Campus Dining to phase out meals

Jonathan Drake
MUSTANG DAILY

The days of the Campus Dining meal plans are going the way of the Lighthouse. By 2008, meal plans will be phased out and Plus Dollars will take their place.

Alan Cushman, the associate director for Campus Dining, said that the Plus Dollar-only plan will give students more freedom to choose what they eat while "planning their chaos" in the beginning of the year.

Campus Dining, run by the Cal Poly Foundation, now offers three meal plans. Each plan currently features a combination of full meals and Plus Dollars. They vary between five, eight and 10 meals per week with Plus Dollar ranges of 687 to 232 per quarter.

"We serve three markets," Cushman said. "The primary market is students who live on campus. Off-campus students are secondary, and staff being last, so (Campus Dining) has to accommodate all three.

Cushman added that while many students on campus will eat their meals at Campus Dining facilities, "there needs to be options for people to grab snacks."

Interest in a Plus Dollar-only meal plan has grown since its introduction in 1992, Cushman said.

"Some students don't use their meals at all, and it all goes to waste," said Nick Cdironis, a customer service assistant at Campus Market. "It's just wasted money if students aren't using the right plan."

Other students still prefer the all-you-can-eat plan.

see Dining, page 2

mtvU contest offers a chance to have a Billboard Magazine column

Catch a colorful sunset and hike to waterfalls in this Big Sur feature

Students, Rotary International raise money to aid tsunami victims

Louise Dolby
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly and the San Luis Obispo chapter of the Rotary International raised approximately $8,000 to aid villages hit by the Southeast Asian tsunami last December.

Collected on behalf of the Thai-based charity, the Center for the Protection of Children's Rights (CPCR), the money was sent to help prevent child abuse and neglect internationally.

"In some cases, over half of a village's population was killed, and most of the survivors were children without parents," said Harold Kerbo, the social sciences department chair.

"Since so many children lost their parents, we were worried about children being stolen and sold into sex slavery."

The money was primarily collected from donations on campus and at Farmer's Market, in addition to fundraisers and contributions from local offices. Kerbo said the money has already been distributed to help rebuild houses in two villages in Thailand that were destroyed by the tsunami.

"There are a lot of people waiting for aid," Kerbo said. "It is very sad that so many people are living in temporary housing like wooden and tin huts. There is still a lot of cleaning up to do."

After the tsunami hit, Kerbo contacted a Thai university dean and former professor at Cal Poly, Othai Dukayakserm, who helped establish Cal Poly's Thai Study Program to see how Cal Poly could help provide relief from the disaster.

"There have been so many other disasters since the tsunami that you almost forget about it," Kerbo said. "People are thinking about giving to people in New Orleans instead of the people way over in Thailand."

In addition to sending monetary aid, 20 students from Cal Poly's Thai Study Program traveled to Phuket last spring to help clean up the devastation. Students paid their own expenses to work in the area for a week and make a difference in the lives of those still living amongst the rubble.

see Thailand, page 2

Schwarzenegger names Democrat chief of staff

Tom Chorneau ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday took the first step to shaking up his administration after his reappointing special election failure, appointing a longtime Democratic activist as his chief of staff.

The move to replace Patricia Clarey had been widely expected since voters defeated all four of the governor's "year of reform" measures Nov. 8. Clarey was campaign manager for the effort.

But the announcement of state Public Utilities Commissioner Susan Kennedy as Clarey's replacement caught many Republicans and Democrats off guard.

"She's a woman that is known as being a hardworking woman, dedicated, and is willing to work whatever it takes to get the job done," Schwarzenegger said at a news conference. "She's willing to set her Democratic philosophy aside and do the job and do my vision — to be able to work together with Democrats and Republicans." see Governor, page 2

Susan Kennedy answers questions in Sacramento.
What happened. We see the pictures and videos but actually being there and seeing the vastness of the disaster, the complete destruction of cities — it’s hard to come to grips with,” Fritch said. The students signed up to participate in the Thai Poly program prior to the tsunami but decided to still go abroad after the disaster and contribute to the relief efforts while they were there.

“Americans, we don’t realize what happened. We see the pictures and videos but actually Lighthouse that I ended up buying food at Campus Market,” she said. “I had a lot of wasted meals...” If ever ate at Lighthouse, it was more of a social meal with friends. I would have liked to have the extra Plus Dollars instead.

Cushman said that Cal Poly’s move to Plus Dollars correlates with a national trend of universities using discretionary dollars instead of fixed meal programs.

Thailand continued from page 1

“There was definitely a somber mood being there,” physics senior Matt Fritch said of his experience in Thailand. “Our guide would point out the places where hundreds of people died. Being there made me realize how big it was and how many lives were taken.”

The students signed up to participate in this study program to get an up close view of the disaster. The students were there.

