Mustang Daily
advertising collects three top national awards

"I’m really proud of my design team. They did an amazing job with this," Young said. "I’m glad they’ve been rewarded for their work."

The package, which was presented to 120 advertising clients, included campus demographics, rate information, a speculative ad and a copy of the Mustang Daily. The project took three months to complete.

Close to 70 schools entered the contest, with newspapers competing in two categories: Division A, which included newspapers with a combined weekly circulation of under 120,000, and Division B, which included newspapers with a combined weekly circulation of 120,000 or more.

The project was put together by advertising director Taiga Young and designers Lana Johnson and Janny Dinh.
Crash continued from page 1

29

unas is an immense issue that constantly leaves them. When they graduate after years of intensive education, they don’t know if they’ll actually be able to find a job that suits their qualifications. France has an unemployment rate that hovers around 10 percent — twice as high as in the United States — and it spikes to 23 percent among those under age 25.

“It’s too hierarchical in France,” said Lydie Alberto, one of my French friends. “It’s difficult to have a professional career in France. I’d rather work in the United States. Why? Because they give a chance to everyone — there’s no discrimination.”

Lydie, whose parents emigrated from Africa, is currently studying in Paris to get her license in the import/export business. She’s specializing in North American trade in hopes of moving to America after she graduates, thus avoiding the harsh work of finding a job in France as a 21-year-old black female.

For young minorities, like Lydie, unemployment can reach as high as 50 percent in France, according to Business Week. As Americans, we shook our heads in November when suburban minorities torched cars as a way to protest. Did we really understand the reasons why or did we just assume they were crazy, lawless hoodlums?

As an American student, I’ve never really worried about not being able to find work after Cal Poly. I knew that I won’t fall into unemployment without first having a crack at the real world. But that’s not the reality for so many students here in France, and my friends and their friends are worried by it. They can’t blame themselves for not being able to find a job after succeeding in college, so they blame the government — a good place to start.

Police firing rubber bullets and turning high-pressured hoses on protesters during sex.

“Promoting condom use is great, but it may not be enough,” Carey said. “Sexually active students must know how to use condoms correctly. Condom education is just as important as condom usage.”

According to Paulson, HEP staff members were able to successfully hand out over 3,500 condoms in addition to pamphlets on how to use a condom and STD facts.

“The data from the research confirms that we need to continue providing opportunities for students to learn how to use condoms correctly and build those skills,” Paulson said.

Students are encouraged to use such services at HEP and Condom Hall’s website, which offers free instructional booklets on proper use and storage tips as well as student-discounted condom products. For additional information, visit condomhall-condoms.org.

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.
WHO SAID THAT?

One must also accept that one has “uncreative” moments. The more honestly one can accept that, the quicker these moments will pass.
— Etty Hillesum

Go through your phone book, call people and ask them to drive you to the airport. The ones who will drive you are your true friends. The rest aren’t bad people; they’re just acquaintances.
— Jay Leno

Wordly Wise

Invidious: Tending to provoke envy, resentment or ill will; containing or implying a slight.

Meet the Editors

The Face of Cal Poly presents...

Favorites

Animated show character: Peter Griffin
Drink: Hurricane
Atomic element: What is an atomic element?
Bob Ross moment: There are too many.
Current managing editor of the Mustang Daily: OAT-Brain, AK-47, Oatie
Font: Bembo!

If You Could ...

— be a kitchen appliance what would you be? A blender.
— Commit a crime and get away with it what would it be? Working the corner of Grand and Monterey.

Would you rather...

— kick a mule in the teeth or hay another mule? Are you involved in PETA?
— Arm-wrestle Salvador Dali or Indian leg wrestle Vincent van Gogh?
Can I pick both?
— Eat a pork chop sandwich, go skiing or be a hamster for a day? Be a hamster for a day, because I can do the other two.

Name: Dan Watson • Year: senior
Hometown: Placerville • Major: journalism

Under Four... or ‘walk of shame’?

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
Biodynamic practices bring out vineyard's wild side

Mike Benziger, winemaker and general manager of the Benziger Family Winery in Sonoma Valley, stands by a model of Sonoma Mountain at the winery in Glen Ellen on Wednesday, March 22.

"Beyond that, biodynamics views the farming operation as a living, breathing organism that is affected by lunar cycles and planetary alignment as well as seasons and times," says Mike Benziger, winemaker and general manager of the Benziger Family Winery in Sonoma Valley.

