COAG donates books to Nangarhar University

Karen Velle
Academic Affairs

Imagine attending a university where not only an education and accommodations are free, but female students are paid pocket money to attend.

Now imagine classrooms that are bare, except for chairs and a blackboard, electricity works intermittently and there is a shortage of professors. That is the reality at Nangarhar University in Afghanistan.

Through the efforts of Mark Shelton, associate dean of Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, over 200 textbooks have been donated to Nangarhar University. The books are from the College of Agriculture with subjects in weed science, natural resources, entomology, botany and human nutrition.

"They have lost so much after 20 years of war," Shelton said. "Part of the problem they're facing now is rebuilding the university."

Shelton, a member of the Rotary Club of San Luis Obispo de Isoba, hosted Mohammad Tahir Torakay, professor of agronomy at Nangarhar University, for five days in May through the Rotary International Group Study Exchange Program. Torakay and other members of his party spent a month touring universities and facilities in California and Arizona.

Rotary International is a worldwide organization consisting of businesses and professional leaders that provide humanitarian services. The Group Study Exchange program offers opportunities to study other cultures and promotes "friendly relations among the people of the world."

Tri-Cities Blood Bank looking for donations

Jennifer Gongaware
April 5, 2005

The Tri-Cities Blood Bank is in dire need of donations this summer, and is critically dependent on Cal Poly students.

Scott Edwards, Community Relations Director for the blood bank, said during the regular school year there is reliance on sponsorships from fraternities, clubs and other groups to get a large number of donations.

"The support from Cal Poly is high compared to that of other college campuses," Edwards said. "Blood type O, both positive and negative, is particularly in need, yet, those living with anemia, leukemia or cancer may be in need of type B or AB.

"Typically people donate because of personal experiences with those who need a lot of blood, usually because of cancer," said Jama Nichols, marketing specialist for the blood bank. "Also, because they feel it's the right thing to do, you can't manufacture it (blood) and there's no other source."

Only three to five percent of those who are eligible actually donate, Nichols said.

To qualify to donate one must be at least 17 years old, at least 110 pounds, feeling well and healthy, have no sore throat or fever on donation day and be off antibiotics for at least 24 hours.

The process is easy and takes around an hour, Nichols said. First, the donor's ID is verified and basic information is given. Then the phlebotomist, a vein specialist, conducts a confidential interview and the donor's iron level is checked by a prick of the finger. Then through a prick close to the elbow, the actual donation is given, which takes around ten minutes. 150 donors are needed every day by the blood bank according to the Web site.

"Really it comes down to people giving up an hour of their time," Edwards said. "For a lot of people, the hardest thing is the needle."

At www.bloodlife.org, students can find a blood drive, schedule a donation and check on their appointment history.

Steroids: Another baseball great falls victim

Our A&E editor reviews Adam Levine and Maroon 5 at the Fair

IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, 4

Tri-Cities Blood Bank

Canyon blaze

A 3-acre brush fire, started by a power line, began burning Tuesday at 12 p.m. in Poly Canyon. The fire was attended to by crews from the San Luis Obispo Fire Department and the County Department of Forestry. The crews managed to extinguish the fire by 2:45 p.m. with help from overhead as a CDF helicopter dropped water from a nearby reservoir on the blaze. No injuries were reported and there were no evacuations.

GRC endowment honors professor

Christopher Gunn
April 5, 2005

Cal Poly president Warren J. Baker has appointed a new dean for the university's College of Engineering.

Mohammad N. Noori will be assuming the full scope of his new responsibilities as the dean of Cal Poly's College of Engineering beginning mid-October.

The search for a new dean began with the retirement of Peter Y. Lee, who led the department for the past 17 years.

Noori, a current professor at North Carolina State University, has 13 years of experience leading multiple departments at the state and private levels.

From the applicant pool, Noori was hired because of his breadth of experience and accomplishment as well as the manner in which he presents himself, said Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Detweiler.

