ASI 2006-07 elections begin today

Voters' Guide

Kendra Deutsch

Strategically-placed banners around campus with the phrase "Vote: One Voice, 17,000 Strong" are calling the Cal Poly community to vote in the Associated Students, Inc. elections, which take place today and Thursday throughout campus.

The banners are a part of ASI's push for an increased voter turnout in the elections.

Students are encouraged to cast their votes to choose a new ASI president and board of directors representatives for each of Cal Poly's six colleges.

Each student will choose one of the two candidates for ASI president, either Anne Giapapas or Todd Maki. The elected student will serve as the head of the ASI student government and chief student advocate for the upcoming school year. Additionally, they will choose students to serve on the board of directors.

Anne Giapapas

A year ago, Anne Giapapas didn't know how to "Experience ASI," but she was listening to what students had to say and with their support, she is running for ASI president. A senior recreation administration major, Giapapas strives to make the campus safer in the absence of Safe Ride and be not only a new face in ASI, but a recognizable face.

" Members are the deciding body for this nonprofit business," Giapapas said. "(They) are the liaison between ASI and the student body." This year, there are 45 students on the ballot for the 25 positions available.

In today and tomorrow's elections, ASI is pushing for a 25 percent voter turnout.

"Voting is notoriously low in college," Giapapas said. "Most CSUs (California State Universities) are well below 10 percent. For us to shoot higher is a huge statement (for Cal Poly)."

On the ASI Web site, Tyler Middlestadt, Cal Poly's current ASI president, urged students to vote because "ASI representatives are the voice of the student body."

Polls will open around campus at 8 a.m. today and tomorrow, and most will remain open until 4 p.m. The polls in the University Union and the Education building will remain open until 7:30 p.m.

Students must bring their student I.D. cards, as votes cannot be cast without them.

Todd Maki

Todd Maki, a mechanical engineering junior, and one of the candidates for ASI president, has many issues that he will fight for if he wins.

While everyone has the opportunity to go to the forums that are held to introduce the candidates, only a few make the time to attend. So, here is a chance to see what Maki is all about. He explains the issues he feels most passionately about, the reasons both the Republicans and Democrats support him and why he is the better candidate.

Mustang Daily: Tell us a little bit about your advertising campaign.

Todd Maki: My campaign team and I were sitting around thinking about why people should vote for me. We were going down a list of things, like because of this, and this, and realized that was it. That is why it is "Todd Because..." There are so many reasons and 99 percent

see Maki, page 4
MD: How are you involved on campus?

AG: I’m still majorly involved with the recreation program — I am a part of the recreation RAM club and then also this year started doing fund-raising events through my major. … Other than that, I’ve been more involved off campus, I wanted to make sure that I was pretty well-rounded and that I had a lot of different specific jobs. A lot of them have been managerial jobs, which I think will be great if I do come into office to basically run the board and to share my experiences.

MD: Transportation is one of your big topics — how would you address the issue of Safe Ride?

AG: I want to make sure that as soon as I’m into office I’m addressing that problem mostly because Safe Ride was cancelled so I want to extend the hours of the escort car. I want it to be out in front of the major bars every half an hour so you know when you get out, if someone needs to get home, they’re going to get home safely.

MD: What are your strengths and weaknesses, and how would you address them as president?

AG: My strengths are that I have great people skills and I tend to be a good speaker. I’m quick on my feet and I know when I have a problem, I know who to go to for help.

MD: What’s your experience so far with Mardi Gras?

AG: I’m definitely proud of what I’ve done and past presidents have done. … It’s not something that you think about and they worked with the city even though the city spent way too much of our taxpayers’ money. … I think that it’s been two years now and you can see that people are scared to go out of their houses on Mardi Gras weekend and … I think that students have lost that sense of tradition that was here at Cal Poly with Mardi Gras. … But I think that we do deserve a second chance and … what if ASI presents an event that saves the tradition — a dry event. People could start coming onto campus in costume and have this small parade that’s responsible and secure. … So by showing them another opportunity, another side where they can come in and play it safe, I think the police might support that and they might want to be at that event. … If the community works together with the Cal Poly community, that we could really make things happen, that we could change it for the better and not spend as much money.

MD: Where did your slogan come from and what does it mean?

AG: When I said I was running for office, someone told me that most people are going to see you as a little sorority girl running for office. And that really upset me one for the fact that are you saying a sorority girl wouldn’t be a great candidate for ASI president? And two, because it seemed anti-feminist to me … “Anne’s the Man” has been showing I’m a girl but I can do the job. I can be the man, I can wear the pants, so it’s “Anne’s the Man.” … And then there have been the comments from Todd’s supporters saying “Don’t be confused, Todd’s the man.” And then I want to make sure that people know that a woman can be in power, that a woman can do the job.