As Americans, we don’t realize what happened. We see the pictures and videos but actually...” Fritch explained that it was difficult to find much work to do in Phuket because they did not have the resources like lumber needed to rebuild the village instead of building houses. Fritch and the 19 other Cal Poly students helped pick up garbage and debris left in the village.

“We live so far away we don’t understand how many people died in one day, we don’t understand how horrible it was,” Fritch said.

Government continued from page 1

Kennedy’s appointment could help regain the support of Democrats and independents the governor lost over the last year, but it also jeopardizes his standing among conservatives, his only reliable supporters.

“This makes Schwarzenegger a man without a country,” said GOP strategist Dave Gillard, who helped run the campaign to recall Davis. “The Democrat will never accept him or embrace him, and now he’s breaking with his base. I don’t understand it.”

Even some leading Democrat appeared puzzled by the appointment. “Any move by the governor to embrace Democratic values is good news for the state,” said Steve Maviglio, spokesman for Democratic Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez. “However, it leaves many Democrats, as well as Republicans, wondering if he has any core values at all.”

At Schwarzenegger’s side Wednesday, Kennedy sought to downplay the partisan labels, seeing her appointment as a historic opportunity to end the political gridlock in Sacramento.

“I believe in this man, and I believe in what he’s trying to do for this state and where he’s trying to take California,” she said. “I think a moderate Democrat and a moderate Republican — there is not a lot of light between us.”

Kennedy said she voted for all of Schwarzenegger’s ballot measures, which would have capped state spending, changed the way legislative districts are drawn and reformed teacher tenure rules.

A fourth measure, which Schwarzenegger did not place on the ballot but embraced as part of his agenda, would have restricted public employee unions in raising money for political purposes. It was not immediately clear from Kennedy’s response whether she voted for that proposal.

Clarey said in a letter sent Wednesday to Schwarzenegger that she would resign at the end of the year.

“It’s been quite a ride,” she said in the letter, which was released by the governor’s staff. “While much remains to be done, I am gratified at the success we have realized.”

Schwarzenegger hinted at further staff changes. “People after a certain amount of time in this job, working here at the Capitol, they get burned out and want to move on,” he said.

Kennedy will join a Schwarzenegger inner circle that already contains Democrats in key positions. Among them are senior aide Bonnie Reis, Cabinet Secretary Terry Tamminen and Daniel Zingale, another former Davis aide who now serves as chief of staff to first lady Maria Shriver.

Kennedy, appointed to the PUC in 2003, has served as executive director of the California Democratic Party and executive director of the California Abortion Rights Action League.
THE FACE OF CAL POLY

Favorites

Song: "California Love" by 2Pac
Ice cream flavor: Goldstone strawberry cheesecake
Day of the week: Saturday
Musical: "Annie"
Reality show: "Pimp My Ride"
Holiday food: Prime rib on Christmas Eve

If You Could ...
— be any board game which one would you be?
Matt Maddness because I love sales in the shoe store.
— Other

Name: Molly Srodel
Year: senior
Hometown: Stockton
Major: agricultural business

Briefs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a simple ceremony, a new star honoring Oscar-winning actor Gregory Peck was unveiled Wednesday on the Hollywood Walk of Fame to replace one that was stolen by a brazen thief.

Kneeling on the ground, Hollywood's honorary mayor Johnny Grant lifted a covering and announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, we proudly welcome back to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Gregory Peck."

Peck's original star had been part of the Hollywood Boulevard celebrity shrine for more than four decades until someone cut it out of the sidewalk with a cement saw.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — President Bush gave an unflinching defense of his war strategy on Wednesday, refusing to set a timetable for U.S. troop withdrawals and asserting that once those Iraqi troops are proving capable, increasingly able. Democrats dismissed his words as a stay-the-battle, and he said their performance "is still uneven in some parts." But he also said improvements have been made in training and Iraqi units are growing more independent and controlling more territory.

BERLIN (AP) — Signaling a strength for a close, honest, open partnership. Merkel said in her first speech to Wednesday to put aside past differences between Germany and the United States even as she pressed for the Bush administration to take seriously European concerns about alleged U.S. prisons in Europe.

"Let the battles of the past lie, those battles have been fought," Merkel said in her first speech to parliament as chancellor. "As far as the future is concerned, the new government will work with all its strength for a close, honest, open and trusting relationship in the trans-Atlantic partnership."

Study says states don't use tobacco money for prevention

Jonathan M. Katz

WASHINGTON — Just a fraction of the money that states received from tobacco settlements and taxes is being used to prevent smoking, advocacy groups reported in a study Wednesday.

The report, "A Broken Promise to Our Children," was released by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and American Lung Association.

Some $531 million is allocated for tobacco-use prevention programs in the 2006 budget year, the study said. That pales in comparison with the $1.6 billion recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Vince Willmore, spokesman for the campaign.

