Campus Dining to phase out meals

Jonathan Drake

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 Cashman, 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 and the San Luis Obispo Rotary Club, offers a chance to have a Billboard Magazine column.

Cashman 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."

Cashman 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, Cashman said. "Some students don't use their meals at all, and it all goes to waste," said Nick Chronos, 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 meal plan.

MVMTU contest offers a chance to have a Billboard Magazine column.

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

MVMTUContest

TODAY'S WEATHER

High

Low

Students, Rotary International raise money to aid tsunami victims

Louise Dolby

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 with the parents," said Harold Kerbo, the social sciences department chair. "Since so many children lost their parents, we were worried about children being 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 homes 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, Utthai Dukaykam, 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 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 Thailan,page 2

MVMTU contest offers a chance to have a Billboard Magazine column.

Schwarzenegger names Democrat chief of staff

Tom Choroneau

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

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

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

Kennedy, 45, was Cabinet secretary to former Gov. Gray Davis, who was ousted in the 2003 recall election that brought Schwarzenegger to power. She also is a former director of an abortion rights group and one of the highest-profile gays in state politics, making her appointment a risky one for the Republican governor.

"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

MVMTU contest offers a chance to have a Billboard Magazine column.

Students, Rotary International raise money to aid tsunami victims

Louise Dolby

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 with their parents," said Harold Kerbo, the social sciences department chair. "Since so many children lost their parents, we were worried about children being 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 homes 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, Utthai Dukaykam, 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 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 Thailan, page 2

Schwarzenegger names Democrat chief of staff

Tom Choroneau

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

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

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

Kennedy, 45, was Cabinet secretary to former Gov. Gray Davis, who was ousted in the 2003 recall election that brought Schwarzenegger to power. She also is a former director of an abortion rights group and one of the highest-profile gays in state politics, making her appointment a risky one for the Republican governor.

"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

MVMTU contest offers a chance to have a Billboard Magazine column.

Schwarzenegger names Democrat chief of staff

Tom Choroneau

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

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

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

Kennedy, 45, was Cabinet secretary to former Gov. Gray Davis, who was ousted in the 2003 recall election that brought Schwarzenegger to power. She also is a former director of an abortion rights group and one of the highest-profile gays in state politics, making her appointment a risky one for the Republican governor.

"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

MVMTU contest offers a chance to have a Billboard Magazine column.
Dining

continued from page 1

plans with more meals, said agri­
culture business senior Alisha Shaffer. "I knew some football
players who liked the meals
because it was all you can eat." 

However, Megan Yoder, a
communication studies senior,
did not use most of her meals.
"The food was just so nasty at
Lighthouse that I ended up buy­
ing 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 univer­
sities 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
experience in Thailand, "Our
students signed up to par­
ticipate in the
Dining Abroad program prior to the
southern but decided to still go
abroad after the disaster and con­
tribute to the relief eforts while
they were there.

"As Americans, we don't real­
ize what happened. We see
the pictures and videos but actually
being there and seeing the vast­
tion of the disaster, the complete
destruction of cites - it's hard to
come to grips with," Frich said.

Frith explained that it was dif­
ficult to find much work to do in
Phuket because they
did not have
the resources
like hammer
needed to
rebuild the
evillage.

Instead of
building
d houses.

Frith and
19 other Cal Poly
students helped pick
up garbage and debris left in the
villages.

"We live so far away we don't
understand how many people
died in one
day, we don't understand
how horrible it was," Frich said.

Governor

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
Dane 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 Democrats
appeared puzzled by the appointment.

"Any move by the governor to
embrace Democratic values is good
news for the state," said Steve Mariotti,
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 down­
play the partisan labels, saying 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 spend­
ing, changed the way legislative dis­
tricts 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 revealed public
employee unions in raising money for
political purposes. It was not immedi­
ately 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 burnt 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, anoth­
er 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

Favorite
Song: "California Love" by 2Pac
Ice cream flavor: Goldstar 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?
— Mall Madness because I love sales in the shoe store.

