Parents don’t help students enough, study shows

Tyrel Linkhorn

Across the nation, grant money is down and tuition is on the rise. At this time, when college students need all the help they can get, a recent Alliance Bernstein Financial study found that parents may not be helping enough.

According to the study released in mid-October, parents aren't saving nearly enough for their children's education.

The study, which polled parents with a minimum household income of $50,000 and at least one child under the age of 18 with college aspirations, found that on average, parents planning to contribute to their child's college education were anticipating saving enough to cover about 23 percent of an undergraduate program.

Student financial aid director Mark Evans said while it’s good that many parents are planning to save nearly a quarter of their children's education expenses, it's not quite enough.

"Anything is better than nothing," he said. "Unfortunately, from what (government financial aid) is available, there's going to be a gap."

Evans didn’t dispute the findings of Alliance Bernstein; however, he said some studies by the Ohio Board of Regents suggest many families underestimate college costs while overestimating the financial aid that many students receive.

See Debate, page 5

Downtown store can’t cope any longer

Josh Krane

After being a staple of downtown San Luis Obispo for nearly 20 years, Copeland's Sports likely will become part of The Sports Authority chain sometime next year.

The Sports Authority, in a joint venture with Hilco Merchant Services and Hilco Real Estate, bought Copeland’s Sports for $22 million. Outside parties will have a chance to buy the company at a higher bid during a proceeding scheduled for today.

The sale will become official on Friday pending bankruptcy court approval.

Copeland's, which has 20 stores across California, Oregon and Nevada, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in August.

Industrial engineering senior Erik Marvik, who acts as vice president of finance for local Central Pacific Ski Club, said he was disappointed to hear of the sale of Copeland’s.

"It's a bummer for our members because I know a lot of them look forward to that sale. Snowboarding and skiing are part of my life in 2001, entitled, "Overcome the Dual Temptations of Pornography and Masturbation to Bring Them to God."

Gross runs an anti-pornography ministry, and has become a regular speaker at more than 100 events with the club and also offered free ski and snowboard touring to its members.

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Gross and Foster have even created a Web site called, "Pornstar: The Legend of Ron Jeremy," The documentary received surprisingly good reviews from papers like The New York Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, and Entertainment Weekly, according to its Web site.

Gross runs an anti-pornography ministry, and has become a regular fixture at pornography conventions to hand out copies of the Bible with an alternative cover proclaiming, "Jesus Loves Porn Stars." Gross and his friend Mike Foster set out in 2002 to help people overcome the dual temptations of pornography and masturbation to bring them to God.

Gross and Foster have even created the Web site www.xxcChurch.com, provocatively titled the, "No. 1 Christian Porn Site," because it covers a comprehensive study found that three-quarters of the 211 people sampled were watching pornography and how it affects people. Gross says it is just one of the unconventional measures it takes to reach people today according to an ASI press release.

The debate is part of a new direction ASI is taking in an effort to reach people today according to an ASI press release.

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Copeland's continued from page 1

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Brincko said Copeland's Sports' sales were hurt after key vendors Nike and Tretorn stopped shipping to the company after it filed for bankruptcy. He said that factor, in addition to the amount of money offered, made the sale attractive.

Chamber of Commerce president and CEO David Garth said that while he's sad to see Copeland's leave, he's pleased that a sporting goods store will remain in some form at 1144 Chorro St.

"Copeland's has done a lot for downtown. The name of Copeland's has been synonymous with San Luis Obispo for many years. From that point of view we're sad about it. We're just happy that they're going to keep the store open and it will continue to be an anchor of downtown," Garth said.

Cal Poly alumni William McKee, who shopped at Copeland's on Tuesday, said he prefers a change in ownership to the store going out of business completely. He said: "If (Copeland's) can't get themselves out of the situation, what are they going to do?" He said:

 Fellow shopper Gladys Marigny expressed similar sentiments: "I would rather support smaller stores than a big chain, but at this point what can they do?"

The Sports Authority, based in Colorado, operates 400 stores in 43 states across America.

"(The sale) will preserve the legacy of Copeland's in another form and continue to service the needs of people of San Luis Obispo," said Brincko, who replaced family owners Mike, Tom and Jim Copeland in September to guide the company's turnaround.

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Tuition continued from page 1

Evans said the financial aid office isn't expecting students and their families to be covering the entire cost of education, but rather to lessen the need for loans.

Currently, Evans said more than 65 percent of students have more than $21,000 in student loans.

Business management sophomore Bill Spakes said student loans are his only option. His parents aren't paying for any of his education.

"I think about it all the time," he said of the burden of paying for his college.

He said his parents expected him to get more financial aid than he did, but even a little money from his parents would be nice.

"I think parents should help out at least some," he said.

Considering the cost of higher education today, Evans said it was important to begin planning early.

One of the problems for planning for college, Evans said, is that "one size doesn't fit all."

He said "first generation families," families where the parents didn't attend college, often have more trouble because they "aren't familiar with that type of investment."

Evans said it is important that parents think of paying for their children's education as just that — an investment with lifelong benefits.

However, according to the study, 86 percent of parents spend more money every year on dining out than they save toward higher education for their children.

Evans said concerns that saved money will hurt the chance for financial aid are largely unfounded.

But Evans said in actuality, not every dollar of parental savings will work against receiving aid. The process takes many things into account, including parents' age and likely retirement age, he said. And while some savings will lessen available aid, Evans indicated that most doesn't.

Evans said one of the best and most popular college savings plans is the 529 college savings plans, which are administered by the state and tax-free. However, Alliance Bernstein's study found that 45 percent of parents weren't aware of these plans.

