Alumni brothers stitch together shirt company

Thao Tran  
MUSTANG DAILY

Most people opening a business expect the financial burdens and hard work involved, but undermine responsibilities such as gathering equipment, collecting materials or hiring quality employees. Co-founder of the Left Coast T-shirt Company, James Whitaker said quality employees were one of the hardest assets to find. "Most people who are talented and smart generally leave the area and work somewhere else," Whitaker said.

Whitaker, a Cal Poly business graduate, co-founded The Left Coast T-shirt Company two and half years ago, but first launched Quikcondoms.com in 1999 with his brother David Whitaker. James Whitaker was 19 years old and his brother David Whitaker was 20 years old when the two entrepreneurs established the online company.

Quikcondoms.com is an online service company that sells condoms, packaged and mailed, to customers as far as China, Japan and England. James Whitaker said condoms are the "perfect items to sell online."

"That company is awesome and it brings in more revenue than the Left Coast T-shirt Company," the 26-year-old entrepreneur Whitaker said.

He added that he was lucky to have a computer-savvy brother to establish the site because "it would have cost us $10,000 to make."

Whitaker graduated from the Cal Poly College of Business with a concentration he personally developed to advance his skills in entrepreneurship.

It took Whitaker seven years to graduate due to responsibilities and dedication for the online business. "I was the worst student a college has ever seen. I'd read the newspaper in the back of class," he said. "It took me seven years to finish, seven years of tuition, four to eight units at a time. I sacrificed a fast college life for the business."

The Left Coast T-shirt Company opened thereafter. The brothers started out buying T-shirts from local competitors.

see Business, page 2

ASI president chosen as a finalist for CSU student trustee

Christopher Gunn  
MUSTANG DAILY

The life of any architectural engineering senior is busy. The responsibilities of the Associated Students Inc. president is immense.

Tylor Middlestadt does both, and now he’s ready to take on yet another task.

On Nov. 11, the California State Student Association (CSSA) submitted its second list of candidates for the position of CSU student trustee to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Middlestadt was on it, representing one of three students within the CSU system to be chosen as a CSU student trustee finalist.

"I am just proud to be considered for the position," Middlestadt said. "It really is the primary student advocate in the CSU system."

As to why he thinks he was chosen, Middlestadt replied, "I have been consistently involved at a statewide level over the past two years and have demonstrated that I’m committed to serving the students and whatever it takes to get things done."

The trustee will be appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger, after the candidates are examined, for the 2005-07 term.

Despite the fact that Middlestadt is busy, he said that he will have enough time to dedicate to the position.

see Middlestadt, page 2

House rejects bill to freeze Pell Grants

Erika Cervantes  
THE MUSTANG DAILY

LA JOLLA, Calif. — The U.S. House of Representatives rejected a compromise spending bill that would have blocked future Pell Grant increases. The 224-209 vote on Nov. 17 included unanimous Democratic opposition, which was bolstered by votes from 22 Republicans and one Independent.

College groups opposed the bill specifically because it would have kept federal Pell Grants at a maximum $4,050 per student, an amount that has remained stagnant despite inflation and tuition increases, according to Rep. Styen H. Hoyer (D-Md.).

The bill would also have kept financial aid programs at their 2005 levels.

"At a time when we should be striving to make our students the most competitive in the world, this [bill] would have cut our investment in education by $59 million below current levels," Hoyer stated in a Nov. 18 press release. "It would have frozen Pell Grants for college students for the fourth year in a row, even as tuition and fees have increased by 46 percent since 2001."

Pell Grants provide need-based aid to more than 5 million low- and middle-income undergraduate students. Their families pay the cost of postsecondary education and vocational training, according to the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Nov. 16 news release. However, funding for the federal grant has fallen far behind other aid programs, according to UCSO Director of Financial Aid Vincent De Anda.

"The Pell Grants have lost substantial ground in real dollars over the last six years," De Anda said. "Federal Pell Grants are the weakest investment in education, it would have blocked future Pell Grants for college students. Because the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Nov. 16 news release. However, funding for the federal grant has fallen far behind other aid programs, according to UCSO Director of Financial Aid Vincent De Anda.

"The Pell Grants have lost substantial ground in real dollars over the last six years," De Anda said. "Federal Pell Grants are the weakest

see Bill, page 2

Looking back: The fall sports report

IN SPORTS, 16

Stay in from the cold and watch these fun holiday flicks

IN DIVERSIONS, 9
Middlestadt continued from page 1

"It took me a while to apply," Middlestadt said, adding that it is a major responsibility and that he had to consider it carefully. There were 14 applicants for the position from which Middlestadt was chosen in addition to Andrew LaFlamme of CSU Stanislaus and Joaquin Ortega of San Diego State University. The student who is selected will serve for one and a half years in the place of current student trustee, Corey Jackson. Jackson will be moving on to become a voting trustee, according to a C SSA press release.

The position would normally be a two-year commitment, with one year of non-voting status and one year of voting status, Middlestadt said, adding that he is in a special circumstance.

The student trustee according to Middlestadt, offers ideas and a student perspective to problems within the CSU system, while at the same time acting as a liaison between the CSU Board of Directors and the Student Board.

When asked what he would work towards in the position, Middlestadt said work towards on the CSU sustainability policy, with which he is also involved in as well as improving the quality of the CSU education and not cutting programs.

"It would allow me to get deeper into the system to help manage the larger system in the United States if not the world," Middlestadt said.

Bill continued from page 1

The company now has a 6,000-square-foot warehouse of manufacturing space and expects to have a production capability of 10,000 shirts by the end of this year.

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Job market expected to increase this year

Chloe Gotsis

THE DAILY FREE PRESS (BOSTON U.)

BOSTON — College students graduating next spring will enter an improving job market, according to the findings of a study conducted by researchers at Michigan State University, released earlier this month. According to the survey results, job opportunities for new college graduates are expected to increase by 6 to 14 percent.

Phil Gardner, director of the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at MSU and author of the study, told The Daily Free Press he was encouraged by the results of the study. "It's a pretty good year," he said.

"In the next six months, we anticipate a constant, measured withdrawal at the federal level in education. It abandoned job training programs and it fails our public health system. This bill got what it deserved."
THE FACE OF CAL POLY

Favorites
Song: "Just to See You Smile" by
Tim McGraw
Ice cream flavor: Mint chip
Day of the week: Friday
Musical: "Phantom of the Opera"
Reality show: "Making of the Band"

Holiday food: My mom's stuffing. I am very picky about stuffing.
If You Could ... — be any board game which one
would you be?
Mad Gab because sometimes I say things wrong and people have to fig­ ure out what I really mean.

