Today's Weather

High 66°

Low 40°

As the 2006 Winter Olympics progress, a Cal Poly coach remembers his devastating experience.

IN SPORTS, 8

IN DIVERSIONS, 5

Beats for your

LGBT celebrates same-sex handholding day

James Mellor

MUSTANG DAILY

Valentine's Day is traditionally a day to express love — even through something as simple as holding hands. Cal Poly's Pride Alliance Center: LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) student group has organized a Valentine's Day event, Same Sex Handholding Day, to raise awareness on campus for these individuals.

"Basically, it raises awareness that we are here on campus," LGBT student coordinator Stephen Cohen said. "There is a large number of LGBT students who go to school here, and there's an even larger number of allies who go to school here. It raises awareness that there's nothing extra-ordinary or incredibly different about us than who our partners are."

The main event starts at 11 a.m. with a march from Dexter Lawn to the University Union. Both heterosexual and same sex couples will be holding hands to "affirm everyone's right to love who they want to love," Cohen said.

Once the march reaches the UU, a live art display will take place as a mock wedding ceremony/courthouse preceding. The heterosexual couples will walk up holding hands and "get married." However, there will be a judge, instead of a priest, to officiate.

A journey to India

Caitlin Donnell

MUSTANG DAILY

I woke up to a misty aroma that was so pungent and sharp, that it rousted me out of bed. I peered out my porthole that morning from the ship and knew — we had arrived in India.

I had overslept and missed my usual tradition of waking before dawn on mornings that we pulled into port to watch the colors in the sky change from a deep blue to the brilliant purple and red colors over the bottomless blue sea. But on this morning, I had overslept and immediately woke up to the exotic stench that is characteristic of India. Looking out the glass separating me from the world of India, there were women dressed in the typical Indian attire of bright saris, sweeping the dust off the cold cement deck to keep it tidy for the next to the ship in an almost rhythmic manner. They swept to the beat of the striking twangs bellowing out of the long tube instruments that looked like the extended tongues of the male musicians playing to welcome the ship's arrival.

It was our sixth port of call for the 650 other college students and I aboard the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea ship. The itinerary for my five-day Indian adventure was rigorous. I had signed up for the most travel-intensive Semester at Sea organized trip for India because I wanted to see as much as possible. The plan was to travel for four days, most days starting before sunrise and ending after midnight. I was ready for everything India had to offer me, but looking back, I never could have imagined the array of vibrant, and oftentimes emotionally-challenging, experiences that lie ahead.

As the sun rises over the Ganges River on an early October morning, people are drawn to the ghats of the water, considered holy by Hindus, in Varanasi, India.

TRAVEL

CAITLIN DONNELL MUSTANG DAILY

Children at the Dalit school in Chennai, India watched as Semester at Sea students laid bricks to help build a library for the school.

As the 2006 Winter Olympics progress, a Cal Poly coach remembers his devastating experience.

TODAY'S WEATHER

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TODAY'S WEATHER

High 66°

Low 40°
India

continued from page 3

landscape pass by. There were mountains of refuse in the streets, beggars sitting on every corner and an endless sea of deep brown eyes, eyes that will never leave my mind.

The bus stopped in the middle of the street and we were ushered into the whirwind of a street parade. People were everywhere — smoke billowed in the air from people smoking bidis, a popular hand-rolled type of Indian cigarette. Men sat in windows and stood in store­ fronts, giving various looks in our direction and warah smiles all along the way. The women in this foreign scene held their babies and young children, who gnawed on their beautifully colored teeth. The women in the National Hindu Times from when I was working on the service project the day earlier. I was startled to see myself in print and it made the experience that much more real.

The first and most intriguing destination on the planned trip was Varanasi — the third holiest city for Hindus in Northern India that rests on the banks of the River Ganges with a pop­ulation over 300,000.

The life of Varanasi lies in the sacred water of the River Ganges. As darkness fell to a lighter shade of dawn, I passed through a procession of merchants on the way downhill to the holy water of the River Ganges.

I turned my seat on our first flight of the day, basking in the sun that still stung in my eyes, feeling with Semester at Sea. As I took my seat on our first flight of the day, I sat next to a woman who was staring out the window, watching the world go by.

The sun shone like a bright Ray of sunlight, casting a beautiful glow over the city. The air was heavy with the sound of the traffic and the smell of the sweat of the people.

The life of Varanasi lies in the sacred water of the River Ganges. As darkness fell to a lighter shade of dawn, I passed through a procession of merchants on the way downhill to the holy water of the River Ganges.