Regardless of how parents anticipate helping their children with college expenses, Evans said it's important to start planning sooner rather than later.

**BREAKING NEWS**

**UPDATE AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE**

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Text message usage explodes over past year

Erin Kurtz
THE DAILY PRESS (SAN LUIS OBISPO)

With today's technology, marriages can be broken, stock can be bought and sold and surgical instructions can be given anywhere, anywhere — all without saying a word.

Text messaging has recently transitioned from a means of on-the-go, simple communication to a substitute for the most intimate — or confrontational — conversations, changing the way people communicate, according to Joe Farren, a spokesman for CTIA Wireless Association, an international organization for the wireless telecommunications industry.

According to the CTIA Web site, the volume of text messages sent and received exploded in 2006. In June of 2005, 7.3 billion texts were sent, compared with 12.5 billion texts sent in June of 2006 — a 71 percent increase.

"Clearly, it is becoming a main-stream way for Americans to communicate and stay in touch," Farren said, adding that he expects the use of text messaging to continue to grow among the 220 million wireless subscribers in America today.

Dely Tamer, founder and CEO of LetsTalk, a company that researches mobile communication, attributed the text message boom to its convenience and its ability to provide distant communication.

"It's impossible to prepare one simple reason to help explain the growth of texting," Tamer said in an e-mail. "But certainly, we see a lot of evidence that people like the fact that you can text on the fly — while in the car, at school — but still keep some of the facelessness of email.

Text message content varies from day-to-day chatter to the communication of more dramatic occurrences. In September 2006, a kidnapped South Carolina teenager used her captor's cell phone to text message her mom, according to a Sept. 17 Chicago Sun-Times article. Investigators used the cell phone's signal towers to track the phone's location and rescue the teen.

While text messages are not always used in the case of an emergency, people do resort to texting in situations that have traditionally been face-to-face confrontations, Tamer said.

"For some reason, more people are using text messaging to communicate major life events," Tamer said. "We've heard of people breaking up via texting, proposing, even quitting their jobs."

The power of texting was recently reinforced after pop queen Britney Spears and Kevin Federline's breakup via text message. Tamer said in this situation, she said text messaging provides "instant gratification and delayed mormification."

A survey released by the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project in April 2006 revealed that 35 percent of cell phone users send text messages. The largest age group texting is the 18 to 29-year-old age group, of which 65 percent use the text message feature.

Yet the report shows text messages provide a privacy that cell phone users often lack.

"Cell phones are blurring the boundaries between what is public and what is private," according to an Internet Project Data memo released April 11. "It is now possible to be sitting on a train or walking through a park and hear some of the most intimate details of strangers' lives because of the way they are chatting on their cell phones."

They are tentatively planning to get Joe Swetin, who played Stephanie on the early '90s family sitcom, "Full House," to tell her story about becoming a methamphetamine and alcohol addict after shooting to stardom at a young age.

"We're not trying to make any

one mad," Zinni said. "We want to bring real-life stuff to students that they probably wouldn't normally see."

Admission is free to students with a PolyCard, and $5 for general admission. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and seating is limited.

Tarah Hackman
ARIZONA DAILY STAR (TUCSON)

Representatives from nine major universities near the U.S.-Mexico border will pursue a joint initiative to research and provide education on the effects of border control policies on a local and national scale, officials announced yesterday at the Common Denominator Forum Conference on Border Security Cooperation.

From engineering to economics, different areas of expertise will join in the Southwest Border Security Consortium, an effort to maintain a non-biased but powerful voice for the nation concerning border-control issues.

Universities in Arizona, Southern California, New Mexico and Texas are part of the consortium, which was conceived to become a national resource with expertise in many areas, said Bob Wolfe, director of homeland security projects at San Diego State University.

The consortium, which will act as a think tank, hopes that Congress will eventually approach the group with issues concerning the region in effort to find the best solutions.

The project is only a year old, as the consortium is still in its first steps, but "a number of opportun­ities are being pursued," said Bill Stockton, associate director and research engineer at Texas A&M University.

In order to develop technology and more jobs in Mexico, a primary focus of the consortium is to establish relations with Mexican universities, said Bruce Wright, associate vice president for economic development at the University of Arizona.

"More people will go to Mexico from the U.S. because of developing technology (in Mexico)," Wright said, referring to the 706-mile wall that is being planned for the U.S.-Mexico border.

The use of technological surveil­lance to follow the movement of diseases such as influenza across the Southwest region is another major focus of the consortium, said Eric Frost, director of the homeland security master's program at San Diego State University.

The Southwest Border Security Consortium hopes to get students from all the universities involved in the process, specifically in terms of researching solutions to the secondary effects the wall may have on local communities. Frost said.

Stockton said the Southwest United States already maintains joint activity with Mexico in terms of environment, water, social issues and language, which makes it easier to work with Mexico on the project.

Although it hopes to gain state and federal financial support, for now, the Southwest Border Security Consortium is funded by "sweat equity," said Rick Shangraw, associate vice president for research at Arizona State University, referring to the individual work done by group members.

9 universities join to tackle border issues

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Question of the day: Who is the sexiest man alive?

“It's a tie between Matthew McConaughey and Dr. McSteamy on ‘Grey's Anatomy.’”

“I really like Adam Sandler because he's a good singer and he's funny.”

“Probably Orlando Bloom because of his accent, his eyes, his body and his charismatic personality.”

“Patrick Dempsey; he's pretty much amazing.”