Based on the writings of an Austrian philosopher named Rudolf Steinern, biodynamics goes back more than 80 years and is viewed by practitioners as a forerunner, rather than an offshoot, of the organic farming revival of the '70s.

What gives biodynamics its "out there" vibe are things like "Preparation 500," the springtime vineyard spray made from the manure-stuffed cow horns, buried over fall and winter, then ground up and mixed with water. "Preparation 501" is a mixture made from a cow horn stuffed with silica that is buried over spring and summer, mixed in a similar fashion and applied in fall to make the vineyards more receptive to light and warmth.

Wijn, who has a doctorate in organic chemistry, can understand the skepticism biodynamics sometimes inspires. He's convinced something is going on in the vineyards, although he notes it's hard to say how much of that is due to the various mixtures and how much to the way the system forces growers to be as touchy with the vines.

"All I know is the system that's been in place for the last three years has produced pretty dramatic results," Wijn says.

Benziger's route to biodynamics started in 1996 when he was researching organic farming methods. "I got hooked because I saw that, on one hand, you could create a healthier environment, but on the other hand, you could make really unique and authentic products," he says.

Being biodynamic means choosing properties very carefully and scrutinizing plants for early signs of trouble. "We don't have silver bullets. We don't have the ability to use any chemicals," notes Benziger.

To fight pests without chemicals, he keeps his property diverse, not just growing grapes but having other crops such as olives as well as wetlands, grasslands and gardens designed to attract beneficial insects. In the cellar, biodynamics mean not manipulating the wine, although winemakers may add a small amount of sulfites to prevent spoilage. In Benziger's cases, squares are cut into the floors exposing the gravel beneath so wines remain in touch with the natural cycles of the Earth.

**Power, Performance and Another Year of Victories.**

The 2006 Honda CBR600RR has proved itself on tracks all over America. And now, it's won its second straight AMA World's Longest Transmission Specialists

5141 8th Street
San Luis Obispo, CA

"Preparation 500" is designed to attract beneficial insects in the vineyards. Although the methods do suit the type of agriculture, he says. Biodynamics isn't limited to vineyards, although the methods do suit the type of agriculture, he says.

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coverings

848 Monterey Street (formerly pier-one). No line-ups prior to 8 am. Please leave backpacks & large purses at home.
National briefs

MIAMI — Disgraced former lobbyist Jack Abramoff and a business partner were sentenced Wednesday to five years and 10 months in federal prison, the minimum they faced for fraud related to their 2000 purchase of the SunCruz Casinos gambling fleet. Abramoff and Adam Kidan both pleaded guilty to conspiracy and wire fraud, but they won't have to report to prison immediately.

— The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate gave lopsided approval Wednesday to a bill that would set tighter gas mileage standards. Scientists sold during that period and fuel over the lifetime of the vehicle.

— The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The death-penalty case against al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui went to the jury Wednesday after the prosecution asserted his lies were responsible for deaths Sept. 11, 2001, and the defense argued he had no part in the plot.

The nine men and three women on the jury will decide whether Moussaoui bears blame for at least 192 people who died when their addresses in some cases, "because of that, 2,500 are dead."

— The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The government set tighter gas mileage rules Wednesday for pickups and sport utility vehicles, including bulky SUVs like the Hummer H2 and Chevrolet Suburban, responding to rising concern about the supply and cost of energy from abroad.

The new fuel economy rules, covering 2008 through 2011, would save 10.7 billion gallons of fuel over the lifetime of the vehicles sold during that period and take a more aggressive stance than an administration proposal issued last summer, officials said.

— The Associated Press

Prosecution says Moussaoui killed with his lies; defense points to federal blunders before Sept. 11

Matthew Barakat

"Moussaoui was never involved other than in his dreams," MacMahon said, trying to minimize damage that Moussaoui might have done to himself when he claimed on the stand that he was to have crashed a plane into the White House on Sept. 11.

"The government cannot prove a hypothetical, what would have happened if Moussaoui had not lied," he said. "We will never know what could have happened in the 25 days between Moussaoui's arrest and Sept. 11."

He said of his client: "He's now trying to write a role for himself in history, when in reality he's an al-Qaida hanger-on."

Moussaoui watched the closing arguments impassively but shouted "Victory to Moussaoui, God curse America," during a recess after the judge and jury had left the room.

The recess preceded U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema's instructions to the jury.

