Mustang Daily - They're Just Like Us!

They eat chicken!

They listen to Michael Jackson!

They drink SPARKS!

They do the crossword!

MAY 23, 2005

gonzo
1. The Glass is Full
With a pint glass full of our favorite brew in hand, we penned these stories based on the truth.

2. The Glass is Half-Full
Whatever your outlook is, it's apparent that these articles have been embellished somehow... Hey, someone drank half my beer!

3. The Glass is Empty
It only takes one beer for a journalist to get drunk — I'm not sure if it's the eighth or ninth.

O B I T U A R Y

Hunter lives on in Gonzo

Allison Terry

"We were somewhere around Barrow on the edge of desert when the drugs began to take hold.

The first line in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," opens the world to the drug-induced, tormented and brilliant mind that was Hunter S. Thompson.

Thompson said his vision for "Fear and Loathing" revolved around the idea that "the eye & mind would be functioning as a camera. The writing would be selective & necessarily interpretive—but once the image was written, it would be final.

Thompson, the creator of gonzo journalism, committed suicide on Feb. 20. He shot himself in his Woody Creek, Colo. home, escaping suffering induced by a broken leg and hip replacement. His family and friends will honor his wishes by firing his ashes across the Colorado compound from a cannon.

"It was not so much a Hemingway death wish as a pragmatic, logical alternative to boredom and suffering," Douglas Brinkley, one of Thompson's editors, said in a Rolling Stone article.

"Tuesdays with Morrie" author Mitch Albom said of Thompson's suicide, "It's the end of an era, the end of a generation."

But somehow his drug-induced rambles were brilliant; genius, if you will. Thompson found his calling trying not to sound like "The New York Times." Defying conventional journalism, he threw objectivity to the wind, pioneering his own style and methods that were totally his own. He became the central figure in his articles, with plenty of references to drugs and alcohol. His take on everything was always the exact opposite of conventional wisdom, Brinkley said. "While not a contrarian, Hunter definitely saw the downside of any cherished plan or organized thought. Facts were, to his mind, always weirder than fiction.

Thompson's immortal words of advice will live on: "Buy the ticket. Take the ride."

Enlightening and hauntingly honest as is evident in the ESPN column he wrote the day following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks: "The towers are gone now, reduced to bloody rubble, along with all kind of dresses!

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Justin Pope and his wife C'ira, the shit!! A eat attack with no hint!!! f—kshit and Thumb hippo. Holy sh!t!! A cat attack with no hint!!! The only chance is run run run!!"

"Hello purple host of Mellow Madness, captured dumb, features Obispo olTHuchon Street and also which occurred in San Luis Obispo's heart with his sexy British Heart' and I was smitten."

Bat Sharp, Associated Press writer

"I knew I was in love after I...

Bob Lowe, fellow DJs Suggs and Patrick, Associated Press writer Justin Pope and his wife Cira, the First Lady of Crunk, will attend the ceremony. "Devon Kingdon

LOS ANGELES — Album sales tripled last week as millions of Americans heeded Will Smith's advice to not download and instead purchase a record.

In his hit song, "Switch," he states "Don't download, go out and by the record." Many wrote this off as just another initial rap by the man in black, but it has apparently stuck a cord with the public.

"Devon Kingdon

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Assistant sport editor Graham Womack has been confused with an escaped Men's Colony convict. Signed wants posted all over town feature,Womack's prison twin.

Ever since the photos were posted Saturday,Womack has been attacked by strangers on the street. Women screams and run in fear. Little children shriek in horror and men reach for their cell phones.

"It's frustrating being mistaken for the gay," Womack said. "I consider myself a pretty good looking gay".

—Ashlee Bodenhamer

Art's Boy scores one for team Jackson

In a case of mistaken identity, Montana Daily Arts and Culture editor Devon Kingdon has unexpectedly become the latest star witness for the defense team in the Michael Jackson trial.

After attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. mistakenly Kingdon for the star of "Free Willy" 1.2 and 3 — films for which Jackson contributed several tracks the Cal Poly journalism senior took the stand Friday afternoon, telling jurors the singer's 1987 hit record "Bad" is "probably one of my favorite albums of all time — definitely in the top third."

While on a break during Friday's proceedings, Jackson lawyer Mesereau spotted Kingdon dining at In 'N Out in Santa Maria. The defense team's lead attorney approached Kingdon, certain he was the "Free Willy" star former child actor Jason James Richter. "We've had such success with Macaulay Culkin and Corey Feldman and the Australian kid who choreographed the Betney Spears video," Mesereau said. "We thought we could use all the former male child stars we could get."