“Channing Tatum because he has a really nice body and he can dance.”

-Samantha Rider nutrition senior

-Lauren May liberal studies freshman

-Julie Leavitt nutrition senior

-Sam Grillo liberal studies sophomore

-Emilie Deslon mathematics freshman

People magazine names George Clooney its ‘sexiest man alive’

NEW YORK (AP) — George Clooney has been named the “sexiest man alive” — for the second time — by People magazine.

The 45-year-old actor is pictured on the cover of People’s annual issue, on newsstands Friday. Clooney, who first took the title in 1997, is now tied with his good friend Brad Pitt.

“This is one that’s going to be hard for Brad since he’s been ‘sexiest man alive’ twice,” Clooney tells the magazine. “I’d say ‘sexiest man alive’ to him and he’d go, ‘two-time.’ So that’s been taken away.”

“Brad’s been working out a lot,” he adds. “After ‘Borg,’ he thought he’d be named it a third time — pull the hat trick, as we called it. But for me, I’ll tell him, ‘This is my last hurrah.’”


The magazine also names 12 “men of the year,” including Pitt, Jamie Foxx, Patrick Dempsey, Matt Damon, Justin Timberlake and Daniel Craig.

Clooney won a best supporting actor Oscar this year for his role in “Syriana.” He’ll next be seen opposite Cate Blanchett in “The Good German,” slated for release Dec. 22.

He tells People that his celebrity dream date is Sophia Loren.

“Oh my god. I met her in Milan,” Clooney says. “She’s unbelievably beautiful, unbelievably fun.”
The killing, was played at the sentencing. "I don't want to hurt my Marine Corps whose highest military court on Wednesday was shown to the war."

"I never went to Iraq to kill innocent people. I never wanted to hurt anyone who wasn't involved in the fighting," said the judge, Lt. Col. David Jones, who was to sentence him late Wednesday.

In final arguments for the prosecution, Lt. Col. Linton Johnson, who recommended a sentence of 11 years in prison, said: "They killed a 32-year-old crippled man in cold blood." Baker said: "We expect more from our Marines than those from Jodka." Baker said: "I didn't want to bring the madeness and not pull the trigger."

Defense attorney Joseph Ciltras asked for a sentence of time already spent in prison and painted a picture of a war-tired, young Marine trained to follow orders. He said he had no quarrel with the new command sergeant major, Sgt. Lawrence Hutchins III, who is awaiting trial on various charges.

Ciltras also criticized the nature of the war. "As we sit here today the politicians in D.C. can't figure out why a white truck in the distance and the victims shout, 'White truck, white truck!' One voice says, 'I bet he gonna plant some bombs later today, just for the kicks.'"

In earlier testimony, Jodka referred to the videotape and said: "I'm not a bad Marine." Finally, Johnson said: "He terrorizes his victims. He terrifies his victims so they think, 'Hey, he may come back.'"
Publisher says she considers new O.J. Simpson 'book 'his confession'
Local college students go ‘cuckoo’

Kelly Cope

The Spanos Theatre is home to a fictional mental hospital from now until Sunday, when the Tony-award winning “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” plays. The play, directed by theater professor Al Schnupp, features a cast from Cal Poly, as well as local junior colleges such as Cuesta College and Alan Hancock College.

A large cast of 17 brings this script to life; Schnupp called them “a phenomenal group of actors.”

The plot centers around McMurphy, a captivating inmate who fakes mental illness in order to leave his prison work farm and get into a mental hospital. The play is a comedy, and much of its humor comes in his interaction with the head nurse, Miss Ratched.

But the play is not all comedy. All sorts of emotions are present throughout the play, and Schnupp said the play “moves quickly” between emotions, from sadness to amusement; “It’s a fun play with a serious message.”

Schnupp chose the play because he was looking for something different from what he had previously directed. “I had done a string of classic plays (in the past)...it’s time to do something more modern, comic and contemporary.”

Auditions for the play were held in late September, and the student actors are now able to enjoy the fruit of their labors as they finally present what they have been working on for the last month and a half. Schnupp said that the actors’ majors are from “across the board.”

Tanner Agron, a theater arts sophomore, auditioned because “I just knew I wanted to be in a play,” Agron said. She plans to pursue acting as a career after graduation. “Some others’ interest in auditioning was more simple. Mark Carpenter, Software engineering sophomore, auditioned because “I just knew I wanted to be in a play,” he said. He plays the role of a patient who receives a lobotomy.

According to a press release, the play is based on a novel written by Ken Kesey. It was reworked into a screenplay for the stage by Dale Wasserman and ran on Broadway in 1963. Kirk Douglas played the lead role of McMurphy. In 1971, a revised, shorter two-act version—cut down from three acts—ran, with a smaller cast. Most recently, in 2001, the production came back to Broadway, and won the Tony Award and Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Revival of a Play.

In 1975, a movie based on the play was released, starring Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher, and enjoyed great success. Also according to a press release, “The film version...won five Oscars: Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Director and Writing.”

Tickets are on sale now at the Performing Arts Center Box Office. General admission is $12, and the student and senior rate is $10. Tonight through Saturday, the play will begin at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, a matinee is scheduled at 2 p.m.

BOOK REVIEW

‘Cold Mountain’ author delivers breathtaking second novel

Agatha Lutoborski

Spectacular debuts can often give way to disappointing second attempts at success. This phenomenon, commonly known as a one-hit wonder, affects artists all over the creative spectrum, from musicians to writers. Charles Frazier, however, avoided the one-hit wonder syndrome with his captivating second novel, “Thirteen Moons.”