Other

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 $551 million is allocated for tobacco-use prevention programs in the 2006 budget year, the study said. That pale 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 minimum recommended by the CDC, the study said. Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee and the District of Columbia spend no state funds at all, the report found, while 35 states fund at less than half of the recommended amount.

States sell tobacco-related funds to pay off budget shortfalls and use them for capital campaigns and construction projects, the report said.

States also get prevention money from the CDC. Averaging about $1 million per state, the total is nowhere near what the CDC recommends, said Dr. David Nielson, senior scientific advisor for the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health.

States minimums, based on population size and need, range from $7.3 million for Wyoming to more than $165 million for California.

Ballot initiatives forcing states to spend tobacco tax or settlement money on prevention programs could solve these shortcomings in the future, advocates said.

Colorado, which passed such an initiative as part of a tax increase in 2004, showed the biggest progress in this year's report. The state's prevention spending rose from $27 million last year, Willmore said. The CDC's minimum for Colorado is $24.6 million.

Montana and Oklahoma's prevention spending improved thanks to similar initiatives, he said.

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

"It's hard to see 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.

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.

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 $551 million is allocated for tobacco-use prevention programs in the 2006 budget year, the study said. That pale 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 minimum recommended by the CDC, the study said. Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee and the District of Columbia spend no state funds at all, the report found, while 35 states fund at less than half of the recommended amount.

States sell tobacco-related funds to pay off budget shortfalls and use them for capital campaigns and construction projects, the report said.

States also get prevention money from the CDC. Averaging about $1 million per state, the total is nowhere near what the CDC recommends, said Dr. David Nielson, senior scientific advisor for the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health.

States minimums, based on population size and need, range from $7.3 million for Wyoming to more than $165 million for California.

Ballot initiatives forcing states to spend tobacco tax or settlement money on prevention programs could solve these shortcomings in the future, advocates said.

Colorado, which passed such an initiative as part of a tax increase in 2004, showed the biggest progress in this year's report. The state's prevention spending rose from $27 million last year, Willmore said. The CDC's minimum for Colorado is $24.6 million.

Montana and Oklahoma's prevention spending improved thanks to similar initiatives, he said.

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

"It's hard to see 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.

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

67% of female Cal Poly students drink less than two times a week.
NEWS
4 Thursday, December 1, 2005

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 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, reconsidered after he was told of new DNA evidence in the case.

Boyd, who is on death row at Greensville Corrections Center, denied killing Julie and Estes Thompson, but said he remembered little about the 1988 shootings at the Thompson home in Rockingham County on the Virginia state line. The Boys had two children together.

Estes Thompson was living with her father when Kenneth Boyd killed them. “I remember sitting in my house, nobody there,” Boyd said. “I blinked my eyes and I’d done shot my father-in-law. When they told me how many times I shot her, I couldn’t believe it.”

“It’s just a thing that happened, just stopped,” Boyd’s attorney, Thomas Maher, said Wednesday in a court filing. The Virginia Supreme Court this month will decide whether to grant clemency to Boyd.

Maher said he also hoped the appeals court would reinstate the clemency petition. Boyd's attorneys, 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.

“While 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 New Hampshire, which has an early primary, are vehemently anti-death penalty, he said.

DNA evidence, like the Virginia case in which Warner granted clemency to Lovitt, could have cleared their client.

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 1998 robbery at an Ashington, Va., pool hall. 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 New Hampshire, which has an early primary, are vehemently anti-death penalty, he said.
Saturn’s largest moon has dramatic weather, geological activity

Angela Doland
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Saturn’s planet-size moon Titan has dramatically changed. 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 goo 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 ammonia volcanoes,” he said. “And absolutely bring a big heavy coat, because it’s really cold — and bring a tank of oxygen because there’s no oxygen to breathe, but don’t light a match.”