Other
— What is your biggest pet peeve?
When people put the toilet paper roll on backwards.
— What do you want for Christmas?
A snowboard.

Briefs

PETALUMA (AP) — A weekend parade in Petaluma went woefully wrong over the weekend when a couple of ponies pulling a carriage crashed and bolted from the scene, dragging a woman down the street, police said.

A couple dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus greeted children from the carriage earlier in the parade without incident Saturday. But as the carriage made its way across a small bridge, the two Shetland ponies crashed into a street sign pole.

The ponies then began to run out of control, dragging a woman across a small bridge, the two pony's pulling a woman out of control, (.lumping Nanc

MIAMI (AP) — The victims of the busiest and costliest Atlantic hurricane season on record may get some comfort when it finally ends Wednesday: no hurricane has been known to hit the U.S. from Decem ber to May. But as the deadly six-month season closes, tens of thousands of Americans are still dealing with the devastation from Hurricanes Wilma, Rita and Katrina, the nation's worst natural disaster in modern times.

Thousands remain homeless along the Gulf Coast, where Katrina hit three months ago and plunged New Orleans into chaos usually seen in the Third World.

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CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AP) — Bombs exploded in two Bangladesh cities on Tuesday, killing at least eight people and injuring 66 in what appeared to be the latest attack by militant Muslims intent on imposing harsh Islamic law, officials said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, but police investiga tors suspected the outlawed Islamic militant group Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, blamed for similar attacks this year.

The explosions in the main port city of Chittagong and in the town of Gatuipar, just outside the capital, Dhaka, happened just before 9 a.m. police said.

Archeologist thinks Bosnian hill may contain a first for Europe: a pyramid

Aida Cerkez-Robinson (AP)

VISOKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina - With eyes trained to recognize pyramids hidden in the hills of El Salvador, Mexico and Peru, Senir Osmanagic has been drawn to the mound overlooking this central Bosnian town.

"It has all the elements four perfectly shaped slopes pointing toward the cardinal points, a flat top and an entrance complex," he said, gazing at the hill and wondering what lies beneath.

No pyramids are known in Europe, and there is no evidence any ancient civilization there ever attempted to build one.

But Osmanagic, a Bosnian archeologist who has spent the last 15 years studying the pyramids of Latin America, suspects there is one here in his Balkan homeland.

"We have already dug out stone blocks which I believe are covering the pyramid," he said. "We found a paved entrance plateau and discovered underground tunnels. You don't have to be an expert to realize what this is."

Osmanagic, 45, who now lives in Houston, is personally financing the research, said she found 15 anomalies suggesting that some layers of the hill were man made.

"We found layers of what we call 'bad concrete,' a definitely unnatural mixture of gravel once used to form blocks with which this hill was covered," Osmanagic said.

"The hill was already there," he added. "Some ancient civilization just shaped it and then coated it with this primitive concrete — and there you have a pyramid."

Under Four ... or over budget?

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING

49% of Cal Poly students go to parties and bars less than once a week.
Stan Berenstain, who teamed with wife to create Berenstain Bears, dies at 82

Patrick Walters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — Stan Berenstain, who with his wife created the popular children's books about a loving furry family called the Berenstain Bears, has died. He was 82 and lived in Bucks County in suburban Philadelphia. He died in Pennsylvania on Saturday, said Audra Bolston, a spokeswoman for HarperCollins Children's Books in New York.

In more than 200 books, the Berenstain Bears, written and illustrated by Stan and Jan Berenstain, helped children for 40 years cope with the demands of daily living and teach them the value of sharing.

The first Berenstain Bears book, "The Big Honey Hunt," was published in 1962. The couple developed the series with children's author Theodor Geisel — better known as Dr. Seuss, then head of children's publishing at Random House — with the goal of teaching children to read while entertaining them.

The books aimed to show children and their parents how to deal with a long list of childhood challenges, from finding ways to share and watch less TV, to overcoming the "gimmies" and not succumbing to the "in-crowd.

Despite changes in society in the last four decades, little has changed in "Bears Country.

"Kids still tell fibs and they mess up their rooms and they still throw tantrums in the supermarket," Stan Berenstain told The Associated Press in 2002. "Nobody gets shot. No violence. There are problems, but they're the kind of typical family problems everyone goes through.

Stan and Jan Berenstain began drawing together when they met at Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art in 1941.

The two married soon after their joint post of World War II-era Army service and began submitting cartoons to magazines. They became contributors to The Saturday Evening Post, McCall's and Collier's. In their early years of collaboration, the couple wrote the "All in the Family" cartoon series for McCall's and Good Housekeeping.

In 1962, they began an association with Geisel, who suggested that they write for children.

In later years, their sons Leo and Jacob joined them at writing and illustrating, and many of the recent books are credited collectively to "The Berenstains."

The characters are the subject of their own public television program, DVDs and a Christmas musical.

Virginia governor spares life of man set to become 1,000th person executed since 1976

Kristen Gelineau

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia's governor on Tuesday spared the life of a convicted killer who would have been the 1,000th person executed in the United States since the Supreme Court allowed capital punishment to resume in 1976.

Robin Lovitt's death sentence was commuted to life in prison without parole a little more than 24 hours before he was to be executed by injection Wednesday night for stabbing a man to death with a pair of scissors during a 1998 pool-hall robbery.

In granting clemency, Gov. Mark R. Warner noted that evidence from the trial had been improperly destroyed, depriving the defense of the opportunity to subject the material to the latest in DNA testing.

The "commonwealth must ensure that every time this ultimate sanction is carried out, it is done fairly," Warner said in a statement.

Warren, a Democrat, had never before granted clemency to a death row inmate during his four years in office. During that time, 11 men have been executed. Virginia is one of the most active death-penalty states, having executed 94 people since 1976.

The 1,000th execution is now scheduled for Friday in North Carolina, where Kenneth Lee Boyd is slated to die for killing his estranged wife and her father.

The 999th execution since capital punishment resumed a generation ago took place Tuesday morning, when Ohio put to death John Hicks, who strangled his mother-in-law and his 5-year-old stepdaughter to cover up the crime.

Lovitt's lawyers, who include former independent counsel Kenneth Starr, and anti-death penalty advocates had argued that his life should be spared because a court clerk illegally destroyed the bloody scissors and other evidence, preventing DNA testing that they said could exonerate him.

Ashley Parrish, another of Lovitt's attorneys, called Warner's decision "entirely proper, given the extraordinary circumstances of Mr. Lovitt's case.

Lovitt was convicted in 1999 of murdering Clayton Dicks at an Arlington pool hall. Prosecutors said Dicks caught Lovitt prying open a cash register with the scissors, which police found in the woods between the pool hall and the home of Lovitt's cousin.