Even that amount would represent a small part of the $21.3 billion available to states this year from the 1998 tobacco settlement and state tobacco taxes.

Only Maine, Colorado, Delaware and Mississippi spend at least the recommended amount. Some $551 million is allocated for tobacco money for prevention construction projects, the report said.

The tobacco industry said money from its $206 billion settlement with the states should be used for its agreed-upon purpose.

"The tobacco industry said money from its $206 billion settlement with the states should be used for its agreed-upon purpose. "To us it would be something of a disconnect between how (states) are spending the money and what they said they needed it for," said John Singleton, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.'s director of communications.

Under Four... or 'walk of shame'? 

The Average Cal Poly Student Drinks Under Four Drinks In One Sitting

A new car since my transmission is going out.

— What do you want for Christmas?
"NSYNC or Backstreet Boys

Jonathan M. Katz

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87% of female Cal Poly students drink less than two times a week.
N.C. killer hoping to avoid being 1,000th inmate executed since 1977

Estes Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. — An inmate set to become the 1,000th person executed in the U.S. since capital punishment was reinstated said Wednesday he doesn’t think he deserves death for murdering his estranged wife and her father.

“I don’t like the idea of being picked as a number,” Kenneth Lee Boyd told The Associated Press in a prison interview. “I feel like I should be in prison for the rest of my life.”

Boyd, scheduled to die by injection at 2 a.m. Friday, could have been the 1,000th inmate to put to death since 1977 had outgoing Virginia Gov. Mark Warner not granted clemency to another inmate Tuesday. Warner, considered a contender for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, said destroyed DNA evidence led him to reduce Kobin Lovitt’s sentence to life in prison without parole.

Boyd is seeking clemency from North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley. A federal appeals court also could block him from the electric chair, but a U.S. district court judge in Virginia on Tuesday blocked the execution of another inmate, excluding Boyd’s case from the clemency petition seriously.

“Boyd’s attorney, Thomas Maher, said the governor will treat him to reduce Kobin Lovitt’s sentence to life in prison without parole. But 1 hope that would be true regardless of whether this is case 999,1,000 or 1,001,” Maher said.

A spokesman for Easley, Cari Boyce, said the governor would treat every clemency petition seriously.

One case was marked by accusations that the jury was racially biased against the defendant, a black man convicted of killing the husband of a white woman with whom he had been having an affair. The other case involved lost DNA evidence, like the Virginia case in which Warner granted clemency to Lovitt.

In 2001, a court clerk destroyed much of the evidence in Lovitt’s case, including a pair of scissors used to stab a man to death in a 1998 robbery at an Ashington, Va., pawn shop. Just a few weeks earlier, Virginia implemented a law requiring the preservation of DNA evidence in death row cases.

Lovitt, 42, admitted grabbing the cash box in the robbery but denied killing Clayton Dicks.

Initial DNA tests on the scissors were inconclusive, but Lovitt’s lawyers, who include former Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr, argued that more sophisticated DNA tests available today could have cleared their client.

Warner, who has allowed 11 executions over nearly four years in office, had never before granted clemency to a death row inmate.

“The commonwealth must ensure that every time this ultimate sanction is carried out, it is done fairly,” he said.

Warner’s clemency decision could boost his national prospects, said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. Democratic party activists in Iowa, which has an early caucus, and New Hampshire, which has an early primary, are vehemently anti-death penalty, he said.

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4 Thursday, December 1, 2005

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December 5-9
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Campus Market Tent

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Saturn's largest moon has dramatic weather, geological activity

Angela Doland
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Saturn's planet-size moon Titan has dramatic weather, with turbulent high-altitude winds, periodic floods of liquid methane, and possibly lightning, scientists said Wednesday in describing a world that may look like Earth before life developed.

The European Space Agency's Huygens probe landed on Titan in January, uncovering some mysteries of the methane-rich globe — the only moon in the solar system known to have a thick atmosphere. Scientists presented detailed results of months of study in the online edition of the journal Nature and at a news conference in Paris.

"It's a very strange fantasy world made of ice, with things like gossamer clouds and tar that make up the rivers and the lake beds," said scientist Jonathan Lunine of the University of Arizona, when asked how he would explain the finding to a child.

"If you try to walk around on it, your feet might get stuck in some places, you'd slide down into methane rivers in other places, and you'd better watch out for the mystery component they cannot identify," said Jean-Pierre Lebreton, Huygens mission scientist.

Titan's smoggy atmosphere may be similar to that of the primordial Earth, and scientists believe that studying it could provide clues to how life began.

Titan shows signs of having "the very first stages of the building blocks of life," but it's too cold for molecules that include carbon and nitrogen to combine, said John Zarnecki, a scientist from Open University in Britain. Temperatures on the surface are 290 degrees below zero.

"If the sun one day expands and becomes a red giant, as some speculate, Titan may warm up," Zarnecki said.