Coming nearly a decade after his best-selling and award-winning debut novel “Cold Mountain,” Frazier’s new work enters the same landscape as his first did, the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. This novel has a different time period and a new set of issues which allow it to develop and shine independent of its impressive predecessor. “Thirteen Moons” begins in the early 19th century and follows the life of Will Cooper, an orphaned 12-year-old at the outset of the novel. His uncle sells him off as an indentured servant to a trading post in the Cherokee Nation, adjacent to the United States’ western-most border at the time.

It is on that rural outpost where Will lives out his seven years of service, building a lasting relationship with Bear, a chief who adopts him. As the plot progresses past the years of service, Will’s relationship with the Cherokees defines his path through adulthood into a new century full of surprises.

Will’s closeness to the Cherokee tribe and its lands leads the novel to its conclusion. See Author, page 8.
There is never a truly climactic point where we as the audience begin to root for Max to overcome his workaholic ways and embrace what his uncle has left him.

Returning to Provence brings back a rush of childhood memories for Max, who spent his summers gallivanting among the grapes with his beloved uncle. However, Max appears to take all of these memories without any resistance—as if the workaholic's supposed to be isn't that committed after all. Crowe does a fine job as Max, but the multiple storylines of romance, debate of selling the house and his relation to other characters we meet seem too contrived and too easily consumed.

The celebration began at midnight on a Tuesday or should I say Wednesday morning. We hit Downtown Brew for a couple of pints of Honey Ale and called it a night. Everyone wanted to buy my birthday girl a $30 Chardonnay and a $9 Syrah and said good night. Finally, after months of waiting for a real 21st celebration, my best friend joined the 21 club.

Since this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, we decided to make it a weeklong extravaganza. Little did we know what we were getting ourselves into.

Monday was the quiet before the storm of events about to unfold. I was the 21st birthday girl, a man who has left me. Uncle Henry's (Albert Finney) chateau, his recently deceased Blackberry glued to his hand, his unde has left. His name by Peter Mayle, "A Good Year," is something completely different. But people remember Maximus, Crowe's character from the former film. Unfortunately, I can't say the same for this one.

Based on the novel of the same name by Peter Mayle, "A Good Year" revolves around the titled premise of the workaholic who realizes that there's value in the world outside the office. Max Skinner (Crowe), with his Blackberry glued to his hand, must travel to France after inheriting his recently deceased town: her mom, dad, stepfather, grandma, aunt and cousin (set to turn 21 that night as well).

Once again we all got dolled up, and went out. First we hit Mission Grill for the free champagne followed by Downtown Brew. The next day the family and I were waiting for a real 21st celebration, my best friend joined the 21 club, a limo, so we told each other that it was time to drink.

The birthday girl made it to Robert Hall Winery fine, but complained about how there should be chairs at wine tasting; my feet agreed with her. At Clautiere Vineyard she told us that the limo driver was going to take her back to our place. Oops.

Even with one down, the crazy night continued. At Clautiere Vineyard lifted our spirits. It was incredibly fun trying on all the wigs.

Try again next year.
New ‘Family Guy’ game fun for fans

Donald Campbell

The Griffin family has made hilarity out of existence for quite some time on the popular animated series “Family Guy.” The TV show can only go so far — or so say promoters of the video game spin-off thought.

In the “Family Guy” video game out now for PlayStation 2, your controllers become your key to the strange world of Quahog, R.I. The game allows you to control your favorite characters through interactive environments and puzzle-like levels while rehashing their famous television gags.

The storyline behind the game picks up where the television show left off. The game is divided into three sections, each with its own subplot: Stewie is still fighting his arch­nemesis Bertram, Peter lands in the hospital where crazy antics ensue and Brian finds himself in trouble with the law after being framed for the rape of Mr. Pewterschmidt’s prize racing dog.

During each section, the individual characters can be controlled differently, and each must pass different sets of levels. Starting out as Stewie, you must escape from jail by shrinking himself down, entering Peter and destroying the sperm from whence he came. As Brian, a player must escape from prison without being seen by either the guards or strange inmates. During the missions where Peter is in charge, a player must walk, well, destroy things and kill people.

The cover of the game promises to be very entertaining, portraying all the characters running as if into battle. Similarly, the manuals promise some quality. It describes the controls, one of which allows Brian to sneak into shadows in order to avoid detection. Peter is described as having the ability of “food fren­zy,” a strange and mystical action Peter can perform when he has eaten a sufficient num­ber of hot dogs and cookies.

But, of course, the box and the manuals do not describe some frustrations inherent to the game. Indeed, after playing the game for some time, a player can start seeing red.

Stewie’s missions for the most part are quite entertaining, providing only the occasional frustration on “platform” levels. Such levels require players to navigate the environment by jumping on moving platforms. Because the game is in a constant third-person view, it can be extremely exasperating. To make things worse, the margin of error seems unfairly slim and the tolerance for failure is near nil.

Brian’s missions are a bore in general. There is no real action; you simply navi­gate Brian — who walks on a constant tiptoe — through complicated mazes wrought with characters ready to expose Brian and send him back to his cell. If Brian gets caught, he’s sent immediately back to the beginning of the level in order to try the whole tedious business again.

Perhaps the best part of the game occurs when Peter is the target of your control. Peter’s missions let you simply run around and mindlessly break things — they’re gen­uinely excellent.

