**Syria to withdraw troops from Lebanon**

Following the assassination of a former Lebanese Prime Minister, Syria has been pressured to remove its 15,000 troops from Lebanon.

**Albert Aji**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Damascus, Syria —** Syria will withdraw troops from mountain and coastal areas in Lebanon in line with an 1989 agreement, Lebanon's defense minister said Thursday amid interna­tional pressure following the assas­sination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Lebanese Defense Minister Abdal­rahim Murad said the troops will be withdrawn to the eastern Bekaa Valley on the Syrian border, but he gave no time frame.

Lebanese and Syrian military offi­cers had been meeting to define "the dates and the way" the withdraw­al will take place, Murad said, adding that the plan was in line with the Arab-brokered Taif agreement that ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

"The decision to withdraw has been taken," Murad said in television interviews. "What remains is the exact timing." In the wake of Hariri's Feb. 14 assas­sination, the Bush administration has issued strong calls for Syria to with­draw completely from Lebanon, where Damascus has about 15,000 troops.

The Americans have also said Syria should remove its intelligence agents, but there was no sign of such a move. A U.S. official, speaking on condi­tion of anonymity, said the United States has not been notified about a withdrawal and it remains to be seen how many troops would be removed from Lebanon and when the pullout would occur.

Israel welcomed Syria's announce­ment. An Israeli official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Israel would have to study the Syrian declaration to determine if it promised a real change.

Murad's comments came shortly after Syria announced it would with­draw troops from Lebanon in accor­dance with the Taif accord but indicat­ed the pullout would not be immedi­ate or total. The US expected the pullout would not be total. The outlet program is an event designed to create awareness in the community. By visiting elementary schools, SWE hopes to inspire kids to take an interest in engineering.

There is a noticeable decline of its 15,000 troops from Lebanon.

**Kristen Oatso**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

Thirty-four-graders at Hawthorne Elementary School sat mesmerized as three Cal Poly stu­dents described the differences visited local elementary schools as part of an outreach program.

The program is only one compo­nent of National Engineers Week, an event founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. Students, pro­fessors and government and business leaders all over the nation observe the week, which is intended to rec­ognize and promote the importance of National Engineers Week, and to promote interest in careers in engineering.