Lovitt admitted grabbing the cash box but insisted someone else killed Dicks. DNA tests on the scissors at the time of the trial were inconclusive. But more sophisticated DNA techniques are now available.

The governor, who is considered a possible Democratic presidential contender in 2008, said he was "acutely aware of the tragic loss experienced by the Dicks family."

Stan Berenstain, who teamed with wife to create Berenstain Bears, dies at 82

Jacob Adelman

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Tai Shan, the giant panda cub, showed Tuesday that he is a quick study, prancing about in his den and otherwise mugging for hordes of camera crews from around the world got their first look at the fuzzy creature as they filed past his indoor enclosure in five different shifts. And the 4 1/2-month-old cub did not disappoint.

He chased his zoo keeper around, trying to nibble at the hems of her jeans. He pulled himself over the ledge of the habitat's rocky cre­n­ter­piece. He tumbled onto his back, and he gummed at the bamboo stalks that will someday form his diet.

Cameras snapped wildly every time he did something especially cute.

"He's just a fantastic little bear," said Lisa Stevens, the zoo's assistant curator for pandas. "He's climbing all over his cage."

The news preview followed special viewing sessions for members of the zoo's upper-organization, Friends of the National Zoo, and other financial backers.

The cub got his first visitors from the general public Dec. 8, when those who nabbed tickets during the zoo's online ticket giveaway are permitted in the panda house. Those 13,000 tickets were exhausted about two hours after they became available last week.

Zoo officials said people could only use the tickets that they can prove they reserved themselves after the tickets started showing up on eBay for hundreds of dollars apiece.

The visits aren't just planned to satisfy the public's demand to see the panda, officials said. They also give the cub a chance to get used to having people around.

Tai Shan now weighs 21 pounds, two pounds more than he did just one week ago. He won't be weaned off mother Mei Xiang's milk for another year or so.
Despite gas prices, ski industry optimistic for good season

Glenn Adams

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine — Autumn snowfalls have delighted skiers from coast to coast, allowing many resorts to open earlier than usual and fostering optimism in the industry for a busy season.

And so far there's no evidence that higher gasoline costs will keep skiers away. Some smaller resorts think they might benefit from high prices at the pump by drawing local skiers who might otherwise drive to bigger mountains elsewhere.

Maine's preseason sales of season lift tickets and lodging are ahead of last year's, said Greg Sweeter of the Ski Maine Association.

"We are going to be in demand on this thing (fuel prices)," said Sweeter, "but now, all indications are good."

This year, Maine's ski season began before Halloween, when exuberant skiers reached up into Maine's Boreal Mountain to take advantage of an early 40-inch dumping. Next door in New Hampshire, 4 feet of snow also enabled Wildcat Mountain to open several trails before Halloween.

Across the continent in Washington, Crystal Mountain opened on Oct. 9, and since then snow has fallen steadily. North Shore — a medium-sized ski area, has a marketing strategy that uses high gasoline prices to tout its benefits.

Last season, Shawnee started giving skiers who produced gas receipts in their tickets lift tickets, said Marketing Director Melissa Rock. The program continued this season, said Shawnee.

To encourage carpooling, Shawnee also offers "Carpool Days" on non-holiday Mondays. In exchange for everyone in a car getting a lift ticket for the price of one, skiers and boarders will be looking for others with room to spare in their vehicles to economize on fuel.

An Internet-based business, AlterNetRides.com, is based on that very idea.

AlterNetRides, which organizes carpools to ski areas, has already signed on at least a half-dozen ski areas from Boreal Mountain Resort in California to Waterville Valley in New Hampshire. The business set up 1,000 rides in its first three years, but President Mark Evonoff expects it to exceed that number this season alone because of the high fuel prices.

Hard core skiers and snowboarders will be drawn by new attractions around the country, including those under the heading of extreme.

Mount Bohemia in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which boasts extreme skiing challenges and is known for its backcountry glade runs, has no place for novices. "WE Cater at your location or cater at ours!

Bush says he will crack down on illegal immigrants while expanding work visas

Nedra Pickler

TUCSON, Ariz. — President Bush said Monday he wants to crack down on those who enter the country illegally but also give out more visas to foreign workers, a deal he hopes will appease the social conservatives and business leaders who are his core supporters.

"The American people should not have to choose between a welcoming society and a lawful society," Bush said from the Davi-Moonhan Air Force Base about an hour from the Mexican border. "We can have both at the same time."

The touchy issue of immigration has divided lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he will bring up the issue early next year. The House plans to make tax cuts permanent, praised his Supreme Court picks — new Chief Justice John Roberts and associate justice nominee Samuel Alito — and pitched his immigration and border security proposals.

Earlier in Tucson, Bush spoke to a supportive audience that included border patrol agents and military troops. The U.S. has been working to improve immigration and border security.

The president's push on border security and immigration comes a month after Bush signed a $32 billion homeland security bill for 2006 that contains large increases for border protection, including 1,900 additional Border Patrol agents.

Bush has been urging Congress to act on a guest worker program for more than a year. Under his plan, undocumented immigrants would be allowed to get three-year work visas. They could extend that for an additional three years, but would then have to return to their home countries for a year to apply for a new work permit.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., along with Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., has proposed providing legal immigrants in the United States visas for up to six years. After that, they must either leave the United States or be in the pipeline for a green card, which indicates lawful permanent residency.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Kyl support an alternative proposal that would require illegal immigrants to return to their home country to apply for a temporary worker program.

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NEWS

6 Wednesday, November 30, 2005

FCC chair to cable and satellite TV: Clean up your act or else

Jennifer C. Kerr

WASHINGTON — Scrap-up, profanity-laced shows on cable and satellite TV should be for adults only, and providers must do more to shield children or could find themselves facing indecency fines, the nation’s top communications regulator says.

“Parents need better and more tools to help them navigate the entertainment waters, particularly on cable and satellite TV,” Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin told Congress on Tuesday.

Martin suggested several options, including a “family-friendly” tier of channels that would offer shows suitable for kids, such as the programs shown on the Nickelodeon channel.

He also said cable and satellite providers could consider letting consumers pay for a bundle of channels that they could choose themselves — an “a la carte” pricing system.

“If you don’t come up with an answer, we will,” he said.

Martin spoke at an all-day forum on indecency before the Senate Commerce Committee. It included more than 20 entertainment industry, government and public interest leaders with differing views on whether broadcast networks, cable and satellite companies need more regulation.

Cable and satellite representatives defended their operations, and said they’ve been working to help educate parents on the tools the companies offer to block unwanted programming. They also said “a la carte” pricing would drive up costs for equipment, customer service and marketing — charges that would likely be passed to subscribers.