MD: What has some of your positive feedback been so far?

AG: I’m bringing a new group of people to ASI, people that normally wouldn’t be at the debates have started coming and I’ve started getting emails saying, “I wasn’t going to vote this year, but I believe in you.” … I’ve been getting a lot of good feedback from the people that normally don’t vote, that 93 percent of the population that didn’t vote in an election last year. It’s not saying that’s my target market, but I want to make sure I’m getting everybody involved, that’s what I’m trying to run for: student involvement in ASI, to know that there are opportunities.

MD: You say you have no interest in politics, so why ASI?

AG: I chose ASI because I want to be a student’s voice. I don’t want to listen to myself and jumpstart a political career. I’m here because people want me to be here and I think that I would have a really good effect on what the good points of ASI are now, I think I could really have the potential to make them better. … I don’t want to go the government route; I’m much more of a people person … Right now I don’t have the love for that. I have the love more for the people.

MD: The president’s job is to represent the students of Cal Poly — would you represent them in a different way than this year?

AG: I think yes, I think for the last three years we’ve had an engineer as president, I believe that I know people from every college and that I would be very self-rounded and equally represent students. … I think that a president would stand out a little bit more than Tylor just because I have more of a broad understanding of students. Instead of working with ASI for the last three years, I’ve been with the students, acting with them as a member of an intramural sports team or part-time work. … I think I bring the average. I’m more of a wealth of information rather than narrowly ASI.

Wednesday’s ad is brought to you by PolyApparel

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

Wednesday, May 3, 2006
WHO SAID THAT?

Now, I say to you today my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

— Martin Luther King Jr. (1929 - 1968)

In religion and politics, people’s beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination.

— Mark Twain

Wordly Wise

Unctuous: Marked by a false or smug earnestness or agreeableness.

ASI Elections

One Voice, 17,000 Strong

VOTE

May 3 & 4

All will be in every student’s connection to the ultimate college experience

Presidential Candidates

Todd Maki
College of Engineering
Anne Glapapat
College of Agriculture

Board of Directors

College of Architecture and Environmental Design
Alynn Hare
Heather Josten
Marcela Ople
Sean Timon
Greg Wiley

College of Agriculture
Ashlee Sakaish-Griffins
Brad Hubert
Colin Leslie
Amanda Rankin
Kyle Robertson
Jared Samarin
Brandon Souza
Mia White

College of Liberal Arts
Zach Austin
Robert Blanco
Sarah Eldridge
Max Hubbert
David Kirk
Ruthie Osorno
Jillian Smilie
Lana Smith

College of Business
Josh Burroughs
Jessica Gibbons
Steven Larson
Enka Morgan
Nick Motroni
Skylar Olsen
Melissa Robbins
Matthew Taylor

College of Engineering
Rita Akhavan
Lindsey Bauer
Brian Eiler
Tony Guntermann
Ken Hemmert
Erica Janoff
Joseph Podgorecz
Arvand Sabetian
Rachael Severn
Nicole Stromness

Find candidate statements, voter info and more at: www.asi.calpoly.edu/government

Election Dates: May 3, 2006 - May 4, 2006

Polling Locations

8 am-4 pm
Ag Bridge (Bldg. 10)
Fisher Science/Science North (Bldg. 53)
Kennedy Library (Bldg. 35)
Campus Market (Bldg. 11)

8 am-7:30 pm
Education Building Breezeway (Bldg. 2)
University Union-Downstairs (Bldg. 65)

Name: Lance Wierschem • Year: senior
Hometown: Modesto • Major: Landscape Architecture

Favorites

Color: Blue
dessert: Strawberry rhubarb pie

If You Could …

— change the Cal Poly mascot, what would you change it to?
I’d keep the mustang because they are wild n’ fast.

— have any superpower, what would it be and why?
I would want to be able to fly, especially with gas prices as high as they are.

— be anyone for a day, who would you be and why?
An indigenous person in a tribe removed from society and all the commercialism.

— be a cartoon character, what would you be?
A fragglerock because they know how to party.

Either/Or

— Pool or hot tub?
Pool

On line:
www.inustangdaily.net

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Assistant news editor: Erick Smith • esmitlii@calpoly.edu

www.mustangdaily.net
Maki

continued from page 1
of the people wearing the shirts can tell you why.

MD: What are your main issues?
TM: I want to work to establish a sense of community in the school and the city. People don’t know the issues so they don’t vote. They don’t know how big of a presence ASL and the students have on the community.

There are several groups on campus focused on sustainability that I have been working with a lot. Recently, Empower Poly was created which is a chance for all those clubs to join together and work for one goal. That’s what I would like to do all over campus, bring everyone together so they all know what is happening on campus and get interested.