Prosecutors contended that if Moussaoui had told the truth after his arrest, investigators could have tracked down 11 of the 19 hijackers.

"The FBI would have had the names, the phone numbers, and their addresses in some cases," Raskin said.

The bottom line, he said, was that, "He chose Osama bin Laden and because of that, 2,900 are dead."

MacMahon challenged the assertion that Moussaoui had led investigators on a goose chase with his deceptions. He said, for example, that the government had the identities of two of the hijackers 18 months before Sept. 11 when they were on U.S. soil — men who had been previously under CIA surveillance in Malaysia — and still did nothing.

NEW ORLEANS BEATING

Three New Orleans police officers indicted in videotaped beating

Mary Foster

NEW ORLEANS — Two New Orleans police officers and one current officer were indicted Wednesday in the videotaped beating of a retired teacher in the French Quarter last fall.

The Oct. 8 beating of Robert Davis, 64, was caught on videotape by an Associated Press Television News crew covering the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Earlier, the grand jury had heard from Davis, who told reporters as he exited the courthouse that he was "a private citizen here on business returning to my home. There was no need for what happened." He said he had returned to the storm-struck city to check on his property and was looking for a place to buy cigarettes in the French Quarter when police grabbed him.

The videotape shows an officer hitting Davis at least four times on the head. Davis twisted and flailed as he was dragged to the ground by four officers. One officer freed Davis and punched him twice, and Davis is shown face-down on the sidewalk with blood streaming from his head and into a gutter.

Smith had ordered APTN producer Rich Matthews and the cameraman to stop recording. When Matthews held up his credentials, the officer grabbed him, jabbed him in the stomach and delivered a profanity-laced tirade.

Evangelist and Schilling were charged with battery against Davis, and Smith was charged with battery against a reporter.
V for Vendetta,” the latest offering from the Wachowski brothers, depicts a dystopian British society on the brink of a revolution. The film provides a good balance between drama, science fiction and action. The audience never sees V’s face. Weaving does what he can as the voice behind the mask to ensure V’s madness appears justified. Some of V’s ramblings about revolution, poetry and using words that start with the letter “v” are unintelligible and overdone. His creepy costume is offset by his smooth skills with the knives that are his weapons of choice.

Screenwriters Andy Wachowski and Larry Wachowski, known for writing and directing the Matrix trilogy, seem to have tailored this comic book story from the 1980s into a commentary on the state of world events today. V is dubbed a terrorist against a totalitarian government. He blows up buildings and assassinates who he deems to be evil leaders as he works toward starting a revolution. The Wachowskis blatantly show the government’s control, police investigator Finch (Stephen Rea) helps uncover V’s motivations, not merely political, but personal revenge as well. V routinely questions the government’s use of spin and the media to control people, mimicking familiar real-life personalities. V’s logo is even strikingly similar to the anarchy “A.” It’s worth the trip to the big screen, but be wary that you might leave the theater with your “Magnolia” and Mr. Pibb.

On the March 4 episode of “Saturday Night Live,” the weekly “Digital Short” featured Queen Amidala herself rapping her way to Internet immortality with “A Day in the Life of Natalie Portman.” It’s worth the trip to the big screen, but be wary that you might leave the theater with your “Magnolia” and Mr. Pibb.

On the March 4 episode of “Saturday Night Live,” the weekly “Digital Short” featured Queen Amidala herself rapping her way to Internet immortality with “A Day in the Life of Natalie Portman.” So, “Lazy Sunday” fans: Keep your “Magnolia” and Mr. Pibb. I’ll take Ms. Portman’s homicidal tendencies and alleged “yay snorting” any day of the week.

Come by and see why SLO County has voted Gus’s the Best Sandwich 16 years in a row.

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| Diversions editor: Maricar Mendez | mustangdailyeditor@gmail.com |

Thursday, March 30, 2006
Just before pulling away and watching everything I had done for the first 21 years of my life disappear in my rearview mirror, my Dad offered me some wisdom that though incommensurable at the time, I knew someday would bring great clarity.

Hiding tears behind his wire-framed spectacles, he grasped my shoulders. I could see there was so much he wanted to say but couldn't. I saw his struggle as he told me that in leaving, my life would change in many ways I would never imagine. Knowing that I had never been one who dealt well with change, he told me that the one inevitable thing in life was change, and thus, it should be something to embrace.

