MUSTANG DAILY
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Volume LXVIII, Number 84

TODAY'S WEATHER
High 65°
Low 48°

Ex-Cal Poly softball star, Roni Sparrey, pursues a career in coaching

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ASHLEE!
The adventures of five grown men in a sea of adolescent infatuation

IN ARTS& CULTURE, 9

For the Peace Corps, achievement comes with great sacrifice

From Armenia to Bangladesh, Cal Poly students and recent graduates share the benefits and drawbacks of enlisting

Caitlin Donnell
MUSTANG DAILY

This is the second installment of a three-part series about the Peace Corps. It examines the experiences of Cal Poly students and faculty who have been involved with the Peace Corps.

Shannon Alberta Maloney is a current Peace Corps volunteer serving in Bangladesh. She graduated from Cal Poly in June 2002 with a major in applied art and design and a concentration in photography.

Maloney has been in Bangladesh for 18 months as a Youth and Community Development officer which has her working as an English teacher at the Bangladesh Department of Youth Development.

"My experience with the Peace Corps has been overall very positive," Maloney said. "Peace Corps is the greatest challenge that I have ever faced and I know that they warn people that they'll be faced with many cross-cultural differences. No access to healthy food," Maloney said. "Two years seems like a heck of a long time, but looking back now, for me, that two years was a blink of an eye."

"This experience has also changed my life in the fact that I met my husband in Bangladesh, he is a fellow Peace Corps volunteer that I met during our training."

Unlike other volunteer activities, the Peace Corps is a two-year commitment, which students must be sure they can fulfill before volunteering.

Richard LeRoy volunteered in the Peace Corps in Armenia. LeRoy now works at Cal Poly as the Pacific Programs Director with International Education and Programs.

"Two years seems like a heck of a long time, but looking back now, for me, that two years was a blink of an eye," LeRoy said. "After the training I felt like I could survive, after a year I felt like I could be effective."

Dana Carson is an agriculture volunteer serving in Nicaragua. She works with farmers and agronomists to improve soil conservation.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Fighting a fat nation

The lack of healthy food in low-income communities prompted the creation of a program to educate children about nutrition and dieting

Amanda Samonte
MUSTANG DAILY

Thirty-one-year-old activist, author and chef Bryant Terry spoke at Cal Poly about poor diets and the accessibility of healthy food in low-income communities Thursday.

Inspired by the tactics of Black Panther's free breakfast program from the 1960's, Terry founded "b-healthy", an organization that educates children about cooking, diet, nutrition and social activism. He encourages young people to take initiative to live a healthy lifestyle and influence policy changes to work toward a "more just food system."

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COURTESY PHOTO

Overweight children and minorities in low-income communities is mostly caused by unhealthy fast-food chains.
Volunteers continued from page 1
LeRoy had gone to Mexico to do service trips when he was a freshman in college and said that he loved the experience of helping people. Having never traveled before, joining the Peace Corps was an altruistic kind of idea, he said.

"It was challenging going to a developing country," LeRoy said. "It was such a physical side of not having hot water or the cold weather, it was getting used to a different culture and learning about their intricacies and trying to be adaptable." LeRoy volunteered in a small town with about 25,000 people inhabiting an area about the size of Cal Poly's campus. He taught English, had an after school English club and an English resource center on Cal Poly's campus. He taught English, had an after school English club and an English resource center on Cal Poly's campus.

"I was very fortunate enough to meet and become friends with some of the most amazing people I've ever met in my life. Even though there were many people who were complaining about their hard life and who were down and difficult to be around, I was able to befriended some people who were really survivors, who had beautiful spirits, and they were hopeful and progressive and believed in the changes that are happening in their country and the education for their children," LeRoy said. "To form friendships with them meant a lot to me and it was like an oasis to me in that a lot of my experiences were challenging but then I had these little treasures." LeRoy said that when he was a recruiter at Cal Poly in 1999, he would tell interested students that the Peace Corps was an incredible opportunity. To open your eyes to a new way of thinking, learn about a culture and share yourself is something most people do not get to experience.

Overweight continued from page 1
"There is one supermarket serving 25,000 residents, these people don't have cars and they can't take a grocery cart onto a bus," he said. "There is one supermarket to 36 convenience/mark stores and only three of which have fresh produce to provide a balanced meal!"
The percentages for overweight children and minorities, especially African Americans and Latinos in low-income communities, are rapidly increasing. He said that fast-food chains are the culprits with hours that people, especially kids, cannot resist.