I also want to continue the work I’ve already started. I want to expand CP NEXT, which Tyler Middelstadt has been working on.

I’m pushing to improve the bus system even more. I want to continue to work with the city on it. I also am working on improving bike access on campus, alternative means of transportation and night transportation. I don’t think it’s safe to walk alone at night, especially on a college campus where alcohol is prevalent. I’ve already started researching what other campuses do and offer. It shouldn’t be very difficult because the school doesn’t want students walking around — they really do care about us.

I’m also working on student services. I want to increase the debit and credit card use on campus. It doesn’t make sense that there is no credit card use allowed at any food places. Students can only use their cash at three places: Mustang Express, the bookstore and the Rec Center. The Rec Center and Mustang Express are through ASL. This would be extremely beneficial for the students. Students should be able to pick things up they need for class at Campus Market or get a bite to eat anywhere on campus between classes.

Something else that I would like to see happen is the ability to use Plus Dollars and Campus Express off campus. I know other campuses such as ASU do it. It wouldn’t be implemented come fall — things like that take time. I know that students would appreciate it. They could go get Woodlocks instead of Backstage or get a steak sandwich at Firestone instead of Campus Market. Whenever I tell students the idea, their eyes light up.

Mostly, I want to close the gap between the city and students. One of the biggest issues we have is Marsh Gras, and it’s always a concern for everyone. This year there were more cops than students and that isn’t ok. The students don’t want to be shot with pellet guns and the cops don’t want to be out there fighting students. However, there has been a huge lack of respect between everyone. We need to do our partying in a respectful manner but they also need to respect the fact that we are college students and that we want to party. We need to build a respect within the community. We don’t want to prevene what happened two years ago anymore. It’s not safe though it may be fun.

MD: Why are you the best ASI president candidate?
TM: I will be the best ASI president because I am by far the most qualified candidate for the job. I have been on the ASI Board of Directors for the past three years. ASI is an $11 million corporation, not a high school committee. We aren’t planning pep rallies and dances here. I know who knows what and who to talk to about every issue. Even though SLO Transit isn’t through ASI, we can advocate for change. I know every member of the city council. I know the people in town it takes to get things done. Not only do I know them, I also have a relationship with them. You can’t get people to do things for you by telling them what you want — you have to work together.

The clubs on this campus want a sense of community. It is already starting and ASI can facilitate it. We can use the momentum to continue it. I like to put this in perspective. For any club, the members would not elect someone as their president that has never been involved in the organization. You would choose someone that has been around and seen how things work. They just know.

MD: What do you think of the fact that both the Democrats and Republicans on campus are endorsing you?
TM: It only proves that ASI has nothing to do with politics and everything to do with the students. We are bringing people together for a common goal so politics don’t matter. We are working for the students regardless of their political status. I’ve worked with both clubs and they can see that too.

MD: What other organizations are you involved in?
TM: I am the chair of Student Campus Computing Committee. We are the reason for the new portal and the wireless on campus. We are helping ITS develop a new registration system. Come fall, POWER will be gone. It will be so much nicer to use and it affects every student here.

I am also the senate vice chair of the Engineering Student Council.
National briefs

WASHINGTON FBI Director Robert Mueller told reporters Tuesday the bureau has tightened its rules for dealing with confidential sources who have recently been caught up in scandals on both coasts, including a retired agent's indictment on murder charges, after the recent scandals followed embarrassing revelations about a sex affair and gangland killings that an earlier overhaul of informant guidelines was intended to prevent.

THE Associated Press

W IN C H I T A — Universal Pictures says it will donate $1.15 million this week toward a memorial for walk- ers and joggers who perished aboard United Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001 — addressing concerns of a lawmaker who has block- ed legislation to buy land for the pro- ject.

The donation from Universal, which last week released "United 93," a film about the flight, brings to $9 million the private donations so far. Organizers hope to raise $30 million to buy the memorial near Shanksville, Pa., where the plane went down.

The studio had promised to contribute 10 percent of the film's box office revenue from the first three days of the North American release to the memorial, which is estimated to cost about $58 million to build.

The Associated Press

L O N D O N  — Crude oil prices hit a record high of over $75 a barrel in late April; they are now hovering about $74 a bar- rel. Gasoline prices, meanwhile, are topping $3 a gallon in some areas. Democrats have promoted the idea of a "tax holiday" by suspend- ing the 18.4-cent a gallon federal gasoline tax for 60 days.

Lazear also raised questions about another idea that has been advocated by Republicans: providing a $106 billion rebate to mil- lions of motorists.

"The administration is studying that proposal. It doesn't have the same degree of direct economic in- fluence that we just talked about in terms of a cut in the gasoline tax," he said.

"But there are other issues that we have to think about — is that the best way to use our tax revenue? Is it the most efficient way to do it? Are there other ways to help the situation?" Lazear said.