Leaving everything behind and coming to a college as a transfer brought with it a unique experience. Loneliness, fear, excitement and the entire gamut of likely freshman feelings were experienced.

Stuck between two places, I fought change and held onto home so tightly that I missed out on the present. Like men who knew family and friends back home, I struggled with the changes of leaving them. On weekends I would make the trip home in hopes of returning to the life I had left behind. Yet, life continued to change while I was gone.

Separating from a group of 10, I was the only one to leave home in pursuit of an education. I was locked onto the past, I fought college life, leaving home crushed as everything I had known was now foreign. What was once a life of endless nights and early was now full-time jobs and the proverbial nose to the grindstone attitude.

Just as I had known the day I left, the time would come when my father's weighted words would be fully understood. Lost in thought one afternoon as I relaxed in my front porch hammock, my mind drifted into a state of reflection. It was early September and I could feel the sting of summer on my skin. I was leaving for college, leaving everything I knew in pursuit of an education as my father was again offering his closing words of wisdom.

As I slid my finger down the envelope, breaking its adhesive, I couldn't help but wonder what the letter contained. Slipping the small card out of its envelope, I found an invitation to an engagement party for a friend back home and his new fiancée.

Staring at the embossed letters, I drifted into a state of reflection. It was early September and I could feel the sting of summer on my skin. I was leaving for college, leaving everything I knew in pursuit of an education as my father was again offering his closing words of wisdom.

I suddenly realized the significance of my father's wisdom had never rung more true. A new sense of understanding seemed to fall on me that afternoon. I remembered my Dad telling me that the day would come when friends would start getting married, having children, buying homes and growing up also seemed too far away to concern me.

But it was that pristine letter that evoked an introspective realization of my defiance to the realities of growing up. I was holding onto the past so tightly I couldn't even see the changes taking place all around me.

I realized that the lives of every one of my friends who stayed home to pursue their careers instead of college seemed accelerated.

Whether it be the influence of our small old-world town or not, I realized everyone from back home was already working their 9-5s, buying homes, talking about marriage and children, and ready to start their adult lives.

Like a weighted blow to the chest, I realized that in leaving for college, my life had taken a vastly different path. Not better or more right, just different. When they were consumed with reception plans and mortgage payments, I was cramming for internships and worrying about what class to take.

It was then that I began to feel the societal pressures of the post-college expectations to be successful. Not like family and friends at home were establishing careers and are having children, buying cars and trying to start families.

But me, I was broke, still drove my old dusty Toyota pick-up and wanted to be part of the world's 20-somethings. I was adding friends at a smooth pace.

The one inevitable thing in life was change...
The Ataris kick-off spring UU Hour

The Ataris show is just the start to an improved UU Hour lineup this quarter, including performances by The Clarks and Resination.

Brittney Peloquin

University Union Hour promises to be better than ever this quarter, including performances by The Clarks and Resination.

Kris Roe, front, and John Collura, front left, will be playing an acoustic set for UU Hour today from 11 a.m. to noon. In the back, from right to left, Chris Knapp and Mike Davenport left the band in late 2004.

"I'm totally jazzed they're playing here," psychology sophomore Aimee Hamilton said. "I hope people come out and support them so we can get some other good bands."

The band's forthcoming album, "Welcome the Night," features a completely different side of the band, reflecting a more mature sound compared to The Ataris' hits like "San Dimas High School Football Rules."

The Ataris show is just the beginning of what the ASI Events staff plans to offer for this quarter's UU Hour.

In the past, the weekly entertainment usually featured local bands, student bands or small acts passing through town looking for exposure. While this gives Cal Poly students a chance to hear up-and-coming music, they are trying to bring in bigger acts based on recent feedback.

Nicole Stivers, student supervisor for marketing and public relations and journalism senior, said they are trying to use resources to bring in more established bands.

"We love to see students out there having a good time, and we're excited that we're able to do that," she said. "We want it to be fun, even if it's just background music while you hang out with your friends."

She also commented that the events staff always welcomes suggestions for entertainment.

Another band appearing this quarter is The Clarks, a popular East Coast guitar rock band that has played shows nationally with John Mayer, O.A.R., and Gavin DeGraw. Resination, a local reggae band that has previously played UU Hour, will appear again in May.

ASI also welcomes other groups to use the hour as an opportunity for a variety of clubs and organizations to gain exposure or put on events. Upcoming weekly entertainment will include a Remember Week presentation, Greek Week events and a Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

UU Hour is every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon starting today. In the event of rain, The Ataris will play at Backstage Pizza.