"Kids see 100 ads for food every day," Terry said. "I ask, what do these things have in common? Sugar, Fast food, Junk food. None of these ads promote healthy food."
He also discussed peer pressure to eat unhealthy fast food. Coca-Cola and chain restaurants like McDonald's are identifiably "American." Immigrants that come into the United States want to fit in, and therefore they consume theseproducts regardless of health effects.

"When McDonalds infiltrated Japan there was this dramatic increase in obesity and skin problems," he said. The Japanese were accustomed to eating whole nutritious foods. When these fast, processed foods are consumed on a regular basis, the outcome is always detrimental.

Diet-related diseases and health problems due to fast food are apparent, especially in the United States. Roughly one in four Americans will eat fast food on any given day. Terry is working hard to counteract the influence of fast-food chain propaganda.

"I want to teach kids that food comes from the ground, not wrapped up in plastic.
His goal is to "create social change" starting with healthy eating habits.

Calendar continued from page 1

What: Student recital. Cal Poly instrument students will perform in recital. The performance is free and the public is invited.
When: Today, 11 a.m.
Where: H.P. Davidson music building, Room 218
More Info: Call the music department at 756-2406

What: Cal Poly's theatre and dance department will stage William Shakespeare's best-known tragedy, "Macbeth."
When: Today, Saturday and Sunday, 8 p.m.
Where: Spanos Theatre
More Info: Call Josh Machamer at 756-5560

What: Heast Lecture Series. "Women in Architecture + Design.2," continues with award-winning architect and professor Mary-Ann Ray of Studio/Works. She will lecture on her work with Robert Mangurian. Studio/Works has also received multiple AIA Awards and recognition.
When: Friday, 4 p.m.
Where: Bldg. 3, Room 213
More Info: Call the CAED office at 756-1131

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When: Friday, 4 p.m.
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STATE NEWS

RIVERSIDE — A Riverside County judge agreed Wednesday to let a former smoker sue Philip Morris USA, meaning a jury could decide whether the county sheriff should permit him to use tobacco giant

NATIONAL NEWS

WASHINGTON — With demonstrators shouting religious slogans outside, Supreme Court justices questioned, argued and fretted Wednesday over whether Ten Commandments displays on government property cross the line of separation between church and state.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Talks aimed at forging a coalition govern­ ment faltered Wednesday over whether Ten Commandments displays on government property cross the line of separation between church and state.

MULTIPLE SOURCES

WASHINGTON — President Bush increased pressure on Syria Wednesday, demanding it withdraw its troops from Lebanon, while Iran and its nuclear weapons program drew fresh U.S. criticism. Overall, the American rhetoric toward Damascus and Tehran was combative, reminiscent in some ways of the tough talk that preceded the U.S. invasion of Iraq two years ago.

WASHINGTON — House Republicans will propose cutting about $1.8 billion in extra defense spending onto the $81.9 billion package President Bush wants for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to data obtained by The Associated Press. At the same time, GOP lawmakers will propose cutting about $2 billion from the State Department and foreign aid portion of the measure, including some Afghan recon­ struction aid, said a congressional aide familiar with the emerging bill.

VIENNA, Austria — Declaring some sanctions still aimed at U.N. inspect­ ors, Iran said Wednesday it fears that leaked information gathered by them could help those planning a possible strike on its military installations.

Meanwhile, the United States, which has not ruled out such an attack on Iran urged the U.N. Security Council to take action

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BEIJING — A cache of explo­ sives at the home of a coal mine manager blew up in a town in north­ ern China, killing at least 20 children at a nearby grade school, news reports said Thursday. The explosion occurred Wednesday in Kecheng, a town in Shanxi province, one of China's biggest coal-mining regions, newspapers reported.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MT. RAINIER, Wash. — A truck driver who began smoking Marlboro cigarettes when he was 12, filed suit against the Richmond, Va.-based tobacco giant

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

HALF MOON BAY — The vicious Northern California surf break called Mavericks played host to the world's best big-wave surfers who were called to the once-secret surf spot by contest organizers just a day before the event.

IN OTHER NEWS

ESCONDIDO — A man who recently had received radia­ tion treatment for a medical condi­ tion set off a nuclear alert detec­ tor on a fire engine, prompting police to close down a roadway in Escondido while authorities searched for a nuclear weapon.

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District engine crew's radiation monitor sounded Tuesday when the man and his friend walked past the crew on their way to fill a gas can.

The Nuke Alert monitor sounded again as the men walked back to their vehicle.

Firefighters notified the San Diego County Sheriff's Department after they drove by the men's vehicle and the moni­ tor sounded a third time.

Sheriff's deputies pulled over the driver and detained him and his passenger for about one hour while they confirmed that the man was not carrying a nuclear weapon and that he had received radiation treatment, according to Sgt. Robert Healey.