Lazear made his remarks during a two-and-a-half-hour questioning session following a speech that explained, among other things, the gaps between the wages of skilled and unskilled workers in the United States.

"That wage gap has been visible for decades and "show no obvious signs of abating in the near future," he said. Improving the education and skills of workers is one important way to help the situation, he said.

The Poly Daily

Gas tax cut won't solve high energy prices over long haul, Bush economist says

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Wednesday, May 3, 2006

MUSTANG DAILY www.mustangdailynews.com

K CPR 91.3 FM EVENTS - Your Community Calendar

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Numbksull Presents-Pato Banton, Half Pin, Fred Burton, 6/17, 8 pm - HM. Bldg 51 Rm A-10
Dutchtown Social Club at the Pine Theatre - Giveaway @ 9:15 Showing
Mileystones Stuffit - 8:00pm - Linnea's
East & W atashi, W atashi Wa, Neet - 3pm - H M. Bldg 51 Rm A-10
ACO - 7 - pm - The Graduate
A B C w/ M artin Fry - 9pm - Mongos Grover Beach 1990's
Made In Mexico - Castilla, The Rock Savants - 6-30-6pm - Linnea's
The Silent Partner - 8-30pm - Linnea's
The Or chestra - 8pm - Cal Poly, PAC

To add your event email K CPRPromotions@gmail.com
Mobb Deep back in the game

Nikhil Joshi
(A. WIRE COLLEGE PARK, Md.) — "Blood Money" may not be the chart-topper Infamous, but rivals previous Mobb Deep efforts. The highly anticipated seventh album from the Queensbridge, N.Y., rap duo, Mobb Deep, drops today under S.O. Cinematic's G-Unit Records label. Havoc and Prodigy, best known for their hip-hop anthem "Shook Ones Part II" off the 1995 album Infamous, have faded from the public eye for the better part of the decade. The new album, "Blood Money," features many of the sharp lyrical skills that propelled them to the top of gangsta rap in the mid-90s. The addition of the G-Unit crew's style throws a wild card into the formula, but the end product is not as bad as many fans have feared.

For most of their careers, Havoc and Prodigy never enjoyed the lavish lives of their peers, producing remarkable tracks at the expense of immense record sales. To make matters worse, Jay-Z ridiculed the young duo on his 2001 track "Takeover," pushing them lower in the New York arena. The subsequent Jive Records release "Americaz Nightm race" fared relatively poorly, as well.

Signing to G-Unit seems to have already changed this bad luck, as their contract included two brand-new Porsches purchased by 50 Cent himself. Havoc recently stated, "As an artist, you want to be able to reach the furthest audience as you can..." The difference this time around is that more people will hear this product this time." "Blood Money," therefore, is an effort to reach a wider audience and garner more sales.

Many of The Infamous' fans have feared that the sing-song, club-friendly style of S.O.C. and company would negatively affect "Blood Money." In reality, only a few tracks follow in S.O.'s footsteps. While "Backstage Pass" and "Click Click" (featuring Tony Yayo) are probably Havoc and Prodigy's at their worst, these bubblegum tracks can't overshadow the rest of the album. The record is set straight on the clever "In Love With the Money," in which the Mobb establishes that money, and not women, is its true love.

Fans of the old gangsta-rap style of Mobb Deep will appreciate "Speaking So Freely" and the Sha Money XL-produced "Put 'Em In Their Place," while club-goers will find something to dance to on "Outta Control (Remix)." Alchemist lends his best beat production talents on the addictive "The Infamous," the best track on the record. The album features just about all of G-Unit, along with production from the legendary Dr. Dre.

"Blood Money" is not likely to receive the same classic status as the eleven-year-old Infamous. Still, it is the best Mobb Deep album in years, even if the duo sacrifices a few tracks to G-Unit contamination. At least Havoc and Prodigy will be able to reap some monetary reward in exchange.
Coachella: scenes from the cultural oasis

I was somewhere around Indio, in the apex of the desert, when the siren-crowned, chain-mailled Motley Crue drummer ran up to me, waving his arms and torso in a spastic model of the Ad Arose snake dance. I continued grinning on the corn, and clicked my eyes upward in annoyance. He chattered and regrouped with his bleached-blond entourage to continue down the field, toward the thrumming bass of Doof Park.

Even without the icky hair-metal run-ons, this year’s Coachella Festival still would have been the strangest one yet. The cultural oasis of the Mojave Desert (held May 29-30) featured a predictably strong lineup of eclectic indie artists but, surprisingly, an additional interest in capturing the mainstrem crowd. From Kanye West’s shining ego on Saturday to Madame’s short-and-slinky dance tent appearance Sunday, the indie snobs once-safe haven was taken over by squealing strangers — and two sold-out days later, it’s hard to tell whether Coachella will continue down the beaten pop path.