The most unforgettable aspect of the river was witnessing first-hand the burning of bodies. As our boat neared, I was able to see the processions of people bringing their dead to be cremated. The air was heavy with the smell of the smoke from the fires and the sound of the bells ringing.

The proximity of death was startling. Never had I had observed such a disturbing facet of life and death. Never had I experienced such a beautiful ceremony. The most unforgettable aspect of the river was witnessing first-hand the burning of bodies. As our boat neared, I was able to see the processions of people bringing their dead to be cremated. The air was heavy with the smell of the smoke from the fires and the sound of the bells ringing.

Hands

continued from page 1

a priest, that stops the same sex couples from getting married. The group hopes the march and demonstration will raise awareness and challenge the comfort level around campus regarding same sex couples. Some students (members of the LGBT community) feel uncomfortable holding hands with someone they’re dat­ing. LGBT student coordinator Angela Kramer said.

"It’s not common place and people stare,” Cohen added.

Several other events to raise aware­ness for same sex couples will occur throughout the day. There will also be a demonstration, similar to the one in the UU, for marriage equality in the Sandwich Factory at 5:30 p.m. Slam poet Thea Hillman will wrap up the day with a performance dealing with gender identity inside the Sandwich Factory at 7 p.m. “It’s not common place and people stare,” Cohen said. The purpose of this demonstration is to raise awareness throughout the community.

Back on campus, a California Equity representative will lead a discussion on marriage equality in the Sandwich Factory at 5:30 p.m. Alumni of the Sandwich Factory at 7 p.m.

The Pride Alliance center is open to all students, faculty and community members and is located in between the

Puzzle Sponsorship Available

CONTACT MUSTANG DAILY ADVERTISING

(805) 756-1143
Valentine's Day Special

— Do you have a valentine?
Yes, my wife.

— Are you getting her flowers or candy?
Neither, I'm taking her to dinner.

— What would an ideal Valentines date be?
To make my wife blush.

— Homemade card or Hallmark?
Homemade card, of course.

— Do you think Valentines is a BS holiday?
Every day should be Valentine's Day.

— Pink or Red?
Even though I consider myself masculine, pink.

— Favorite conversation heart?
"Will you go with me?"

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Online: www.mustangdaily.net

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Briefs

INDIO (AP) — Hundreds of demonstrators formed human chains across portions of desert Highway 111 in the Coachella Valley to protest a proposed federal law targeting illegal immigrants. The Manos Unidos en Contra del Racismo (Hands United Against Racism) demonstration Sunday involved hundreds of mostly Hispanic people who cheered honking vehicles in Coachella, Indio, Indian Wells and Cathedral City.

National

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A judge let the federal government Monday drop some 12,000 families made homeless by last year's hurricanes from a program that has put them up at hotels nationwide. FEMA has promised the evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that they will still receive federal assistance that they can use toward hotel stays or fixing their ruined homes, although the agency will no longer pay for the hotels directly.

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Prosecutors tried to link Saddam Hussein directly to torture and executions, producing documents with his orders and handwriting and putting one of his closest confidants on the stand Monday. The former Iraqi leader and his co-defendants were forced to attend the session. Saddam appeared in a traditional Arab robe and bedroom slippers instead of his usual crisp suit, arguing vehemently with the judge and shouting "Down with Bush!" as he waved his finger.

International

WHO SAID THAT?

I always wanted to be somebody. If I made it, it's half because I was game enough to take a lot of punishment along the way and half because there were a lot of people who cared enough to help me.

— Althea Gibson (1927 - )

Wordly Wise

Cavetto: A concave molding having a curve that roughly approximates a quarter circle.

PARKER STREET COIN LAUNDRY
2020 Parker Street
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(Across the street from Smart & Final)
Open 8am til 11:00 pm