The man was described as a Valley Center resident in his late 40s or early 50s. His name and medical condition were not released.

The radiation monitor was purchased with Homeland Defense Department grant money and is used 24 hours a day on each fire truck in the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, according to Capt. Dale Mosby.

— Associated Press

— Associated Press

— Associated Press

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Academics, artists, others back file-sharing firms before court

Alex Voiga

LOS ANGELES — Some of the nation's leading computer scientists and intellectual-property lawyers are siding with file-swapping companies against the music and movie industries.

The tech firms and others argue that a court victory by the entertainment companies would put the latest advances in technology at risk.

The recording companies and movie studios are appealing to the high court to reverse lower court decisions that absolved Grokster Inc. and StreamCast Networks, which distributes the Morpheus file-sharing software, of responsibility when their customers illegally swap songs and movies.

The justices are scheduled to hear arguments in the case March 28. In briefs filed Tuesday, Grokster, StreamCast and their supporters urged the court not to reinterpret the legal defenses established in the 1984 Sony Betamax case.

"A rule like this will make it almost impossible for anyone to innovate or create new products unless they have the blessing of the copyright holders," said Grokster's attorney Michael Page during a conference call with reporters Tuesday. "And when the copyright holders also control the distribution systems, that blessing will not be forthcoming."

A group of 17 computer science and engineering professors at nine universities, including Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Edward W. Felten of Princeton and David J. Farber of Carnegie Mellon, stressed in their brief that if the court sided with the entertainment companies it could chill technological progress in computers and the Internet.

"If this court should announce a more restrictive rule, those who create new products might not be able to bring them to market," they wrote.

Giving to colleges inches up

Despite a recovering economy, donations to universities are at a record high, with Harvard leading the pack in highest gifts

Justin Pope

EAGLE ROCK — After two years without growth, charitable contributions to U.S. colleges and universities rose 4.1 percent last year to a record $24.4 billion, according to a report released Wednesday.

The increase was driven by a 9.7 percent increase in giving from individual donors, including 23.5 percent surge in giving by non-alumni individuals. That offset a 6.1 percent decline in giving by foundations.

Among alumni, total giving rose slightly, but the percentage of alumni donating fell, as its has every year since 2001.

Harvard University led the list by raising $540 million, according to the latest annual survey by the Council for Aid to Education, a unit of the RAND Corporation.

UCI, 11th overall, raised the most of any public university $262 million.

Alumni donations last year accounted for 28 percent of university giving, non-alumni individuals 21 percent, corporations 18 percent and foundations 25 percent.

Foundation generally ramp up giving more slowly than individuals when the economy recovers, as it has in the last two years.

The percentage of gifts contributed by religious and other organizations.

Though the increase in overall contributions barely outpaced inflation, survey director Ann Kaplan of CAE called the results "not too bad," considering the decline in foundation grants, which she expects to turn around.

The overall increase fell

zero growth in 2003 and a decline in 2002.

Kaplan credited a stronger economy and more effective fund-raising.

"Fund-raising behavior has a strong effect," she said. "The No. 1 reason people make gifts is being asked. Without that, the economy's not going to have much of an effect on giving."

The best news for colleges and universities was the 21.5 percent increase in giving from non-alumni donors, often parents of alumni, community members or donors who want to back specific research. The increase suggests schools are succeeding in expanding their donor pools.

The Christian life was never intended to be an individual life but a life lived as an organic member of the body of Christ.

Organic member of the body of Christ. You were born into this organic Christ when you became a member of the organic, corporate Christ. This organism is Christ Jesus who is both head and body.

Jesus appeared to him, Jesus said, "Why do you persecute Me?" This shows clearly that John's desire, which is the Father's desire, is that all those whom He has called would abide in the head and the body. Only there will we truly know God.

The big hindrance to living this life is sin. According to John if we say we have no sin we lie and the truth is not in us. What does John mean here by sin? The original word means to miss the mark. What is the mark. John is talking about?

Romans 3:23 says, "All have missed the mark and come short of the glory of God."

The mark according to Paul is the glory of God. Glory is when God is expressed or displayed. When we are in spirit we hit the mark. Then we are expressing God and we are His glory.

It is not a matter of behavior but a matter of being. Christ is the organic divine life in the depths of our being. When we remain in Him, as the branch remains in the vine, we express what kind of effect a vine is, so we, by remaining in Christ, express what kind of effect a vine is, and we are like author of person He is. (John 15:1-8)

One of John's main burdens is that his little children abide in Christ and love one another. By this abiding they will love one another. Love is the only thing we are asked for.
Black, Hispanics more likely to be searched at traffic stops

Texas racial profiling study finds minority motorists are subject to a higher rate of random consent searches

Kelley Shannon
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — Two out of three Texas law enforcement agencies searched black and Hispanic drivers at higher rates than white motorists at traffic stops in 2003, according to a racial profiling study released last week.