In a rush to get back to the courthouse for the afternoon session, Mesereau skipped the usual formalities involved in the subpoena process, and hurriedly asked Kingdon to testify in defense of Jackson. He agreed to go, thinking it might be fun to step inside the vortex of the world's most closely scrutinized, buzzed-about trial.

"I had driven all the way to Santa Maria, so I figured I could hang out awhile," he said.

It wasn't until Kingdon took the stand and stated his name for the record that Mesereau realized he had subpoenaed the wrong person.

"That Devin really is a dead ringer for the Free Willy kid," Mesereau said. Nevertheless, Kingdon proceeded to describe to jurors how he attended a Jackson concert in 1998, how he came out of his car to get an autograph and how Jackson himself suggested he come up on stage with Kingdon for a group shot.

"We were on the stage, and he was giving the boy a hug," Mesereau said. "He was smiling, and he said, 'This is the best hug ever.'"

Mesereau asked Kingdon, "What's the best hug ever?"

"Nope, never," Kingdon replied. "I've actually never met him, so there's certainly never been any inappropriate contact with him."

"So what you're saying is that your experiences involving Mr. Jackson have been nothing but positive and appropriate?" Mesereau concluded.

"Yes, that's correct," Kingdon answered. "I think I met Tom Sneddon sprang to his feet, protesting the irrelevance of the testimony — a move that Judge Rodney Melville quickly overruled.

www.asi.calpoly.edu/events 756-1112
Alani Ellis  

Mustang Daily Arts & Culture editor Devin Kingdon was fired yesterday for unnamed reasons. Editor Emily Wong had no comment and Managing Editor Allison Terry was unavailable at the time. It’s widely known that Kingdon was routinely seen at Mustang Daily’s offices early in the morning, before the bars open, to prepare for his day. It was confirmed that Kingdon had been at The Graduate. Apparentaly, he blacked out the night before and woke up in front of the trendy dance club.

After spending a whole day drinking and having dance-offs with himself, Kingdon stumbled downtown for another night of binge drinking. Before he made it downtown, San Luis Obispo pulled him over on his bike.

“We were routinely driving the streets when we saw this kid with no shirt on, wearing only see-through, white boardshorts and giggling uncontrollably,” SLOPD chief Deborah Linden said.

After the blood alcohol test, Police escorted to police headquarters. When Kingdon was informed that he was on his way to the police station and not another bar, he said, “Huh ... well ... Cee the crickets, this is awkward.”

Kingdon lost his job, his free time has increased tenfold, which led to a lot more binge drinking and a lot less responsibility.

Pictured prior to the arrest, Kingdon, center, partakes in a straw shot with the Grove Street ladies and a completely sober Bryan Esterly.

Elizabeth Engelman  

A Cal Poly professor received GQ Magazine’s Most Stylish Man of the Year Award. Journalism Professor John Soares flew to Paris believing he won an actual GQ award. He was up against tough competition including Johnny Depp.

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Welcome to the ‘Dark Side’

You should all know by now that I am one of the most liberal Democrats out there. My friends and I love to get together to bash Bush, and I still haven't taken the John Kerry bumper sticker off my compact car. But we got to thinking the other day, and we have some serious concerns about the modern Democratic Party.

We realized that the Democratic Party is a divided house and we need to unite in order to win support of the country.

Groups such as the environmentalists, unions, gay rights, minority rights, abortion rights and the anti-war crowd fail to unite their party behind a single banner. Instead, these individual groups polarize our supporters and galvanize our opposition.

Democratic Sen. Zell Miller said that Democrats are “being cannibalized, eaten alive by the special-interest groups with their single-issue constituents who care about their own narrow agenda.” He is a moderate Democrat, a breed that is quickly becoming extinct.

While I am considerably more liberal than Sen. Miller, the man does have a point. We cannot continue to ignore the American political center or they will begin to ignore us.

For years we have been the party of the little people, fighting for mainstream Americans, but we are slipping into increasingly liberal policies and away from the average voters.

Howard Dean is the worst politician I have ever seen. He brought us together in our struggling party. But he brought us together in extinction.

While I do not work well for us in the past: McGovern, Johnson, Mondale and Kerry all supported the the left of the American political spectrum and they all lost their elections.

To have a chance, we need to embrace centrist Democrats like Bill Clinton.

Even though Clinton didn’t win 50 percent of the popular vote in either election, he did win the presidency both times. Clinton was able to do the one thing that we need to get our Democratic Party off of life support: He brought us together in the center.

Go Donkeys!

