**Jamba Juice warns of contaminated fruit in smoothies**

Tyler Wise  
**MUSTANG DAILY**

San Francisco-based beverage chain Jamba Juice said Tuesday that several of its chain stores located along the West Coast might have used contaminated strawberries in late November.

According to Jamba Juice, a business that originated in San Luis Obispo, one of its suppliers, Cleugh's Frozen Foods, notified the company last week that routine testing in a Salinas food processing center found that its frozen strawberries tested positive for Listeria monocytogenes, a potentially harmful bacteria.

Cleugh's, a subsidiary of Canadian organic food company SunOpta Inc., said in a statement late Monday that it had voluntarily recalled the strawberries in question were shipped to several Jamba Juice stores in Southern California, Arizona and southern Nevada.

As soon as information about the contaminated strawberries was relayed to Jamba Juice, the stores removed all strawberries delivered from Cleugh’s and disinfect all of their equipment, according to a press release.

San Luis Obispo has two Jamba Juice store locations, and each said they are doing their part to ensure that customers aren't purchasing beverages containing contaminated strawberries.

“We actually never received a shipment of the suspected contaminated strawberries from the supplier,” said Christyn Rossiter, Chorro Street Jamba Juice manager and kinesiology senior.

“No Jamba Juice store from Camarillo to Paso Robles received the shipment and the supplier took back all the strawberries before they were delivered.”

Of the 32 menu items currently available at Jamba Juice locations in San Luis Obispo, 20 contain strawberries. Though Jamba Juice warns that smoothies containing strawberries consumed from Nov. 25 to Dec. 1 may have been contaminated, the San Luis Obispo locations said they hadn’t heard of any illnesses related to consuming the beverages.

“As far as we know there hasn’t been anyone who got sick from a smoothie containing strawberries,” said the manager of the Marsh Street Jamba Juice who preferred not to be named.

Concerning the contaminated straw-

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**Poinsettias aplenty**

Liza Manion  
**MUSTANG DAILY**

Cal Poly poinsettia project students will host an open house at the Poly Plant Shop on Friday and Saturday.

Poinsettias are in full bloom and ready to be taken home. With about 3,000 plants and 29 varieties, there are plenty to choose from. All range in color and size with unique names like “Jingle Bells” and “Kris Kringle.”

The Enterprise Project students have potted, watered, pruned and taken care of the plants since spring. Originally, they were given about 200 small cuttings of poinsettias of different varieties, which grew and multiplied into the thousands available now.

The cuttings were donated to Cal Poly by Paulette Ecke, a grower in San Diego, who also crossbreeds the plants and gave them their names. One variety, “Peter Star White,” has white bracts (modified leaves, which are the flower-like part of the plant), straying from the traditional red color.

With sizes ranging from 4 inches to 4 feet, the pruning process took a lot of time and effort.

“They’re just picky little plants,” said Hilary Hirdz, an environmental horticulture science sensor and Enterprise Project student.

She explained the plants are delicate and sensitive to heat and over-watering. She said the plants are delicate and sensitive to heat and over-watering.

Incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., see Commission, page 3

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**Iraq commission concludes Bush war policies have failed**

Anne G eraan  
**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

WASHINGTON — President Bush’s war policies have failed in almost every regard, the bipartisan Iraq Study Group concluded Wednesday, and it warned of dwindling chances to change course before crisis turns to chaos with dire implications for terrorism, war in the Middle East and higher oil prices around the world.

Nearly four years, $400 billion and more than 2,900 U.S. deaths into a deeply unpopular war, violence is bad and getting worse, there is no guarantee of success and the consequences of failure are great, the high-level panel of five Republicans and five Democrats said in a bleak accounting of U.S. and Iraqi shortcomings.

It said the United States should find ways to pull back most of its combat forces by early 2008 and focus U.S. troops on training and supporting Iraqi units. The U.S. should also begin a “diplomatic offensive” by the end of the month and engage adversaries Iran and Syria in an effort to quell sectarian violence and shore up the fragile Iraqi government, the report said.