"SWE began as a small club, but we've grown to over 400 members," said Amy Hewes, Director of Outreach for the College of Engineering. "It is the biggest chapter of SWE in the nation." * "There is a noticeable decline of..."
Syria continued from page 2
way that does not undermine the
security of Lebanon and Syria," the
statement said.
There was no sign Thursday of any
military movement in Lebanon, in which
Syria is the main power broker.
Syria once had more than 35,000
soldiers in Lebanon during the civil
war and for years had pledged to
implement the Taif agreement. It has
redeployed troops several times since
2000. It still maintained other intellec-
tual offices in the country.
In practice it implemented a withdrawal
to the eastern Bekaa Valley, a
predominantly Shite area that borders on
Syria, that was scheduled for the early
1990s. The accord also calls for an
official withdrawal from Lebanon's
dominant Sunni area that borders on
Syria once had more than 40,000
military personnel in the Bekaa Valley.
Lebanon's opposition dismissed the
Syrian announcement Thursday as
false and said it contained nothing
new.
"There is a missing word in the
Syrian Foreign Ministry statement,
"added a senior administration official.
Syria has been in a state of war
against "provocation and incitement
or others, not by government.
Syria has done its part to imple-
ment the Taif agreement, including
redeploying most of its forces in the
country. But while saying that a free press is
not considered underdernocratic, is it?" Putin said.
He suggested that Russians who
oppose his actions, such as a cam-
paign against the Yekes oil company
and his shutdown of independent
media outlets, can't have a public opin-
ion because they are "too intelligent.
"It has to be that way, otherwise there's
gonna be a lack of the press, there's
gonna be a lack of the press.
Putin continued from page 1
promising to spread democracy and
freedom and asserting that relations
with Russia were hard at work.
"In public, Putin compared his
underrepresented in these areas as it is.
American process of electing presi-
dents was presented to Hawthorne
Elementary School teacher Juli Dye's
students. Teachers have had
Graders were hard at work.
for an hour of their
The kids are enjoying the
activities so much," Dye said.
"It's also good for them to learn
something different," she said after
watching her students for a few
moments.
"I really like learning how to build
to the Donetsk area," said 9-year-old Hannah Gibbon.
But while saying that a free press is
"Moscow," the president said, adding that
"We agreed that Iran should not
drain from Bush on the way democracy is
practiced in the United States. "I'm
perfectly comfortable in telling you,
our country is one that safeguards
human rights and human dignity, and
we resolve our disputes in a peaceful
way," he said.
Bush and Putin said they were
united on the desire to stop suspected
nuclear weapons programs in North
Korea and Iran. They remained at
odds over Russian arms sales to Syria,
said a senior administration official.
"We agreed that Iran should not
have a nuclear weapon. I appreciate
Vladimir's understanding on that," Bush
said. "We agreed that North Korea
should not have a nuclear
weapon."
Syria continued from page 2
SWE continued from page 1
Women are so underrepresented in these areas as it is.
We want to reach out to these kids when they're young." This was the first year the program was
presented at Hawthorne Elementary School teacher Jill Dick's
class. Wednesday morning, her fourth-
grade students were hard at work.
"I think this is a great experience for
these kids. Other teachers have had
(Cal Poly) students come into their
classrooms in previous years, and they
have all been really happy with their
presentations. The kids are enjoying the
activities so much," Dye said.
"It's also good for them to learn
something different," she said after
watching her students for a few
moments.
Groups of two to five kids were
given 10 sheets of white computer
paper and a strip of masking tape. They
were instructed to construct an earth-
quake-proof building that would with-
stand the ominous "shake table."
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The gunman, David Hernandez, fired an AK-47 assault rifle opened fire on a courthouse parking lot in McAllen, Texas, killing five people and seriously wounding several others in a brazen robbery attempt.

The shooting occurred on Saturday, July 20, at around 9 a.m., when the gunman walked into the courthouse parking lot and began firing randomly into a crowd of people who had gathered to attend a court hearing. The gunman was identified as David Hernandez, a 36-year-old armed with an AK-47 assault rifle.

According to witnesses, the gunman opened fire with little warning, killing five people and seriously wounding several others. The shooting left the courthouse parking lot in chaos, with people running for cover and emergency responders rushing to the scene.

The shooting is being investigated as a robbery attempt, and authorities are searching for the gunman, who has not yet been arrested. It is unclear whether the gunman was targeting specific individuals or whether the shooting was a random act.

The shooting comes at a time of increasing violence in the United States, with shootings and mass shootings occurring with increasing frequency. It is unclear whether the shooting in McAllen is related to any larger trend, or whether it is isolated.

The shooting in McAllen is the latest in a series of violent incidents that have occurred in the United States in recent weeks. Other recent incidents include a mass shooting at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and a shooting at a church in Charleston, South Carolina.

The shooting in McAllen is a tragic reminder of the dangers that face people in the United States every day, and the need for better gun control laws.

The shooting is also a reminder of the importance of community and solidarity, as people come together to support one another and to honor the memory of those who were lost.

The shooting in McAllen is a jarring reminder of the violence that continues to plague the United States, and the need for meaningful action to address the root causes of this violence.
Nun who challenged Catholic texts is subject of Oscar-nominated film

Sister Rose Thering gestures during an interview in her Whippany, N. J., home Feb. 11.

David Porter

WHIPPANY, N.J. — Sister Rose Thering recalls that, even as a little girl, the words just didn’t sound right: Did the Jews really kill Jesus?

It was the 1920s, and Thering’s hometown of Plain, Wis., was mostly Protestant and no Jews. Her curiosity soon led the young Thering to an intellectual contradiction — and then to a lifelong campaign for change within her church.