• Super Size Loads
• Better Wash
• Better Dry

Security Patrolled
Hands
continued from page 2

science buildings, near the back of
the bookstore.
“Straight kids come in all the
time,” Kramer said.
“We want everyone on campus
regardless of age, nationality, sexu-
ality, race, to feel comfortable here
in the center,” she added. “It’s not
just for gay students, it’s for allies,
friends and family to come in.”
The center offers students many
different research opportunities;
Marriage equality, HIV/AIDS,
LGBT youth in high schools and in
college, LGBT programs, literature,
connection to counseling and
community resources. Also inside
the center is a TV and VCR, in
addition to three computers people
can use at any time.
According to the LGBT coordi-
nators, there are several issues that
affect same-sex couples at Cal Poly,
daily, one being marriage equality,
an issue Kramer says specifically
affects her.
“If I wanted to, if I was at a point
where I was ready to marry, I
couldn’t legally do that,” she said.
“It’s not recognized as something
that’s real.”
However, Kramer said being
comfortable being open and out is
the biggest issue for her.
“A lot of people have the notion
that Cal Poly is a really conserva-
tive campus, and in a lot of ways it
is,” she said. “But, I think a lot of
students would be surprised how
open-minded and accepting the
students, staff and faculty really are.
At least in my experience.”
Cohen, on the other hand, said
the climate on campus is what
troubles him most commonly.
“People, a lot of times even
unintentionally, say things or act in
ways that make other people
uncomfortable,” he said. “I feel like
there are a lot of students here who
aren’t ‘out,’ and they struggle with
coming out. I feel if the climate
was a little bit more inclusive, those
students could put less energy on
concealing that part of themselves
and more energy in to living their
lives.”

Thank You
Students!
For helping to make last year’s
Mardi Gras weekend safe & sane.

Your help turned it around last year. Smaller and friendlier crowds — fewer
arrests — violence curtailed. and you made the difference.

We need your help again this year.

TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT, THERE WILL BE:
• 300+ law enforcement officers on duty for the weekend
• DUI check points throughout SLO
• Violation costs tripled citywide
• University discipline for student violators
• Special fines in effect for flashing and nudity

San Luis Obispo belongs to all of us. Please help keep it safe. Tell your friends
looking for Mardi Gras parties to stay home the weekend of February 24th.

The Party Is Still Over

www.MardiGrasSLO.com
Many people are without a boyfriend or girlfriend — and some of them are bitter. So here's what you can give that nasty ex.

V-Day to-do list for singles

1. Wake up at dawn to watch the sunrise while sitting on a blanket at Bishop's Peak, snuggling with a stuffed bear holding a heart — all alone, mind you.
2. Get home and cook a huge breakfast. I'm talking French toast, eggs, bacon, fruit, fresh-squeezed orange juice. Nothing says, "I love myself," better than a hearty breakfast.
3. Eventually I have to go to class, so I'll put that here as No. 3.
4. Time for a midday snack. How about I open that heart-shaped box of candy I bought for, well, I guess myself. And you can't forget those little conversation candied hearts, classic V-Day cuisine. Trust me, it all tastes the same whether a beautiful girl gives it to you or not.
5. When I get home in the late afternoon, my roommates will leave one-by-one to spend their romantic evenings with their girlfriends. In the meantime, I'll whip out a red tablecloth, the nice plates and flatware and prepare my very own candlelit dinner. Maybe I'll even toss in the classic romantic movie "Lady and the Tramp" and watch the infamous spaghetti scene. That's to-do No. 5.
6. Finally, after a long and arduous day, I'll cry myself to sleep. But, truthfully, I don't hate Valentine's Day and I really am happy for those in relationships. Just remember to keep us poor single souls in your thoughts on this most romantic of days — and try not to rub it in too much.
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By e-mail: mustangdaily@gmail.com

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

**CORRECTIONS**

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

**NOTICE**

The Mustang Daily is a designates public forum. Student editors have editorial authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.

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**EDITORIAL**

February 14, 2006

The REAL WAY

From the Conservative Perspective

With Brian Elder

**COMMENTARY**

**Valentine's Day: Don't hate, speed date**

Valentine's Day is a day of love and romance. A day when couples and lovers everywhere can hold hands with their partner and exchange gifts of flowers, candy or a simple card in honor of their love and commitment to each other. Images of heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolate, memories of young love and Shakespearean prose resound in the hearts and minds of all a day dedicated to love. Everyone loves Valentine's Day. Do they?

According a CNN report, a 26-year-old in Oregon named Gerald Krien was caught by police trying to organize a mass Valentine's Day suicide on the Internet. Krien's plan included 29 other individuals, including a mother of two who planned to kill her children and then herself. Happy Valentine's Day...anyone want Kool-Aid?

Now, while I have no idea what Gerald's motivations were, something tells me that in elementary school, Christy and Barbara Valentine's Day brown paper bag — you know, the one your teacher called out in class, and then tape the side of your desk so that everyone in class could leave you a note. Turquoise, turquoise Valentine with a piece of candy taped to it — yeah, well, he must have grown empty once or twice. That or he never got a valentine from the girl he, yes he had a crush on and expressed those feelings that are bottled up inside. On Valentine's Day, change in focus and help those among the lonely single masses to reach out to others in the same predicament. To make Valentine's Day a better day for all students planning the speed dating event, the idea was expected, because it dis­criminates against gays and those already in relationships. According to Assistant Director for Residential Life and Education Suzanne Fritz, activities like speed dating violate the principle of inclusiveness (it does not include those in long-standing relationships or students that are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender) and there are concerns for safety (the activity may pressure students to be more physical than is comfortable).