It followed by a day the sobering appraisal of Robert Gates, who was confirmed Wednesday as Bush’s new Pentagon chief, that the United States is not winning in Iraq.

“Despite a massive effort, stability in Iraq remains elusive and the situation is deteriorating,” the independent report said. “The ability of the United States to shape outcomes is diminishing. Time is running out.”

The group’s recommendation does not endorse either the current White House strategy of staying put in Iraq or calls from Bush’s political opponents for a quick pullout or a firm timetable for withdrawal.

“The report is an acknowledgment that there will be no military solution in Iraq. It will require a political solution arrived at through sustained Iraqi and region-wide diplomacy and engagement,” said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.

Incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., see Commission, page 3

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**Iraqi drinking juice because of contamination in smoothies**

Jamba Juice manager and kinesiology senior. bought strawberries from the supplier,” said the manager of the Marsh Street Jamba Juice who preferred not to be named.

“No Jamba Juice store from Camarillo to Paso Robles received the shipment and the supplier took back all the strawberries before they were delivered.”
A variety of red, white and even blue poinsettias are sold through the Poly Plant Shop. From left to right, Hilary Hirzel, David Gavar and Jose Sanchez are responsible for nearly 3,000 poinsettias.

"We're hoping to have a paint booth," she said, so people can come and paint their own poinsettias at open house this weekend.

Right now, the painted poinsettias are pre-order only, but cost just $2 or $3 more than regular poinsettias.

Regular poinsettias range in price from $6 to $60, depending on size.

Some 4-inch potted plants, if left alone and uncontrollable, can grow 10 to 15 feet, Jose Sanchez, another enterprise student, said.

Sanchez also mentioned that full "controlled" growth can take from one to eight months, depending on size. Once they are fully grown, to be in full bloom takes from eight to ten weeks.

"It's the largest enterprise project," Sanchez said about the poinsettias.

Last year, the group sold more than 2,500 plants, and this year expectations are the same.

This Friday and Saturday the Poly Plant Shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shop is located on campus in the environmental horticultural science building, on Via Carta Road.

For more information and directions, visit www.polyplantshop.com.

Poinsettias continued from page 1

plants should stay healthy and last with proper care.

Poinsettias are indoor plants that need indirect sunlight and watering once a week, she said.

Hirzel is showcasing painted poinsettias this year, which are literally painted different colors, and sometimes are speckled, striped or have glitter. She uses a water-based paint with ethanol that does not burn the leaves.

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Jamba Berries Continued from page 1

berries and possibly related illnesses. Jamba Juice has produced a consumer information flyer that details the extent of the contamination in addition to information about what the beverage company has done to rectify it.

The flyer also contains information about the Listeria bacterium and its symptoms that can include fever, muscle aches, nausea and diarrhea.

If you have purchased a beverage containing strawberries from Jamba Juice and are experiencing any of these symptoms, Jamba Juice asks that you call 1-877-464-5689 or visit their Web site at www.jambajuice.com to arrange a blood test or reimbursement.

This information has come in the wake of several fruit and vegetable recalls over the past year.

A documentary on daily life in an African village will be shown and its symptoms that can include fever, muscle aches, nausea and diarrhea.

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Jamba Berries Continued from page 1

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Commission
continued from page 1
and other Democrats said the ball is in Bush's court.

"If the president is serious about the need for change in Iraq, he will find Democrats ready to work with him in a bipartisan fashion to find a way to end the war as quickly as possible," Pelosi said.

The panel's leaders said they tried to avoid politically charged lan-
guage such as "victory," on the one hand or "civil war" on the other, but the words they chose were still pow-
erful. The report says the current strategy is not working and lays out an example after example where it has come up short.

As if to underscore that the con-
ict is hurting out of control, the military reported that 10 American troops were killed Wednes-
day, adding to the toll of U.S. forces who have died since the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in early 2003. The United States has about 140,000 troops in the country.