TITAN'S ATMOSPHERE

If you try to walk around on it, your feet might get stuck in some places, you'd slide down into methane rivers in other places, and you'd better watch out for the mystery component they cannot identify.

Scientists have been surprised by evidence against that theory. The $3.5 billion Cassini-Huygens mission to explore Saturn and its moons was launched in 1997 from Cape Canaveral, a joint effort involving NASA, ESA and the Italian space agency.

Titan's clouds are made from molecules that include carbon and nitrogen — compounds generated by rain and the atmosphere, the researchers reported in Nature.

They said there was no reason to believe Titan's methane is a product of biological activity.

Yet more methane is appearing constantly and may burst from ice volcanos or fall as rain, researchers said, describing riverbed and drainage channels spotted during the craft's descent Jan. 14.

"Titan's upper atmosphere is turbulent, with winds blowing mostly in the direction of its rotation, then slowing down and changing direction closer to the surface," said Limine. "Electric charges detected in the atmosphere could be lightning."
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Examples of online classes available beginning January 2006:

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<th>AHC Equivalent</th>
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<td>ANTHRO 101</td>
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<td>CP GE A3</td>
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For a complete list of Allan Hancock College courses, go to www.hancockcollege.edu and click on University Programs.

The AHC spring semester runs January through May 2006 (some classes end sooner).

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### Calling all trendsters, scensters and aspiring writers

*Billboard Magazine* is accepting student essays, poems and artwork for its annual "Student Voice Contest." Since mid-November, *mtvU* in collaboration with *Billboard Magazine,* has been promoting one of their most recent contests, "mtvU Student Voice Contest." Just 450 characters (not words) or less may land an aspiring music writer a spot as a guest columnist for *Billboard Magazine*’s "Student Eye" column. All students have to do is log on to [www.mtvU.com](http://www.mtvU.com) and click on the "Student Voice Contest" hyperlink that will take applicants to a simple online form.

So if you're keen to pop culture and all things music, visit [www.mtvU.com](http://www.mtvU.com) for official rules and submission guidelines. There is no need for any prior music writing experience, just the ability to show off your best prose in less than 500 words. The top five finalists will have their winning essays published online at [www.mtvU.com](http://www.mtvU.com). Each finalist will also receive a one-year subscription to *Billboard Magazine,* according to the mtvU Web-site. The deadline to submit a completed online entry form is Jan. 30. Finalists will be announced in February.

To give hesitant writers a sneak peek at what kinds of questions *Billboard Magazine* and mtvU will be posing, the first question asks, "You've just been given $5 million to start your own record label. How would you do it?"

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### Boys, boys, boys

**The Mr. & Mrs. DVD lives up to none of its hype**

Mandy Schick

NEW YORK — In "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," the latest star vehicle featuring Edith-Who-Dumped-Bachleder-Friends and Big-Lips Honeywater — oops, I mean, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie — all the elements were there: two impossibly gorgeous people, real-life drama, fancy gowns and Virgo's myriad warnings that you publish such a shame that this film is so lame.

I mean, come on, you've got two of the sexiest people in the world on a screen, during a time when they were either having hot sex or wanting to have hot sex. They're brandishing machine guns, walking around in stilts and living in New Jersey. Sounds pretty awesome, right? Sigh. No, not really.

All we wanted to see this movie so we could witness Brangelina's sultry, last-flushed scenes. Surely, the sexual tension alone could drive this film? Unfortunately, watching Brad and Angelina act together is a lot like watching an awkward episode of "Blind Date" that makes you squirm from sheer lack of chemistry.

I kept waiting for these lovely, bored-looking actors to have a little fun. One wonders, wouldn't playing a hot bounty hunter be fun? Wouldn't it be a blast to wear leather and stockings and such and pretend you're trying to kill Brad Pitt? You would think so, yet Angelina seems pretty non-plussed about her gig. Ditto for Brad, who lacks zest. Where's the goddess one would expect from an actor playing a hot assassin? Even Bridget Fonda had a little fun in "Sword of the Rose." "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" could have been so stylish, so glamorous. It could have dazed. Instead, it hits the screen with a dull thud. Brad and Angie bore when they should have shone.

---

**Happy Holidays from the Mustang Daily!**

*Intermezzo*

*Photography / Studio Art / Graphic Design*

A collection of [SPI's](http://www.spiralと思い実を.html) artwork based on their needs to help and communicate with the campus community.

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### Devious

**Thursday, December 1, 2005**

- **Boys, boys, boys**
- **The Mr. & Mrs. DVD lives up to none of its hype**
- **Calling all trendsters, scensters and aspiring writers**
- **Happy Holidays from the Mustang Daily!**
- **Intermezzo**
Intel to partner with TiVo and others on entertainment PC platform

Matthew Fordahl  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Intel Corp. on Wednesday unveiled its first list of companies whose products are expected to work with the chip maker's upcoming Viiv entertainment PC platform.