"Noori is a well-qualified fellow and a very fine fellow himself." Detweiler said in reference to why Noori was chosen.

Cal Poly's College of Engineering is currently the No. 3 program within public schools behind the U.S. Military Academy.

CENG has new dean

see Noori, page 2

see Books, page 2
Torakay attended lectures, toured agricultural facilities and enjoyed sightseeing in the area. "We don't have modern resources for the advantage of our students, including a library and laboratories," Torakay said in an interview with the Mustang Daily from Afghanistan. "The time has been needed when the College of Agriculture (Nangarhar) must be developed as soon as possible."

There is an international effort to eradicate the cultivation of poppies in Afghanistan which accounts for more than 70 percent of the world's opium supply. There is a need for farmers to have the ability to produce alternative crops that will provide them with an adequate financial return, according to Torakay and other expert sources. While at Cal Poly, Torakay was struck with the quality and number of books. He indicated to Shelton that at Nangarhar University the books are out of date. Most of the existing textbooks were written in the 1970s and are primarily in Russian. The students can read English, it is a required subject in school, Shelton gathered textbook donations from various departments in the College of Agriculture. The books will be shipped to Afghanistan free of charge by the San Francisco based Asia Foundation's "Books for Asia" program. There are currently 4,000 students and 285 school staff at Nangarhar University.

Endowment continued from page 1
"Terr's main objective was to create an environment that all of us in printing could be proud of," said Madison, according to a press release. "For 27 years he and I worked side-by-side to develop and grow ColorGraphics. Over the years we became more like brothers than business partners."

Along with his professional duties at ColorGraphics Inc., Bell had a major role in the education of graphic arts students at Cal Poly.

"Terr Bell was an industry icon in Cal Poly's Graphic Communication Department and the university is providing a visible and lasting tribute to him and the beneficent effect he helped build," Levenson said... He served on the department advisory board and helped shape the way we think about educating graphic arts students," in a press release last month.

Bell passed away Thursday, May 19th due to health problems. He was 62 and had worked with ColorGraphics since 1979.
NYPD officials reveal details of London bombing

Tom Hays

NEW YORK (AP) - The suicide bombers cooked up their explosives using mundane items like hydrogen peroxide. They stored them in a fancy commercial refrigerator that was out of place in their grubby apartment. And cell phones were likely used to set the bombs off.

Those details from the July 7 London bombing emerged Wednesday at an unusually wide-ranging briefing given by the New York Police Department to city business leaders.

The briefing — based partly on information obtained by NYPD detectives who were dispatched to London to monitor the investigation — was part of a program designed to encourage more vigilance by private security at large hotels, Wall Street firms, storage facilities and other companies.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly warned the materials and methods used in the London attack were easily adaptable to New York.

"Initially it was thought that perhaps the materials were high-end military explosives that were smuggled, but it turns out not to be the case," Kelly said. "It’s more like these terrorists went to a hardware store or some beauty supply store.

The NYPD officials said investigators believe the bombers used a peroxide-based explosive called HMDT, or hexamethyl triperoxide dinitramine. HMDT can be made using ordinary ingredients like hydrogen peroxide (that bleach), citric acid (a common food preservative) and heat tablets (sometimes used by the military for cooking).

HMDT degrades at room temperature, so the bombers preserved it in a way that offered an early warning sign, said Michael Sheehan, deputy commissioner of counterterrorism at the nation’s largest police department.

"In the loft house where this was built in Leeds, they had commercial grade refrigerators to keep the materials cool," Sheehan said, describing the setup as "an indicator of a problem."

Among the other details cited by NYPD officials:

• The bombers transported the explosives in beverage coolers tucked in the back of two cars to the outskirts of London.

• Investigators believe the three bombs that exploded in the subway were detonated by cell phones that had timers set to 8:30 a.m.

• Similar "explosive compounds" were used in the attempted attack in London on July 21. However, the detonators were hand-activated, not timed.