“I got the answer from my mother and from my teachers: They (Jews) killed Jesus,” she said. “But I got something else from my books, that God is all good. And it didn’t make sense to me, even as a little kid.”

Thering realized that the prevailing teaching of her day had to be wrong, and worked long and hard to challenge her church on the matter — ultimately helping to reshape its worldwide policy. And on Sunday, a film about Thering — “Sister Rose’s Passion” — is up for an Academy Award in the short documentary category.

“She was a nun in 1950s America, without any mentors or role models to follow, and she said, ‘I can’t live with this injustice and I have to do something about it’,” director Oren Jacoby said. “It was very heroic.”

The 39-minute film interposes footage of Nazi Germany with people-on-the-street interviews, in which present-day Catholics describe being taught as children how Jews were responsible for the death of Christ.

It also accompanies Thering, a professor emerita of Jewish Christian Studies at Seton Hall University, on a trip to her Wisconsin hometown. Thering translated her message into action when she arrived at Saint Louis University in 1957 to pursue her doctorate. For her dissertation, she was encouraged by Father Trafford Mahler, the head of the department of education, to pore through textbooks that were being used in secondary schools to look for examples of anti-Semitism. She found numerous passages where Jews were described in “some very ugly terms.”

In a fortunate bit of timing, Thering completed her work in 1961, a year before Pope John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council. Despite initial resistance from many Catholic educators in the United States, her research eventually was used by the Vatican as it issued a declaration in 1965 that “what happened in His passion cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive, nor against the Jews today.”

Thering’s story appealed to Steve Kalfer, owner of a family of car dealerships in Ammandale, who had produced two other Oscar-nominated films — “More,” an animated short about a lonely inventor, and “Curtain Call,” a short documentary featuring actors, dancers and musicians talking about their careers. “Sister Rose’s Passion” has been purchased by HBO and is scheduled to be aired on Cinemax in May.

“She has a worldwide message and there’s been a worldwide response,” Kalfer said. “Here she is at 84, in frail health, and she just keeps on going. She did a heroic job. There were some days we couldn’t film, but she extended herself greatly.”

Thering suffers from diabetes and pulmonary hypertension and is largely confined to a wheelchair. Still, she attended the Tribeca Film Festival last spring — where the film won for Best Documentary Short and she met Robert De Niro, among others — and earlier this month she flew to Los Angeles to attend the Oscar nominees’ luncheon at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Among the celebrities she met there was Warren Beatty, who couldn’t resist flirting with her.

“I asked him, ‘What is your position here?’ and he said, ‘Sister Rose, I’m a seducer,’ ” Thering said, with a chuckle. “ ‘All the girls’ eyes lit up, but mine didn’t.’ ”

The instant fame that has accompanied the Oscar nomination has been tiring for Thering, who said she will not attend the Academy Awards but will instead watch the broadcast with friends.

Given the choice, she would not have sought the attention, “but if it gets the message out there, I can suffer a little bit,” she said.

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The following is printed to test the color quality of this newspaper. Please continue reading toward the crossword puzzle.
The trials of ‘Macbeth’ come to Poly

Kristen Oato

MONTAUK DAILY

Passion, seduction and greed have crept on campus. One man and one woman will be driven to commit horrific crimes in a quest for power and greatness. Macbeth has arrived.

Cal Poly’s theater and dance department will perform Shakespeare’s classic tragedy in the Alex and Faye Spanos Theater. The play will run through Monday, March 5.

The department adapted the original script and added a contemporary spin.

“We wanted to keep the central story the same, we also decided to emphasize Macbeth’s intense journey through a psychological point of view,” director Josh Machamer said. The play does not follow Shakespeare’s original setting, but Machamer wanted to convey a sense of civil unrest, so he gave the play a distinctly European, war-torn spin.

Various Cal Poly groups assisted the staff and faculty of the theater department by contributing their various expertise and knowledge to the production. “We went out wanting to involve as many people as possible,” Machamer said.