So far, about 40 companies that develop TV, movie, music, gaming and photo-editing products are testing and verifying services, programs and gadgets that will interact with the Intel technology, said Kevin Corbett, an Intel vice president in charge of content services.

The goal of the Viiv label, he said, is to avoid consumer confusion and questions over interoperability. It also will ensure the products will work when the PC is being controlled from a distance via a remote control.

Intel followed a similar strategy in 2003 when it launched its Centrino technology for laptops. Along with a big marketing push, it worked to ensure that gear carrying the Centrino logo worked with laptops branded the same way.

"We basically accelerated the heck out of Wi-Fi," Corbett said. "We plan to do the same thing around digital entertainment."

Digital video recorder pioneer TiVo Inc. plans to use the technology to make it simple not only to transfer from TiVo set-top box to a Viiv PC but also allow for the transfer of shows on the PC to a TiVo. Viiv also will make it easier to move the content to a DVD or handheld player.


Corbett declined to comment on whether Apple Computer Inc. is participating in Viiv. Earlier this year, Apple announced that it would start using Intel microprocessors in its Macintosh computers and it also has released entertainment PC-like soft-

see Intel, page 9
y, the holidays are almost here! And while I may not have a recipe for honey-baked ham or roast duck, I do have a Hanukkah favorite: latkes (potato pancakes). No matter how many Jewish mothers you ask, each one will have a different recipe for you. This one happens to be my mom's family recipe and is a hit at every Hannukah dinner. In case you've never tried latkes before, their taste resembles great, freshly-made hash browns.

Potato Latkes
6 potatoes
1 small onion
3 eggs
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup flour
1 tablespoon oil
Non-flammable or use a fire extinguisher.

Using a food processor (usually a Cuisinart), grate potatoes and onion. You can also use a hand grater if you don't have a processor. Once shredded, place in large mixing bowl. Add other ingredients and mix with hands until all is combined. In a large frying pan, heat 3-5 Tbs. oil. Scoop out about a golf ball-sized handful of latke mixture and squeeze out excess juice. Press into thick pancake shape and place in frying pan. Continue until about three or four latkes are on the pan. Fry and flip until both sides are a golden brown.

Remove latkes and pat dry with paper towel. Serve with applesauce or sour cream.

A Note from the Chef:
This is unfortunately my last cooking column of the year. In early January, I'll be taking off for the culinary capitol of the world — Paris — until summer. In the meantime, you can find all my recipes at www.mostangdaily.net and if you want to expand your cooking horizons, visit www.food-network.com, which has thousands of recipes for every ingredient or occasion. Au revoir and happy holidays!

Intel
continued from page 8
PCs based on Viiv, are expected to be available in a variety of forms, ranging from the size of a stereo system component to a media server "engine" that referring digital content for viewing on a variety of devices. Viiv is expected to be available in the first quarter of next year.

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The invisible man finishes last in this race

It the expression “nice guys finish last,” the word nice is a misnomer. The real truth is that “nice guys finish last.” Passive men who proclaim this credo are probably mis-construing the qualities in themselves that make them invisible to (or repulse) the women they desire. Guys afraid to share their emotions are women they desire, (guys afraid to complaining about finishing last though they’re not even racing. How can they expect to win a race while standing still? Men interested in women need to put their efforts into acting, not into whining.

Sure, being “nice” might exclude you from “bad-boy” women who like to stalk face with motorcycle riders and ass-kickers, but using niceness as your excuse for the mild forms of candor that bore disinterest women will keep you from all of them. Sometimes being “nice” is a turn off to most women. Ensure your definition doesn’t include “inhibition” or “unsuspected paralysis,” and your stock will go up. By God, if you’re falling in love with the girl, tell her. Tell her the courage to tell her, take the chance and kiss her. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. She will not gravitate to you magically but strong your feelings burn inside your head. The sad fact is she’s more likely to end up with some womenizing asshole simply because he had the courage to kiss her passionately or say I love you (even if he’s lying! You wouldn’t be lying! Say it! Say it already!). Most bad-boy relationships are doomed to disintegrate, but you’ll never know what your chances are if you’re too busy writing nice letters to the nice editor about your nice cowgirl. The Web site lifetips.com gives 4 top ten list of qualities women look for in men, which sites both “confidence” and “showing love.” And, a surprise to pessimistic nice guys, the list also cites “kindness,” ranked higher than either of the first two. So, it’s a mix of all these ingredients in Aphrodite’s recipe that makes the love cake.

