave” and the added attention the tragedy in Asia has brought them.

Some companies want to distance themselves from the word altogether. Toyota Canada is abandoning plans to name one of its most popular models of sports cars — the Celica Tsunami.

In Scotland, a brand management company called Tsunami is overhaul ing its corporate identity.

And a Wisconsin water park announced it will change the name of its Great Tsunami outdoor wave pool.

Other firms that use their Web sites jumbled with traffic in the days and for the disaster-related visitors to organizations such as the Red Cross and UNICEF Tsunami Research.

Since the Dec. 26 tragedy that killed more than 150,000 people.

“The word certainly has gained some familiarity,” Landfield said. “It appears that when people saw our name, their finger twitched.”

Worldwide, businesses that use the word tsunami are reflecting on the connotation of the Japanese word for different reasons. To some it expresses power and speed. To others, it sounds exotic, even graceful.

But now that the word tsunami evokes death and destruction on an unimaginary scale, will it tarnish those commercial enterprises that continue to use the term?

Kit Chan, owner of Kowloon to capitalize on the public’s interest in the tragedy. “We paid no attention to the name of its popular Tsunami Stout, introduced in its corporate identity.

Landfield, the co-owner of Tsunami Books co-owner Scott Landfield stands next to the mural above the front entrance depicting a crashing wave. In Eugene, Ore.

The spike in business appears solely related to the store’s name.

“Johnathan, executive director of the association helps business in the days after the disaster.

Hundreds of businesses incorporate tsunami into their names or the store’s online sales quadruple. The spike in business appears related solely to the store’s name.

We took a stance of being proactive,” General Manager Dennis Brouhard said, adding that sales of the microbrew are up.

Hundreds of businesses incorporate tsunami into their names or the name of products, from women’s fashion fleece to men’s body spray to a watch by Swatch and restaurants in San Francisco and Memphis, Tenn.

Entrepreneurs are drawn to the word for different reasons. To some it expresses power and speed. To others, it sounds exotic, even graceful.

Landfield, the co-owner of Tsunami Books co-owner Scott Landfield stands next to the mural above the front entrance depicting a crushing wave. In Eugene, Ore.

The spike in business appears solely related to the store’s name. "Since the disaster, a lot of people know what that means now. That name sticks in your head."

—Kit Chan
owner of Club Tsunami’s night club

Online shoppers have patronized Tsunami Books at a far greater rate since the Dec. 26 tragedy that killed more than 150,000 people.

“Tsunami has been a watch by Swatch and restaurants in

I ride my bike to work...It’s the only way to do it, plus, when I get a late start in the morning and arrive after 8 am, parking places are hard to find. Not to mention, my husband makes me feel guilty if I take the car.

Angela Borin, Cal Poly Staff

www.commutoptions.calpoly.edu - For info, tool & information for making your Poly commute safe, healthy & affordable.

Or call the OPTIONS information line at 756-2323.

The choice is yours...

\[ Image \]


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\[ Image \]
Rock Savants a local, musical gem

They're a local rock band with a music genuine, unifying talent. Gathering an enormous fan base in San Luis Obispo, Dominic Castillo and the Rock Savants are soon to release "The Lost Album," the faithful sequel to their first CD, "5 Hideous Love Songs Plus 2."

With emotional songs that range from a commanding piano-driven serenade to ecstatic, head-swinging rock melodies, Castillo and the Rock Savants present a variety of tunes that nevertheless fit together like puzzle pieces. Often compared to Phantom Planet, the Beatles and Elliott Smith, the band draws in a variety of different inspirations.

"The Lost Album" is irrefutable proof that with a dash of wit and harmonic sophistication — these are the elements I want in my songwriting," Castillo said. "According to Freud, I'm just sublimating, creating music and defending my fragile psyche in an unforgiving world. I also like impressing girls."

The band's current lineup is comprised of four talents: Castillo (lead vocals, guitar, piano), his twin brother Dominic Castillo (bass), Nathan Seydel (guitar) and Phillip Bastio (drums). "Nate (Seydel) plays on the CD and also helped produce some tracks. Phillip (Bastio) didn't join the band until after the project was finished," said Dominic Castillo.