Sheehan said the NYPD was troubled by information it had received about the bombers’ links to "organizations" but he did not name any groups.

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No fans, no problem

Phantom Planet manages to make a name for itself at the Fair despite initial blank stares from Maroon 5-loving crowd.

Cluster by cluster, giddy fans were corralled into the Grandstand arena and then into Maroon 5’s world, as the band dressed up in their unique boy-like uniform and opened their set with the first song, “The (H i song.” Then Levine made sure to mention the band’s impatient crowd. “Well, Maroon 5 is finally going to release new songs.”

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

Don't worry, the Summer Mustang staff did. Here's what you missed.

Making it harder for fans to breathe

With the sun below the horizon and the cool breeze blowing, the smell of manure, mixed with the strong smell of the Fair — garlic fries, kettle corn and corn dogs — I was on the brink of seeing my lunch splattered on my shoes. Looking around me, however, it seemed everyone else was immune to the stench.

And then it hit me! I know why everyone was unfazed: They have Maroon 5 on their mind.

Then just 10 minutes to 9 p.m., the Los Angeles quartet — Adam Levine, vocals/guitar; Jesse Carmichael, keyboard; Mickey Madden, bass; and Ryan Dusick, drums — appeared amidst a huge cloud of smoke and began their set to flash cameras.

Not being a Maroon 5 connoisseur myself, I went on to get the opinions of concertgoers small and tall.

Mikaela Manton, 14, and her family came up from Valencia to catch Maroon 5. Her first Maroon 5 concert: Mikaela was hoping to hear her favorite song, “Harder to Breathe,” and as if they heard her, the band played the song just minutes into their set.

Mikaela’s mom, 39-year-old Sandra Manton, was just as excited to be there. Her favorite show? “We met them!” she screamed.

And it’s true. Many of the Mansion fans poured all their energy into screaming and applauding Maroon 5, Levine made sure to mention the band’s appreciation. Then the high-pitch scream of the first fan who saw a stealthy Levine run back on stage set-off an explosion of cheers for Maroon 5 during the California Mid-State Fair opening night concert.

Levine, vocals/guitar: “We’re here for Phantom Planet.” McCool and her friends have watched the band three times, simply said, “It was awesome.”

“This is one of my favorite shows.”

After being showered with gifts — from stuffed animals to assorted lingerie — Levine said, “You guys are making us smile up here.”

To return the favor, the band made sure to play their career staples such as “This Love” and “Sunday Morning.”

Levine, sounding slightly apologetic for riding the wave of their last album “Songs for Jane”: “For nearly three years, told the crowd the band is finally going to release new songs. As a teaser, the band played, “I Can’t Stop Thinking About You.”

Personally, I wasn’t impressed, mainly because I’m not really into hair riffs that sound like “bow-wow-wow-wow.” But I have to give it to them, they created a song catchy enough that even the 8-year-old behind me was singing along as soon as the second chorus came around.

After 11 songs, the band exited and left the crowd in darkness. In disbelief, the crowd continued to hum their seats, screaming and chanting, hoping for just “one more song.”

Then, for a split second, I thought some of the Fair’s cattle got loose because all of a sudden the arena was filled with the loud sound of thousands of stomping feet. So my relief, it wasn’t a stampede, it was just an overeager and impatient crowd.

Then the high-pitch scream of the first fan who saw a stealthy Levine run back on stage.

Don’t worry, the Summer Mustang staff did. Here’s what you missed.
An Islamic Iraq could be a bad Iraq

Daniel Underwood  
TEACHERS (N.C. STATE)  
RALEIGH, N.C. — I almost passed out when I read the news headline the other day, "Iraq Draft Constitution Gives Islam Key Role."  

In one single moment, I could see everything our troops are fighting for in Iraq going up in a big puff of smoke. Once Saddam was removed — much to the chagrin of the ACLU, Amnesty International and the Democrats in the United States Congress — there was the hope of better days to come, for Americans and for Iraqis.  