For more information, visit asi.calpoly.edu/events.

Velvet Rope

(continued from page 8)

I now find myself caught between two places yet again. Instead of holding onto the past for fear of the present, I now find myself struggling to cram in all the present for fear of the future.

With graduation on the horizon, I find that being in my early 20s, I am scared of what the future will bring because school has been my life for as long as I can remember.

On the other hand, I feel the struggle between freely chasing my wild dreams and finding a career as quickly as possible.

Lost in the sea of decisions ahead of me, I have come to realize that, despite my doubts, there isn't a wrong answer.

Instead, as I relax in my hammock enjoying the warm sunshine, I realize that when I reach that door to the "real world," I will open it without fear.

THE VELVET ROPE takes on Spring Break...

Doing something wild for spring break? Send us your stories in 700 words or less!

GO NUTS!!!
No love in downtown SLO

BY JANICE EDMAN

In an article published in the March 13 issue of the New Times, "Urban Undressed," the Times reported on a group of why and how people are off the charts, it just proves a bigger problem that seems to be sweeping the town: SLO citizens are afraid of sex.

I say SLO citizens because most Cal Poly students consider themselves students of the university, living (for a temporary amount of time) in the city of SLO.

We, gentle friends, clearly do not fear sex — just ask the patient nurse practitioners at the Health Center. Rather, it's the inhabitants of San Luis Obispo, many of whom graduated from Cal Poly, that get up in arms the second sex enters our small community.

Examples include the brouhaha made over the "racy" display of lingerie in the Victoria's Secret windows (for the record, again, I find Victoria's Secret way too tame for my taste), and the cancellation of the Mardi Gras parade, why is it feared? Why would a ten year old sex enters our small community.

Although the overprotection and anal levels are off the charts, it just proves a bigger problem that seems to be sweeping the town: SLO citizens are afraid of sex.

'Although the overprotection and anal levels are off the charts, it just proves a bigger problem that seems to be sweeping the town: SLO citizens are afraid of sex.'
Sex and drug themes: A free ride to a household name

When I walk into an Urban Outfitters, usually it's in search of a new outfit (or experience). But in a recent Russian Coke advertisements and lame puns plastered to their fronts. When I stumble instead uponossip books like "Splish, "How Animals Have Sex" or Sex Flashcards, I'm not offended -- I'm confused. It's like going to Michaels, The Arts and Crafts Store for silk flowers and finding a row of purple dildos tucked beneath the garlands. It's like going to a baseball game and getting Paris Hilton as a vendor instead of foot-long hot dogs. Simply, it's getting what you didn't expect. The store markets itself as a clothier for men and women of ages 18 to 30 (a group that shops for itself). But that demographic exists only in fine print, and, as was demonstrated in SLO, it won't keep parents and their young and stupid; I wanted to rebel against it skin has done me a huge favor.

Therefore, with my knowledge of logic ever want to have your skin compared to a number of girls and guys) serving for a Mediterranean glow is steadily increasing. Why? While the question of why people do harmful things to themselves still remains to be large- and without exception, in this far too tan for her of the world had tans; paleness is sacred status, and those who had it number of things brought to our society. Superficial, raiming is dangerous. There's no way to avoid this fact because, well, it's a fact. Everyone knows tanning leads to greatly increased chance of skin cancer (with minimal bitterness), I realize that my skin has done me a huge favor.

Christine Forster

COMMENTARY

Tanning: The facts will wrinkle your brow

Christine Forster

Oxford, Miss. — Finally! Spring has arrived... maybe. (We can only hope.) I have come to this conclusion not necessarily because of the pleasant temperature but because of the rapid increase of girls clad in teeny shorts around campus. Hence, one can only imagine the sunbathingUSB's as they make their way to the nearest beach or salon to be bronzed. At worst, you wear it, you're "not cool") but I think it's more likely to protect their ears, since it's easier to realize your eyelids are burning; but with those handy UVA rays, no burning sensation is noticeable.

There is all this talk about tanning beds, though, and none about tanning the old-fashioned way — basking like a lizard in the sun. If you're one who firmly believes in a motto "no pain, no gain" when it comes to tanning, I applaud your work ethic, but I'm sad to say you're still going to get the cancer.