The instrumentally-heavy first song, "29," sets the tone for the rest of the album with dominant guitar riffs and the distinctive organ echo in the background. The guitar-driven piece "Fat's" is one of Castillo's most elegant songs. He snaps about letting fate take over and just waiting for things to happen. "Good morning and good night/If greatness is just to steal the show/Then I'm completely taken in."

"Trying Too Hard," undeniably the album's catchiest track, starts slow with a small hint of guitar and bass. He expresses loss, regret and confusion, singing, "There are your eyes/And I am broken/Can take a knife and cut this pain right out. But when you're here its all wide open."

By the end of the album, listeners will have experienced a long journey through the thoughts and emotions of a gifted singer.

With this new LP, the band shows a newfound maturity and depth. The title of the CD simply "refers to one of the most obscene, bizarre events in my life," said Dominic Castillo. "One that started with a smell, quirky clicking emanating from something called a hard drive."

"The funny thing about losing the album was how long it took me to realize it was gone," said Dominic Castillo. "Maybe I was in shock, but it occurs to me that after spending so much time laboring over small details you become inca­b­le of the big picture, the album as a whole."

Not only has this rock band produced a beautiful collection of songs that should easily invade any stereo, their live performances are one-hun­­dred times better. Dominic Castillo and the Rock Savants is one of those bands that has an amazing recorded sound and is able to transfer that sound to the stage.

Finally found, "The Lost Album" will be released Friday at The Dwelling in San Luis Obispo. The concert starts at 9:30 pm.
From the Rec Center to the dorms, from the library to the UU, the dangling white earphones are everywhere, indicating that the iPod has made itself at home on campus. This new experience allows users to access their entire music collection with the slide of the thumb. The iPod has quickly engrained itself into the lives of its users while becoming a pop culture icon, a status indicator and a fashion statement. A short walk through campus proves that hundreds of Cal Poly students have joined the 3 million-plus owners in contributing to the ubiquity of the iPod.

While Apple was not the originator of the digital music player, it did change consumer expectations. Before the iPod entered the market, mp3 players were low-capacity and bulky with obscure controls.

"Old mp3 players can only hold like 25 songs, but iPods can hold 10,000. It's not that much more expensive and it's definitely worth it," business minor Brian Watts said.

The iPod changed the market by featuring an easy-to-use and powerful digital music player with style - Apple.

see iPod, page 8
iPod
A big boost for your iPod
Ron Harris

With its gorgeous white-and-metal gleam and rounded edges, Apple Computer Inc.'s iPod is the hands-down design winner among digital music players. Not to mention it can store every song I own.

As much as I want to like the beautiful iPod, the sound simply leaves me flat.

I've listened to everything from rock and rap to jazz and gabber, but each time I'm left cramping the volume up to 80 percent just to get a decent thump out of my headphones or earbuds. If I pump it higher, the music quality crackles under the pressure.

Thankfully, there's an iPod amplifier available that offers every bit as good as the iPod and helps the sound along, too. It's not cheap at $149, but Simpl Acoustics' A1 does the job well.

The A1 amplifier is a simple circuit, featuring a white color as the full-sized iPod, but in a shorter cord plugs into the "audio out" headphone jack of the iPod and into the A1 input. Then, I simply plugged in the original iPod earbuds or headphones to the A1, which instantly improved the sound quality.

The A1 amplifier sure helps pick up the slack. But as much as I want to like the beautiful iPods. The Simpl A1 amplifier provides that added oomph for a truly musical connoisseur's iPod.


Attention Cal Poly Clubs! Nothing brands your club, fraternity, or sorority better than a stellar t-shirt design from Left Coast T-Shirt Company. From Beefy T's to baby doll's Left Coast T-Shirt Company has the gear to make your club the sharpest looking group on campus. Our in house design and production facilities crank out the best looking, longest lasting, most professional shirts in town. Call or stop by and let one of our professional clothing experts put you in touch with the shirt of your dreams today!
A "frustrated" graduate student wrote to the Mustang Daily suspiciously of the way student fees were being dispersed in the aerospace engineering department this year.