"We do not recommend a stay-
the-course solution," said James A. Baker III, the former secretary of state and Bush family adviser who co-chaired the commission. "In our opinion, that approach is no longer viable."

Former Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-
ind, the other co-chairman, said the commission agreed with Bush's goal of re-
suring itself but that the administra-
tion needed new approaches.

"No course of action in Iraq is guaranteed to stop a slide toward chaos," Hamilton said. "Yet, in our view, not all options have been exhausted."

The report has been widely seen as an opportunity for Bush to pivot from policies blamed in large part for Republican losses in midterm elec-
tions last month. Bush praised the groups' work, but gave no hint of his next move. He said he would give the findings a hard look and urged Congress to do the same.

"This report gives a very tough assessment of the situation in Iraq," Hamilton said. "Yet, in our view, it is not withering evil evaluation or withering evaluation or withering evaluation."

The commission also briefed with members of Congress from both political parties and said he wanted to cooperate to "send a message to the American people that the struggle for freedom, the struggle for our security is not the province of one party over the other."

The commission also briefed the members of the Iraqi government by teleconference, and one official there agreed that Iraqis must take responsi-
bility for their own security, "Absolute dependence on foreign troops is not possible," said Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh.

Among its 79 recommendations, the group said the United States should reduce political, military or economic support for Iraq if the government in Baghdad cannot make substantial progress. The report said Iraqi leaders have failed to deliv-
er better security or political com-
promises that would reduce violence, and it implied that a four-month joint U.S.-Iraqi military campaign to reduce violence in Baghdad is hope-
less.

"Because none of the operations conducted by U.S. and Iraqi military forces are fundamentally changing the conditions encouraging the sec-
itarian violence, U.S. forces seem to be caught in a mission that has no foreseeable end," the report said.

That was a withering evaluation of a central tenet of the Bush mili-
itary strategy in Iraq. In Baghdad and elsewhere, U.S. forces are supposed to help Iraqis until "clear, hold and build," shorthand for rooting insur-
gents or other fighters from problem areas, securing those areas from fur-
ther violence and setting a positive future course.

On the highly emotional issue of troop withdrawals, the commission warned against either a precipitous pullback or an open-ended commit-
ment to a large deployment.

"Military priorities must change," the report said, toward a goal of training, equipping and advising Iraqi forces.

The report said Bush should put aside misgivings and engage Syria, Iran and the leaders of insurgent forces in negotiations on Iraq's future, to begin by year's end. It urged him to revive efforts at a broader Middle East peace.

The report laid out consequences for bad to worse, including the threat of wider war in the Middle East and reduced oil production that would hurt the global economy.

In a slap at the Pentagon, the com-
mission said there is significant underreporting of the actual level of violence in Iraq. It also faulted the U.S. intelligence effort, saying the government "still does not understand very well either the insurgency in Iraq or the role of the militias."

The commission recommended the number of U.S. troops embedded to train Iraqis should increase dra-
matically, from 3,000 to 4,000 cur-
tently to 10,000 to 20,000. Commission member William Perry, defense secretary in the Clinton administration, said those could be drawn from combat brigades already in Iraq.

The report noted that Iraq costs run about $8 billion a month and that the bill will keep coming.

"Caring for veterans and replacing lost equipment will run into the hundreds of billions of dollars," the commission said. "Estimates run as high as $2 trillion for the final cost of the U.S. involvement in Iraq."
Question of the day:

Is Pearl Harbor more infamous than Sept. 11?

"Pearl Harbor is definitely less infamous. We can relate to Sept. 11 because it happened in our lifetime and it affected so many people. We experienced the whole ordeal."

-Madeline Fox
social science
freshman

"I think now Pearl Harbor is less infamous because of the war in Iraq that has definitely stemmed from Sept. 11. The aftereffects of Sept. 11 are felt more than Pearl Harbor."

-Nick Juan
psychology and child development
junior

"Pearl Harbor is more infamous because we’ve studied it so much in school. Maybe later on when kids study Sept. 11 that will become more infamous."