Titan, located 740 million miles from Earth, has long intrigued researchers because it is surrounded by a thick blanket of nitrogen and methane. Until recently, scientists believed the most likely explanation for the methane was the presence of a methane-rich sea of hydrocarbons.

The Huygens probe and its mother ship, Cassini, have offered evidence against that theory. The $3.3 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. Electric charges detected in the atmosphere could be lightning, Lunine said.

The first results from the Huygens probe were released in January. Black-and-white photos showed a rugged terrain of ridges, peaks, vein-like channels and apparently dry lakebeds on the moon 740 million miles away.

Scientists have been surprised by a mystery component they cannot identify.

“It’s a world, an atmosphere, a surface that is very dynamic, and perhaps as it seems there is volcanic activity, the interior of Titan is also no doubt very dynamic,” 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 hydrogen to form, scientists said. “If the sun one day expands and the Earth becomes a red giant, as some speculate, Titan may warm up, Zarnecki said.

New Grand Opening Special
Laser Hair Removal Package
Underarms and Bikini Line
For only $500!
50% off
You Save $500!
Laser Hair Removal for men also available!
Trust your beauty to a medical doctor
Call for a free consultation today!
805-541-1955
www.rejuvenation.com
1384 Mission Street, Suite 120
Corner of Mission & Pacific
San Luis Obispo

Cal Poly students will be able to vote in a referendum February 22-23, 2006, on the proposal to increase the non-Athletics portion of the Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fee by $10 per quarter for all students.

The following open forums on this referendum have been scheduled:

Thursday January 26, 2006
University Union (Bldg. 65), Room 220
11:10 A.M.

Thursday, February 9, 2006
Fisher Science (Bldg. 33), Room 457
11:10 A.M.

Monday, February 13, 2006
University Union (Bldg. 65), Room 220
6:10 P.M.

Sponsored by Academic Affairs
Report: U.S. military paying Iraqi newspapers to run pro-military stories

Lolita C. Baldor
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military offered a mixed message Wednesday about whether it embraced one of its own programs that reportedly paid a consulting firm and Iraqi newspapers to plant favorable stories about the war and the rebuilding effort.

Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a military spokesman in Iraq, said the program is "an important part of countering misinformation in the news by insurgents." A spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, however, called a report detailing the program troubling if true and said he was looking into the matter.

"This is a military program initiat­ed with the Multi-National Force to help get factual information about ongoing operations into Iraq news," Johnson said in an e-mail. "I want to emphasize that all information used for marketing these stories is completely factual."

Details about the program were first reported by the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday. It marked the second time this year that Pentagon programs have come under scrutiny for reported payments made to jour­nalists for favorable press.

Two other federal agencies have been investigated in the past year for similar activities, leading Congress' Government Accountability Office to condemn one, the Education Department, for engaging in illegal covert propaganda.

The Los Angeles Times quoted unidentified officials as saying that some of the stories in Iraqi news­papers were written by U.S. troops and while basically factual, they sometimes give readers a slanted view of what is happening in Iraq. Some of those officials expres­sed fear that use of such stories could hurt the U.S. military's credibility, the newspaper said.

Defense Department officials did not deny the story's allegations, and Rumsfeld spokesman Bryan Whitman said he was looking into the program.

Whitman said the department has clear principles for dealing with news organizations, "so this article raises some question as to whether or not some of the practices that are described in there are consistent with the principles of this department."

He would not specify the ques­tions he felt the article raised.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, questioned the program Wednesday.

"I wouldn't fault somebody trying to get the American message out," Lugar said. "(It) may be about the only way that any sort of a message will ever get to anybody. But that's a very foolish conclusion early on, and really sort of violates what we're attempting to do to begin with in our emphasis on democracy."