If you find the actual levels of “Family Guy” irritating, you’ll discover significant solace in the ongoing gags hidden through­out the game. Each character has a set of “interactive non sequiturs.” These little respites from the game allow you to take part in past gags featured on the “Family Guy” TV show. In addition, the game features random and, for the most part, well-placed audio clips from the best of the “Family Guy” jokes.

Not counting quality of plot, the game is well done and well put-together. The envi­ronments are nicely 3-D and well-animated. A player will, undoubtedly, consider the graphics of the “Family Guy” game quite attractive.

Overall, the “Family Guy” video game is somewhat disappointing. Some of the levels are boring, others appear unfair and frustrat­ing. Its appeal comes from the good old “Family Guy” humor and charm. The jokes and entertainment value of Peter’s missions alone earn this game a respectable three stars.

If you really enjoy “Family Guy” and don’t mind getting frustrated at times with unfair physics, the “Family Guy” video game is an excellent investment.
“By the time you go home at the end of your program, you will have lived to learn a much simpler life.” These were the first words our program director said to us, shortly after arriving in Torino, Italy. Like many other American students, I mentally argued with her statement, feeling as if I already lived a pretty simple life. Looking back on the past three months, I was completely wrong.

In the beginning of our program, I went about my life in Italy the same way I would go about my American lifestyle: I went to the grocery store weekly, shopped at name-brand stores throughout town, and became incredibly impatient with the general slow pace of life. After a few weeks of returning to my apartment in frustration, I realized that Italians clearly live a simpler life, and it was time for me to change.

Rather than stocking up on food for the next week, Italian women go to the open market or local butcher every morning to buy just enough food for that day. Being that there are no supermarkets in Torino, Italy. Knowing that I spoke very little French, the butcher shop owner became immediately helpful. As I timidly reached to put on the glove, but to my surprise he wouldn't let me. Instead, he choose clothes with the appropriate size, colors and styles for me, a behavior rarely seen in America.

When I first began shopping there, I became slightly offended. Thinking that I was just another American, one of the brothers working there became insulted with my naïve ways of ordering. Acustomed to the American way, I would refuse to ask for help, and would just go around the shop picking out my own items. One day, in particular, I was reaching to grab some apples, the main came over to me, slapped my hand and pointed to the plastic glove to the right. Slightly embarrassed, I timidly reached to put on the glove, but to my surprise he wouldn't let me. Instead, he choose three apples and continued into the store, asking me what else I wanted to buy.

Once I showed him that I was Italian resident and would be visiting him more frequently, his offensive behavior turned into a friendly one, as he immediately began teaching me Italian ways. Particularly in Torino, Italians would just go around the shop picking out my own items. One day, in particular, I was reaching to grab some apples, the main came over to me, slapped my hand and pointed to the plastic glove to the right. Slightly embarrassed, I timidly reached to put on the glove, but to my surprise he wouldn't let me. Instead, he choose three apples and continued into the store, asking me what else I wanted to buy. I then showed him that I was an Italian resident and would be visiting this more frequently, his offensive behavior turned into a friendly one, as he immediately began teaching me Italian ways.

Knowing that I spoke very little Italian, he would teach me simple words every time I came into the shop. Rather than allowing me to point to items and ask for a specific number, he made me say, in perfect Italian, exactly what I wanted to purchase that day. Of course he'd laugh at my Californian accent, but through my irritation, I could tell he appreciated my efforts.

Similar to the man at my local butcher shop, many Italians throughout Torino are more than willing to help confused Americans.

While in a clothing store one afternoon, I became irritated trying to figure out European sizes. The woman working the store noticed my pattern and was infuriated with what I had done (a trend which seemed to follow me). Using what little Italian I knew, and the minimal English she knew, we tried conversing with one another. Within five minutes, she had me in a dressing room and was helping me choose clothes with the appropriate sizes, colors and styles for me, a behavior rarely seen in America.

Finally, I was able to discard my fast-paced way of life. Particularly in Torino, Italians value the ideas of the Slow Food Movement, a notion to avoid fast food and enjoy the process of cooking with natural ingredients and spending meal time, not as a time to eat, but as a time to enjoy company. In the first few days, going out to dinner seemed like a process. We were not accustomed to three-hour dinners, and could not understand how it took so long to make a simple pizza. Arriving to dinner at 9 p.m. and not receiving our food till 10 p.m., we would impulsively say to one another that the waiter was lucky his tip was included. With the slow service, he would never get a tip from us.

Once familiar with this process, we'd become exhausted with our initial thoughts. Clearly it had become evident that it was not that the kitchen staff was slow, but that the restaurant workers deliberately wanted to allow their customers to enjoy the companionship at each meal.

I can look back now and say that I have adopted a simpler lifestyle. The differences, however, cannot be pinpointed to one particular area merely because it is the way I go about my daily life.
I walked into a Starbucks this weekend and it was already crowded with Christmas decorations. Peppermint mocha was already being pumped as a "special". Snowman mugs and gingerbread lattes are plastered on the coffee-store counter.

Pilgrims before reindeer, that has always been the schedule right? But since the pilgrims don't give presents or encourage the masses to spend millions, they aren't quickly scuttled out of the spotlight by department-store Santas and peppermint sticks.

This is probably my favorite thing about corporate America: Christmas comes at least a month earlier than it's supposed to. It is a shame we see a wave of secular fanaticism washing over the U.S. and public displays. The First Amendment gives us the freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.

America has always had a strange relationship with religion. Many of the first arrivals to the New World were escaping religious persecution, but that didn't stop them from later burning witches in the name of faith.