Others at the forum, such as the Christian Coalition, urged Congress to increase the fines against indecency on the airwaves from the current $32,500 maximum penalty per violation to $500,000.

Since the Janet Jackson “breast-exposure” at the Super Bowl nearly two years ago, indecency fines have turned up the pressure on Congress to do more to cleanse the airwaves. But efforts to hike fines have so far failed.

Even so, Committee Co-Chair Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, told the forum that lawmakers want to see the industry help protect children from indecent and violent programming.

“The consumer research that we did indicated that even though people were looking at a smaller size, they still wanted a package that looked sophisticated."

— TOM SLOANE
brand manager for Stone Cellars by Beringer

“We didn’t do anything trendy or quirky.”

That won over people like David Joachim, grill master for the American Tailgaters Association, who likes not having to worry about broken glass but isn’t ready to give up tradition entirely.

“The wine bottle itself is so iconic that when we sell wine in some- thing else it ruens the experience for some reason,” he says.

Another entrant in the unbreakable bottle market is Louisville, Ky.-based Brown-Forman Corp., which is selling Fetzer Vineyards Valley Oaks merlot, chardonnay and white zinfandel in the mini bottles as well as Virgin Vines, a joint venture with British tycoon Richard Branson.

The Virgin Vines singles will also be served on Branson’s Virgin Atlantic Airways, where the much-lighter plastic bottles carry a fresher bouquet.

Robert Smiley, a University of California, Davis, professor, who follows the wine industry says the general lightening up is an interesting development for a direction that “has a lot to learn from the beer industry in terms of convenience.”

But can small, plastic bottles that open with a twin coxest with the glass act of $100-plus vintage wines?

No reason why not, says Smiley.

“ ’You’ve got diferent people and they’ve got diferent preferences,” he says. “Convenience vs. tradition and high expectations vs. opening up a 187 milliliter when you’re out on a picnic.”

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CHANGE YOUR WORLD

We are looking for students and faculty who want to participate in interdisciplinary teams that will design systems to make the campus more sustainable.

This year’s theme: Mobility and Transportation

ALL MAJORS WELCOME

Goal: Designing a system that reduces the campus community’s automobile dependency and improves its environment, economy and social equity.

Join us for a working session on Thursday, Dec. 1, 11:00 noon, Building 5, Room 225. You will be in working groups to identify the things we need to consider in the system that you will design. The projects will begin in January 2006.

This is a great opportunity to design a senior project that will make a difference at Cal Poly.


MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CALIFORNIA WINE

The next big thing for the wine industry could be small, screw-capped and shatterproof

Michelle Locke

YOUNTVILLE, Calif. — The next big thing for the wine industry could be small, screw-capped and shatterproof.

Single-screw plastic bottles are starting to show up on supermarket shelves in a bid to win over new customers by moving wine beyond posh white-tilecloth dinners to the informal ease of a picnic.

If one of these green bottles should accidentally fall, no problem.

“All it takes is a more active lifestyle. People are traveling more and they’d like wine to be a part of it and it just wasn’t convenient in the 750 milliliter typical wine glass bottle where you have to bring corkscrews, glasses, etc.,” says Tom Slove, brand manager for Stone Cellars by Beringer, which has been selling four-packs of unbreakable, single-screw bottles since this summer.

The new 187 milliliter (about six fluid ounces) bottles are part of a larger trend in the industry that includes boxed wine, cans and carafe-style packages.

“People, I think, are now into casual enjoyment of fine products,” says Wilfred Wong, cellar master for Black Box Wines.

There isn’t much sales data available yet on the plastic bottles, but the category in general, which includes glass bottles already being offered on planes and in delis and supermarkets, has been doing well.

Sales of wine in 187 milliliter containers — mostly glass — totaled nearly $68 million for the 52 weeks ending Oct. 22, up about 22 percent from the year before, according to supermarket, drug and liquor store sales data from ACNielsen.

Overall, domestic wine sales were up about 9 percent to $39.3 billion, good news for the industry which has battled a grape glut in recent years.

The Stone Cellars mini bottles are made of a durable plastic designed to be tamper and edentify. They look like regular bottles in miniature, right down to the little indentation on the bottom known as a “punt” and are filled with the same fruit-forward, award-winning varietals — chardonnay, pinot grigio, merlot and cabernet sauvignon — that Stone Cellars puts in its full-sized glass bottles.

Four-packs cost about $8.

“Consumer research that we did indicated that even though people were looking at a smaller size, they still wanted a package that looked sophisticated.”

— TOM SLOANE
brand manager for Stone Cellars by Beringer

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ANIMATION

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," 8 p.m. Friday, TNT. A clay re-recreate battle the Abominable Snowmonster and find that his vibrantly colored nose makes him a hero, not a misfit, when Santa Claus needs a glowing light to lead the way back to the North Pole. Following at 8:30 p.m. by "Frosty Returns," narrated by Jonathan Winters.

"Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," 8 p.m. Dec. 17, CNBC. Jimmy Durante narrates the tale of the briny snowmower pursued by evil Professor Hide and a group of misfit cartoon characters. Included are carols, incuding Snooty, in individual vignettes.

"The Santa Clause," 8 p.m. Dec. 15, ABC. Tim Allen stars as a man who becomes the unwitting successor to Santa Claus and has to learn the ropes. With Susan Sarandon, David Knotts and Peter Boyle co-star.

"National Lampoons Christmas Vacation," 8 p.m. Dec. 16, NBC. Clark Griswold's bad luck continues as he dog him at Christmas, but at least his holiday bonus is in Chey. Chace and Beverly D'Angelo star.

MOVIES

"Recipe for a Perfect Christmas," 9 p.m. Monday, Lifetime Television. Bobby Cannavale, Christine Baranski and Chris Pine star in a romantic comedy about a fledgling food critic whose scheme strands her roommates in a restaurant (without doing according to plan).

"It's a Wonderful Life," 8 p.m. Dec. 10, and 8 p.m. Dec. 24, NBC. Frank Capra's classic 1946 holiday flick, which centers on the life of a selfish man who makes a convincing attempt. It will also win back his girlfriend and get a $37 Porsche, to boot.

STOCKING STUFFERS

"Christmas in Rockefeller Center," 8 p.m. today, NBC. A celebration of the lighting of the famous New York tree, with music by Red Steagel, Sheryl Crow, Carrie Underwood, Brian Wilson, the Brian Setzer Orchestra and Earth Wind & Fire.

"Entertainment Weekly's Best Holiday Movies," 10:15 p.m. Sunday, AMC. Actor Michael Steagel hosts this rundown of yuletide movie favorites.