-Ashley Smith
psychology
freshman

"I think that at this point in time, Sept. 11 is more infamous. But as times change, we might see that Pearl Harbor had as much impact if not more than Sept. 11."

-Dietrich Reumer
electrical engineering
freshman

"I think Sept. 11 is more infamous because Pearl Harbor was so long ago. We all went through Sept. 11. We don’t know how Pearl Harbor affected our society. We know how Sept. 11 affected our society because we went through it."

-Calandra Chang
landscape architecture
freshman

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Jewish leaders call their "big tent" — non-Orthodox clergy, nonetheless gave gays the chance to preach, even officiating at gay union ceremonies. Another, billed as a compromise, permits gay ordination, lifting centuries of precedent allowing diverse practices by the movement's more than 1.5 million rabbis. Some, like a movement's more than 1.5 million rabbis ordination, overturn decades of precedent allowing diverse practices by the movement's more than 1.5 million rabbis.

A pair of pants Kim had been wearing was found in the wilder­ness on Tuesday, raising fear that he had become delirious from the cold.

NEW YORK (AP) — Britney Spears dumped him and his debut album bombed, but Kevin Federline says he's doing great.

"I am good, I am great, you know," the 25-year-old said in an interview that was to air Wednesday night.

"I was like, 'I'm going to live, and it's going to be through my music.'" he said.

This will be their last visit to this watery grave to share stories, exchange smiles, find peace and salute their fallen friends.

"We're like the dodo bird. We're almost extinct," said Middlesworth, now an 83-year-old retiree from the Ten-Ten dock, just a couple hundred yards away from where the attack may have occurred.

The survivors have met here nearly two weeks after the attack, which left 184 dead and 1,117 wounded, in what is treating the death of former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko as a murder.

The announcement came nearly two weeks after Litvinenko died in a London hospital from an increasingly powerful Islamic milita, hoping to avert a broad­er regional conflict that could draw in neighboring countries.

The debate focuses on Leviticus 21:22-26, which says "no one born as a man may have sexual relations with a man as one has with a woman." — an 18-vear-old Marine, now an 83-year-old retiree from the Ten-Ten dock, just a couple hundred yards away from where the attack may have occurred. Nearly 560 survivors from across the nation were expected to make their way to Pearl Harbor, page 13.
Holiday Customer Appreciation
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Bestseller portrays pain of lost parent

Jonathan Safran's second novel, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," is a national bestseller.

The reviewers agree that the book is well worth the time and effort. As a storyteller, Foer is trustworthy; it's evident from the beginning that he has command of where the novel is going, so, even when a little confused, the reader will have no problem letting go of convention.

An unusual, surprising and ultimately moving read, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" takes its readers on a journey similar to that of its main character. Through the heartaches and triumphs of Oskar Schell, Foer depicts humanity's struggle to find peace amid the chaos of pain.

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Although quite different than what the reader could have expected, this novel is going, so, even when a little confused, the reader will have no problem letting go of convention.
I recently tried to kill two birds with one stone. This being the time of year when term papers, projects and finals heap themselves upon students with reckless abandon, I am doing a project on the bar scene in San Luis Obispo. I can't give up my night life just because I have a couple of projects and term papers due, can I?

The best of both worlds, right? Not so much.

It is tough taking crowd photos at bars that are playing techno like it's Germany circa 1994. The pictures come out looking like a hallucination.

Also, there are some bouncers who have seen "Road House" one too many times and want to know why you are taking a picture of the sign in front of the bar. "What are you doin' man?" Chill out Swayze, it's for a project.

In addition to these setbacks, let's not forget every girl in the bar getting the stalker vibe when you are taking a picture in their general direction.

Nonetheless, I have fought on. I have some really awesome pictures.

as most intoxicated people are inviting to anything holding a camera. I also have some great audio, you would be amazed at some of the conversations that go on in the background at bars. You just tend to forget them for obvious reasons.