Matt Buchanan is a civil engineering junior and Mustang Daily columnist. Look for his final column Thursday.

COMMENTARY

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, Josh Kob was seduced by the “Dark Side of the Force.” Coming under the influence of “Emperor Sith Lord” Karl Rove, Kob started to oppose everything good in the galactic universe, including liberalism and democracy. He no longer saw the need to ensure the survival of the Galactic Empire. He believed an Empire ruled by “Darth Bush” was the solution to true peace. Kob became a leading general in the Empire’s army and even took the name of the last Emperor, Senator Zell Miller.

Unfortunately, the anti-war crowd fail to unite their party behind a single banner. Instead, these individual groups polarize our supporters and galvanize our opposition.

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Go Donkeys!

Matt Buchanan is a civil engineering junior and Mustang Daily columnist. Look for his final column Thursday.

Nonetheless, hope you’re OK, and thanks for the reprieve during your leave of absence. Somehow we expect you’ll be back.

opinion@mustangdaily.net

Letter in chief

Spelling, grammar errors appear in letters every day

I am absolutely appalled at the way in which the English language is mistreated in Letters to the Editor.

Language standards are slipping steadily and no one is doing anything to remedy the situation. It is also incredibly insensitive to use grammar, punctuation and spelling in that manner.

One of the most common mistakes is writing every day as one word when it is usually two. Every time you make a word when it is adjective; when it is an adverb, which is most of the time, it is wrong.

Another universal mistake is the misuse of the semicolon. The semicolon is NOT a comma; it is designed to separate two independent, but closely related, clauses. It could never please a big fan! Lose some time debating and a little more time focusing on accuracy. It is, after all, getting published in the campus newspaper.

Take it from us, because we’re forced to read your letters on an everyday basis.

The copy editors also “glorified spell checkers”

To our beloved, volunteer columnists: Thanks a bunch

Monday, Matt
The Bush Administration hears you — and we do too! Thanks for always coming to visit and keeping us in check.

Tuesday, Blake
Even though you hated our editing skills, somehow we made it through with a few trips to Mom and Father’s. Thanks for the good memories.

Wednesday, Josh
Stop being so controversial! We had to stop printing all the letters about you and your crazy liberal column.

Thursday, Carrie
Troublesheeter! Thanks for adding your professional journalistic skills to the paper. We couldn’t have asked for a better investigative reporter.

Friday, Jane and Stacy
We admire your dedication to the Power Health Education and to informing students about health-related issues. Thanks for sharing your passion.

Your editors

We’ll gladly edit your columns

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THE MUSTANG DAILY EVEN BETTER!

BY EMAIL: opinion@mustangdaily.net

We are your editors. But we can’t do it all.

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We are your editors. But we can’t do it all.

Your opinion is valuable to us.
All of life's questions can be answered with six more drinks

Q: I really need to get crunk, where should I go?

Drunk Guy says: Hello, my sweet child. There is only one place you need to go: Bull's Tavern. It is hands down the best place to crazy at for a number of reasons. They have the best jukebox on the planet (where else can you play the Bloodhound Gang's "Bad Touch," "It's Raining Men" and some Johnny Cash. Bull's is also great because no matter how drunk you are, they will still serve you another Long Island Iced Tea. You'll never hear the phrase "You've cut off" from any of its employees. Also, there is no where else in town that features Budweiser for the everyday low price of $1.50. Unbeatable.

Q: My girlfriend and I are starting to have some problems. She wants to "connect" on a higher level and I don't know if I'm ready for that. I'm scared and alone.

Drunk Guy says: ... But pretty. Go pound a beer.

Q: Lately when I go out, I wake up the next morning with random bruises everywhere. Is that chill?

Drunk Guy says: Absolutely. Wear those bruises like badges of honor from Operation: Desert Storm. Bruises prove that you came, you saw, you conquered. If you are truly trying to have the night of your life, there is going to be some collateral damage.

Q: My friends make fun of me for ordering shots of white rum. Is that taboo?

Drunk Guy says: Yes and no. It's not the classiest shot you could get, but at least there is booze in it, that's what's important. You definitely won't impress any ladies with it, but at least it's not burning a hole in the pocketbook, like a shot of person would. The white rum is a smart move if you just want to get the job done.

Q: Where is the best place to pre-party?

Drunk Guy Says: Hands down: The Graduate. Wednesday nights, if you're 21, feature 25 cent draft beers until 11 p.m. The Grad often gets a bums wrap, but where else can you freak ugly people from Santa Maria?

Q: My friends want to have a party, but we don't drink. Is a root beer leg ok?