When searched, however, white motorists were at least as likely as blacks or Hispanics to be found with illegal items such as drugs or weapons, the report found.

The data were compiled from information more than 1,000 Texas law enforcement agencies were required to record under state law. Most of the agencies responded to public information requests for the report.

The findings show large disparities between minority and white motorists who were stopped and searched, said Scott Henson, spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas. "Now the question becomes: Why is that?" he said.

James McLaughlin Jr., executive director of the Texas Police Chiefs Association, said he hadn't seen the study, but that the findings didn't sound new.

"It's a replay of the reports that were put out a year or so ago," he said.

Such studies are generally flawed, he said, because they don't take into account factors such as the time of day a stop is made, the part of town and other variables.

"Does racial profiling occur? Yes. I'm sure it does and that's sad. Do I think it occurs to a great extent? No, I do not," he said.

The study's recommendations include adopting uniform reporting standards for racial profiling, data requiring extra data to be collected by police agencies, and establishing an independent statewide repository for reports.

The report also recommended banning consent searches — when an officer seeks a motorist's permission to do a search to look for illegal items, even if there is no probable case. The study found three out of five Texas police agencies were more likely to ask blacks and Latinos than whites for a consent search.

The report conducted by Steward research Group was commissioned by the ACLU of Texas, NAACP Texas, the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition and the state chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens.

"This report confirms what community members with color live with on a daily basis," said Ana Yanez Correa, spokeswoman for the League of United Latin American Citizens.

"We lose the net- work. Under the original mission of the 75 land-grant schools, which were created by Congress in the 1860s to use public money on shared agricultural research.

Under the Bush plan, funding for three programs on farming, forestry and animal health, maintained at land-grant institutions for decades, would be slashed from $200 million this year to $100 million next year and nothing in 2007.

Some money — about $70 million — would be available to schools through competitive grants, but school officials say the change would be so sudden that about 2,000 jobs nationwide would be lost immediately.

The cuts also would destroy a network of research collaboration that allows states to work together to thwart agriculture diseases and develop better practices.

"If everything goes competitive, then it's everybody for themselves," said Bobby Moser, dean and vice president of the agriculture college at Ohio State University.

"We lose the network."

Moser and about 120 other school officials and agriculture research supporters fanned out across Capitol Hill to lobby their hometown lawmakers in favor of the programs.

The schools use the money to study both national priorities — food security, pest control, obesity, waste management — and local issues, such as cattle diarrhea in Pennsylvania and which pesticides to use at macadamia nut farms in Hawaii.

"What kind of partnerships would we have in the future?" Cholick said.

He said the network paid off last November when the first U.S. case of soybean rust, a fungus that can reduce harvest, was found in two Louisiana State University research fields. The school was able to get word immediately to researchers across the country for what to look for and how to stop spread.

"If we don't have a network, a system, then we don't know what's here and we can't respond," Cholick said.

"These formula grants are the glue that holds the system together," Bob Steele, dean of the agriculture college at Pennsylvania State University, said.

Moser also would affect students and, ultimately, consumers. "You are putting at risk an abundant food supply and an affordable food supply and a safe food supply," Steele said. "So it's not just about farmers. Anybody who eats ought to be concerned about this."
Stewart: Out of jail and back to the kitchen

April Vitello

ALDERSON, W. Va. — From scrubbing floors to taking leaves, Martha Stewart spent the past five months performing the sort of tasks ordinarily done by the janitor help.

She also forged for diamonds and other wild goods, concocted cakes in a microwave, even ate from the vending machines, heaven forbid.

That could all come to an end as early as Friday, when the former authority on gracious living gets out of prison in time for the spring gardening season.

Instead of working for pennies a day at the Alderson Federal Prison Camp, Stewart will once again collect her $90,000-a-year salary while serving five months of home confinement in her Bethesda, N.Y. estate for her part in stock fraud.

Margaret Rosch, editor in chief of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, tells the Daily that Stewart has passed the time in prison much as she does at home.

The terms were just redetermined.

"Erector" has meant walk around the prison grounds with daughter Alexis and a nightly egg salad with fellow inmates. "Crafts" became crocheting, creating a ceramic Nativity scene and taking part in a Christmas decorating contest.

During her stay at the women's prison in the Appalachian hills about 300 miles from Washington, Stewart was on maintenance duty, scrubbing floors and "keeping a place" for some inmates. She said inmates complained to the tabloids that she was given a cushy job, claim- ing the 63-year-old Stewart was spared snow-shoveling duty.