When are we, you ask, to expect the Coachella Festival to return to form? It wasn’t long ago that Coachella still retained its provincial place where alternative art and celebrities under communal atmosphere, a kaleidoscope of eclectic indie artists but, surprisingly, an additional interest in capturing the mainstream crowd. From Kanye West’s shining ego on Saturday to Madame’s short-and-slinky dance tent appearance Sunday, the indie snobs once-safe haven was taken over by squealing strangers — and two sold-out days later, it’s hard to tell whether Coachella will continue down the beaten pop path.

Wherever. For the most part, Coachella still retained its provincial commercial atmosphere, a kaleidoscope of eclectic indie artists but, surprisingly, an additional interest in capturing the mainstream crowd. From Kanye West’s shining ego on Saturday to Madame’s short-and-slinky dance tent appearance Sunday, the indie snobs once-safe haven was taken over by squealing strangers — and two sold-out days later, it’s hard to tell whether Coachella will continue down the beaten pop path.

Saturday

Despite the bright afternoon sunshine, it was raining in the Walkmen’s hearts. The deeply dressed New Yorkers crunched through their woolly main-stage set, engaging the crowd midway with their “OC”-approved hit “Little House of Savages.” Lead singer Hamilton Leithauser must have been taken a daily dose — his gravelly bowl was painful just to hear.

Animal Collective had some technical difficulties and a generally disorganized sound. After opening a typical psych-rock jam with calm arpeggios, they released a wall of missionary feedback that visibly shook the head-bobbing audience.

From Kanye West’s shining ego on Saturday to Madame’s short-and-slinky dance tent appearance Sunday, the indie snobs once-safe haven was taken over by squealing strangers ...

big word-of-mouth buzz band, proved honest folk — they asked people to clap and agreed amicably when they did. Their performance was dominated by echoing lead gui...
Art Beat

"Photographic," executed glorious­ingly, he was visibly slammed by the tion, and minutes later unconvinc­ingly angled for a similar '80s revival. (The tepid Tommy Lee encounter occurred right around here — another shredder-inducing look backs.) Dressed like a more homoerotic Killers, the group demonstrated what would’ve hap­pened if Ian Curtis had severe nasal congestion, and then a lobotomy. After hearing singer Justin Warfield imperiously address the audience and croon a cappella, “Run run, would you wear that black liner, baby?” the real name became She Wants To Get On A Homicidal Rampage After Whose Encouraged You. Dift Punk shoved their volumes of buzzy drum-and-bass into the dance tent, where exuberant ravers flooded deep outside the confines. (Before they started, director Michel Gondry cut through the crowd and did a full-body brush past me; I wanted to scream organ­ically in French.) The dance duo arrived (after six years of absence) to a rabid reception and decked in shiny cyborg-Supertrooper helmets against predominantly red and blue lights, which greatly added the effect of their electronic ratcheting. Their coolly crisp performance opened with “Robot Rock” and peaked with “Decomposite,” which melted perfectly with the red neon words flashing behind their triangular mixing platform, and their roof­tearing, car-crashing rendition of “Around the World.” The girl next to me was so moved, she spent the entire set shrieking in one long, continuous hyperventilation.

Sunday

Mates of State may be in pre­cious indie love, but that doesn’t conquer all; their closely contrasting voices sounded thin and flat live. They played up their atonal end­ings, extending them into next year, but the harmonies sounded coarse against their finer-tuned instru­ments. The exact opposite problem struck Ted Leo and the Pharmacists — Ted’s eome-tinged voice rang through clearly but his guitars were monotonously unmusical. Metric was the surprise hit of the day; their nathy dance rock exploded with energy. Despite a shaker start, they morphed into confident performers, jarring in electrocuted fury and a controlling, powerful voice of noise that left the crowd in hypnosis. (Full inter­view forthcoming.)

The British Invasion of Coachella resumed with Jamie Lidell, a strange and fascinating hybrid of styles. He beat-boxed and mixed while sampling his voice — and Madonna’s polished val — and Madonna’s polished promotion was stark contrast to the showbiz glitz and flagrant single release well into the old. Madonna, the most commercial artist to ever play Coachella, was scheduled immediately after in the dance stage (in her first festival per­formance anywhere), and caused a mass exodus there. The redband and boogie crowd wanted hundreds­deep outside the tent confines, and the hipster-meets-mainstream crowd was less than friendly. Here, more than anything, seemed the corporatization of the beloved fest­ival — and Madonna’s polished crotch-grabbing hardly seemed contradictory.