Try bringing a tape recorder with you, it's like hearing a conversation from a parallel universe. Plus, it's fun because you don't know the context. So the next morning when you review your tape you will have no idea what the guy standing next you meant when he said, "Bro, why is your hand in my pants?" Now, because I was sober I know it was some guy talking to his grabby buddy who was trying to reach for a dollar out of his pants on punt night.

However, if you were hung over, you would find this pretty awkward.

The next step is going to be catching a cab home, which should prove to be epic. Cabbies aren't the most cheerful people in the world. I'm sure they will be thrilled to have four drunken patrons in the cab, followed by spontaneously random flashes from a digital camera.

One thing I'm hoping for is a mass exodus to the bars by my fellow procrastinators. For one thing, I really don't want pictures of empty bars, that dog won't hunt.

Remember, there is always tomorrow, until tomorrow comes in the form of an 8 a.m. final or 10-page paper.

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor!

www.mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com
New hip-hop club breaks onto scene

Tristan Aird

Some people view hip-hop music as nothing more than just that, music. But a Cal Poly group will in its first year on campus is representing hip-hop culture and all of its elements: emcees, DJs, graffiti art and breakdancing.

Formed last spring, Students United by Hip-Hop Culture's mission statement is "to provide a place for those interested in hip-hop culture to take part in or experience the culture as well as positively affect the community."

"There's so much behind hip-hop other than the music," said one of the group's three founders, business junior Matt Johnson. "In general and in the San Luis Obispo area, people get a misleading idea about hip-hop culture. It has a negative connotation in the older generation."

The group's president, journalism junior Brian McMullen, said part of the reason people often misunderstand hip-hop culture is because underground."

"You go to UU [Horn] and it's all rock bands, emo and things of that nature," McMullen said. "It's the students who are interested in hip-hop culture that are kind of hidden among the student body. The club is really a chance for those interested in hip-hop."

Though it may relocate next quarter, the group currently meets weekly at 8 p.m. Tuesdays in the Business building. Roughly 10 to 12 people show up regularly, McMullen said. The goal of the club is not only to give people interested a place to go, but also to bring venues and more hip-hop to the community in a positive way too," McMullen said. "We're in the roots or genesis stage. We're trying to make our mark and get known."

McMullen said the group strives to represent all styles of hip-hop, whether it's underground, Top 40 or club. West Coast, East Coast, old-school or anything else.

"The group covers everything," McMullen said. "We love all hip-hop. The group does not discriminate."

The group focuses on the positive origins of hip-hop before it became used as a marketing tool, Johnson said. "Hip-hop has always been about having fun, but you have to be responsible," he said.

Though both McMullen and Johnson said they listen to all forms of hip-hop, their favorite emcees and groups vary.

McMullen said 1980s and underground are his favorites, but he also listens to contemporary artists such as Ludacris, Johnson, who breakdances, listed his favorite acts as Aesop Rock, Binary Star, Cunninlynguists, Zion I and Gateway.

"I listen to something you can get a lot from," Johnson said. "I love all hip-hop."

Aside from McMullen and Johnson, the group's other founder is civil engineering major Brenton Smith. His adviser is Preston Allen, associate vice president of Student Affairs. McMullen's ultimate goal for the group is ambitious.

"I envision it being part of Cal Poly's history in the future," he said. "It becomes something so big and well regarded that students when considering universities to go to might say, "Cal Poly has this really sweet hip-hop club. I want to see about going there."
The Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, spelling, and style. To the editor
writes a letter

Mustang Daily
EDITORIAL

Sunday, December 7, 2003

Christmas just as merry in Spain

Over 3,000 miles away from the United States and across the Atlantic Ocean, I find myself far from home this Christmas. However, it’s comforting to know that even in Spain there are some things that different cultures can share. After hearing the Christmas carols this past three months, I’ve come to love the people here, regardless of their stone-cold faces and their pushy nature.