Some of the tabloids said Stewart skirted the rules behind bars, stealing crabapples from trees and taking eggs from the dining hall to make egg salad in her room. Some inmates even took to calling her the Contraband Queen for allegedly hoarding items off limits to prisoners in their rooms. (Her lawyer David Chesnoff said he had not heard such allegations.)

By many accounts, prison workers found her to be a pleasant inmate. She even posed for pictures with fellow inmates' families.

"So what if she lost the decorating contest or took some condoms?" said Alderson store owner Betsy Alldrew. "I think people are looking for dirty laundry."

TV producer Mark Burnett, who is working on a new show with Stewart, said recently on "Oprah": "She hasn't complained once about being in jail. The afternoon I was there, she was going to get on a job cleaning the floor washing machine. Imagine that job [Stewart] didn't complain. She said, 'Gimme some palettes, turpentine and a squeegee and I'll get right to it.'"

The celebrity homemaker also showed a softer side, writing about the cruelty of some of the 1,200 other inmates. "Many of them have been here for years — devoid of care, devoid of hope, devoid of family," she said urging people to press for reforms.

Martha Stewart attends the CFDA Fashion Awards at the New York Public Library, June 7, 2004 in the sentencing guidelines for non-violent first-time offenders.

Alderson resident Neta Rush said she is interested to hear what Stewart has to say about mandatory sentencing. "I really feel she will open a dialogue into this, which is a long time coming," Rush said.

Stewart entered prison on Oct. 5 as a federal inmate No. 59768-A. Among her visitors were Barbara Walters.

Stewart posted a few letters on her Web site, www.marthasthatalks.com, thanking fans "again and again, for your support and encouragement."

Her last posting was at Christmas: "I am fine and looking forward to being home, getting back to my valuable work, to creating, cooking and making television."

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**ARTS & CULTURE**

Thursday, March 3, 2005

**Division Day’s SLO debut**

Los Angeles-based Division Day played the Dwelling last week and filled the place with spontaneous rock off of its album, ‘The Mean Way In.’ The album was recorded at Tiny Telephone Studios in San Francisco.

**Nick Coury**

...More about the band, Division Day.

The Mean Way In,” is a six-song record full of haunting melodies and imagistic lyrics. It was recorded and produced at Tiny Telephone Studios in San Francisco with friend and producer/engineer Alex Oana. The album consists of mixed abstract allegories and metaphors. “I’ve always written in terms of imagery,” said Segnitz. “This record was made during a period of intense struggle. For me, that context colors its contents more than any one factor. It’s about the transition into adulthood.” There is complex simplicity to the art of music. The band makes use of a highly underappreciated instrument, the electric piano. Segnitz uses it to further the atmospheric quality of the music. The simplicity on the album is also heard in the style of Wilson’s guitar. “Mick Jones, of the Clash, was a big influence on my guitar playing growing up. He played a lot on one string, really minimally, but he knows how to place guitar riffs, Wilson said. “I think that’s sort of what the guitar on “The Mean Way In does,” is just there to help the song do what it needs to do to be a good song and nothing more.” Aside from its own instruments, Division Day adds sounds from relatively anywhere, even from television. “There’s a melody during the keyboard part in Bad Black Moon, (they are chamberlain strings on the record), that’s lifted straight from the “Twin Peaks” soundtrack.” With funk-style drums and several flowing melodies, “The Mean Way In” is a good listen for fans of any genre. Division Day plans on releasing a five-song record toward the end of spring.

**SUNDAY MAY 1, 2005**

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**ARTS & CULTURE**

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ARE YOU IN?
Like Lewis and Clark before us, our trip would prove to be the adventure of a lifetime.

By Devin Kingdon

I went to an Ashlee Simpson concert, OK? There, I said it.

Many that are reading this story are already feeling sick to their musically-snobbish stomachs and are probably turning to the next page. But for those of you that stick around, I will explain just how brilliant the "Ashlee Experience" was.

From the initial planning stages, to the ticket purchase, to the drive to Los Angeles and the thousands of little girls in braces, "Ashlee Simpson Live In Concert" was an event we will not soon forget.

Our slightly sick love for Ashlee was born back in the summer of 2004. The "Ashlee Simpson Show" filled those lazy summer days with images of Ashlee not knowing how to clean the kitchen, making out with Ryan Cabrera and her debut album, "Autobiography," opening at No. 1 on the Billboard Charts. But our true love for her didn't blossom until we first heard "Lala." After drinking a 40 or two of Old English, we'd proceed to "lala" on the kitchen floor, kicking and screaming, wishing we were the ones throwing her "like a lineman."