Her superstar performance — at first stunning in her star power, then boring when that faded — lasted under an hour and featured new songs and her old dominatrix tracks. She opened with “Hung Up,” and the showgirl and fragrant single promotion was stark contrast to the rest of anti-hero performers. By the end, she seemed tired and stashed “Don’t throw water on my stage, mother——!” before mopping it up herself with a towel. She also continued to writhe with dancers, strip to a leotard, and demand com­ments about her ass, which was a tongue-in-cheek admission of her aging but still repetitive.

Marine Attack’s giant feedback and stunningly long set battled with The Go! Team, whose relentlessly fun performance combined eclectic samples with ecstatic guitars and rapping. “I wish you could see this sight — it’s amazing,” marveled Ninja, the gracious MC, who soared through the first album’s tracks. The show stood quiet and unpredictable, with electronic starts one minute and soulful bridges the next. (Full interview forthcoming.)

Scissor Sisters headlined the Outdoor Stage next and brought out the closeted gay man in us all with their campy rock-infused disco. Starting with “Take Your Mama Out,” they burst forward with glam­ani suit and Elton-influenced hair. (Full interview forthcoming.)

The Yeah Yeah Yeahs sizzled on the stage next; Karen O was not as outlandish a performer as before, but she still charged around the stage, screamed if Ian Curtis had severe nasal congestion, to a rabid reception and decked in shiny cyborg-Supertrooper helmets — Ted’s eome-tinged voice rang through clearly but his guitars were monotonously unmusical. Metric was the surprise hit of the day; their nathy dance rock exploded with energy. Despite a shaker start, they morphed into confident performers, jarring in electrocuted fury and a controlling, powerful voice of noise that left the crowd in hypnosis. (Full inter­view forthcoming.)

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This program may contain explicit material
U.S. troops kill 10 insurgents during raid for al-Qaida official

Robert H. Reid
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. troops raided a suspected al-Qaida hide-out Tuesday, killing 10 insurgents — three of them wearing suicide vests — as American forces stepped up the hunt for the group's leader, terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

American troops searched for "an al-Qaida terror leader" in the predawn raid at a safehouse about 25 miles southeast of the U.S. air base in Balad, north of Baghdad, the military said.

The raid unfolded when troops surprised a guard and shot him before he could fire his pistol, the military said. As the insurgent fell, he detonated a suicide vest. Two more insurgents were killed inside the hide-out and the others outside as they tried to escape. Two of the dead were also found wearing explosive vests. One insurgent was wounded.

The statement did not say whether al-Zarqawi was the target of the raid or whether anyone escaped.

It was the fourth raid reported by the U.S. command against al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida-in-Iraq network since April 16, when American troops stormed a house in Yusufiyah just south of the capital, killing six people, including a woman, and arresting five people, among them an unidentified al-Qaida official.

The Baghdad-owned al-Summar said Tuesday that the captives said al-Zarqawi had been in a nearby house.

The Associated Press also reported that the captives said al-Zarqawi had been in a nearby house.

U.S. officials have confirmed meeting Iraqi officials linked to the Sunni Arab insurgency but have avoided identifying them.

Last month, however, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad attributed a sharp drop in U.S. deaths in March to an ongoing dialogue with displaced Sunnis.

On Tuesday, a leading Arabic language newspaper said Khalilzad had met with insurgents representatives in Amman, Jordan, on Jan. 16 and later in Baghdad on seven occasions. The newspaper, Ashaq Al-Awad, attributed the information to an unidentified insurgent official.

The official was quoted as saying the insurgents presented several demands, including a halt to military operations, an end to arrests of "innocent Iraqis," and the release of prisoners "who were arrested unjustly."

According to the newspaper, the official said his group presented a memorandum to Khalilzad, who expressed interest and promised to respond. However, no response was received and the insurgents decided to break off the dialogue after the new government was announced April 22.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said "we have made it clear that we are interested in talking to people who know somebody who knows somebody who might be involved in insurgent activities in an effort to bring these people into the political process." Khalilzad has spoken in several interviews about reaching out to the Sunnis, but U.S. officials have avoided saying publicly that they had met with representatives of insurgent groups.

In an interview with the BBC in April, the ambassador also cautioned that the dialogue was "a long way" from a deal to end the fighting.

Since the drop in U.S. deaths in March, American casualties have been rising. April was the deadliest month of the year for American forces with more than 70 fatalities.

A U.S. soldier was killed Monday in a roadside bombing south of Baghdad, the U.S. command said. At least 2,407 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

U.S. overtures to the Sunnis appear to have slowed down in recent weeks as American diplomats and Iraqi politicians focused on setting up formation of the new government, which had been deadlocked until the Shiites agreed to replace Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jafari with another Shiite, Nouri al-Maliki.