America would no longer have to worry about this, win or lose, Saddam's terrorist threats or mutual-anti-American terrorist groups, and the Iraqi people would be spared the horrors of a secret police rigging the RKG of the 1950s. But now that Islam may be taking an even stronger hold upon Iraq — being constitutional law, as opposed to simply the mood of the culture — these dreams may be short lived.  

The draft constitution boldly declares that "Islam is the official religion of the state and is the main source of legislation."  

Apparantly this is not simply an attempt to placate temporal Sunni and Shia politicians, but the establishing of a radical religious government. The framers of the draft constitution unapologetically place Islamic law, or Sharia, as the sole source of legislation: "No law that contradicts with (Islamic) rules can be promulgated," reads the draft.  

Obviously, a nation can be a threat to human rights without being Islamic. And, by the same token, just because a nation is Islamic, that nation is not necessarily a threat to human rights.  

There are many governments which have incorporated a fair amount of Sharia law into their policy-making, yet have remained sufficiently secular to ensure the human rights of non-Muslims — Indonesia and Jordan are two prime examples. But when nations choose the path of pure Islam, the entanglements are often far too destrable. According to the New York Times, in Saudi Arabia, stoning and amputation are penalties meted out for crimes such as adultery and petty theft.  

An article in The Straits Times (Singapore) succinctly noted that much of the Islamic law propagated in Saudi Arabia "prevented" Saudis from embracing a world where religious tolerance and a diverse society held the key to the survival and prosperity of all nations.

ratings system for games not foolproof

Adam Stoves  
co-editor  
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - With each passing day, the line between what is real and what is not seems to become more and more unclear.  

What with all of the so-called "new terror-war-shooting that-guy graphics in our video games, who would beg to differ? But less hype has been credited to the realistic look of the games, and no longer is linked to the real-world scenarios these games support.  

I'm sure everyone has heard the old adage, "the only good video game is a dead video game." and the questionable developments that occur once one is playing.

Well I haven't seen such an out-cry for censorship since Tipper Gore fought for those little "Parental Advisories" labels to be slapped on music discs. Now I am not saying that I don't agree with the argument. If I had a 10 year old, I wouldn't want him or her hearing this.

I wouldn't want him or her messing around with fabricated proportions. What I'm saying is that the war unleashed on the video game industry is one that should have been launched on another aspect of the entertainment industry ages ago.  

I know that "R" rated movies are reserved for those who are 17, but has anyone ever seen that really enforced? I know that I have never been asked for any sort of I.D. at any "R" rated movie I've been to.  

Sure, in theory movie theatres aren't supposed to sell these tickets to kids under 17, but that rule isn't implemented. I don't think that any parent should be so surprised that a kid could buy a video game with a mature rating, when that same kid could go see practically any movie showing today. Yes, it's nice to think that you could keep everything misinformation and risky away from children who don't need to be exposed to it, but the fact of the matter is that you can't, at least not right now.