Although the student fee committees spend all of their money on instruction, then they would qualify for "some mysterious pot of money" from the dean of the College of Engineering. But if they use the funds for research "for what it's worth" instead, they might be ineligible. The student also alleged that the department placed their money on instruction, then they would qualify for "some mysterious pot of money." According to Hewes, the legislation is trying to rob the students of their independent fees, but that's hardly true shoo te r Graham!!

The student claimed that if the student fee committees spend all of their money on instruction, then they would qualify for "some mysterious pot of money."  According to Hewes, the legislation is trying to rob the students of their independent fees, but that's hardly true. We Are Family Foundation recently released a video with the statement of facts may be correct, but the main issue is that the video tape used to encourage kids to worship, establishing universal education, etc. The video contains that the experts are to be wrong for an organization to promote intolerance. If you were in an airplane and all the passengers were being when allegations start flying. Top 10 reasons to lead a liberal lifestyle, or not Why I am a liberal: 1. Because I like plants and animals, and believe our environment should not be sacrificed so corporations can make more money. 2. Because the world is not perfect the way it is now and only by being liberal in our ideas can we change it. 3. Because Jesus was the original Democrat. 4. Because I like plants and animals, and believe our environment should not be sacrificed so corporations can make more money. 5. Because I believe our liberal predecessor were correct in ending slavery, winning women and minority the vote, ending systematic discrimination, allowing freedom of worship, freedom of education, etc. 6. Because the world is not perfect the way it is now and only by being liberal in our ideas can we change it. 7. Because Jesus was the original Democrat. 8. Because I believe in fighting for those who did not have their lack of being born into an upper class, white family. 9. Because the world is not perfect the way it is now and only by being liberal in our ideas can we change it. 10. Because people are listening in 2004, for the first time since she started voting, my mother voted Democrat. Katherine Benjamin History senior

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Expert data shows that global warming is happening. I find it very interesting that the right-wing can continue to deny that global warming is occurring. I don't deny that their simple statement of facts may be correct, but the main issue is that the video tape used to encourage kids to worship, establishing universal education, etc. The video contains that the experts are to be wrong for an organization to promote intolerance. If you were in an airplane and all the passengers were being when allegations start flying. Top 10 reasons to lead a liberal lifestyle, or not Why I am a liberal: 1. Because I like plants and animals, and believe our environment should not be sacrificed so corporations can make more money. 2. Because the world is not perfect the way it is now and only by being liberal in our ideas can we change it. 3. Because Jesus was the original Democrat. 4. Because I like plants and animals, and believe our environment should not be sacrificed so corporations can make more money. 5. Because I believe our liberal predecessor were correct in ending slavery, winning women and minority the vote, ending systematic discrimination, allowing freedom of worship, freedom of education, etc. 6. Because the world is not perfect the way it is now and only by being liberal in our ideas can we change it. 7. Because Jesus was the original Democrat. 8. Because I believe in fighting for those who did not have their lack of being born into an upper class, white family. 9. Because the world is not perfect the way it is now and only by being liberal in our ideas can we change it. 10. Because people are listening in 2004, for the first time since she started voting, my mother voted Democrat. Katherine Benjamin History senior
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A coach, a teacher and a hero

Big Ben on dancing, girls and the NFL

Recently returned from the Las Vegas All-American Classic, Mustangs offensive lineman Ben Cobian shows another side

Amanda Samonte
MONTANA DAILY

"I was born to play basketball, but God gave me the body to play football."

— BEN COBIAN offensive lineman

GOLDEN GRAHAM
self-proclaimed sports nut.

"It's funny what can be found online: weather reports from Fiji, Spice Girls songs and the occasional speculation that certain Cal Poly coaches will be fired. The speculation I speak of comes from a message board devoted to Mustangs fandom. Over the past few months, there's been talk about whether men's basketball coach Rich Ellerson would take over basketball duties. Regardless, neither man is taking the slow boat to China anytime soon."