The sun, while being the sustainer of all life on Earth, can also be, for less careful humans, a Death Star. For instance I believe the answer lies in society. A century ago, only the work- ers, or those who had it, went to great pains to keep it. Those who wanted it, those with those handy UVA rays, no burning sensation is noticeable. This is all this talk about tanning beds, though, and none about tanning the old-fashioned way — basking like a lizard in the sun. If you're one who firmly believes in a motto "no pain, no gain" when it comes to tanning, I applaud your work ethic, but I'm sad to say you're still going to get the cancer.
Alabama joins growing number of states looking to ban abortions

Katie Stallcup
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Alabama has joined a growing number of states that are considering bills to ban almost all abortions in direct defiance of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that made abortion a constitutional right.

“There are states that are considering bills to ban almost all abortions in direct defiance of Roe v. Wade,” said Rep. Nick Williams, R-Montevallo, who is sponsoring the bill. “I think this is a very strong bill.”

Williams said his bill makes performing an abortion a felony.

“It is a very strong bill,” Erwin said Tuesday. “And it is a statement to say that we are going to address the issues of trying to protect issue of unborn children. We need to do everything in the world to help that baby get into the world and experience the American dream.”

The two identical bills, introduced last month, are in committee for discussions. Erwin said the Senate bill is in the judiciary committee for debate. The committee held a hearing on the bill Tuesday. Erwin said it was “a very passionate public hearing.”

“It was a very passionate public hearing,” Erwin said. “I’m not against debate. It’s an issue we need to deal with, and all voices and opinions are welcome.”

Williams said his bill makes performing an abortion a felony.

“I feel very strongly about abortion personally,” he said. With the regular legislative session coming to a close, the bills are not given much chance of passing.

“It’s still easier to kill something in the legislature than pass it,” said William Stewart, former chairman of the UA Political Science Department. “And if you have a substantial minority opposed to it, it won’t pass. There are a lot of bills that seem to have substantial support but don’t pass.”

But supporters say they expect to keep trying, particularly if Republicans are successful in cutting into Democratic control of the state House and Senate in November elections.

Rep. Gerald Allen, R-Tuscaloosa, said he would support the bill in the House.

“The life of an unborn child needs to be protected,” Allen said Tuesday.

Allen said if a child had been conceived through rape or incest, “it is not the child’s fault. It’s a difficult situation to be placed in, and the child cannot help it.”

Joseph Smith, a UA political science professor who specializes in constitutional law said even if the abortion ban becomes law in Alabama and manages to make it to the Supreme Court, it would almost certainly be declared unconstitutional without exceptions for rape, incest or the health of the mother.

That ban is clearly inconsistent with past rulings on abortion,” Smith said. “Even the most conservative judge is likely to overturn a complete ban.”

But ban supporters in South Dakota and the other states seem to have substantial minorities to save the mother’s life. The bill has no exceptions for rape or incest.

“The bill is similar to an abortion ban enacted in South Dakota last month. Similar legislation is being considered in a number of other states, including Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia.

“It is a very strong bill,” Erwin said Tuesday. “And it is a statement to say that we are going to address the issues of trying to protect issue of unborn children. We need to do everything in the world to help that baby get into the world and experience the American dream.”

The two identical bills, introduced last month, are in committee for discussions. Erwin said the Senate bill is in the judiciary committee for debate. The committee held a hearing on the bill Tuesday. Erwin said it was “a very passionate public hearing.”

“It was a very passionate public hearing,” Erwin said. “I’m not against debate. It’s an issue we need to deal with, and all voices and opinions are welcome.”

Williams said his bill makes performing an abortion a felony.

“I feel very strongly about abortion personally,” he said. With the regular legislative session coming to a close, the bills are not given much chance of passing.

“It’s still easier to kill something in the legislature than pass it,” said William Stewart, former chairman of the UA Political Science Department. “And if you have a substantial minority opposed to it, it won’t pass. There are a lot of bills that seem to have substantial support but don’t pass.”

But supporters say they expect to keep trying, particularly if Republicans are successful in cutting into Democratic control of the state House and Senate in November elections.

Rep. Gerald Allen, R-Tuscaloosa, said he would support the bill in the House.

“The life of an unborn child needs to be protected,” Allen said Tuesday.

Allen said if a child had been conceived through rape or incest, “it is not the child’s fault. It’s a difficult situation to be placed in, and the child cannot help it.”