The founders made it clear in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence that they held a belief in a higher power but did not want to establish a state church. And, interest­ingly enough, in 1699 (not a time particularly known for secular move­ments) the Puritans in Boston actually banned Christmas for 22 years because of its connection to pagan­ism. But when a WorldNetDaily story reveals a first-grade teacher in Sacramento is informed that she is no longer allowed to use the word "Christmas" in her class, or a superin­tendent in Yonkers, N.Y., goes so far as to ban holiday decorations, there is something stranger than the smell of eggnog in the air. I understand that all religions have a right to the store window and that holidays such as Hanukkah remain important to those who celebrate them, but they still maintain much stronger ties to religion than does our corporate Christmas.

This is mostly because the Christmas train isn't as much of a roller coaster as with Rudolph, Charlie Brown and sugar cookies — it's pretty much secular.

I respect the rich traditions of other celebrations such as Hanukkah and the diversity they represent, but I also respect the right of Americans to celebrate a pseudo­secular holiday with people of other faiths. With popular Christmas, religion is not as much of an issue anymore.

The tinsel­lines in town squares and malls are not holiday bushes — they are Christmas trees.

The proper greetings for the holi­day season are "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Hanukkah" not "Season's Greetings" that last phrase supposed to mean anything? That win­ner is here to greet you and you should be thrilled that the tempera­ture will now continue to drop and bring on little Santa's.

The strange thing about this controversy is that we already have a great law that balances the private religious aspect of Christmas and other winter festivities with the dignity, civil rights, and the constitutional aspects.

The "three­reindeer rule" requires that non­religious items and messages be shown with religious ones to bal­ance the public display. Retailers can show a nativity scene, but there must also be a "Happy Holidays" sign. The general greetings sign is used as an inclusive device. A Nativity scene is an obvious Christmas decoration and adding the sign reaches out to other celebrations.

As of four years ago, 76 percent of Americans described themselves as Protestants or Catholics, so does the fact that Christmas is our nation's economy­boosting, box­office­domi­nating extravaganza of the year sur­prise anyone?

Given the fact that Rudolph and Frosty are just about as religiously suggestive as Ronald McDonald or Yogi Bear, I would say that the Christmas we see in stores is for everyone. It is a fun, merry little state of being that you can choose to par­ticipate in.

If you haven't already, always talk with your roommate about anything that bothers you right when it emerges.

S o, how are you and your roommate doing? Yeah, that's what I thought, "just fine."

Ah, the dorms, such a treasured time. Of course you are constantly afraid to actually express your true feelings, for fear of backlash. And for fear of hurting her feelings, you keep things to yourself.

I can only write from a female's perspective and experience, so 'she' and 'her' will be used a lot.

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It is a shame we see a wave of secular fanaticism washing over the U.S. and public displays. The First Amendment gives us the freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.
Bush seeks to reassure Asian allies after U.S. election setbacks

Terence Hunt
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SINGAPORE — President Bush is seeking to reassure nervous Asian allies that the United States will remain a reliable partner in their efforts to confront North Korea’s nuclear threat and fighting terrorism after an election upheaval back home.

In Bush’s first overseas trip since Republicans lost the House and Senate, world leaders are looking for any sign of change since the election repudiation of his Iraq policy.

An early embarrassment for Bush, the House failed to approve normalized trade relations with Vietnam — a move Bush wanted completed this week, instead. Congress probably will consider it in December.

Bush’s eight-day journey takes him to Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia. A week later, he will be in Europe for a summit of NATO leaders. The two trips will take him away from Washington at a crucial time when the postelection, lame-duck Congress is dealing with issues the White House has deemed vital.

The president planned to outline the themes of his trip with a speech in Singapore on Thursday, emphasizing how the United States and Asian nations can work together.

“The Asian leaders will be looking at President Bush’s body language,” said Mike Green, who until earlier this year was senior director for Asia at the National Security Council. “They know he’s the commander in chief. They know that he has two years left, but they’re going to be all looking to see how he plays the game after this political setback.”

En route to Singapore, Air Force One stopped in Moscow for refueling. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his wife, Lyudmila, came out to the airport to greet Bush and his wife, Laura, on a red carpet. Bush’s stop was a pointed gesture, one that Bush wanted completed this week, instead. Congress probably will consider it in December.

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Nachos Includes: Beans, Cheese, Cilantro, Onions, Pico de Gallo, Salsa, Sour Cream, Guacamole.

Save $2.50 after valid from 11/16–11/29

U.S. President George W. Bush, left, meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin, third right, and his wife Lyudmila, right, during a refueling stop at Vnukovo Airport in Moscow, en route to Singapore, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2006.
Bush continued from page 12

eral agreement on Russia's acces-
sion to the World Trade
Organization was being readied
for signing in Hanover.

While the Republican election
defeat was cheered by many in
Europe, where Bush is highly
unpopular, it is a different story in
Asia. Many Asian nations are ner-
vous about the rise of China and
look to the United States to be a
force of strength and continuity.
They will be watching for Bush for
possible signals.

Along with trade and regional
security, the trip will deal with is-
sues such as avian flu, the battle
against government corruption, the
promotion of freedom and curbing of poverty. Southeast Asia also is an area with active Al-
Qaeda-linked terrorism.

On Friday Bush will travel to
Vietnam for the annual summit of
21 Pacific Rim leaders.

On the summit's sidelines, Bush
will meet individually with his
partners in talks aimed at persuad-
ing a defiant North Korea to
abandon its nuclear weapons pro-
gram. He will meet Tuesday with
Japan's new prime minister, Shinzo Abe, and South Korea President Roh Moo-hyun and on
Sunday with Putin and Chinese
President Hu Jintao.