Al-Maliki was officially appointed as prime minister-designate on April 22 and has pledged to complete his Cabinet this month. That will be the final stage in establishing the new government. U.S. officials believe a unity government can end the sectarian tensions and lower many Sunnis away from the insurgency.

On Tuesday, Shiite officials reported a new snag emerged in the negotiations when Sunni politicians insist on key posts, including deputy prime minister and a major ministry such as finance or education.

Shiites, who hold 130 of the 275 seats in parliament, offered a lesser ministry but the Sunnis refused, according to Shiite politician Bassem Sharif. Talks were to continue Wednesday, he said.

Sunni politicians are also eager for parliament to consider amendments to the new constitution. Sunnis oppose several provisions, including one allowing formation of regional governments. Many Sunnis fear that would lead to Iraq's breakup and deprive them of a fair share of the country's vast oil wealth.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote Todd because ...

The cookie-cutter response to a white hat, blue tie, and black suit for ASI President is experience. My name is Todd Maki, and I offer the best of both worlds. I will create a student-centered campus. The past three years have taught me the true meaning of serving students. I believe in making a difference, and I know that I can make a difference.

Todd Maki has worked with ASI for three years, and he has been a student at Cal Poly for all of that time. He knows what it's like to be a student and what it takes to make a difference on campus. He is dedicated to his work and has been an active member of the ASI community.

In my four years at Cal Poly, I have never had a candidate for ASI President who had the same level of experience and dedication to student life. I fully understand the importance of being involved in student affairs and know that I can make a difference.

Why Todd Maki equals progress

Todd Maki is the perfect candidate for ASI President. He is responsible and has the experience and dedication to make a positive difference on campus. He is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of all Cal Poly students.

Vote for Todd Maki, the candidate who has the experience, dedication, and passion to make a difference on campus.

Tyler Middleton

Tyler Middleton is the ASI president and Mustang Daily columnist who was the Student Board candidate and got the most votes in the spring election. He is a senior at Cal Poly and was one of the ASI candidates.

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Cal Poly's new men's soccer coach Paul Holocher, along with the Cal Poly director of athletics, Alfonso Cone, announced the signing of seven recruits to the National Letter of Intent to Full 2006.

After coming on staff only a few months ago, on Feb. 1, Holocher has attracted some top soccer talent to the Cal Poly campus with players from throughout the West Coast joining the program. "Our goals here at Cal Poly are high. We want to grow and develop into a nationally-recognized program that competes for NCAA titles and we feel that, without doubt, this is one of the best universities in the country that a young person could attend to compete as a top level student-athlete," Holocher said. "becoming this type of program will not happen overnight, but it will happen as we begin to gain experience and show more top players the great opportunity here." The recruits are: Joshua Diniro (Midfielder) 6 foot 2 inch, 160lbs, Fullerton, Calif./El Dorado High School, Club: Wolfpack Soccer Club (playing midfield) 5 foot 9 inch, 145 lbs, Redwood City, Calif./Sequoia High School, Club: USAYA, California Andrew "Boomer" Cova (Midfield/Forward) 5 foot 8 inch, 150 lbs, Pleasanton, Calif./Foostball High School, Club USA17, California Ryan Ulanch (Left Back/Defender) 5 foot 9 inch, 155 lbs Salt Lake City, Utah/Brighton High School, Club: Sparta United Dominic Paez (Forward) 5 foot 11 inch, 170 lbs Chandler, Ariz./Hamilton High School, Club: Cisco Soccer Club Collin Scudley (Goalkeeper) 6 foot 3 inch, 180 lbs Phoenix, Ariz./Desert Vista High School, Club: Denver Golden Eagles Martin Phelan (Defender) 5 foot 9 inch, 170 lbs Carmichael, Calif./El Camino High School, Club: San Juan Song.

Rugby
continued from page 12
used to restart play after a knock-on or forward pass if the other team does not grounds the ball. In the scrum, the two lockers together from rows will come together to work. The two lockers together are known as the scrum half, throws the ball. The hookers from each team try to block or sweep the ball behind them as the two lockers push themselves against each other to drive themselves over. The scrum half retrieves the ball at the end of the scrums and passes, runs or kicks it. He or she also retrieves the ball at the base of a ruck or maul.

A ruck forms when a ball carrier is tackled to the ground and the offensive players bind themselves together and attempt to drive the defense away. If defenders are the first to the ball and are not successfully cleared from the ruck, they have the opportunity to steal the ball and create a turnover.

A maul occurs when the offense takes the ball in to contact, but remains on his or her feet, while their team forms a tight pack surrounding them. Once the ball has formed, the offense attempts to drive the ball forward by pushing against the defense, similar to that in the scrum.

During this time an imaginary offside line prevents all other players from crossing in to the ruck or maul without committing a penalty. Offside lines are also present during lineouts.