"Creative Juice for the Holidays," 10 p.m. Monday, DIY Network. Host Cathy Filan and Steve Pascaccia demonstrate affordable holiday craft projects, including turning foam snowballs into snowmen and tomato wia- cages into wreaths.

"The White House Christmas," 2005, 8 p.m. Wednesday, HGTV. The special, with host Gail Simmons, will look into the holiday planning process for the White House and include first lady Laura Bush's discussion of her choice for this year's tree, birdhouses, and the famous New York tree, with music by Red Steagel, Sheryl Crow, Carrie Underwood, Brian Wilson, the Brian Setzer Orchestra and Earth Wind & Fire.
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Associates/models shown do not reflect racial preference. 11/05
Five fun flicks for the holidays

Whether they're a part of your movie collection or not, these flicks are holiday staples that'll never get old.

Tonya Strickland  
Musing Daily

In the name of childhood nostalgia, it's OK to wrestle the remote from Grandpa's hand in desperate search for Rudolph and his blinking nose, despite being old enough to watch "Bad Santa."

Let's face it; the "jolly" would be taken out of the "Holly Jolly" this Christmas if it weren't for the characters of this classic film in all their wonderful puppetry splendor.

"Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer: Christmas Classics Collection"

The cute nasally reindeer voice of Rudy, the jolly narrator, and Yukon Cornelius with his catchy melody "Silver and Gold" will keep you whistling until February. Let's not forget dorky little Hermey and his love for dentistry and the island of misfit toys! 1964 was the best year ever for the sole reason of this movie's creation.

"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"

The way he lights up the outside of his house like the sun, how he falls off his ladder again and again as it straight out of an "America's Funniest Home Videos," how he's constantly pestered by his crazy relatives armed with snotty-nosed children and most memorably, how he finds the family fur-ball as a tried substitute are all the gift-wrapped bad luck moments that have the power to crack any bah-humbugger.

And who doesn't want to elate their holiday cheer with a good belly-laugh at the sight of a dim-witted suburbanite? Sure, there's "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Miracle on 34th St." but when Clark Griswold's goofy neighbor sees him trying to fit a mammoth-sized Christmas tree through his front door and asks, "Hey Griswold Where do you think you're gonna put a tree that big?" and Clark replies with, "Bend over and I'll show you," no amount of singe-giving, warm-hearted cinematic competition can outshine this film.

"Jack Frost"

Oh wait, this film belongs on the "I-can't-believe-someone-actually-came-up-with-a-plot-this-stupid" top five list. Oh well.

With a PG rating, one might wonder if this film could be classified under another category ... maybe if a parallel to the R rating existed, not restricting some viewers on the ethic of offensive material such as sex and drugs but of offensively-mind-dumb­ ing material such as dead fathers who come back to life as snowmen. Michael Keaton stars as Jack Frost, a not-so-there father who keeps missing out on his son's life. Unfortunately, the dad dies. What's even more unfortunate is that a magic harmonica is involved. So the kid plays the little instrument and Jack comes back to life as a snowman — see Movies, page 10
Television

continued from page 9

17. Wayne Brady, Eric Benet and Tiffany Evans host a slate of R&B stars performing holiday hits.

“Home for the Holidays,” 8 p.m. Dec. 21, CBS. George Lopez and Jamie Lee Curtis are among those featured in this annual effort to spotlight the issue of adoption. Performers include Sheryl Crow, Mary J. Blige and the Goo Goo Dolls.

“Creature Comforts — Merry Christmas Everybody,” 10:30 p.m. Dec. 23, BBC America. In short films from the makers of Wallace & Gromit, answers from Brits to pressing questions (how do hamsters handle indigestion?) come out of the mouths of animal characters.

“Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade,” 10 a.m. Dec. 25, ABC. Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa host the 22nd annual telecast of the resort’s parade, with guests including Vanessa Williams, Julie Andrews, Tiger Woods, Fantasia and Hayden Christensen.

“Live from Lincoln Center,” 8 p.m. Dec. 31, PBS. The New York Philharmonic presents its annual New Year’s Eve gala, featuring a program of Italian opera with soprano Angela Gheorghiu. The 117th edition of the Paasadena parade includes performances by LeAnn Rimes, Toni Braxton and magician Lance Burton, along with the flower-bedecked floats, parade royalty and many horses.

AULD LANG SYNE

“New Year’s Eve with Carson Daly,” 11:30 p.m. Dec. 31, NBC. Daly rings in 2003 from New York City’s Times Square.


“New Year’s Eve Live,” 11 p.m. Dec. 31, Fox. Regis Philbin is the host for these Times Square festivities, including music, celebrities and a look back at the events of 2002.

Movies

continued from page 9

topped off with a hat and scarf. There’s laughter, there’s tears and then there’s the movie’s tagline: “Jack Frost is getting a second chance to be the world’s coolest dad ... if he doesn’t melt first.”

“Groundhog Day”
Feb. 2, a little out of season but with six more weeks of snow still on the ground, it’s a holiday movie kinda. Plus, “I Got You Babe” by Sonny and Cher never sounded so good, even if it is played over and over.

For Phil Connors, however, it’s enough to make him get down-right loopy and act out funny scenarios.

Phil comedically relives the worst day of his life as watchers get to enjoy the sight of a down-on-his-luck jerk meeting karma smack him in the face, just over 30 times in 101 minutes. Scenes of him pigishly ordering everything on the dessert menu, to customizing his personality to fit his lady friend’s likes and dislikes from dates only he remembers, to becoming the town hero after numerous accounts of miraculously saving people from the small mishaps he fully anticipated occurring like a rehearsed pin “Da doo da doo da doo da doo da doo da doo da doo.”

“Home Alone”
Nothing rings in the Yuletide spirit quite like neglectful parenting. Rope, jumper cables, a paint can and a blow torch (you know, whatever was lying around the house) have never been so funny until they were used to horribly maim and injure two would-be robbers in this family favorite. Al the joys of laughing at others’ pain. With the slap of after shave on his fair cheeks, Kevin McCallister’s “laah-face” will linger in holiday movie memories for years to come.

AULD LANG SYNE

“Home for the Holidays”

Vote for your favorite holiday movie to win a prize on our website: www.mustangdaily.net

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For some Cal Poly students, this is the last week of class— they'll ever attend at this campus. For the rest, that week will come sooner than you think. Regardless of when you have the privilege of wearing your cap and gown, receiving your diploma and stepping out of academia and into the 'real world' there is one thing that I guarantee we will all have in common: We will brag about graduat- ing from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo for the rest of our lives. Cal Poly has a reputation that competes with any Ivy League or UC, and an emphasis on pragmatism and real-world experience that is irreplaceable in life. We've been rated "Best in the West" by US News and World Report for 13 consecutive years with no sign of slowing down. So whether you're studying liberal arts, design, business or science you are bound to find what you're look- ing for at Cal Poly.