The Pentagon hired the Lincoln Group, a Washington-based firm that translates the stories into Arabic and places them in Baghdad newspapers, the newspaper reported. The organi­zation's staff or subcontractors in Iraq occasionally pose as freelance reporters or advertising executives when they hand stories to Iraqi media outlets, it said.

Laurie Adler, a spokeswoman for the Lincoln Group, said Wednesday she could not comment on the con­tract because it is with the U.S. gov­ernment. The company, which does work in Iraq, is a public affairs firm that does advertising and other com­munications in "challenging loca­tions," she said.

John Schulte, a former executive with Voice of America who is now dean of the Boston University College of Communication, called the military program scarily.

"The Bush administration, and some elements within the Defense Department do not seem to grasp the irony that, in their efforts to create, impose or inspire democratic society in Iraq, they are subverting the very core of what democracy means and are instead, by example, undercutting the very thing they are attempting to instill in Iraq," Schulte said.
Calling all trendsters, scensters and aspiring writers

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

With the full quarter just days away from ending, one more time of hearing the word “essay” may just make any Cal Poly students’ heads explode. But mtvU is hoping there are a few finals-week survivors left up for the challenge to become one of Billboard and mtvU’s featured student voices.

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 and click on the “Student Voice Contest” hyperlink that will take applicants to a simple online form.

But to give hesitant writers a sneak peek at what kinds of questions Billboard 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?”

So if you’re keen to pop culture and all things music, visit 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. 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.

Mandy Schick
U-9962

NEW YORK — In “Mr. and Mrs. Smith,” the latest star vehicle featuring Edith-Who-Dumped-Batman-Friends” and Busy-Lips Honeymooner — oops, I mean, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie — all the elements were there: two impossibly gorgeous people, real-life drama, fancy guns and Vincent D’Onofrio as Who, the man with such a shame that this film is so larma.

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 stilettos and living in New Jersey. Sounds pretty awesome, right? Sigh. No, not really.

We all wanted to see this movie so we could witness Brangelina’s sultry, last-acted 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 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 looks zee. Where’s the goddess one would expect from an actor playing a hot assassin? Even Bridget Fonda had a little fun in “Moonstruck.”

“Mr. and Mrs. Smith” could have been so stylish, so glamorous. It could have dazzled. Instead, it hits the screen with a dull thud. Brad and Angie bore when they should have shone.

The Velvet Rope
is asking for pieces about holiday party experiences this break. Submit entries (100 words or less) or ideas to Maricesar Mendoza at mustangdaily@gmail.com

Happy Holidays from the Mustang Daily!

Intermezzo


When I applied to colleges four years ago, I was immediately drawn to Cal Poly for (among other things) its ratio of males to females. At the time it was nearly two to one, a promising statistic for a single lady like myself. Once I got settled at Cal Poly and started getting acquainted with some of the males, I quickly realized that the majority of them were named either Chris, Matt, Mike, Dan or Brian, which posed the problem of how to tell all these boys with the same name apart.

If meeting new people and learning their names isn’t hard enough, now that I am 21 years old it has become increasingly difficult to differentiate between these boys with generic names who I meet downtown at the bars. To fix this problem, my roommate and I devised a way to remember who’s who.

When meeting a Chris, Matt, Mike, Dan or Brian, we pick another name for them based off of physical characteristics, like Bearded Jesus Lover, a guy we met at Campus Crusade who had a lot of facial hair.

A certain article of clothing can also be a good distinguishing feature, like Yellow Beanie Guy, a star Shamus Sowasser. Guy-in-the-Red-Shirt, but since clothing can be changed this method is only good for short-term use, perfect for a club or bar scene.

Where you met the guy can help you remember something else about him. For example, Pizza Man was a guy we met when he delivered a pizza to our house and stayed to have a beer. When getting a guy’s number at a party or a bar, entering a nickname is helpful, so when they call you later on you don’t have to say, “Mike who?” Their Neighbor Mike who lives across the street, Mike Sigma Kappa who lived with some sorority girls and Broken Nose Mike who had recently been hit in the face by a baseball when I met him. Including these details can prevent the embarrassing entries used when you forget the person’s name, like Blonde Boy, That Guy and Don’t Answer.