“Macbeth,” a Cal Poly theatre and dance department, will continue its run in the Alex and Faye Spanos Theater today through March 5.

Diana Stanton, a dance instructor at Cal Poly and at the World Rhythms and Motion Dance Studio, assisted actors in movement.

“I knew I wanted Diana to be involved after I saw what she did with the Orchestre show,” Machamer said.

“She really helped the actors feel comfortable with their bodies,” he said. “For example, she worked on the movement of the witches to create specific motions. Since the actors are speaking text most of the time, their movements are really important to cultivate a well-rounded play.”

Patricia Tossel, a Shakespeare professor and director of the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, also contributed her talents. And the music department’s sound design course created a specific sound for the play.

The initial production of the play began early fall quarter.

“We were formulating different looks and scenes pretty early before everyone got involved,” Machamer said.

The students auditioned and began rehearsing in early January. The cast consists of 14 actors, who are in majors ranging from theater to history to social sciences.

“This was an exciting play to work on,” said Machamer. “It’s a familiar story, but I think there’s something for everyone to appreciate.”

All performances begin at 8 p.m. Tickets prices are $12 for adults and $10 for seniors, Cal Poly staff and students. Tickets are on sale at the Performing Arts Center box office.

Local tourism moves up, not ‘Sideways’

Greg Riding

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frank Ostini can’t seem to keep his cocktail napkins in stock.

The owner of the Hitching Post II restaurant, featured in the Oscar-nominated “Sideways,” is on pace to blow through a three-year supply of 50,000 napkins in the next few months. Customers, it appears, are plucking napkins as souvenirs.

Since the October premiere of “Sideways,” which features nearly two dozen locales including Ostini’s Western-style restaurant, business has been brisk during what is usually a slow season for Southern California wineries. The move was overshadowed by Northern California wine is not confined to just the Napa Valley, which despite its award-winning vintages has long been overshadowed by vineyards north of San Francisco.

“We hope that the movie creates a greater awareness that California wine is not confined to just the Napa Valley.”

— CHRIS BURROUGHS

Stefano Winiary, located in Buellton, witnessed a surge in tourism thanks to the film, “Sideways,” a love story to the area’s flourishing wine industry.

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Stefano Winiary tasting room manager Chris Burroughs from a scene in which he pours as Miles, the connoisseur, teaches Jack, the novice, about the subtlest of wines.

“Even though I feel a little absurd, I travel in a certain way. I leave at a certain time. I.fillText("I leave at a certain time. I leave at a certain time.

Among the messages in the film, which he pours as Miles, the connoisseur, teaches Jack, the novice, about the subtlest of wines.

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Rhythm and Motion Dance Studio, assisted actors in movement.

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“Even though I feel a little absurd, I travel in a certain way. I leave at a certain time. I leave at a certain time.
End of quarter stress: Learn to deal with it

A s the end of the quarter draws near, the pressure of midterms and last-minute projects are upon us. After many long hours and late nights, we're all suffering from lack of sleep and motivation — yeah, we know you missed that morning lab.

As we all know, students are no strangers to stress. According to the Department of Health Psychology and Applied Psychophysiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 43 percent of all adults suffer adverse health effects from stress. In addition, 75 to 90 percent of all doctor's office visits are stress-related. This can explain why stress is linked to six of the leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer, lung ailments, accidents, cirrhosis of the liver and suicide.

But don't be discouraged. There are plenty of simple ways to help alleviate stress. For starters, get an adequate amount of rest each night. During periods of prolonged stress the fight or flight mechanism runs into overtime, burning energy. This may be followed by severe fatigue, and even daily tasks can become a challenge. As we all know, students are no strangers to stress.

Stacy Licit and Jane Wilson are nutrition seniors and members of the Peer Health Nutrition Team. Contact them at 756-6181.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nobody cares about other people's opinions, views

To all those who are organizing their ideas in the form of those cute little “Top 10” lists — stop it.