Drunk Guy says: First of all, I hate you. Secondly, die. What a complete waste of money. Nobody wants to go to a party where there is only a root beer keg. Go be a resident adviser in Trinity Hall. I have a question for you. Is it hard being hated by everyone?

Q: Does it count as cheating if I'm drunk?

Drunk Guy says: No. Next question.

Q: Sometimes I get wasted and think I'm better than everyone. Does this make me a had person?

Drunk Guy says: Absolutely not. Odds are if you are getting trashed, you probably are better than everyone. Every morning before I pound a Sparks, I tell myself the exact same thing. Why? Because we are better than everyone.

Drunk Guy says: Hands down: The Graduate.
Cactus

continued from page 8

He would always show up three hours before a game and just sit in the locker room. Asked about this ritual Johns responded, “I really didn’t have anything else to do in college. I slept down to 14 hours a day and when basketball wasn’t on, it was 16 hours a day. The rest of the day I would spend eating and playing Nintendo. I didn’t get out too much, but I heard from my roommate how great a college town Cal Poly was.”

When he left Cal Poly, Johns went to work for his father on the turd farm.

“I really didn’t have any other job offers,” Johns said. “Even though I was not drafted into the NBA, I had teams offering me contracts, but my dad needed me to help run the farm.”

Croquet

continued from page 8

bad croquet play, not gambling and cheating.

But if you’re ever in the avenue, maybe it’s the view, maybe it’s the food, maybe it’s the lights. The Animals’ connection, and also the view overlooking the whole truth came out. Many athletes enjoy the corner overlooking the avenue and the colors of the street, the whole avenue.

Although Beuchat denies any connection to the gambling ring, officials said “all of Cal Poly’s intramural sports have been terminated.”

The investigation is expected to take the remainder of the semester and possibly a month. “All involved hope this process will move quickly, but we are unsure as to a correct time table because there could be more than we currently suspect,” an Associated Students Inc. official said. “Hopefully this mess will be resolved and those students involved will be held accountable for their actions.”

“People authorities. It is estimated that the seven men were accountable for their actions. Hopefully this mess will be resolved and those students involved will be held accountable for their actions.”

When pressed to answer what teams would have interested in him, Johns was less forthcoming, saying he didn’t remember specifics but that the teams were “really, really good ones.”

In 2004, just a year out of college, Johns was honored by being inducted into the Cal Poly Hall of Fame. His father paid for the induction ceremonies and announced midway through that he would be financing a new basketball gym.

“It was an honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, but to be frank, I expected this award,” Johns said. “I said I was such a great athlete at Cal Poly and I had an opportunity to go pro, but my dad needed me to help run the farm.”

The new gym has still not been built but at least Coach Broyles has an Escalade to chauffeur recruits around in, purchased around the same time Johns’ dad made his largest donation to the college ever.

money because they have been on average 8.1% favorite in matches.

When we lose, we lose with class,” Benhat said. “This team should be really good, but we can be honest. I’m a little embarrassed to call myself the captain.”

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MUSTY wardrobe malfunction!

Kristen Oato
MUSTANG DAILY

The football game began just like any other. The stands overflowed with students and spectators cheered throughout the first half. But no one could have predicted what would unfold at halftime.

The Morro Bay Drill Team for Senior Citizens came first, igniting the crowd with the performance of Janet Jackson’s "All for You." Then, the pep band began playing a dance remix to the Cal Poly football song, "Ride High, You Mustangs." Out of nowhere, a spotlight turned the crowd’s attention to the center of the field.

The school’s mascot, Musty the Mustang, stood alone, dressed in revealing black leather. The pony tossed fans by greeting to the music. The crowd reacted in shock and amazement. A spokesperson for the university assured no one knew of the mascot’s costume except for the cheer leading and that the fine would not be paid.

Dan Watson
MUSTANG DAILY

An Avenue of absolute horror

It started more than a year ago. A story so incredible, a tip so incredulous, an adventure unexplainably bringing me to a terrible secret and journey I couldn’t not forget in 10 lifetimes.

I was a young reporter trying to make a name for myself. Now, I’m scared by a horrible realization.

I stare at the aftermath of a broken story that only brought pain, horror and a harsh tongue-lashing from the Cal Poly Foundation.

The whistle blew remainder to this day unraveled, and his family protected by the Secret Service.

On an October day, this person, Bill Roberts Hastings, told me about potential athletic activity in the Avenue. I laughed at it off at first, but it dug into my very soul. If it was true it would mean the world.

But for the love of sweet yellow journalism, it was so very right.

I had to get on the inside. That’s when Chick-Fil-A gave me a job.