When the ball goes out of bounds, the forwards line up in opposition to each other and the hooker throws in the ball. Scrummers and linemen are both called set pieces.

"say the most challenging thing about playing rugby is staying focused at the highest level when you're the only guy in the game. At the end of each 40-minute half, the referee adds the time spent attending injuries."
Lauren Zahnner

Rugby is a poorly-known sport to most Americans. The terms hooker, scrum, flanker, hooky and dummy conjure up little more than vague images of an edge-of-your-seat murder mystery.

Yet, to a few enlightened Cal Poly students, those words are part of an almost daily experience. Justin Lucas, a biochemistry senior, and the rugby club president, found rugby in high school and said it is the best sport he has ever found.

"Rugby is a fast-paced game with a lot of contact and split decision-making required," he said. "It has the layout of soccer with the playmaking of football and the vision required of basketball."

The rugby pitch, or playing field, is roughly 109-by-75 yards. Touchlines, or sidelines, run along the length of the field. When the ball crosses the touchline it is in touch, or out of bounds.

At each end of the pitch are the trylines where the goal posts are located. This is the equivalent to the end zone in football. When the ball is carried or kicked across the tryline and touched down to the ground, a try is scored. A try is the equivalent of a touchdown in football, only it is worth five points.

Cal Poly's rugby team is one of the top teams in the United States, finishing this season at No. 6 in one national poll.

After scoring a try, the kicker must move the ball out from where the try was scored to attempt a conversion worth two points. The closer to the middle of the try the ball is touched down, the easier the conversion attempt.

Also, at any point in the match, any player can kick the ball through the goal posts for a drop goal worth three points. This is similar to a field goal in football.

Head coach Nick Massman said it is the best sport he has ever played. "It's a fairly intuitive game. It's a difficult game and there's a lot of variables that you have to deal with. Pain is a variable. Fatigue is a variable. And the character of people really comes through in those situations," Massman said.

Plus, as team captain and construction management senior Ronnie Rosser pointed out, the players face the challenge of learning a new game, a game in which a lot of skill is required because every player has to touch the ball.

There are 15 players filling the eight forwards and seven back positions. For example, the flankers are the Nos. 6 and 7 forwards. Their objective is to get the ball and run with it. They also bind together with other forwards in a scrum.

Scrumming occurs when the ball, shaped like a very round American football, is passed forward and stopped, which is called a knock-on. The ball can only be kicked or run forward.

Because play is continuous, and stops only for injuries, scrums are the team's main source of income. The club also gets money from national competitions and the local league. The team even gets money from alumni and a small amount of grant money.

When the weather is bad, they play on a field in Arroyo Grande, called River Bottom, which costs them money. Otherwise the team plays on the intramural fields or travels to compete. The team is on an alternating schedule, with one year of traveling followed by a year of home games.

This season, Cal Poly went 8-0 in the SCRFU. Rosser joined the club his sophomore year. Both the president of his speech class and his dad, who played in college, told him how fun it was.

"I played football in high school and I wanted something else to do in college," Rosser said.

"It's a challenging sport for anybody," he said. This is especially true for the Cal Poly team because they are learning a new sport.

The rugby sport club's 40 to 60 players and their parents bring in almost all the money. The club also gets money from alumni and a small amount of grant money.

Mustangs fall in 'elite eight' of national tourney

Lauren Zahnner

Cal Poly's rugby team lost to Brigham Young University 55-7 in the elite eight of the national playoffs at Berkeley Saturday after defeating the Purdue Boilermakers in the sweet 16 the day before.

This was the fifth time in the last six years that Cal Poly has gone to the sweet 16. According to American Rugby News, Cal Poly finished the season at the No. 6 spot in country with a 14-3 overall record.

"A big part of it is the desire of the players first and foremost," Massman said. "They have a desire to learn the game and to execute the given information, he explained. Massman also attributed the team's success to the "God-given talent," including athleticism and intellect.

The team trains four days a week and plays on the weekends. They have to juggle rugby with school, jobs and relationships. Massman said the players work hard and are committed to improving and to each other.

Having already fallen to the Cougars in February, BYU was one of only two teams Cal Poly lost to this year.

"I told the fellows that they were in for it and if they didn't come out and smash them right in the mouth right out of the gate that we'd be in deep trouble," Massman told American Rugby News. "It is what it is."

"We went up there and we gave it all we had. We got beat by a better team apparently. I don't think any of the players have any regrets," journalism senior and club member James Mellor said.

In Cal Poly's league, the Southern California Rugby Football Union (SCRFU), their biggest rival is UC Santa Barbara, said Ronnie Rosser, team captain and construction management senior. They also play San Diego State, UCLA, Long Beach State, University of Arizona and Arizona State University, among others.

Lauren Zahnner

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