To Morgan Elam who wrote about the town not needing the students' money ... wait. You mean to tell me there are towns in this country that survive without the financial contributions of a college and its students? No way.

And for everyone else who writes those letters that look like they're written to Impress or move people about your political views or ideas about how other's should live their lives, please realize that no one cares about you or your opinion unless they're a lance follower. Hell, you shouldn't even be reading my letter. I don't even know why I read these and I encourage you to not care about anything I have to say. Get over yourselves.

Derek Kurtti
Civil engineering major

We should be able to have reasonable, adult conversation

A while ago, I wrote a letter about how little children were being poisoned with one-sided arguments. Amazing, as it seems, we've gone downhill.

The other day I was amused to look at the opinion section and find the word “bogus.” I personally look at it as a legitimate humor word, but this time it being used seriously.

Now please, we're supposed to be intelligent people. Why are we resorting to elementary school name calling? If your opinion is right, it should be enough to prove it. You don't win an argument by simply insulting the other person.

If you have an opinion, just tell it to us. Tell us why you believe that opinion, and provide a source that can back you up. This does not mean calling the other person a “caca-head.”

We're in college now, not high school, not elementary school. If your idea has merit, we'll see it. If not, name calling is not going to help prove your point.

So please, let's take the pacifists out of our mouths, sit down and have a reasonable discussion like adults. If you still want to call names, please just put on a diaper and go to the sandbox where those of us who care don't have to deal with it.

Troy Kuersten
Aerospace engineering sophomore

LETTER POLICY

Send in your love, hate and more

 Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not repre sent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail: opinion@mustangdaily.net

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Mustang Building 26, Room 226 Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? can you say it in 250 words or less?

Send your letters to the editor to opinion@mustangdaily.net
Wrestling
continued from page 7
No. 1 in 2004, won the title and is ranked No. 1 this time around as the unseeded wrestler who won the 133-pound championship, ranked No. 1 in 2004, won the title and is ranked No. 9 in the nation.

The field also includes defending Pac-10 champion Jose Miranda of Cal State Fullerton, who’s ranked No. 5 in the Pac-10; Erlen Coballos of Cal State Bakersfield, ranked No. 3 in Pac-10; No. 13 in nation, and Jeremy Mendozas of Arizona State, who won the 133-pound championship in 1994. Perhaps the most competitive weight class will be the 125-pound division with five nationally ranked wrestlers in the bracket. Andrew Hochstrasser of Boise State is No. 3 nationally and No. 2 in the Pac-10 while Moreno is ranked fifth in the nation and first in the conference. Moreno placed third in the Pac-10 a year ago.

Support Cal Poly sports.
The Mustangs struggled in the Pac-10 going 1-5, but they have a chance to make up for it at the Pac-10 championships at home.

Although this weekend’s Pac-10 wrestling tournament may help promote host Cal Poly, at least one thing may not bode well for the Mustangs.

At the 2004 tournament, Cal Poly may have lost the conference title by just 3.5 points to Boise State, but in the past, host schools have won just a quarter of the time, with a total of 43 Pac-10 tournaments having been contested and the host school winning just 12 times. No host school has won since Arizona State in 1997.

Additionally, Cal Poly already struggling, ending the dual meet season 5-12, going 1-5 in Pac-10. It doesn’t look like the Mustangs have any better of a chance of winning a conference title than the last time they hosted the tournament, in 1994, when Oregon State took top honors.

Arizona State appears to be the favorite this year. The Sun Devils are the lone Pac-10 team in the USA Today/National Wrestling Coaches Association Poll at No. 20. Arizona State has won 13 of the last 20 Pac-10 crowns and posted an 8-0 mark in dual meets against Pac-10 opponents.

The 10-team field includes four NCAA All-Americans from the 2004 championships. Stanford’s Matt Gentry won the 157-pound title in St. Louis while Arizona State’s Ryan Bader placed fourth at 197. Cal Poly’s Vic Moreno was sixth at 125 and Cal State Bakersfield’s Matt Sanchez placed eighth at 133.