We masked our obsession for Ashlee with bands such as the Killers, Arcade Fire, the Futureheads and Phoenix, but we followed Ashlee closely from the shadows. We secretly hoped she would make it through the Saturday Night Live backing-track fiasco and we silently cursed the thousands of football fans who booed her half-time show during the Orange Bowl.
Ashlee Simpson
continued from page 9
In the weeks leading up to the concert, every Friday night at 9:30 while at a pre-party; party or bar we’d look at each other and say: “In exactly four weeks, we will be there.”
People would ask what I was up to that coming weekend and I would simply answer, “I’m going to an Ashlee Simpson concert.”
Everyone thought I was kidding—until they saw the tickets.
Most reacted negatively; they couldn’t believe we would spend money on someone like Ashlee. I got a couple. “Wow, I hate you right now,” and a few, “You are fa—king ridiculous.”
Girls were jealous, and others reacted with only slight bemusement.
However, regardless of their reactions, they all wanted a phone call during the show, most of which even had specific songs they wanted to be called during. For example, a male engineering sophomore, Moody wanted to be called during “Lala” and history senior Jessica Delk wanted to know if she was heard during “Autobiography” or “Pieces of Me.” (They both got their wishes.)
Not everyone had concert-specific shirts, we were custom T-shirts for the show. Seeing as we were 18, we couldn’t even have only twenty-something-males mauling escorting girlfriends to the concert and ticking out like sore thumbs over the minions of small children, why not do it in style?
We bought iron-on paper from Staples the day of the concert and brainstormed various puns and double entendres based on her songs for the shirts. Five were finally decided on. Mine read “Ashlee is my homegirl.” Hamm’s read “You make me want to ‘LaLa.'” Switzerland read “Ashlee is my homegirl,” Hamm’s read “You make me want to ‘Lala.’”
That done, we loaded up the car and set off with Ashlee Simpson MP3s blasting the Ashlee Simpson MP3s we downloaded.
With all the negative press she had been getting lately (petitions, asking her to stop singing, the Orange Bowl incident, etc. courtesy of Avril Lavigne, etc.), we weren’t sure whether we actually wanted her to sing live or not. We preferred that she lip-sync so she had sound just like the illegal MP3s on our iPods.
Three and half hours later, we pulled into the Universal Amphitheater parking lot and began our tailgate party featuring two cases of rum and some hot Frieze aperitifs.
Upon finishing the rum, we strapped down the Universal Citywalk, flouting our Ashlee T-shirts. We got some funny stares, some screams of excitement from teen girls and some requests for photos. We stopped at a Mexican restaurant filled with brace-faced girls and their parental chaperones.
We took our shots—they drank Shaeley Temples.
We paid our bill and continued our harry march toward the amphitheater, stopping to take pictures with various security guards and Ashlee-lok-Alikes.
We handed our tickets to the attendants (and headed for the beer line (a rare, short one at that), which was filled with parents).
I recognized one of the moms from the Mexican restaurant and pushed up to her, sensing a free drink in my future.
I asked her what was going on and she said, “I friends to get liquored up fast, can’t not going to make it through this show sober.”
I agreed wholeheartedly and laid on the charitainment.
“Why would I buy you a drink?” she replied.
“Cause you’re the coolest mom ever. All the cool moms buy drinks,” I replied.
I gave her a look of hesitation, but still purchased her a Jack and Coke.
She got a hug—a saved $9.
Drinks in hand, we headed to our seat, located in the very last row. We pushed past a few couples and a lot of small children to our seats. A group of 13-year-olds in front of us were enthralled by our age and our t-shirts. All of them looked at us with their gleaming metallic smiles, and were filled with questions about exactly what we were doing there. A simple “We freakin’ love Ashlee, don’t you?” sufficed.
“Around 9:15 (we think that’s when came down and pumped our screams filling the building.
Our sweet Ashlee emerged singing “Autobiography.” We rushed down to the railing, attempting to sing along, but mostly laughing at the ridiculousness of the situation.
She hopped and jumped around through her roughly hour-long set that included multiple costume changes. It didn’t appear that any lip-syncing took place, but the use of a backing track on some of the chorus’ might have been implemented.
We needed to get liquored up fast ‘cause I’m not going to make it through this show sober.
— RANDOM MOM
chaperone to six girls at the concert