LETTER DAILY POLICY

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By e-mail: opinion@mustangdaily.net
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Steroids
continued from page 8
"60 Minutes" Camero — who also testified before Congress — said he had injected Palmero with steroids.
Camero told CNBC on Monday that while he accused Palmero of prior use, "I do not believe right now or recently Rafael Palmero has taken steroids."
"There could be a metabolite from the past," Camero said. "No one really knows how long steroids last in your actual system."
I dent Jim Ileattie agreed.
"I do support the efforts in drug testing by Major League Baseball and the Players Association in order to maintain the trust of our fans," he said. "It is very unfortunate that process has brought us to this situation at hand."
Playing without the 40-year-old Palmero on Monday, the Orioles lost 3-0 to the White Sox, their 12th defeat in 13 games. Baltimore played brilliantly in the first half of the season, occupying first place in the AL East for two months and giving Palmero cause to believe he might get to the World Series for the first time.
Upon his return from the suspension, he first hopes to regain the trust of his teammates. Palmero will then try to help the Orioles salvage a season that has taken a dramatic turn for the worse.
"I hope I can save their support and understanding of what I'm going through," he said. "Hopefully they can accept me and let me come back and find the season and help them get back to the playoffs.
""The commissioner manager Lee Mazzilli said his players were "little disappointed," but wanted to support their teammate. "The timing obviously is not good."
Athletics
continued from page 6
n run is something he'll never forget."
"This is one of my top moments in baseball," Johnson said. "It was above the College World Series. Coming home like this and knowing that all my family and friends were here to see me play for the first time in the big leagues, it was just a good feeling."
There are plenty of good feelings in Oakland these days. After a 6-2 loss to Cleveland on May 29, the A's trailed the Los Angeles Angels by 12 1/2 games in the AL West. But they were 19 times in June, 20 times in July and have started August 1-8 to pull within one game of the Angels. They hold a two-game lead over the New York Yankees in the wild card race.
"There's nothing you can do but hope," manager Tony La Russa said. "I don't have an answer for it. We work hard in batting practice, but when it comes to the game, it's nothing."
Palmeiro's immortality called into question

Potential Hall of Fame Orioles first baseman stood firm on March 17, 2005 to deny the use of performance enhancing drugs.

Orioles first baseman Rafael Palmeiro was recently suspended for violating baseball's steroid policy

David Ginsburg

BALTIMORE (AP) - When Rafael Palmeiro became the fourth player in major league history to collect 3,000 hits and 500 home runs, his status as a future member of the Hall of Fame seemed somewhat secure.

That topic is again open for discussion, along with a new one: Palmeiro's credibility.

Five months after telling Congress he never used steroids, Palmeiro insisted he ingested a banned substance by accident.

"When I testified in front of Congress, I know that I was testifying under oath and I told the truth," the Baltimore Orioles first baseman said during a telephone conference call. "Today I am telling the truth again that I did not do this intentionally or knowingly."

Palmeiro's peers could only hope he was being honest. "I don't know who he's been taking, but personally I don't think he's taken anything illegally," Chicago White Sox pitcher Mark Buehrle said. "I don't think he's ever taken steroids or anything illegally to help himself to play."

That opinion was shared by White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen.

"It's a shame," Guillen said. "If he did it, and a mistake was made, I don't have anything bad to say about Rafael. Rafael is a great player."

Certainly, the numbers Palmeiro has put up are a testament to his greatness. On July 15, he joined Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Eddie Murray as the only players with 3,000 hits and 500 home runs.

Baseball would not say when the positive test occurred, but there's a chance that he joined that exclusive fraternity while steroids were in his system.

If nothing else, those who decide his entrance into the Hall of Fame might wonder if his lofty numbers were the product of tal­ent — or steroids.

I hope that people look at my whole career and appreciate that I've given everything that I've got," Palmeiro said. "I respect the Hall of Fame, and if they think that I'm worthy enough, I would be very honored. And if they don't, I gave it all that I had to this game."

Palmeiro, 40, was adamant in his assertion that he accidentally ingested the drug, particularly because on March 17 he declared before a congressional committee, "I have never used steroids.

Period."

Without being specific, the four-time All-Star left the implication that the banned substance was con­ained in a supplement that was not prescribed.

"Why would I do this in a year when I was going to face Congress and I testified and I told the truth?" he said. "Why would I do this during a season where I was going to get a 5,000 hit?"

Palmeiro also expressed indignation over accusations made by former slugger Jose Canseco, who cited Palmeiro as a steroid user in his book. In an interview on the CBS television show "60 Minutes," Canseco said Palmeiro "is a crazy person." Christopher Shays of Connecticut, the No. 2 Republican on the committee that investigated steroids in baseball, said in a telephone interview: "I ended up being the most outspoken against steroid use, and even this guy is in a situation where he's been suspended. It just blows me away. Obviously, it calls into question every accomplishment he's had."

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Athletics are hot. Halos not