For fear I’m being too mean, I need to declare that I sympathize with the nice guys. I really do. It’s the nice guys who’ll make trophy boyfriends and grade-A husbands when they learn to act instead of just being there to lie in their laps. I’m a nice guy. My passion for this topic comes from my personal experience with the feeling of expecting good women to happen to you, and the depressing feelings of being trapped in last place. But I also bring good news: I escaped from that dead end, and so can anyone else who can quit their bad habits. Start small and think big. Start a conversation with a strange girl you think is cute, and ask her for her number. Tell a girl something complimentary and true that you feel about her. Get her flowers. Write her a love letter. The big risk is that a girl might never know you feel unless you gesture to her with words or acts. Who knows, maybe she secretly waits for you to do so, having giddy-heart dreams about you by night and penning your name all over her class notes by day, dotting your I’s with hearts and crossing your T’s with cupid arrows. And what if, despite your hopes, it backfires? The worst you should expect is a “nice” no thanks.”

What does the other sex have to say?

I, for one, have never been even slightly attracted to a bad boy...

Plagiarism is not a universally-understood concept

Students press to succeed in class and as a result from pressure, ignorance and laziness, students plagiarize in written works and assignments. According to an unscientific survey conducted at Cal Poly of 40 random students, one in every four students admitted to plagiarizing during their academic careers.

Some university professors think the understanding of plagiarism is elementary and universally understood; and therefore, most professors dedicate little time to teaching the various forms of plagiarism. Maybe teachers need to stop admonishing students not to plagiarize, but tell a student how to avoid it.

The unscientific survey concluded that out of 40, only 25 students knew the definition of plagiarism means, which means only 60 percent of students know the concepts of plagiarism. Perhaps, we can question the possibility of plagiarism being partly the fault of the university and not the student.

Most students said the meaning of plagiarism is “copying,” but according to plagiarism.org, “terms like ‘copying’ and ‘borrowing’ can disguise the seriousness of the offense.”

Many students believe that changing the words in a sentence avoids plagiarism. Some students even admit to being taught and encouraged by previous professors to change words in a sentence to prevent copying directly from a source. But it’s revealed in one definition of plagiarism that even changing words in a sentence equates to plagiarism.

Most survey responses admit to having no knowledge that copying a unique word may be a form of plagiarism. According to the Psychological Record showed that 36 percent of undergraduates have admitted to plagiarizing written material.

According to the Web site, “a study by The Center for Academic Integrity found that almost 80 percent of college students admit to cheating at least once. In addition, a survey by the Psychological Record showed that 36 percent of undergraduates have admitted to plagiarizing written material.

A survey by the Psychological Record showed that 36 percent of undergraduates have admitted to plagiarizing written material. Psychological copying, content structure, a sentence, ideas and a unique word are all considered plagiarism. In a sense, telling a student that these are the forms of plagiarism leaves a student more desperate to plagiarize. What then is not plagiarism? Over the summer a Cal Poly faced student the Department of plagiarism and experienced the full extent of the university’s punishment. But we need to ask why students plagiarize because it is really the student’s fault? Sure, some students plagiarize because they’re downright lary, some students plagiarize unintentionally and some students plagiarize because the importance of knowing how to write isn’t emphasized enough in classes. Therefore, it may be the responsibility of the professor to reiterate the importance of plagiarism, explain the concepts of plagiarism and advise a student on how to avoid it.

For the fact that writing indicates absorbed knowledge, understanding and analytical thinking, students will casually plagiarize and probably continue to plagiarize intentionally and unintentionally until the concepts of plagiarism are not just mentioned, but taught.
LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

God can handle his own affairs
In response to Ingram's article, "Who would Jesus hate?" I must say that it sounded more like a rant than any organized thought process. Yes, I understand your anger about the molestation of children, and you appear to support the rights of gays, but what does that have to do with Jesus hating anybody? I am not a Catholic myself, but I am very offended by your spiteful attack on the Catholic Church. As Catholic-bashing seems to be on the rise late, I find myself in the position of defending them against outspoken idiots like yourself. Honestly, reading your article did not sway me to your side, which exalted the essence of hate itself. Rather, I realize that you are merely an angry individual with nothing better to do than condemn an institution that stands for something greater than itself.

Ryan Hunter
Mechanical engineering senior

A few weeks ago I was at a Rolling Stones concert in San Francisco, and as I was looking down the rows I kept noticing small blue lights popping up. I didn't think much of it until I noticed a man in front of me pulling out his camera phone and taking shots of the stage. This is what the crowd had been doing, taking low-grade pictures with their pin-sized cameras. Lighters have been replaced by phones.

Some Native American tribes believed that when you took a photo of someone it stole their soul; if Keith Richards was still alive to have a soul it would have been gone.

Yes, I am a hypocrite; I both own and use a cell phone. I don't even have a home phone; I rely solely on my cell phone and it's questionable reception, and I hate myself for it. I am a self-hating cell phone user.

Ten years ago, when cell phones were a bit scarcer, people couldn't be contacted at any moment of the day (or night). For those who have, in order to get aloof of someone you would call their house, they probably wouldn't answer, and then you would leave a message.