Once a nickname sticks, the person will forever be referred to by this name in future storytelling. It’s a fact that girls talk, especially (I’m afraid to admit) about boys. When a boy earns a nickname from a certain event it can be difficult to live it down, like the case of Piddle Pants, a cute young man who unfortunately urinated on my friend’s mattress while highly intoxicated.

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

Happy holidays from the Mustang Daily!

Boys, boys, boys

Where you met the guy can help you remember something else about him. For example, Pizza Man was a guy we met when he delivered a pizza to our house and stayed to have a beer. When getting a guy’s number at a party or a bar, entering a nickname is helpful, so when they call you later on you don’t have to say, “Mike who?” Their Neighbor Mike who lives across the street, Mike Sigma Kappa who lived with some sorority girls and Broken Nose Mike who had recently been hit in the face by a baseball when I met him. Including these details can prevent the embarrassing entries used when you forget the person’s name, like Blonde Boy, That Guy and Don’t Answer.

Once a nickname sticks, the person will forever be referred to by this name in future storytelling. It’s a fact that girls talk, especially (I’m afraid to admit) about boys. When a boy earns a nickname from a certain event it can be difficult to live it down, like the case of Piddle Pants, a cute young man who unfortunately urinated on my friend’s mattress while highly intoxicated.

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

W hen I applied to colleges four years ago, I was immediately drawn to Cal Poly for (among other things) its ratio of males to females. At the time it was nearly two to one, a promising statistic for a single lady like myself. Once I got settled at Cal Poly and started getting acquainted with some of the males, I quickly realized that the majority of them were named either Chris, Matt, Mike, Dan or Brian, which posed the problem of how to tell all these boys with the same name apart.

If meeting new people and learning their names isn’t hard enough, now that I am 21 years old it has become increasingly difficult to differentiate between these boys with generic names who I meet downtown at the bars. To fix this problem, my roommate and I devised a way to remember who’s who.

When meeting a Chris, Matt, Mike, Dan or Brian, we pick another name for them based off of physical characteristics, like Bearded Jesus Lover, a guy we met at Campus Crusade who had a lot of facial hair.

A certain article of clothing can also be a good distinguishing feature, like Yellow Beanie Guy, a star Shamus Sowasser. Guy-in-the-Red-Shirt, but since clothing can be changed this method is only good for short-term use, perfect for a club or bar scene.

Where you met the guy can help you remember something else about him. For example, Pizza Man was a guy we met when he delivered a pizza to our house and stayed to have a beer. When getting a guy’s number at a party or a bar, entering a nickname is helpful, so when they call you later on you don’t have to say, “Mike who?” Their Neighbor Mike who lives across the street, Mike Sigma Kappa who lived with some sorority girls and Broken Nose Mike who had recently been hit in the face by a baseball when I met him. Including these details can prevent the embarrassing entries used when you forget the person’s name, like Blonde Boy, That Guy and Don’t Answer.

Once a nickname sticks, the person will forever be referred to by this name in future storytelling. It’s a fact that girls talk, especially (I’m afraid to admit) about boys. When a boy earns a nickname from a certain event it can be difficult to live it down, like the case of Piddle Pants, a cute young man who unfortunately urinated on my friend’s mattress while highly intoxicated.
DIVERSIONS
8 Thursday, December 1, 2005

Intel to partner with TiVo and others on entertainment PC platform

Matthew Fordahl
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Cooking up the number of companies whirring away in living rooms, 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

"Can I Have It Like That?"