Cal Poly is returning one Pac-10 champion, Ryan Huber, who took top honors in the 184-pound Weight Division. In large part, the Mustangs have been hampered by injuries and disappointment this year. Entering the tournament, they’re not the only team to feature embattled wrestlers.

Matt Ellis of Oregon State won the 365-pound championship in 2004 at Arizona State’s Wells Fargo Arena, but he ranked No. 2 behind Joey Beaumont of Oregon. Bader won the 197-pound championship on his home mat last year, only to find himself ranked No. 2 this week behind Oregon’s Scott Barker.

And Stanford’s Israel Khourbush captured the title at 174 pounds a year ago as the third seed. He’s got the same seed this year No. 3. Perhaps the only seed of note is his teammate Gentry who was seeded 20th. See Wrestling, page 7.

Searching for anything, finding the Hall

Yuri Kalikai attempts to escape from his opponent in the Mustangs’ match against Cal State Fullerton at Matt Gym.

LaRoche was given a scholarship and chance to play at Cal Poly where he became a hall of famer after Oregon reneged on it’s offer to him.

Brian Jon Lambdin

The journey that Michael LaRoche took to get to Cal Poly is a unique one; a journey that began with rejection, but ended in just the right place.

LaRoche grew up in Ventura County and was a three-sport star in high school playing football, basketball and baseball. But his best sport was basketball and he was an All-Conference player in the Frontier League while on the varsity team. His coach in high school had been contacted by the coach at the University of Oregon who had verbally offered LaRoche a scholarship.

That offer was never put in writing and by the time August rolled around, LaRoche still had not been given the scholarship. When LaRoche and his high school coach finally again reached the Oregon head coach he offered LaRoche a chance to play his way onto the basketball team without a scholarship. But LaRoche did not have the money to pay the high out-of-state fees that would allow him to attend the school. This new offer was not feasible.

With just weeks left before many universities started classes, LaRoche and his head coach from high school headed north to find a school that could give him the scholarship that would allow him to play basketball and go to school at the same time.

“My coach and I started up the coast. The first stop we made was UCSB,” LaRoche said. “They did not have any scholarships though and there was no guaranteed offer from the coach for one in the future. We left UCSB and continued on up the coast and the next school we stopped at was Cal Poly. Head Coach Ed Jongerison said he knew who I was and that he wanted me for the team.”

He got me a scholarship and got me set up for classes just a few weeks before they started.”

Oregon’s loss was Cal Poly’s gain. LaRoche had a stellar Cal Poly career. He could play both the forward and guard positions and his sweet shooting helped him rack up points. LaRoche’s Cal Poly career included the following impressive numbers: highest point average in one season — 23.9 PPG; 1500 points scored in a three-year career that spanned 70 games, 21.4 points scoring average for his career and 358 free throws made.

LaRoche received more than just individual school awards. He was also a three-time All-California Collegiate Athletic Association player and he was drafted out of college by the Los Angeles Stars.

He signed a $12,000 contract with a $3,000 signing bonus,” LaRoche said. “At 22, when you get an opportunity like that, that’s all you think about.”

He was coached by the Hall of Fame player for the Boston Celtics, Bill Sharman, and he had the opportunity to play against Hall of Famers like Rick Barry and Julius Erving.

“I made it through the rookie camp,” LaRoche said, “and then veteran’s camp and I made the 12-man roster.”

If he hadn’t made the roster, he might have joined a traveling team and ended up playing overseas somewhere, but after making it through both the camps coach Sharman asked him to stay.

During an exhibition tour with the Stars, LaRoche had the chance to come back and play at Mott Gym just months after he had left Cal Poly.

The homecoming, though, didn’t quite go according to plan.

“We were playing the Oakland Oaks, Rick Barry’s team,” LaRoche said. “There was introduc­tion of all the players I couldn’t see."

Michael LaRoche