Of course, the person was probably there and they probably heard your message, but they didn't feel like responding right away so they would tell you the next time they saw you they hadn't checked their messages. It was nice; you didn't have to talk to everyone that called and you didn't come off as rude.

Now when someone calls your cell, they know that you see they are calling. When you don't answer, they know that you saw their name and choose not to talk to them. Ouch.

Or even worse, you call someone to come over.

That friend calls two other friends, and they call two friends, and because everyone always has their phone, each of the friends gets the message. Within one hour I can't get a beer and the term "house cup" has the same significance as "Republican ethics" because no one knows who's house they are at.

Surfing, a culture that has no need for a cell phone, is being ruined too, and here's how. Two friends cruise out early one morning to go find that perfect wave, and pay the $2,000 in gas to check the local spots. They find it, a perfect, peeling, glassy left. What do the surfers do? They call two friends, and their friends call two friends, and so on and so on. Before they know it the local wave looks like the 405 freeway at 5:30 p.m.

These things don't have to keep happening. If we as a society decide to start practicing responsible cell phone use, the world would be a better place. If we all start thinking about the person throwing the party, or the surfer trying to get a peak to themselves or the friend whose call you just declined, we can put a stop to cell phone-related problems.

I'm going to try, will you?

Jen Sargent is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily columnist.

LETTER POLICY
Send us your love, hate and more.

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

By e-mail:
mustangdaily@gmail.com

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OP/ED
Thursday, December 1, 2005

LETTiERS TO THE EDITOR

Cell phones are ruining America

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El Corral Bookstore
I stood at the base of Salmon Creek waterfall and felt the mist soaking into my clothes. The roughness of the rock surrounding the three-tiered falls matched the texture of the water as it cascaded down the coarse boulders, spewing cool water in all directions. The scene was reminiscent of a fairy tale—a rock above the waterfall came to a point at the top, making it look almost like a small cottage with a solitary tree in front. As the water tumbled down, the mist reached a large, healthy fern on the right that, if it grew much more, could obstruct the magnificent view of the falls. But the green area around was a brilliant contrast to the white waters.

Numerous times the mist made me feel entranced. The cool, tingling sensation accompanying such a striking visual display lifted the experience up to surreal. The waterfall was inevitable and seemed to be getting more powerful by the minute. The stream roared loudly, but the air was clean and cool and the overall ambiance was peaceful.

It's obvious that California's Central Coast is pretty far from Niagara Falls. The world's highest waterfall, Angel Falls in Venezuela, is a trip most of us just can't afford to make. But just up U.S. Highway 1 about 100 miles is a wealth of waterfalls, rivers and beautiful beaches just waiting to share their mist, my favorite of which is Salmon Creek. With all the options that the Big Sur area has to offer, it's possible to stay for a week or just go for a day and visit. I offer, it's possible to stay for a week and cool and the overall ambiance could obstruct the magnificent scene was reminiscent of a fairy tale—a striking visual display lifted the scene.

Our day began a little late, about 11 a.m. We parked cameras, sweaters, sunscreen and hiking shoes and filled a cooler with soda, water, sandwiches and some other snacks for the road. We were on our way by noon and the only thing that got in our way was an occasional scenic distraction.

After driving for about 45 minutes on U.S. Highway 1 we came upon Piedras Blancas beach, where hundreds of elephant seals were resting on the sand. We stopped to watch and take some photos of the fascinating creatures. The parking lot was crowded, as were the observation areas, but we were able to stay for about 15 minutes to watch. It was the perfect break from the drive and we continued on, feeling refreshed. Salmon Creek is just south of Gorda on U.S. Highway 1. Driving there is beautiful, but difficult. With constant warnings telling you to slow down to as low as 10 miles per hour, caution is necessary. Salmon Creek is visible from the highway and there is a sign on the right that labels it clearly. However, be prepared to stop abruptly and park just after a rather rough fork in the road.

After parking, we got out of the car and we could see the waterfall from the road. It sounded like a highway, but much more constant and pleasing. We walked to the trail and began to ascend to the base of the waterfall. The hike was only a few minutes and not difficult at all. Granted, I knew it was going to be easy so I wore flat tennis shoes and was slipping in the mud constantly, so wear good shoes.

One strikingly Californian element to the trail and the surrounding areas was the poison oak. It was literally everywhere on the trail and it started to look like it was just another bush. I sat down at one point to write in my notebook and promptly turned my shoulder to see a large poison oak plant about an inch from my back. Trying to avoid the devils' shrimp and keep from slipping, I climbed up above the waterfall on the trail, but there wasn't much to see. It was much better just below, so I went back down and remained there for the remainder of my stay.

As the water flows down to the train and river horizontally, it is spotted on either side with trees carved with names, initials and hearts. Though I'm sure park personnel aren't too happy about this, it really gave the area a human charm. The combination of a natural masterpiece with a man-made memory book made me feel like I was experiencing something that many people had before—that we were sharing it with all those who came before.