The leaders will explore how
to proceed in the start-and-stop
talks on North Korean disarma-
ment. After testing a nuclear
bomber Oct. 9, North Korea declared its willingness to return
to the negotiations; no date has been
set.

Muddled about angering
Pyongyang, South Korea has
balked at Washington's demand
that it fully join a U.S.-led effort
to intercept North Korean ships
suspected of carrying supplies for
the North's nuclear and missile
weapons programs.

Meanwhile, this week's setback
in normal trade relations with
Vietnam could portend tough
times for other trade legislation
when the Democrats take over
Congress in January. Many
Democrats see trade liberalizing
legislation as a threat to American
jobs. Bush's authority to negoti-
ate a "fast-track" agreement that
can be submitted to Congress for
a simple yes-or-no vote without
amendments is due to expire on
July 1, 2007.

Regarding congressional inac-
tion on Vietnam trade relations,
Hadley said, "It is unfortunate that
it could not have been done before the president arrived, but I
think the message for the
Vietnamese people will be, "This
agreement is going to get done.""

As of 3:30 p.m. in Washington,
Bush will visit Indonesia, the
world's largest Muslim-majority
nation. The president will stop in
Hawaii on his way back to the
United States and have breakfast
Tuesday morning with troops at
Hickam Air Force Base before
returning to Washington.

Japan's Meteorological
Agency issued a tsunami warning
after an earthquake
hit the Kuri Island north of Japan on Wednesday night.

Hiroko Tabuchi


Japan issues tsunami warning after earthquake

Hiroko Tabuchi


TOKYO — Thousands of
people living in northern Japan's Pacific coast fled to
higher ground Wednesday after a
powerful undersea earthquake
prompted tsunami warnings as
far away as Alaska.

The 8.1-magnitude quake struck an area claimed by both
Russia and Japan, but the waves
did not swell higher than 23
inches. There were no immedi-
ate reports of casualties or dam-
age.

Japan's meteorological
agency withdrew its tsunami
warning after about three
hours. Tsunami warnings post-
ed for Russia and coastal area
of Alaska also were canceled, as
to were tsunami watches for
Hawaii, the Philippines, Taiwan,
Indonesia and several Pacific
islands.

But for several tense hours, com-
munities along Hokkaido's north-
eastern shores braced for larger
waves, with thousands fleeing the coastline
for higher ground. Fishermen scram-
bled to secure their boats, police car
made rounds of deserted piers, and
ad hoc evacuation centers were set
up in schools and town halls.

Masayuki Kikuchi, a town official in
Nemuro, in Hokkaido, said the
quake prompted tsunami warnings
for higher ground Wednesday
after

A magnitude 9.1-magnitude
earthquake struck off Japan on
Dec. 26, 2004 caused a tsunami
that killed at least 215,000 people in
11 countries. Those waves reached
as high as 33 feet.
Johnny continued from page 16

where they selected Shawne "Lights Out" Merriman.

I'd say the 2004 draft went all right for San Diego.

Even though Rivers was being paid $14.5 million, he found himself riding the bench for his first two years. Rivers watched as Brees had back-to-back career years. For these two years, Rivers didn't see a snap with the first team in practice, let alone a game. Rivers made sure he gained the players' respect while playing every day on the scout team. He made the players realize, if he was given the opportunity, he would not let them down. Rivers, who has always had the talent, just had two years to study and learn how to adapt to a league that most quarterbacks never figure out. Instead of throwing their young player into the fire, the Chargers let him watch and learn.

When Brees wasn't re-signed in the offseason, the locker room was much divided.

Fullback Lorenzo Neal told reporters, "Drew was our leader. It was like having your girlfriend kick you up with." Since Rivers has been thrust into the starting role, he has never looked back, and neither have the Chargers.

Some would argue that Rivers' success is largely because of the talent of his teammates. He plays with arguably the best player in the league in LaDainian Tomlinson, and has arguably the best tight end in the game in Antonio Gates.

But there are not many quarterbacks at any level of football having success without talent around them.

No matter what you have on your backs at any level of football, having the right quarterback makes a team the most dominant defensive player in the league was suspended for four games.

No one believed that the Chargers could keep winning. Then again, people didn't realize what Rivers was capable of doing.

Rivers has thrown 13 touchdowns to only three interceptions and is only one player with a better quarterback rating. That quarterback play in Indianapolis — Peyton Manning.

Rivers has led his team to a 2-2 record and with a win this weekend against the AFC West rival Denver Broncos (7-2), the Chargers would be in first place in their division. A win like that could elevate Rivers into a special category.

To become elite at any sport, you have to do it consistently for many years.

Manning has been putting up gaudy numbers for years now. Tom Brady had already racked up three Super Bowl rings. There is no question that these two men stand alone at the top of the hill when it comes to quarterbacks in the NFL. That's not even an argument.

If Rivers is able to win this weekend, someone might have to tell Brady and Manning to make room, there's someone on their way to join them.

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If you look at it and say we've beaten eight teams going into the season, that might put us at 22nd," Conner said. "Then you look at some of the other teams that got in on their own and I'd say their place would be a good goal for us.

Traveling for the Mustangs will be Sweer, Anderson, Philip Reid, Joe Gatel, Luke Littman, Brian Baker and Jameson Mora.

Baker is nursing a back injury and may not be available. However, alternates Jeff Leise and Leif Anderson will also travel with the squad in case Baker or another is unable to compete.