Ridiculousness abounds as five college seniors hang out with brace-faced teenagers at an Ashlee Simpson concert in Los Angeles. The youngsters were fascinated by our age and unabashedly admired for Sloan. QStringLiteral

outside. Key found an abandoned wheelchair and demanded that I sit in it. More than happy to oblige, I plunked my butt down and he pushed me toward the exit. Security stopped me about three minutes into the ride and yelled, “Hey, you can’t be pushing that.”
I was about to jump out of the chair, but instead another security guard came to push me the rest of the way.
He asked, “How’d you injure yourself?” My only response: “I hurt myself la-la-ing. I la-la-ed way too hard.”
He looked slightly confused, but took my statement as fact and away we went to the parking lot. Along the way, I giggled with delight as I asked random people to “High-five the cripple with stupid sunglasses on!” and “Give it up for Ashlee!”
As we neared the lot, I knew I couldn’t let him escort me all the way to the car so I jumped up and sprinted through the crowd, leaving my bestfriend behind. My friends, unaware this was going to happen, had a nice, awkward moment with the wheelchair pusher. Had it been completely silent, they could have head crickets.
As we pulled out of the parking lot, heading toward Hermosa Beach with Ashlee’s sweet voice echoing in our ears, we knew our adventure had come to a close.
While no real physical encounter with Ashlee ever occurred, we did at least get to breathe the same air as her. And that, in itself, is something we’ll savor for years to come.

Download of the day:
Jesse McCartney
“Beautiful Soul”
Sure, 17-year-old McCartney may not write his own songs or play his own music, but he may be a former member of the ridiculous boy band Dream Street, but the first single off his debut solo album picks up where “Mmmbop” and “I Want It That Way” left off — and its as addicting as it is sugary-sweet.

Courtesy of Ashley "The Bodie" Ventura
Students unite to act locally, globally

A tsunami pounded Asia and Africa last December, sweeping hundreds of thousands of people to their deaths and displacing millions of others. American were left to wonder: How can we help them and why should we care?

In a world of midterms, papers, cell phones and parties, the weight of such a question might seem hard to grasp for Cal Poly students who are bored with and removed from the devastation of the tsunami.

The waves annihilated entire villages, orphaned thousands of children and destroyed the resources of completely impoverished areas. News organizations report that roughly 300,000 died, which is 16 times the student population of Cal Poly.

"Our picture of how many people died scares me," political science junior Melanie Rhodea said. "Regardless of culture or location, we are all human beings and with that I believe we have an obligation as citizens of this world to help others.

Rhoads is one of the many Cal Poly students who have taken action locally to help provide aid for victims across the globe. Rhodea helped organize the "5 km Tomati Fund Run: Community Helping Community," which takes place at Laguna Lake Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and costs $25 per person.

Two speech communications classes, taught by professor Nina Truch, abandoned their curriculum this quarter to raise funds for the relief effort. They will host a poker tournament Friday and a 5-km run Saturday. Contact Nina Truch at 756-5683 or ntruch@calpoly.edu. To register for the run, sign up at the 5-km run. Contact Nina Truch at 756-5683 or ntruch@calpoly.edu. To ask the survey taker to choose any amount from $7 (low) to $12 (high).

Saltoun, the community director of Cal Roly, said that helping those in need not only benefits the deprived, but also helps Americans find meaning in their own lives by establishing perspective about what matters most in human existence.

"We need to get involved because there's nothing more hollow life. People should get involved because there's nothing more spiritually meaningless than relationships." Parkinson said, a local attorney in town who works unpaid for VeAustria, got involved in relief efforts in 2000 after he met a Sri Lankan priest who asked him to raise $20,000 for an orphanage in Sri Lanka. Within five years, Parkinson established the non-profit, raised hundreds of thousands of dollars more to help those in the impoverished area and said he realized that anyone was capable of making a difference.

It's not just about writing a check," said Parkinson, who returned from Sri Lanka Sunday on a tsunami relief trip. "Anyone can do it. They don't have to have money, only the desire to help.

Parkinson is planning another trip to Sri Lanka with VeAustria this summer, and said that Cal Poly students interested in relief work may join him. The only expense volunteers would have to pay is airfare, which is $2083 for a round trip for an orphanage in Sri Lanka. Within five years, Parkinson established the non-profit, raised hundreds of thousands of dollars more to help those in the impoverished area and said he realized that anyone was capable of making a difference.

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"It's a huge chance to help others, as well as help ourselves," Parkinson said. "They'll find that relief work will hugely enrich their life in ways they won't be able to imagine."

For more information about the poker tournament this weekend and the 5-km run, contact Nina Truch at 756-5803 or ntruch@calpoly.edu. To register for the run, sign up at the body of the email.

Carri McGourty is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist. E-mail her at mcguor@calpoly.edu.
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Sparrey stays on the field of play

One of Cal Poly's most talented ex-softball players is still contributing to the team as a student assistant coach

Kristen Oato
SPTC.