I hated those chicken sandwich, but I’d make a thousand just to get a shot, to get confirmation.

If free will had any say in this, the athlete’s weren’t simply deciding to meet at the avenue…. no, they were being forced. Kept like horses in a cage — their dreams and everything stocked with subpar food, yet decent prices and good upkeep, but, nevertheless, disgusting eats.

Dressing as an Avenue worker, I used my work breaks to survey the vast building for signs of jocks — in others words, someone not doing homework.

Crawling on the floor pretending to pick up trash, I scoured the room for the truth while weaving between tables.

And then, in the darkest corner, the lowest low, I found my answer. There they were, basketball player, a football player, John Stamos and a bear. Something was completely out of order, a hoops player and football athlete!

I sat under the table and began to tug on the basketball player’s jeans. That’s when I got kicked in the jaw, leaving four teeth.

Come see Avenue, page 7

Sanctuary from the exposed stallion. The lowest low, I found my answer.

Croquet is terminated

Erick Smith
MUSTANG DAILY

The tranquility of Cal Poly’s innumerable advances on the game has been shattered by lies and deception. Members of the team Animals United began to lay side wagers with a student-athlete to break the game’s booking.

The Football Clothing Commission released a statement Sunday indicating they would slap Cal Poly with a $120000 fine and bar Mustang football from future contests. A spokesperson for the university assured no one knew of the mascot’s costume except for the cheer leading and that the fine would not be paid.

Brian J. Lambdin
MUSTANG DAILY

Cactus Jack Johns: He always showed up

When it came to choosing a college, though, the choice was obvious for Johns: He had to come to Cal Poly. His father, Marty, had been a star Mustang for one year before a torn muscle in his big toe ended his basketball career and forced him into a life of turd farming.

Nonetheless, Marty is one of the largest donors to the Mustang athletic program.

"I know Cac is a role player but he is just what this team needs. He brings a lot to the table, even if he doesn’t score a lot, on or off the court," Bromley said.

Just showing up is what Johns has been doing all year. He was a ‘C’ student in high school and in college, always just managed to stay eligible.

"In college, classes weren’t my thing," Johns said, "I was not only the playing time that drew Johns to Cal Poly, but also the full-ride scholarship something Bromley vehemently believed his hoops. A second later, the top portion of Mustang’s costume fell to the ground.

Everyone gasped at the sight, parents rushing to shield their children from the exposed stallion. The spotlight shut off, and Musty quickly galloped away into the darkness.

That horse did it on purpose," spectator James Rogers said. "It was a publicity trick, plain and simple. The indecency of the stunt is disgusting. Mascots everywhere should be ashamed.

PETA called the incident inhumane, demanding the Mustang change their name to “the Acomos.” The Football Clothing Commission released a statement indicating they would slap Cal Poly with a $120000 fine and bar Mustang football from future contests. A spokesperson for the university assured no one knew of the mascot’s costume except for the cheer leading and that the fine would not be paid.

"This is a proud day for Cal Poly," Baker told reporters. "Finally, this is a hash bar, but that’s even better!

It will be yet another change for Mustang sporting events. This spring, university officials began allowing beer sales at Cal Poly baseball gathies. The sales were to be on a trial basis, but were wildly successful, its revenues protected attendance, cash revenue and a sudden mass enjoyment of baseball.

Now comes a bar that will have "every type of beer imaginable and cheap too," Baker said.

Joining Baker onstage Thursday was Joannio Escobar, the newly appointed Cal Poly Drug Kingpin. Escobar stood silent for the minute conference and declined an interview request, saying only, "If you make me look stupid, my Colombian associates will have you killed.

Administrators are currently planning to grow this fall’s hash supply on nine acres of campus land. To have a labor force for the crop, administrators will allow students to sign up for a new major, Exotic Plant Cultivation, starting this summer.

Bar costs for the bar are expected to run in the mid-six figures, said a Mustang administrator who requested anonymity, with funds needed to cover everything from additional security for games to three times the usual amount of Donor’s needed for concession stands.

The bar plans are expected to be ready in time for next season. Although art and forestry senior Kevin Dingdon is excited.

"I’m a little near-sighted. Some how, I don’t have to study for my midterm tomorrow."

Frank Beuchat said. "This is a setup, and we have to be ready for anything."

Animals are throwing their matches. The tranquil world of the fighting champion has come believing the Animals are throwing their matches.

"Our team has done nothing wrong, and I maintain our integrity and honesty," Animals’ captain Dan Beuchat said. "This is a setup, and everyone knows we are the victims of yellow journalism, it was so very right."