Yet, it’s with the holidays, as the season always marks, when we warm the coldest of hearts, that I’ve gotten a glimpse of the softer side of Spain. I am so much in love my city has been preparing for Christmas. The endless rows of wreaths that are strung from building to building, the festive garnishes that are twirled around columns in all the plazas, and the familiar “jingle and bustle” inevitable in any gift-giving atmosphere now melt the boundary between me and the “Spanish.”

I do miss the little things from home, like actually being able to have a coffee to go, a hot chocolate that’s not pure chocolate, and I’ll even go as far as to say, a Starbucks. I also miss going with my family to Steve’s Christmas tree lot and then decorating the tree later with all the best Mickey Mouse and Disney character ornaments from 1989.

It’s these American traditions that are, in essence, wonderfully cheesy and taken for granted, and thus where Spain has taught me to appreciate my own culture while I still have it. For a truly amazing spectacle, nothing was more in the spirit of Christmas than Plaza Mayor at 6 p.m. on Dec. 1. It was the day that the lights finally turned on and I had never seen the plaza or the surrounding streets so crowded. It’s a known fact that the people here love their lives outside.; everyone is always walking and enjoying life through the daily, casual stroll. But the night of Dec. 1 was one that stood out from the rest. The oldest of people, the youngest of parents, families, friends, boyfriends, old friends, they all flock to see the moment when the lights would — and they did.

Millions of lights strewn across the trees and twinkle, the gigantic Christmas tree, standing tall, radiated. And, of course, snow fell from the red and green skated across the ice rink in the middle of the plaza. To the left was a choir singing “Little Drummer Boy” in Spanish, to the right an immutably gilded carousel, and bordering the plaza were tiny, snow-capped houses for Santa’s little helpers. But, perhaps the most popular display of the night, Spain would have to be the nativity scenes that are present in the majority of store windows. The most numerous in the Spanish household where I live. Another testament to the crazy would be the rather grand display of the mechanical Virgin Mary, baby Jesus and farm animals that move their heads and limbs that seems to attract the biggest crowd in Plaza Mayor.

And so, it’s the subtle differences and the emphasis placed on various aspects of the world-renowned holiday that I can’t help but enjoy in this unique experience. The culture shock of living in a country whose population stays out until 6 or 7 a.m., practices daily “siestas” and whose food consists of “tapas” and gallons of olive oil, all seems radically different when compared to my life three months ago.

Yet, as I’ve tried to show through the fact that I’m still the blonde and blattant “Americanica” student, I suddenly don’t feel so out of place. Christmas is coming, and seeing the season, if only at a glance, from this new newspaper, makes me appreciate my culture, as well as recognize how it’s similar to others. Feliz Navidad from abroad.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Train accident expected

It’s appalling that Michael Macedo would write a letter, based entirely on his own perceptions, that the students were playing on the tracks. As a personal friend of Ryan West I can tell you that there was at least one witness, who stated that Ryan was in fact, not lying on the train tracks passed out, rather he was walking. As to Ryan’s lack of memory regarding the accident, it is a fact that human beings have an internal defense mechanism that protects us when faced with severe danger and physical trauma. I believe the doctors at Sierra Vista understand that Ryan’s lack of memory regarding this incident is attributed directly to the trauma in which he suffered.

All we know that the train tracks are used daily by pedestrians and cyclists as a convenience. Ryan West is not the only person who has been struck by this train. While it may be hard to believe, it is also a known fact that people struck by trains report that they neither heard nor saw the oncoming train.

Mr. Macedo suggests that no extra precautions should be taken, which merely continues to demonstrate his ignorance and single-mindedness. Ryan is a member of the Cal Poly family; he is one of our own. We should be showing compassion, not condemning him. In conclusion, Michael Macedo should be ashamed and embarrassed by his cold-hearted comments and his lack of compassion. His actions and statements clearly indicate that Ryan is guilty of nothing more than being a student — which is his right as any other student.

Morgan Cook
Anthropology junior

Students responsible for their own safety

I read with much interest the lead article in the Nice 30 Mustang Daily, which wrung hands and gnashed teeth, about safety responsibility for students trespassing on private property when walking along or crossing the railroad tracks.