Some people think that polytechnic schools are only about academics, but Cal Poly breaks the mold. We have one of the most active campus Mustang Daily with their unsup- ported and false accusations. The losers, you guys aren't allowed to write to the Mustang Daily. Well, you can Runty because I thought your letter was funny. I can show you what the implications of the use of a pre- emptive strike in political matters by kicking the crap out of you both. Last of all, I would like to make this clear, in my last letter I presented a transcript from Osama bin Laden's latest videotape. It wasn't my thoughts or opinion. You're right Runty, I do write letters to the Mustang Daily, but also to inform, and correct misleading opinions presented by people like Scotty Nordholm, who along with an unacceptable amount of Americans still believe that Iraq had something to do with 9/11 and that terrorism is "our fault." -Leonard Bezzem

A challenge for the boys at Ag. R. "Alpha Ciamma Row" are still believed to carry a nude jell-O pool full of Jell-O. I figure this will probably bring in more money than a dozen cousins and an upstate New York Christmas spirit in the Círinch itself. It happened. Mustang football team ranked third in the nation, remained in the top 20 all season and won its debut game in the Big West Division I-AA play- offs. Our men's and women's Mustang basketball teams swept our home opener, we've got national champions in our club sports pro- grams and fierce intramural compe- tition every quarter.

We have undergraduate students competing with graduate students in national competitions and winning consistently. There's no doubt that Cal Poly will leave a legacy of suc- cess and progress, and that our cam- pus sex the bar for undergraduate standards. The only thing missing from this great formula is a collective spirit of campus pride.

I think most of us agree that it would be great to hate pride at Cal Poly. To have the student section packed at sporting events, record attendance at every program and event, and every student informed and excited about every- thing that's happening each week. All the necessary elements are here, but it takes people to put it all together to create a campus we can all be proud of not only in memory, but right here, right now.

Let's make 2006 a year where we support all the great work that our athletes, clubs and organizations are doing to make our campus a great place.

A place where each of us gets more involved to learn more, see more and do more than we ever have in the past. A year of change, where we quit talking about what needs to be done and we start doing it.

There are thousands of students who are already making it happen. This is a call to action to the thou- sand more who haven't started yet. As poet and author Talmage Acy put it, "Let the one who says it can't be done, step out the way of the one who's already doing it!" Or better yet, join them.

Tyler Middlestadt is the ASI presi- dent and Mustang Daily columnist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Rustmeister,

I challenge you and Scott Drummond to a nude Jell-O wrestling match, if you ladies are man enough. I hear the boys at AGI \("Alpha Gamma Rho\) are into that type thing and I'm sure they would be more than happy to provide a blow-up kids swimming pool full of Jell-O. I figure this will probably bring in more money than a dozen cousins and an upstate New York Christmas spirit in the Círinch itself. It happened.

"Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica." One for each year of their seemingly pristine marriage. One for each time I was worsew by Jessica's sketch- ball of a dad — and then some. The newlyweds Lachey also once was as cold as Jessica's unethnic "buffalo" wing.

"After ... careful thought and con- sideration, we have decided to part ways." This is the mutual decision of two people with an enormous amount of respect and admiration for each other.

My mind raced with a thousand and one questions. Love really is fleeting? If these kids can't make it, who can? Are we a trained prosecutor in the mystery of who destructed the inde- structible romance that was Nick and Jessica, I have narrowed my suspects down to three individuals.

Nick and Jessica: A mess

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your leadership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com

LETTER POLICY

Send us your best, bare and more

Margaret, a police officer, was les- sions proved

words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

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Letters to the Editor
Building 26, Room 226
Cal Poly, SLO CA 93407

Nick and Jessica: A mess

The first is Mr. Simpson, Reverend Simpson, Joe Simpson, whatever you choose. This man is flat-out creep, and creepy people are always the malicious ones. The other8 less attractive brother and former 98'-Equestrian, he's the second creep-iest. In each season of "Newlyweds," it seemed like this guy was always lurking around the mansion, obvi- ously hoping for some alone time with Jess.

The last suspect is Matt Lachey, or there is a chance Nick cheated on Jessica with the standout Southern California quarterback. Maybe Nick crumbled after Matt's repeated advances. Maybe the post- game locker room bonding and pri- vate invitations for ballroom dances lessons proved too much for the doe- eyed singer.

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Insurgent video shows peace activists taken hostage in Iraq

Robert H. Reid

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Al Jazeera broadcast an insurgent video Tuesday showing four peace activists taken hostage in Iraq, with a previously unknown group claiming responsibility for the kidnappings.

The Swords of Righteousness Brigade said the four were spies working undercover as Christian peace activists. Al Jazeera said. The station said it could not verify any of the information on the tape.

The aid group Christian Peacemaker Teams has confirmed that four of its members were taken hostage Saturday.

German TV broadcast photos Tuesday showing a blindfolded German woman being led away by armed captors in Iraq. Six Iranian pilgrims, meanwhile, were abducted by gunmen north of Baghdad.

The pictures of Susanne Osthoff were taken from a video in which her captors demanded that Germany stop any dealings with Iraq's government, according to Germany's ARD television.

Germany has ruled out sending any of its security forces, told National Public Radio on Tuesday that 212,000 people in the police and army are trained and equipped, although he suggested that more needed to be done.

"Now you know they lack some capabilities that we still have to provide them and will continue to have to provide them for a period of time," Dempsey said. "They're short junior officers, and we grew some senior officers, and we grew some junior leaders but not enough. They require about 8,000 junior leaders and they're hovering just now about 4,500 or so."

"We're focused very carefully now on logistics, communications and the generation of an officer corps," he said.

Iraq was rocked by a wave of for­mation news and violent intervention and human rights documentation. Kember and another person were part of a visiting delegation, while two members of the group's Iraq-based staff also were taken, the statement said.

A suicide car bomber killed eight Iraqis and wounded five more when he drove into an army patrol Tuesday in Tarmiyah, 30 miles north of Baghdad, police Lt. Ali Hussein said. A U.S. Army medical helicopter helped evacuate the wounded, he added.

President Bush told reporters in El Paso, Texas, he would make decisions about U.S. troop levels in Iraq based on the advice of his military commanders.

"If they tell me the Iraqis are ready to take more and more responsibility and that we'll be able to bring some Americans home, I will do that," the president said. "It's their recommendation."