Joseph Smith, a UA political science professor who specializes in constitutional law said even if the abortion ban becomes law in Alabama and manages to make it to the Supreme Court, it would almost certainly be declared unconstitutional without exceptions for rape, incest or the health of the mother.

“Thus ban is clearly inconsistent with past rulings on abortion,” Smith said. “Even the most conservative judge is likely to overturn a complete ban.”

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PARIS — An Algerian was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison Wednesday for his role in a deadly series of terrorist attacks.

A Paris criminal court convicted Rachid Ramda of acting as a banker for, and giving logistical support to, Algerian terrorists who bombed the Paris subway in 1995. Ramda, who operated from Britain, was the subject of a 10-year extradition battle with authorities in London, who finally handed him to France in December.

— The Associated Press

TORONTO — Canada said Wednesday it was suspending assistance to the Palestinian Authority, citing "the threat" posed by the new Hamas-led government refuses to renounce violence and recognize Israel. Ottawa's decision was hasty, and unfair. It was the first government besides Israel to cut off financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority since Hamas won the legislative elections in January, and other nations were expected to follow suit.

— The Associated Press

SIDE, Turkey — Thousands of skygazers gathered in an ancient temple of Apollo and let the sun set behind protective glasses to hun­dreds of Turkish children before the solar eclipse turned daylight into twilight, casting an eerie blue glow across the sky.

The eclipse was also visible in Morocco, Africa, Turkey and Asia, with a small part of the total solar eclipse turned day into twilight, casting an eerie blue glow across the sky and the Mediterranean Sea. NASA astronomers handed out protective glasses to hundreds of Turkish children before the eclipse cut a dark swath across the sky, a band that stretched from Brazil, across west Africa, Turkey and Central Asia, and was at its peak at sunset in Mongolia.

The last total solar eclipse was in 1999 and was best viewed from sparsely populated Antarctica. Wednesday's eclipse blocked the sun in highly populated areas.

— The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Taliban militants launched a rare attack on a coalition base in southern Afghanistan Wednesday, killing an American and a Canadian soldier and sparking U.S.-led retaliation that left 32 insurgents dead in the bloodshed fighting in month.

The attack came a day after at least 10 people were killed in two separate roadside bombings and reflected a growing intensity of militant assaults after the Taliban launched a renwend offensive this year.

"Over the last five or six weeks they have been various probes against main by the Taliban on that base, but I think it is fair to say this is the largest we have seen thus far," British spokesman Col. Chris Chapman University College, one of California's most highly ranked universities for adult learners, is also the perfect transitional choice. New terms start every 10 weeks and our accelerated programs are taught at convenient times—professionally and academically accomplished faculty who are focused on your success.

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Afghan who converted to Christianity is granted asylum in Italy

Maria Samuelli
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME — The Afghan man who faced the death penalty for converting from Islam to Christianity received asylum in Italy Wednesday, despite requests by lawmakers in Afghanistan that he be permitted to flee the conservative Muslim country.

Abdul Rahim arrived in Rome days after he was freed from a high-security prison on the outskirts of Kabul after a court dropped charges of apostasy against him for lack of evidence and suspected mental illness.

The case has attracted wide attention in the West and led to calls from the U.S. and other governments for the Afghan government to protect its 41-year-old convert.

It also inspired an appeal by Pope Benedict XVI to the Afghan Interior Ministry, Premier Silvio Berlusconi said Wednesday evening, to protect Rahim. "I think he arrived overnight," the pope said.

The papal office had refused to release details. The Interior Ministry said Rahim was "under protection." Conversion is a crime under Afghanistan's Islamic law. Rahim was arrested last month after police discovered him with a Bible. He was brought to trial last week and faced the death penalty for converting 16 years ago while working as a medical aid worker for an international Christian group helping Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Under heavy international pressure from the United States and other nations that helped oust the hard-line Taliban regime and provide aid and military support for Karzai, Kabul's top cleric, the Islamic court that had sentenced Rahim to death announced he would not be brought to trial.

"This is a terrible thing and a major shame for Afghanistan," Karzai's top cleric, Ahmadullah Said, said.

Some 500 Afghans, including Muslim leaders and students, also gathered at a mosque in the southern province of Zabul, in Kabul province, to demand the convert be forced to return to Islam and remain in the country. But no formal vote was taken on the issue.

President Bush and others have insisted Afghanistan protect personal beliefs. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called Karzai last week about Rahim and demanded he be barred from leaving the country. But no formal vote was taken on the issue.