At 13 years old, Roni Sparrey discovered her passion. Although she didn't know at the time, Sparrey would eventually play softball, as well as her school's teams. "My dad was my coach when I started. He was the driving force behind playing. He kept me going," Sparrey said.

Sparrey played softball throughout her high school career. When it came time to apply for colleges, she had little doubt about the Cal Poly team. "I liked the team a lot. Although there are a lot of reasons, I just knew Cal Poly was a really good fit for me," Sparrey said.

The softball team was very different when Sparrey joined as a freshman more than four years ago. While she had a couple peers on the team, Sparrey joined a well-established tight knit group of girls who had been playing together for a while. "When I first started, the girls were so close and really good friends. It's always nice to have an outsider that the girls had fun on and off the field. Their chemistry was awesome," Sparrey said.

In the beginning, intimidating and cliquey, the intimate nature of the team immediately warmed to new players like Sparrey. "Their chemistry was so encouraging. There was no apprehension," Sparrey said. "It was different because the coach's voice can be heard. It can be a very rewarding job. It's nice to see something that happened directly as a result of something that you did," Sparrey said.

This season, Sparrey immediately made us feel very comfortable," Sparrey said. "All the players were so encouraging. There was no element of jealousy or tension that is sometimes present on college softball teams. It made it easier to come in as a freshman." As time passed, the team's closeness only intensified. Today, many of the girls are still good friends. Sparrey loved the atmosphere so much, she contemplated a future in coaching. Freshman year was the first time she had actually seriously considered a career as a softball coach. "I just knew I loved the sport so much," she said. "I watched the coaches, and could see they shared the same love for the game I had. I've known for awhile this was something I wanted to pursue." Throughout her time as Recreational Administration major at Cal Poly, Sparrey never lost sight of her focus. When she graduated at the end of winter quarter, Sparry stuck with her plan. She applied and became the student assistant coach for the Cal Poly softball team. "It's different because the coach's voice can be heard. It can be a very rewarding job. It's nice to see something that happened directly as a result of something that you did," Sparrey said.

Season: "So much time goes into coaching, and it's a great feeling to know that the things I'm doing are helping the team's performance."

"It's awesome. I love the girls. There are some seniors on the team who have played with me since high school," Sparrey said. "The job is definitely a lot easier than I expected, in terms of coaching. It's not that different for me as a player, just because I've known her as a teammate as well." Sparrey agrees that coaching her old teammates isn't difficult. However, the view from the side-lines has given Sparrey a completely new perspective on the game. "The way I look at things has definitely changed a little since I took this position. Now I can see all the work that goes on behind the scenes," Sparrey said. "As a player, I did not really have a firm grasp on all the paperwork, and other things that go on outside of practices and games. I didn't know much of the hard work that goes into coaching, and what it means to the coach, the players, and the sport itself."

There are other new additions to the coaching staff this year. Coach Jenny Condon and assistant coaches Keira Goertel and Ali Youla complete the softball team's staff. Both Sparrey and the players said the coaches have significantly contributed to the team's dynamic outlook. "The new coaches have significantly changed the team. They brought a more energetic, vocal approach to coaching," Sparrey said. "I've learned so much from them already. They have fresh, new ideas and they connect to the team attitude. Just working in that atmosphere has really helped me learn."
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**No. 0120**

**ACROSS**

1. Appear 30. Letters in 'lithographic'
2. KLM competitor 31. 'Yay team!'
3. Promulgate 32. Patronizes, as a
4. Help the crew 33. Make compact, with 'up'
5. Paprika- 35. Groups on
6. One doing 36. Particle flux
7. Not trait! 37. Quark, as a
8. TV cartoon dog 38. Paper 'back'
9. Stain 40. Particle flux
color 10. Bicycle maker since 41. Density symbol
15. Some sports 42. Quechua-
cars, for short 43. Groups on
23. Out of Alice's 44. Quickening
novelist D鼹een 45. Sarcasm
26. Niche at Notre 46. Neither this nor
Dame 47. Place, in PERU
27. Baltic Sea 48. Cheek (Mayan city)
voyager, maybe 49. Hearts
28. Rudiments 50. Glossopy group
29. Cleaning pads 52. Lug
30. Cleaning pads 54. Place
31. Beating 55. Horace's 'Ars
32. Of course 56. Horace's 'Ars
33. Beating 57. What's brewing
34. Of course 58. A dash, maybe
35. Harasses 59. A dash, maybe
36. Ready for 60.
37. Twist 61. Wild
39. Not a reading 63. A dash, maybe
40. Not needing a 64. A dash, maybe
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