Lt. Gen. Martin Dempsey, who manages the training of Iraqi security forces, told National Public Radio on Tuesday that 212,000 people in the police and army are trained and equipped, although he suggested that more needed to be done.

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Iraq was rocked by a wave of for­mation news and violent intervention and human rights documentation.
Rescuers work to find missing Chinese miners after explosion kills 148

Miners listen to a briefing about the ongoing rescue efforts for miners still missing in the Dongfeng coal mine in Qitahei, northeastern China's Heilongjiang province on Tuesday.

Joe McDonald
ASSOCIATED PRESS

QITAHE, China — Rescuers in northeastern China searched in freezing temperatures Tuesday for three coal miners who were trapped after an explosion killed at least 148 others.

The blast in the Dongfeng Coal Mine late Sunday prompted national leaders to demand stricter enforcement of safety rules in China's mines.

On Tuesday, roads leading to the mine were blocked several miles away, with police officers and vehicles standing guard.

Search efforts were still going on at sundown.

The chances of survival was low because of a high concentration of poisonous gas in the tunnel, Song Kaiting, an engineer with the group that owns the mine, was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Inside the mine compound, rescuers were wearing orange jump suits and respirators could be seen making their way through the 10-degree temperatures to the mouth of the coal pit.

Seventy-two workers have been saved, state media said.

Xinhua said 148 were killed including two people who died in an above-ground generator room. The others were all underground.

A man who answered the telephone at the coal mine said that there had been a meeting with relatives Tuesday and that mine officials were arranging for counseling and compensation.

The man, who gave only his family name, Liu, refused to give any more details.

The official China News Service said relatives were to receive up to $25,000 in compensation.

The disaster is a setback for Chinese officials struggling to improve safety in the coal mining industry. Most accidents are blamed on a disregard for safety rules or a lack of equipment for ventilation or fire control. Local officials often are accused of helping mine owners or managers flout safety rules.

"This industry is too corrupt. Safety is no good," said Yuan Yongqing, a 57-year-old retired miner, whose younger brother, Yuan Yongguan, was killed in Sunday's explosion.

One man who gave only his family name, Li, said he was hoping for news about his son. Reporters trying to speak with dozens of relatives waiting outside were wildly excorted off the premises.

Beijing has unveiled one safety initiative after another in recent years. It has announced the creation of a national network of safety inspectors, stricter fire standards and shorter working hours for miners to prevent fatigue.

Authorities say they have shut down more than 12,000 coal mines this year for safety inspections. Thousands have been ordered to improve their facilities, and many others aren't expected to reopen.

The government said the explosion in Qitahei was blamed on airborne coal dust that ignited. There was no word on whether it was believed to involve misconduct or human error.
Congress to discuss federal financial aid cuts

Laura Teegarden

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Students could have to look for more alternative funding for school as the federal budget calls for a plan to decrease federal spending by $50 billion, with 28.6 percent possibly coming out of student loan programs.

In December, Congress will discuss legislation to keep the Pell Grant maximum at $4,050 for the fourth consecutive year and to cut almost $15 billion from federal student loan programs. In 2004, more than 6,174 Southern Illinois University-Carbondale students received the federal Pell Grant and more than 13,000 received federal student loans. Last year about 77 percent of SIUC students received a portion of the $189 million available financial aid.

Ulay Desai, professor in political science, said such legislation shows that higher education has become a lesser priority under the current administration.

"I really don't think this is a surprise at all," Desai said. He said the figures could be misleading because there is a decline in terms of real support even when the dollar amount stays the same as tuition rises. For example, tuition at SIUC has risen by more than $2,000 a year in the past five years.

The Student Aid Alliance, a financial aid lobbying group, sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee expressing concern over discussions of cutting funding.

"Whenever student aid programs produce savings, Congress takes them to spend on other areas of government, whether deficit reduction, hurricane relief or other education and health programs," stated the letter signed by David Ward and David Warren, co-chairs for the group. "Congress must stop the raid on student aid.

President Bush has requested the Pell Grant form be raised by $50 to $160, however, so far that request has been denied." It's "an insult, yes, but it's not enough," said Billie Jo Hamilton, director of the SIUC Financial Aid Office.

The financial aid talks will take place along with discussion about the Higher Education Act, which Congress will also consider extending or revising in December. The act allows the federal government to implement federal aid programs and other education issues and is reauthorized every six years. The last one expired in 2004 and was extended by one year.

Unfortunately, Hamilton said, the believes legislators are nowhere near the end of the process.

She said the process is a vicious cycle. When the state cuts funding, the University is forced to increase their tuition, which in turn forces students to require more and more financial aid.

"My guess is that we'll continue to see students borrowing more," Hamilton said.

In 2005, SIUC was ranked 15th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for students who graduate with the least amount of debt.

Hamilton suggests that students be aggressive in seeking private scholarships to subsidize their needs that can't be met by financial aid.

"That's something they can start looking at over the holidays," Hamilton said.

Filing the FAFSA form by the April 1 priority deadline will also increase the chances for receiving more financial aid. Next year's forms can be filed starting Jan. 1.

Hamilton said the available money is not on a first-come, first-serve basis, but rather on a student's need.

GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming bringing vast changes, U. Arkansas profs warn

Clover Birdsell

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Combating the reality of carbon dioxide emissions on our warming planet may be the first test of maturity for future American leaders.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency Web site, epa.gov, rising global temperatures are expected to increase world sea levels and change precipitation and other local climate conditions.

David Stable, professor of geosciences and director of the Southeast Regional Center for Environmental Education, said the effects of global warming will change the world as we know it. The projected climate change will affect our average temperatures and average precipitation, and in turn the nation's agriculture, said Fiona Davidson, associate professor of geoscience and director of European studies.

"We are talking about a large shift in the agricultural belt," she said. "It may also require more irrigation. There are some places out west that are going to very, very dry."

North America is not the only climate changing. Europe is predicted to experience climate changes in the next 50 years.

"Projections of global warming indicate that for every Celsius degree the world increases, the agricultural belt moves 100 miles north," Davidson said.

U.S. wheat and corn belts have the potential to shift higher, into Canada. Sugar and other warm-weather crops are predicted to shift northeast.

Society does have options, Stable said. The conservation of fossil fuels is the most promising approach to limiting emissions. In addition, carbon dioxide is an air contaminant, so reducing the emissions will also improve public health and reduce acid rain.

According to epa.gov, the United States will discuss global warming during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, meeting for its 11th session Nov. 28 through Dec. 9 in Montreal, Canada.

The meeting will, among other things, reassess the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1997, and U.S. participation in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LOST AND FOUND**

**Lost and Found**

Lost green tool bag w/ electrical tools. Left in 52-E27 on 11/16.