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**Sports Information Report**

**Tam named Player of Week**

Cal Poly freshman utility player Stephanie Tam was named the Big West Softball Player of the Week as the Mustangs earned two wins against Santa Clara University over the weekend.

Cal Poly defeated Santa Clara 11-6 in game one of the double-header and 4-1 in game two.

Tam had a team-high four runs batted in and scored twice to go along with three hits in game one of the double-header. In game two, Tam had three more hits and score one run and had a stolen base.

For the weekend, Tam had a batting average of .750.

This season, Tam has scored 14 runs, hitting two doubles, two triples and a homerun. She also records nine RBIs and three stolen bases for 2006 while maintaining a batting average of .292. The 5-foot-1-inch freshman hails from Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. and is a graduate of San Pedro High School.

Tam is batting .292 this season with one home run and nine RBIs in 28 at-bats. She also has three stolen bases in three attempts. She is second on the team with two triples.

The Mustangs (13-16) return to action on Saturday for a home double-header against UC Riverside at 1 p.m. and a 12 p.m. doubleheader on Sunday against UC Riverside. The Mustangs are 4-4 while playing at home this season.

With a strong 22-7 singles record and a 3-3 doubles record with friend and teammate Beavt Van Linge, Nguyen gives credit to his increased court time and his strict training regimen as the reason for his strongest season yet.

"This is definitely my best year, my best record, I've played smogger, played more," Nguyen said. "I've definitely just spent more time on the court and had better conditioning."

Standing tall in the No. 1 slot at his last Mustang season comes to a close, Nguyen's love for the game is deeper than just the competition.

"I really enjoying playing tennis, it's a lot of fun, it's what I like to do most," Nguyen said.

### New York Times Crossword

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<td>15. When the cows come home?</td>
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<td>17. Drop off</td>
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### Sports

**Sports wanted**

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<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Babysitter wanted for occasional evenings for 17 month old. (805) 534-9037</td>
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<td>Golf</td>
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Justin Fivella

Cal Poly grand slam tennis ace John Nguyen is on the top of his game as he is currently ranked No. 11 on Mustang roster for the second year in a row and could place well at the Big West finals in late April.

Nguyen, a business junior has dominated both sides of the serve this season with his crippling offense and his powerful defense.

The Anaheim native's commanding performance this year had ranked him as high as No. 54 in the nation and as high as No. 13 in the western region, according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association for the week of Jan. 10 2006. Nguyen was also named Big West Player of the Week for the week of Feb. 23 2006 after his strong showing against No. 59 ranked University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

A tennis player at heart, Nguyen explained that the game of tennis has been his favorite pastime since the age of 12 when his father placed a tennis racket in his hand.

"My father was a recreational player that loved the sport and he encouraged me to play," Nguyen said.

Shortly after picking up the racket, Nguyen began playing in tournaments and has been playing competitively for 10 years. He continued to play in select tournaments through junior college (College in Santa Ana, Calif.) and has been playing competitively for 10 years. He continued to play in select tournaments through junior college (College in Santa Ana, Calif.) and swept Brigham Young. Top Tiger hitters to date are right fielder Ramon Glasgow at .363, designated hitter Matt Berenz at .364 with seven home runs and 22 RBIs, center fielder Anthony Jackson at .353 and first baseman Brett Manning at .338.

The Tigers are hitting .265 by the Mustangs in a non-conference series, dropping Calif Poly are at .247 and Pacific are .217. Pacific, coached by Fred Sprague, in his third season, has seven position starters, seven pitchers and seven other letter winners back from last year's 30-28 squad which finished sixth in the Big West with a 9-12 mark.

Sprague, who guided Pacific to its first winning season in six years with a 30-28 mark in 2005, was the starting third baseman on the 1987 and 1988 NCAA Championship teams at Stanford. He collected another championship as he won a Gold Medal with USA Baseball in the 1988 Summer Olympics and enjoyed an 11-year Major League career with Toronto, Pittsburgh, Boston, Oakland, Seattle and San Diego.

The Tigers swept San Diego State last weekend by scores of 2-1, 6-3 and 10-4. Pacific has also won series against Cal, Nevada, UCLA, Santa Clara and swept Brigham Young. Top Tiger hitters to date are right fielder Ramon Glasgow at .363, designated hitter Matt Berenz at .364 with seven home runs and 22 RBIs, center fielder Anthony Jackson at .353 and first baseman Brett Manning at .338.

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