I honestly doubt that all of those in the above mentioned group would feel offended by speed dating, although I admit, I don't know for certain. However, I bet most students would enjoy speed dating, and those who don't would at the very least allow others to pursue the activity without being too bothered. Uncomfortably I think of all the times in society, the more fear of discrimination or hurting the feelings of a particular group has raised the fun for all. Instead of allowing a chance for singles to meet for friendships, those students planning the speed dating event to blossom, a small amount of fear has rippled that way. Applying Cermont Vista's plan, they need to ban the following Any form of discriminating (offensive to people of particular religions), karaoke (offensive to those who can't sing or can't stand amateurs singing) and pumpkin decorating (offensive to the CSPS) College Students Against Pumpkin Decorating, alright that's not a group, but you get the idea. The CPC's like to offend and discriminate at any opportunity, so it's obvious why they're holding a speed dating event.

I hope that sometime in the future, Valentine's Day will give more focus to singles. I also hope that when our society attempts to appeal to a particular minority group, it doesn't compromise the well-being of everyone else in the same society. In the meantime, if you're single and crazy enough to speed dating with CPCs, then come to UU219 at around 8 p.m. tonight. I wish you all as singles and couples a very wonderful Valentine's Day.

Brian Elder is a materials engineering sophomore and Mustang Daily columnist.

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**Dread and disappointment on V-Day**

February 14, 2006 — Ah Valentine's Day. A day of love and romance. A day when couples and lovers everywhere can hold hands with their partner and exchange gifts of flowers, candy or a simple card in honor of their love and commitment to each other. Images of heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolate, memories of young love and Shakespearean prose resound in the hearts and minds of all a day dedicated to love. Everyone loves Valentine's Day. Do they?

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Brian Elder is a materials engineering sophomore and Mustang Daily columnist.
My goal as a maniac is to get a rowdy crowd that is going to be (into the game)

events, the Maniacs also do a lot of other spirit-related activities and events to promote fellowship among students.

"Maniacs also connect Cal Poly with the community, the group that puts on Wild twister," Kirkish said. "So people who can't get on with their club this spring can get sign up through the Maniacs."

In the past, members of the Maniacs and Running Thunder have participated in the 24-hour relay run. "The sky is the limit for what the Maniacs are," Kirkish said. "Anything that promotes school spirit and pride in Cal Poly, not only athletically, but it is easier to get heavy about this stuff." Both students and athletes get into the spirit when people overcrowd the bleachers, or pack in Mott Gym. "My roommate's boyfriend is on the basketball team, and I know they lose when everyone goes to the games and supports them," said Katie Barham, an animal science senior, who puts on Wild twister, "The fans pumped up and they like that we go out there and support them."

Kirkish said it's the school spirit that makes Cal Poly games so enjoyable. "It's fun to get out to a game, with a green-and-gold painted face, and be a little crazy," Kirkish said. However, not all students feel the same about school spirit.

"It's hard because Cal Poly is not really good at anything athleticism," said Tim Fox, a history senior. "If it's not ESPY, why watch it? Why don't the cheerleaders go to engineering events?"

The spirit is always around at Cal Poly. Students of all majors wear CPU sweatshirts and green Maniac T-shirts, saying "Welcome to the asylum."

"Everyone's a Maniac, whether they like it or not," Kirkish said. More information on the Mustang Maniacs can be found at www.campmaniacs.com.
Hidden tales and sworn secrets of the Mustang Maniacs

OK, so it isn't an undercover organization bent on world domination, but Cal Poly's Mustang Maniacs are the engine of school spirit

Nick Coury

It's late evening on a Friday in October. You and that special person are wrapped in scarves, walking towards the football stadium at Cal Poly. Although no alcohol is allowed, the cheering crowd is getting drunk on something else: mustang spirit, driven in large part by the Mustang Maniacs. "Our goal is to promote pride in Cal Poly athletics," said Scott Kirkish, a civil engineering senior and president of the Mustang Maniacs. "My goal as a maniac is to get a rowdy crowd that is going to be (into the game) and try to get the players to get something out of the game; the college rowdy experience."