**EVENTS**

**Football pep rally Thursday**

The team will head to Texas on Friday morning for the quarterly-round NCAA Division I-AA football play-off game at Texas State. On Saturday, Dec. 3, the game will kick off at 1 p.m. PST (3 p.m. CST) in Bobcat Stadium. In addition, the game will be televised on ESPNEWS. Both teams are in the I-AA playoffs for the first time.

Cal Poly Athletics and the Cal Poly Alumni Association invite the community to a Poly Pep Rally on Saturday to watch the big-screen TV at Downtown Brewing Company.

The party starts at noon with complimentary appetizers served and 1 p.m. Throughout the afternoon, Downtown Brewing will serve hot wings for 25 cents and house beer for $3.99.

Frankly

continued from page 16

The winning team will host the event and give away prizes. The community is invited to wear green and gold and enjoy the game with other Mustang fans.

Cal Poly is the California State school to earn a berth in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. The Mustangs (9-3) defeated Montana State 35-21 last Saturday in Missoula, Mont., while Texas State (10-2), the fourth seed in the 16-team field, rallied from a 35-15 deficit to beat Georgia Southern 56-28. The Mustangs and Bobcats have met once before — Cal Poly beat them 38-21 last season in Mustang Stadium.

The game will be broadcast live on KRTY Radio (99.7 FM) as well as on the Internet at www.goBcal.com. The game also will be televised nationally on ESPNEWS.

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To begin my segue, the team shouldn't have any issues with strength of schedule this season as coach Jon Stevenson told me Monday that he's had trips to South Carolina, Hawaii and Nebraska lined up as well as a tournament to take place at Mott Gym with UCLA as a featured guest.

In other news, the Cal Poly football team is doing OK. If you haven't heard, and I should hope you have or you're obviously not keeping up on your Cal Poly sports, the team plays No. 4 Texas State in the quarterfinals of the Div.-I-AA championship tournament on Saturday. The game will be broadcast live at 1:05 p.m. on ESPNEWS, which means you might as well cancel any plans you have.
FALL SPORTS RECAP

Cross Country

It was a disappointing season for the men's team, dropping from a 10th place finish at the NCAA nationals last season to seventh at regionals this year. The Mustangs failed to qualify for nationals as a team, but did send one runner, senior Matt Johnsrud, to compete. He finished 104th out of 223 runners.

Even though the team didn't quite meet expectations on a national level, they managed to again dominate the Big West and took home a conference championship.

On the women's side, sophomore Rachel Vallerie led the way throughout the season. The young team finished 23rd at regionals, despite having no seniors on the roster and with just three juniors, giving the team plenty of hope for the future.

Men's Soccer

The team had its worst showing since joining the Big West and the results were probably what cost 26-year coach Wolfgang Gartner his job. Gartner finished with a career record of 223-221-55 as the Mustang's head coach.

Senior Becky Clark had a breakout year, scoring six goals and recording two assists in 16 games.

Women's Soccer

Senior Sienna Simmons finished her illustrious career at Cal Poly as a First Team All-Big West Conference selection for a third consecutive year. Day also received first-team honors.

Volleyball

There were two stories that dominated the coverage this year for the Mustangs. The first was asensor that the Mustangs' head coach. The second was a story about Matt Brennan, quarterback, and Fred Hives II, fullback, who helped put Cal Poly on the map.

Defensively, Chris Goccon should win the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the top defensive player in the nation, and has a chance to follow former teammate and 2004 Buck Buchanan winner Jordan Beck to the NFL. Goccon leads the nation in sacks with 22.

Football

Where to start this week? There's a pair of polar opposites both worthy of overwhelming attention.

On one hand, there's the sad story of the volleyball team, the first Cal Poly team this year to receive a post-season snub, and probably not the last as NCAA selection committees love to slight the Mustangs.

On the other hand, there's the pure jubilation surrounding the football team's upset win at the University of Montana, a game that experts predicted would belong to Grizzlies.

The community is ready to jump on the bandwagon and see the Mustangs march on San Marcos, Texas and give the No. 4 seeded Bobcats a game.

COACH NO MORE

Overall: 10-5-4 Big West: 2-4-1

Sharon Day is the most talented athlete at Cal Poly, period. Day, a junior, was the NCAA national champion in the women's high jump as a sophomore last year, and doubles as the leading offensive threat on the women's soccer team. She finished the season with seven goals and six assists, both team-highs.

Senior Becky Clark had a breakout year, scoring six goals in 19 games, starting 14 of those games.

Woman's Soccer

Junior Keyeley Carroll also had a big year for the Mustangs, scoring seven goals and recording two assists in 16 games.

Senior Sienna Simmons finished her illustrious career at Cal Poly as a First Team All-Big West Conference selection for a third consecutive year. Day also received first-team honors.

COACH NO MORE

Overall: 9-3 Great West: 4-1

Football

After 26 seasons at Cal Poly, Wolfgang Gartner's contract was not renewed following a 6-14 season and last place Big West Conference finish.

Overall: 6-14

Big West: 1-9

Men's Soccer

Overall: 6-14

Big West: 1-9

Cross Country

Men: 1st in Big West, Women: 6th in Big West

Tom Sanders

MUSTANG DAILY

Men's Soccer

Overall: 6-14

Big West: 1-9

Overall: 10-5-4

Big West: 2-4-1

Women's Soccer

Overall: 19-6

Big West: 10-4

Volleyball

Frankly Speaking

Frank Stranzl

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Both stories are vital to the current stream of sports information in San Luis Obispo, both spicy enough to receive space in this column. So I decided to rant and rave about the volleyball team's premature end to the season and voice my support for the football team.

First thing's first: Why isn't the volleyball team in the NCAA tournament? There are four suspect teams to take note of.

Northwestern was 2-9 versus opponents ranked in the top-25 according to the Rich Kern Percentage Index (RKPI) rankings. In doing so they consistently proved they are not a top-25 worthy team. Cross them off the list.

Meanwhile, Colorado is a similar case. They face a tough schedule, due in large part to the conference they play in, but how much sense does it make to include a team that has repeatedly proven they can't beat the top teams in the United States? The Buffaloes were 1-7 against teams in the top-25. Cross them off too.

Kansa, also part of the Big 12, Colorado's conference, was 15-14 on the season. The Jayhawks were 0.7 versus top-25 opponents and lost seven of its last 10 games. Yes, they played a tough schedule. But did they win? Obviously not.

The same story goes for the University of Nevada. They were 0-6 against teams in the top-25. But it just so happens Nevada's athletic director, Cindy L. Fox, is a member of the NCAA selection committee. I'm not saying that there is collusion...