The Union Pacific Co., city and county of SLO, and to a lesser degree, Cal Poly administration, were identified as being culpable for responsibility. NOTH- ING MORE, it would suggest that the students were responsible for their own safety. Diesel locomotives and the trains they pull/push make a lot of noise, the gravel flats near the track when they are nearby, a light rotates on the front of the locomotives and the engine sounds an air horn (maybe not often enough).

Bill Burton commented on alert mechanisms that are activated when a train is passing, DUGH! Shouldn’t a passing train be pretty good signal in itself? For someone to walk on or too close to the tracks or have a rear wheel of his bicycle clipped by the looming oncoming locomotive is sad, but has to be categorized as dumb, yes dumb, or under the influence of something other than common sense. Fences and crossing arms won’t solve the problem for the student or for the city. I respectfully suggest that the responsibility for student safety on and near the tracks rests entirely with the student. That is where the Mustang finger would be vociferously pointed.

Bill Carley
Pico Robles resident

Nothing newsworthy about Christmas on campus

Mustang Daily, thank you so much for your piece on Campus Crusade for Christ. I am grateful, because it hadn’t actually sunk in that there was any sort of Christian group on campus until I had mentioned it 30 or 40 times.

I know there is no diversity on campus, but please don’t think I couldn’t challenge your writers to find something original in our little eggshell sea! From my understanding, nothing that newsworthily has happened with Christians since the death of the last pope. Most of your readers are not complete duds; we get it after the first couple times. When there is news, please tell us. Otherwise, we don’t worry; we’ve heard it before.

Matthew Valentine
Architecture senior

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All letters should be 250 words or less and are subject to editing or grammar, spelling and style.
Looking for reality after graduation

Erin Roehf

I'm not sure if I am a misanthrope or just a misanthrope who loves misanthropes, but I feel that I have no friends. I don't have close friends, nor do I have large amounts of people I can turn to in times of need. I often find myself feeling alone and isolated, a feeling that is only magnified by the thought of the world. I don't know why I feel this way, but it seems to be a common feeling among many people.

I wonder if the world is really as meaningless as it seems. Is there any point to it all? Or is it just a random occurrence of events that happen to us? I don't know the answer to that question, but I do know that I feel this way sometimes.

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor!

Submit your thoughts, opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to mustangdailypinions@gmail.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Espresso expressions

Jenny Pedersen

For the love of coffee

Let's be honest: I've sunk into a new all-time low. Everyone in college probably comes to the conclusion sometimes. You should be able to deal with it and be studying. But instead, you make your own coffee, wash your dishes, bleach your teeth, go to the gym and finally sit down to write that letter to your great-aunt Ingrid.

I stoppe my classes so much this quarter that yesterday I decided to scrub my toilet just to avoid studying for a midterm, and frankly, I was happy for the distraction. This desperation is making me on multiple levels. Most obviously unsavory is that I didn't think shades of my mother would come out in me. Strongly, I wish I was the same morn, I don't know, in my mid-30s. As the quarter draws to a close, my classmate voices become little more than a background buzz for me. Hot Todays are losing their luster with each passing discussion section much like I'm losing my summer tan. Textbooks have become more boring and harder to read than when you first bought them and even the irritating smart kids in my class have lost their steam and shut up.

The good news is, in approximately four days I can stop my daily trip to the bathrooms of my classroom to scratch off yet another day of the quarter on the stall wall. (Although, I do have to admit that I have read other textbooks as if the 100-plus pages of reading they just assigned was an awe-inspired blessing meant to shape the shameful hours of our otherwise fruitless free time. What our professors have forgotten is that we're not here just forking over tuition money for a college education. We are paying for a college experience.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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In short, I'm looking for a miracle.

At the heart of this trauma is my worry. I will fail. I know. I've always been a good student. I'm even graduating magna cum laude, damn it. But I will leave Kent State with a very expensive piece of paper, not a guarantee of success. I have to do that myself. And I don't have any idea how. No one teaches you how to "work your way up in the business."