The Mustang Maniacs are the official spirit club of Cal Poly, and members are usually seen handing out fly- ers around a dancing Musty the Mustang during UU hour on Thursday mornings. "It's not hard getting motivated about Cal Poly athletics, because it's exciting watching a team play," Kirkish said. "Of any given day anyone can win; that's what gets me going to every single game. Even when we're the huge underdog, there's a chance we could win, and that's worth going." Kirkish said that even though the spirit club is great, it is hard having support from other students to promote Cal Poly pride.

"The hardest part about athletics is going to all the games," Kirkish said. "In addition to promoting spirit, athletes like us to promote the Maniacs, and we're really limited right now on personnel. We have seven core members and it would be nice to have more than that."

As the student spirit club, the Maniacs have been around for almost two years. Before that the club was called "Running Thunder," which rotated school spirit after the original rally club disbanded in the late 1970s. The current club, named Mustang Maniacs, has been around since Running Thunder ended. With more help, Cal Poly athletics may see Maniacs, page 7

CAL POLY WEEKLY HOME ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

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*Women's Basketball vs. Long Beach State, 7 p.m. @ Mott Gym
*Wrestling vs. UC Davis, 7 p.m. @ Mott Gym
*Men's Tennis vs. UNIX, 9:30 a.m.
*Women's Tennis vs. DQR, 1 p.m.
*Women's Basketball vs. UC Irvine, 4 p.m. @ Mott Gym

Mustang Maniacs UCSC ROAD TRIP

Men's basketball @UCSC Wednesday
Cost $5:
- includes "Special Road Trip" Maniacs T-shirt

Leave Cal Poly @ 4 p.m.
-e-mail skirkish@calpoly.edu for more info

'The '80 Olympics eluded Cal Poly coach

Joe Sargeant

The Torino Olympics started Friday with a favored American team leading the way. Four years of hard work culminated into 16 days of intense rivalry as athletes from around the globe convened on the greatest stage for athletic competition.

It is the moment many have dreamed of, and the greatest achievement a competitor can strive for: an appearance at the Olympic games. In 1980, however, politics became a barrier between the aspirations of American athletes and a chance to win that coveted Olympic medal. Twenty-six years ago a Cal Poly head wrestling coach made the United States Olympic team that was headed for the Moscow games.

John Azevedo, Cal Poly's head wrestling coach, made the United States Olympic team that was headed for the Moscow games, but on March 21, 1980 Jimmy Carter announced to the world that because of the communist invasion of Afghanistan, the United States was boycotting the games.

"Being an Olympic champion is the ultimate goal," Azevedo said. And being unable to accomplish that goal due to powers beyond your control is a nightmarish experience.

Azevedo began wrestling in the sixth grade after his two older brothers started wrestling in high school. They started coming home and showing me the moves, beating me up," Azevedo said. "I got tough, they made me tough."

After playing through high school, Azevedo received a scholarship to Oklahoma University, where his freshman year record was 13-3. The next year Azevedo redshirted and then transferred to CSU Bakersfield, where over the next three years Azevedo's combined record was 122-2.

In 1980, Azevedo went to the national freestyle tournament and from there went with the top six wrestlers to the Olympic trials. He won the event and made the United States Olympic team. His hometown of Patterson congratulated Azevedo by giving him the key to the city.

In 1980, Azevedo then joined the rest of the Olympic team to begin training for the games. That was in February, by March the boycott was on. "We had heard rumblings that we may not be going, that there may be a boycott. I just figured no way they would do that to us," Azevedo said.

The team kept training until Azevedo's coach Dan Gable told the them that they were officially not going.

"The whole thing just left a bad taste all the way around, the athletes, the American public, our allies and just world opinion. It just looks like 'what spoiled brain'," Cal Poly history professor John Snetsinger said.

The official reason Carter boycotted the games "So because the Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan and he didn't agree with the invasion. Moscow had geared up for the games and was hoping to do away with the world image of being a backward nation," Snetsinger said.

But the foreign policy didn't really accomplish anything, and it didn't make much sense. It was like punishing our wrestling team at home because the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, Snetsinger said.

"You think 'What's the positive result of this policy?' It didn't make the Soviet Union get out of Afghanistan, and you wrecked those athletes' lives," Snetsinger said.

Carter was so adamant about no U.S. athletes participating that he said that any athlete that went would have their passports revoked.

"Your goal is to go and wrestle in the Olympics and win it, not make the team. That's just part of the process," Azevedo said.

Azevedo assumed that he would make it onto the '84 team; he had taken fourth at the World Championships in 1982. The next year Azevedo redshirted, and the team kept training until the invasion. Moscow had geared up for the games and was hoping to do away with the world image of being a backward nation, Snetsinger said.

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