Bring your ring with the HOTTEST gear for your phone

Do Your Thing

www.your-thing.com

Ringtones for $2.49 Text code to 399

Title       Text Code
My Humps - Black Eyed Peas 141001
Hustler's Ambition - 50 Cent 141002
Stay Fly - Fall Out Boy 141003
Run It! - Chris Brown 141004
Here We Go Again (ft. Kelly Rowland - Tina 141005
We Be Burnin' (Legalize It) - Sean Paul 141006
I'm Sprung - T-Pain 141007
Girl Text (ft. Trey Songz - Twista 141008
Don't Cha - Pussycat Dolls 141009
Play - David Banner 141010
I'm a King (ft. T.I. and Lil' Scrappy - PSC 141011
Reggaeton Latino - Don Omar 141012
Sugar, We're Going Down - Fall Out Boy 141013
Soul Survivor - Young Jeezy 141014
Gold Digger - Kanye West 141015
Presidential - Youngbloodz 141016
Hung Up (I Can't Keep Waiting For You) - Madonna 141017
Welcome to Jamrock - Damien Marley 141018
Jesus of Suburbia - Green Day 141019
Lighters Up - Lil' Kim 141020
Back Then - Mike Jones 141021
Back in Black - AC/DC 141022
Shake It Off - Mariah Carey 141023
Stevie's Sexy Party - Family Guy 141024
Slow Wind - R. Kelly 141025
I'm N Lit (Wit a Stripper) - T-Pain 141026
My Hood - Young Jeezy 141027
Feel Good Inc. - Gorillaz 141028
Bad Bitch - Webbie 141029
Because I Got High - Afroman 141030

Games & Apps for as low as $3.99* Text code to 386

Title       Text Code
141032 141033
141034 141035
141036 141037
141038 141039
141040 141041 141042 141043 141044
141045 141046 141047 141048 141049 141050
141051 141052 141053 141054 141055 141056
141057 141058 141059 141060 141061 141062
141063 141064 141065 141066 141067 141068
141069 141070 141071 141072 141073 141074
141075 141076 141077 141078 141079 141080

Graphics for $1.99 Text code to 386

Title       Text Code
141081 141082 141083 141084 141085
141086 141087 141088 141089 141090 141091

www.jhgdesign.tk
O

y yes, 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 Hanukkah dinner. In case you've never tried latkes before (gasp!) 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
2 teaspoons baking powder
Oil for frying

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.ramstangally.net and if you want to expand your cooking horizons, visit www.foodnetwork.com, which has thousands of recipes for every ingredient or occasion. Au revoir and happy holidays!

Intel
continued from page 8

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 Hanukkah dinner. In case you've never tried latkes before (gasp!) 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
2 teaspoons baking powder
Oil for frying

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.ramstangally.net and if you want to expand your cooking horizons, visit www.foodnetwork.com, which has thousands of recipes for every ingredient or occasion. Au revoir and happy holidays!
The invisible man finishes last in this race

The invisible man finishes last in this race. The word nice is a misnomer. The real truth is that "timid guys act on their feelings or apprehensive to share their emotions are women they desire, guys afraid to construing as niceness the qualities invisible to (or repulse) the their struggles have sunk them to race while standing still? Men exclude you from "bad-boy" whining. interested in women need to put women who like to suck face with their efforts into acting, not into thinking. if to you she's beautiful, find 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, no matter how strong your feelings burn inside your head. The sad fact is she's more likely to end up with some womanizing 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 problems. The Web site lifehacks.com gives 10 top ten list of qualities women look for in men, which cites 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. Nice, 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 sympatheze 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 assert themselves. I'm a nice guy. My passion for this topic comes from my personal experience with the futility of expecting good women to happen to you, and the assuming 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-hot dreams about you by night and penciling 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.

For comments, questions, or to have Daniel short Copi's how straight into your timid heart, write to dgoe@calpoly.edu.