A man sitting on a rock was picking up twigs, breaking them, and throwing them into the stream to watch them float away. Even this scene was pleasant. I understood the simple thrill that he was feeling.

After a short amount of time we walked back down the trail to the car and ate the sandwiches we had packed. We had made it a point to not plan our day and just let it take its course as we explored, so soon we were back on the road, waiting to see what came next up the highway.

We passed Kirk Creek campground on the left as we were driving and decided it might be a good place to end up later that day, but we kept driving to find somewhere to hike. We finally made it up to Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and parked the car. I changed my shoes this time and we started on the Pfeiffer Falls trail, which was short but beautiful. The trail extends above Pfeiffer Big Sur Creek and through to yet another waterfall. The redwoods in the area are stunning and made the hike shady and relaxing. We made it down to the road and walked the rest of the way past campgrounds to the road.

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Tour de California

Brittany Ridley
NATIONAL EDITOR
San Luis Obispo will host California's first Amgen Tour of California professional bike race in February.

Professional cyclists from around the world will participate in the eight-day race starting in San Francisco and ending in Redondo Beach.

San Luis Obispo will host the finish to the fourth stage of the race on Thursday, Feb. 24 and the start on Feb. 25.

“We are a bike-oriented community and we are tickled to death with this,” Mayor Dave Romero said. “We will have a lot of city staff, police and sheriffs that will be protecting the routes when they come in.”

The route into San Luis Obispo will go from Terris Road onto Los Osos Valley Road, over to Chorro Street and finally to Monterey Street with a finish line in front of the courthouse.

Cal Poly's industrial technology senior Lucas Euler will also participate in the race, riding with his fellow TIAA-CREF teammates. Euler will be racing with the some of the top cyclists in the United States and Europe such as Levi Leipheimer and members of Lance Armstrong's former Discovery Channel team.

"It's going to be a huge experience for me because it's the first race where I have to get out and show them what I can do," Euler said. "As a team we are going to go for stage wins. If I am part of that in any way that is enough for me. I don't have to have personal success. If my team does well that is good enough.”

Euser began preparation specifically for this race in early November and will continue his rigorous training schedule until February.

"I will ride about 18 to 22 hours a week and my hard weeks are 22 to 30 hours. I spend some time in the gym and do other stuff like yoga and pilates," Euler said. "We take three or four months to get ready for the nine months of racing we do, so we are on our bike for 11 months out of the year.”

During this past summer, Euler was selected for the US national team in Europe and lived in Belgium where he participated in international races throughout Belgium and France.

Euser said his experience in Europe helped him prepare for large races such as the Tour of California. One of these experiences included his participation in the Tour de l'Avenir, the Tour de France for cyclists 26 years old and under.

The 10 day race spans 1500 kilometers across the French countryside said Euler.

"They are actually really similar. That (Tour de l'Avenir) was a 10-day race and the Tour of California is an eight-day race," Euler said. "It is the most similar to what I am going to be doing in February, and it was the harder thing I have ever done. It is going to be a challenge physically and mentally.”

Other activities will accompany the race such as a lifestyle festival, promoting healthy living, which is the most similar to what I am going to be doing in February, and it was the harder thing I have ever done. It is going to be a challenge physically and mentally.”

Tour de California will replace that,” Romero said.

Fitzgerald said that the city feels prepared for the event with the past experience of hosting two Olympic torch runs, but the city is in need of up to 400 volunteers for the two day events. Cal Poly students are encouraged to participate in the event Fitzgerald said.

For more information on the Amgen Tour of California go to www.amgen-tourofcalifornia.com or for volunteer information call Rich Ogden at 543-7405.
Big Sur
coming soon page 13

near sunset. We stopped at a "village shop" near the street and asked someone how to get to McWay Falls — a beautiful beach near sunset. We stopped at a "village shop" precisely from there.

Although the road itself was not glamorous, there was a thrill to US highway 1 for one at that time of day. There were so many turnoffs that it made me want to stop every mile or so to see what was going to happen in the sky next. The sun was never obstructed, so we stopped once to get some pictures.

We reached the campsite just after the sun went down and easily found a spot to have a fire. At this point we had only spent money on gas and firewood, but we had to pay a $5 fee for using the campground to rest. It was a small price for what turned into hours of sitting by the fire and watching the amazingly bright stars.

It was the perfect end to our day trip to Big Sur. For me, the area was a unstructural kind of visual pleasures, regardless of where we were. Even driving on the highway provided beautiful scenery and by nightfall the ocean and the green hills were dark, but the night sky and the hall of the ocean waves created a different kind of thrill.

The Central Coast is known for so many things, and one of them is definitely its close proximity to Big Sur. But no matter how much it's talked about, there is nothing like exploring and experiencing it all for yourself.