Obviously, Bromley has faced more recent scrutiny. The Mustangs are putting up a brave, though largely futile, fight with a seven-game losing streak. The current Cal Poly is 3-13 and in the slow boat to (diina anytime soon.

"Wow, is Bromley losing control?" "Bromley's not to blame, though."

"A coach, a teacher and a hero"

Graham Wernack MONTANA DAILY

If he hadn't been doing his job, Sheldon Harden might have died 44 years ago, not Monday.

On the night of October 29, 1960, the man who would soon become head coach of the Cal Poly football team was then an assistant just a few days past his fortieth birthday. Also the Mustangs wrestling coach, Harden stood this night on the tarmac at a Toledo, Ohio airport, checking players onto the team's charter plane.

Hours earlier the Mustangs had lost 50-6 to Bowling Green State University. The worst part of the night, though, lay ahead.

As a result of his duties, Harden booted the plane last and could only find an available seat at the rear. It may have saved his life. Just minutes after takeoff the plane crashed and split in two. The front portion was consumed with fire that killed many of the 22 people aboard.

Several passengers in the rear of the plane were also seriously injured. Only hanged up, said former Cal Poly president Robert Kennedy, Harden pulled many of those people from the wreckage. For his troubles, he received $1,000 in insurance money and stories he could rarely discuss without showing emotion or on his own initiative.

"My dad would never talk about those things," Tim Harden said. "He never wanted to be considered a hero. He just thought he was doing his job.

Eventually, just doing a job would entail six seasons as head coach of the Mustangs and an additional two decades, thereafter, as an emeritus professor of physical education. Monday, Harden died in his San Luis Obispo home at the age of 84, following a year of failing health.

Harden was born Oct. 18, 1920 in Alturas coming from "humbling beginnings," his son said. He lettered for two seasons at guard and tackle at Santa Clara University, earned a teaching credential at College of the Pacific and came to Cal Poly in 1948 to become the wrestling coach.

Harden played in spots, eventually, in multiple wrestling halls of fame, though he said he was "in it to lose it" in 1967 to become the football coach. He had also been an assistant for 14 years, including 12 seasons under former Head Coach Roy Hughes, who went 73-37-1. Harden endured five subsequent losing seasons, though, and compiled a 17-42 account.

"Sheldon did not want to be innovative as a coach. "I think part of that is because LeRoy Hughes was so good at his job and it was also Sheldon's fate that he was the head coach in the years following the plane crash," Ramos said.

Former Sports Information Director Wayne Shaw said Harden played a key role during Cal Poly's transition after the plane crash and Mustang coach Rich Ellerson credited him as "one of a handful of men who "laid the foundation" for the program. He resigned Jan. 4, 1968.

"Sheldon did not want to be head coach," Kennedy said. "He had bad enough experience as head coach. Harden still went to games thereafter, though, as a professor until 1987, and remained a San Luis Obispo resident for the remainder of his life. He had a personality that allowed him to crack jokes until a half hour before his death, his son noted, and also to remain a Cal Poly fixture in the community.

After Ellerson became coach in 2001, Harden attended an open house where he educated the new coaches about Mustang history.

"You could tell he wanted the best for us," Ellerson said. "He was really hoping we'd be successful."

Cal Poly athletic administration has set up the "Sheldon Memorial Scholarship Fund," which Harden's family is requesting, but donations be made to in lieu of flowers. Funeral services will take place on Saturday at noon at the Nativity of Our Lady Catholic Church, 221 Daly Avenue, San Luis Obispo.

In order to maintain his massive stature, he consumes about 8,500 calories a day—the same diet as footballers. "I don't really care about dancing with girls, I don't work for it," he said.

"Ben gets all kinds of rhythm," said his roommate, industrial technology senior Travis Morse.

"I may be a big white boy, but I can dance," Cobian said proudly.

In order to maintain his massive stature, he consumes about 8,500 calories a day—three to four meals and two supplements. When asked if his size is an advantage on the field, he said he has trouble on roller coasters and airplanes.

"On the flight to Vegas, I sat in the middle seat between a really fat guy and a not very nice woman. The whole time I was trying to keep my knees away from them," Cobian said. See Cobian, page 11