How 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 and as a result from pressure, ignorance and laziness, are uninformed 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 year. Some university professors think the understanding of plagiarism is elementary and universally understood; and therefore, most professors dedicate little time to teaching students the various forms of plagiarism. Maybe teachers need to stop admonishing无知 students to not plagiarize, but tell a student how to avoid it. The unscientific survey concluded that out of 40 students, only 25 students knew the definitions to determine what the definition of plagiarism means, which means only 60 percent of student know the concepts of plagiarism. Perhaps, we can question what the possible definition of plagiarism being partial 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 equals 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 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. Copying content, sentence structures, 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 student faced the students of plagiarism and experienced the full extent of the university's punishment. But we need to ask why students plagiarize because it is the really students' fault? Sure, some students plagiarize because they're downright lazy; 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. Despite 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.

What does the other sex have to say?

I, for one, have never been even slightly attracted to a bad boy....
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 of 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 realized that you are merely an angry individual with nothing better to do than condemn an institution that stands for something greater than itself.

I see that in spite of all the evils wrought in the name of God, the Catholic Church has done more good than ill, and has brought solace to the lives of billions in the world. Just how many have you helped in your life?

Perhaps instead of condemning the pope to hell just before we leave to celebrate the Christmas holiday season, you would do better to reflect the spirit of the season and offer forgiveness toward those who fall short of your own ethical pedestal. I think God knows how to handle his own affairs and does not need “thy help” to assist him in eternal assigation.

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 scarier, people couldn’t be contacted at any moment of the day (or night). For those who have forgotten, in order to get a hold 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 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 going to 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 5:20 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?

Joe Sangi is a journalism center and a Mustang Daily columnist.

Cell phones are ruining America

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 scarier, people couldn’t be contacted at any moment of the day (or night). For those who have forgotten, in order to get a hold 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 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 going to 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 5:20 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?

Joe Sangi is a journalism center and a Mustang Daily columnist.

LETTER POLICY
Send us your love, hate and more.

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

MUSTANG DAILY NOTICE
The Mustang Daily is a "designated public forum." Student editors have full authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.
All Cal Poly gift merchandise
Including: sweatshirts, tees, glassware, hats, scarves, beanies, license plate frames, jackets, ladies fashion and more!

All regular priced general books
Including: holiday books, cook books, fiction, travel, journals, childrens, gift books and more!

All Holiday gift merchandise
Including: figurines, ornaments, gift wrap, boxed cards, plates & mugs, stuffed animals, and toys!

All art, office, and student supplies

*Excludes: computers & peripherals, courseware, hardback bestsellers, special orders, rainbow sandals, graduation caps, gowns and tickets.
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 all 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 unrelenting and right that, if it grew much more, could obstruct the magnificent view of the falls. But the green all around was a brilliant contrast to the white waters.

The redwood forest in the Big Sur area offers visitors the opportunity to experience its beauty, while enjoying scenic coastlines as well.

The redwood forest in the Big Sur area offers visitors the opportunity to experience its beauty, while enjoying scenic coastlines as well. The combination of a natural masterpiece with a man-made structure like salmon Creek and the waterfall was unrelenting and right that, if it grew much more, could obstruct the magnificent view of the falls. But the green all around was a brilliant contrast to the white waters.

Waterfalls, sunsets... Big Sur

Senior journalism student Emily Logan gazes at the setting sun as it dips below a sheet of fog on the horizon off of U.S. Highway 1 in the Big Sur area.

Emily Logan

I have to admit that I was beginning to get a little depressed at the notion of spending a lot of time indoors, out of the water and off the running trail. This is what I realized that I had forgotten about one part of winter rains and early sunsets that is always good. Mud football, need I say more? Growing up, mud football was not just something we did during winter; it was a way of life. I cannot count the number of times I have sauntered home tired, wet, cold, muddy, bruised and completely enthused about the play that my friends and I made or the catch that I pulled down in traffic for a winning touchdown.

We played on the frozen tundra of Meadow Park in Petaluma, Calif, which was of a field across from the elementary school.