"We think we can get top 20 if we all run well," Mora said. "We've beat eight of the teams that are ahead of us and some teams will run poorly while some teams will run well. I think we are top 10 and Evan can run a lot better than we did at regionals."
Saturday's game amounts to the Pac-10 title game.

John Nadel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The mantra at Southern California has been the same since midway through Pete Carroll's first season as the Trojans' coach: Every game is a championship game.

While that's not literally true, it will be Saturday night when No. 4 USC (8-1, 6-1 Pac-10) faces No. 17 California (8-2, 6-1) at the Los Angeles Coliseum for the conference title and the automatic berth in the Rose Bowl game that goes with it.

Should the Trojans prevail and become the first team to win five straight Pac-10 football crowns, it would be another step toward a possible berth in the national championship game, USC finishes the season with games against No. 5 Notre Dame and No. 10 UCLA.

The Golden Bears can earn their first Rose Bowl bid in 48 years with a victory.

Carroll recalled Tuesday the mistake he made when he stressed to his players the added importance of a game at Notre Dame in October 2001.

"I knew a script up," he said. "I could tell during the week. You don't need extra incentive. You realize that every game is a championship game. That's an important mindset. I don't think it's too hard.

"This has really served us well. We've been able to do this for a long time, maintain a consistency."

The Trojans lost that game at Notre Dame 28-17, but are 66-6 since and that game has a lot to do with Carroll's players buying into his philosophy.

"We're not going to say, 'Oh, this is a team,' let's get fired up,'" Carroll said. "They're going to play our game," offensive tackle Kevin Barker said.

"A lot of teams you think shouldn't beat you, but they can, and it happens," Carroll said. "They're a very dangerous team."
Poly wrestling team takes center stage tonight in Mott Gym

Additionally, the Mustangs’ swimming and diving team jumps back into action this weekend.

Lauren Zahnner  
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly wrestlers will grapple with each other at 7 p.m. today at Mott Gym at the annual Green and Gold intrasquad scrimmage to determine spots in the Mustangs’ lineup.

“We’re trying to find out who are our top wrestlers in each weight (class),” Cal Poly head coach John Azevedo said. He also considers the meet a good opportunity for the team to experience competition with a crowd present.

The Mustangs are excited to start the season, Azevedo said.

“They have set some goals and worked hard since last year,” he said.

A preseason collegiate wrestling poll released by Wrestling International News Magazine ranked the Mustangs at No. 17.

It just means we’re getting looked at because of the kids we had before that have done well in the past,” Azevedo said of the ranking.

Cal Poly finished 23rd in the nation last year.

Three of Cal Poly’s wrestlers are ranked within the top 10 in the nation. They are Darelle Vasques at fourth, Chad Mondes at sixth and Dave Roberts at 10th. Other notable wrestlers are Steve Espuza, Ryan Halsey and Matt Montemor.

Cal Poly will be competing in December against Oklahoma State and Oklahoma, ranked second and third, respectively, in the nation.

“It’ll be fun for people to come out and see Previews, page 14

Mustangs’ win over Beavers first Pac-10 victory since 1978

The Cal Poly women’s basketball team outscored Oregon State 18-4 at the start of the second half.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Senior forward Jessica Eglington notched 16 points and the Cal Poly women’s basketball team earned the program’s first victory against a Pac-10 opponent in 28 years in thrilling fashion Tuesday night, rallying from an 11-point halftime deficit to secure a 68-65 victory against Oregon State at Mott Gym.

Trailing 32-21 at intermission, Cal Poly (1-1) outscored the Beavers (1-1), 18-4, during the first six-one-half minutes of the second half.

Freshman Bri Fields got the offensive spark started with her first six Mustang points of the half. Moments later, a floater from sophomore Kendra Carrie off the right baseline secured a 37-36 lead for Cal Poly.

Cal Poly, whose first-half point total equaled the amount the Mustangs recorded in the initial seven minutes of the second period, never trailed again. The Mustangs, who committed just six second-half turnovers, led by as wide a margin as 59-49 with five minutes, 25 seconds remaining before the Beavers closed the gap to 63-61 with 1:27 to play on a layup from Jasmine Smith.

However, Cal Poly, the Big West’s first-three percentage leader, sank 5 of 6 attempts down the stretch to secure a 68-65 victory against Oregon State at Mott Gym.

Two of Cal Poly’s top runners were sick for Saturday’s race, Evan Anderson and Troy Swier, consistently the team’s Nos. 2 and 3 runners, called coach Mark Conover at the beginning of last week with the bad news.

“It’s been a year where a lot of emotional things have happened, starting with when Matt (Johnson) called me about his bike wreck,” Conover said. “So when those guys called on Monday it was like, ‘Oh, another glitch.’”

One glitch that did go in favor of the Mustangs was the University of Texas El Paso failing to earn an automatic berth to the NC AA Nationals. The Miners entered the weekend ranked No. 4, but finished behind Colorado and BYU.

In cross country, teams are given invitations to the NCAA Nationals see Nationals, page 14

The Mustangs were a surprise recipient of an at-large bid to NCAA Nationals.

Frank Stranzl  ASSISI AN I S tr 0

After a disappointing ninth-place finish at the West Regional on Saturday, the Cal Poly men’s cross country team will look to rebound at the NCAA Nationals on Monday as the Mustangs travel to Terra Haute, Ind.

Cal Poly expected to qualify for the meet, but didn’t expect to do so as the ninth qualifier from the West. The Mustangs had their worst race of the season at the wrong time, but a strong strength of schedule saved the team from a tragic end to the season.

Two of Cal Poly’s top runners