Some mornings we would see our breath as we ran all streaks down the field, always running towards the endzones. Touchdowns were all too common and kick returns had to be outlawed because TD returns became too common.

This winter, I plan on returning to the fields of my childhood and playing some good old fashioned, "two touch" football with my friends from here and home.

There seems to be an abundant amount of large grassy fields in the San Francisco area that offer the bounty of mud and if your good, glory.

There are some parks in the local area that are ideal for mud football: Meadow Park — Located off south street near the intersection of South and Broad streets. Santa Rosa Park — Located on Santa Rosa, near the Ace Station. The Cal Poly playing fields — Located across from the baseball field, behind the recreation center and in the center of the track. All three of these locations offer enough room to facilitate a large game of mud football. So once the
Outdoor Gunn
continued from page 13
rains start to pour and the fields begin to loosen up with that fresh winter mud, hit the fields with your best buds or gals and have a good time slipping and sliding from sideline to sideline and into the endzone.
I know that I will be out there at some point during the wet season, because when it gets dark too quickly to travel anywhere else and it is too wet to justify any other activity, mud football is a good way to relieve some tension and have a good time with friends.
Keep it safe, clean and spicy...
Chris Gunn is a journalism senior and assistant sports editor. You can e-mail him at cgunn@calpoly.edu.

Tour de California

Brittany Ridley
SPORTS 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. 23.

“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 Turri Road onto Los Osos Valley Road, over to Chorro Street and finally to Monterey Street with a finish line in front of the court house.

Cal Poly’s industrial technology senior Lucas Euser will also participate in the race, riding with his fellow TIAA-CREF teammates. Euser 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,” Euser 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 palates,” Euser 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, Euser 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.

That (Tour de l’Avenir) was a 10-day race such as a lifestyle festival. Many activities will accompany the race such as a lifestyle festival. 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 Euser.

“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,” Euser 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 important aspect of hosting the two-day event in Mission Plaza.

“We are hoping it (the race) will spill over into Farmer’s Market and we are planning on the local expo to take place later,” Linda Fitzgerald, organizing chair of the Tour of California said. “From what I understand, the racers will be amused after the race to interact.”

Fitzgerald and Romero both said they would like to see a five-year commitment on the city’s part, making San Luis Obispo an annual stop for the tour.

“The people in the local organizing committees see the value in this,” Fitzgerald said. “We are very interested in having San Luis Obispo become a permanent stop on the Tour of California. We’re keeping our fingers cross on that one.”

The race will lead into San Luis Obispo’s infamous March Gar’s weekend, which Romero said would hopefully eliminate past events.

“This is a healthier event that 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.

“Please see more information on the Amgen Tour of California go to www.amgen-tourcalifornia.com or for volunteer information call Rich Ogden at 781-7305.”

Brittany Ridley
SPORTS EDITOR
Bighorn Sheep near sunset. We stopped at a "village shop" near the street and asked someone how to get to McWay Falls — a beautiful beach we had read about in one of the guide maps outside the shops.

Unfortunately, she told us that visitors are not allowed on the beach, only on the trail above it. We decided to make our way back to the campground and watch the sunset from there.

Though the road itself was not glamorous, there was a thrill to US highway 1 for one at that time of day. There were 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 a little low, there was a thrill to US highway 1 near sunset. We stopped at a "village shop" and got a few things to eat. We continued on and fell asleep on the way back to the campground.

On the way back, we decided to take a short hike from the road. The falls are located in the Big Sur Area 8 to 10 miles south of Gorda. If you want to see these majestic falls be sure to wear long pants as the area is filled with poison oak.

EMILY LOGAN
MUSTANG DAYS

Salmon Creek waterfall can be found after a short hike from the road. The falls are located in the Big Sur Area 8 to 10 miles south of Gorda. If you want to see these majestic falls be sure to wear long pants as the area is filled with poison oak. Salmon Creek.