I want to be able to pay off my student loans and still afford to eat at the same time. In short, I'm looking for a miracle.

I want to be a success. I want to be able to pay off my student loans and still afford to eat at the same time. In short, I'm looking for a miracle.

(Thanks, Intro to Formal Logic, for those four months I will never get back.)

I have lived in some of the greatest cities in the world: London, Geneva, Cleveland. And I have made the best friends of my life. Most importantly, I have learned time management. I have gained the skill of leaving a bar at 2:30 a.m. and still making it to that 9:15 a.m. class.

I'm not ready to close this chapter of my life. But I have no choice. When my engine is going, they usually react as if that means I am falling off the face of the planet. Is that what my childhood is like? After the cliff of adulthood is a bottomless pit of responsibilities, priorities and, oh God, habits or something!

No thanks. I'd rather crawl back to the dormitory and write my resume or concoct a life plan. In the end, the movie just seems like the right thing to do. I'm a little scared.
BAGHDAD — Ten U.S. troops were killed Wednesday in four separate incidents in Iraq, and a mortar attack that killed at least eight people and wounded dozens in a secondhand goods market was followed closely by a suicide bombing in Baghdad's mainly Shiite district of Sadr City, authorities said.

In a mixed Shiite-Sunni area in Sadr City, a bomber on a bus detonated explosives hidden in his clothing, killing two people and wounding 15, police 1st Lt. Thaer Mahmoud said.

It appeared to be the first attack by suspected Sunni Arab insurgents on the large slum since Nov. 23, when a bombing and mortar attack killed 215 people in the deadliest single attack since the Iraq war began more than three years ago.

The latest eruptions of Iraq's unrelenting sectarian violence came hours before the release of a study by the Iraq Study Group, a blue-ribbon panel headed by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and former Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind.

The report recommended new and enhanced diplomacy so that U.S. combat forces can "begin to move out of Iraq" as soon as that can be done responsibly.

"The situation in Iraq is grave and deteriorating," the commission warned in the report, portions of which were obtained by The Associated Press.

The report called for the Bush administration to try to engage Syria and Iran in diplomacy as part of an effort to stabilize Iraq and allow withdrawal of most combat troops by early 2008.

The report warned that if the situation continues to deteriorate, there is a risk of a slide toward chaos (that) could trigger the collapse of Iraq's government and a humanitarian catastrophe.

"Some Iraqis, while critical of U.S. strategy in Iraq, said they feared any new policy would lead to more suffering for their country. "They (US officials) are defeated in Iraq. So they are trying to seek for an outlet to get out of their plight in Iraq. And I think the outlet will be at the expense of the Iraqi people."

Mamik al-Obeidi, a professor and political analyst at al-Nahrain University in Baghdad, told AP Television News, "We demand to set a timetable for the withdrawal of the these forces from Iraq," a statement by the lawmakers said. They have made similar proposals before without any result.

Al-Malki persisted, meanwhile, with efforts to curb violence, urging university professors and students to ignore "the desperate attempts" of a Sunni Arab insurgent group to keep them from class.

The government also announced the capture of a senior aide to Abu Hamza al-Mughair, also known as Abu Ayyub al-Masri, who took over as leader of al-Qaida in Iraq after his predecessor Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed in a U.S. airstrike in June.

Mowaffak al-Rubaie, the government's national security adviser, said U.S. and Iraqi forces captured the aide, though he did not specify where or when. He said three-fifths of al-Qaida in Iraq is undergoing a very real leadership crisis, "al-Rubaie said at a news conference.

"The noose is tightening around Abu Ayyub al-Masri, and I can say with all confidence that al-Qaida in Iraq is undergoing a very real leadership crisis," al-Rubaie said at a news conference.

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The buyback event is scheduled for December 7-18, 2006, with locations at In Front of El Corral Bookstore, Dexter Lawn Tent, and Mt. Bishop Road Drive Through. Each location will be open from 8:00am to 4:00pm, except for December 18, which will be open from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

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We hope to see you at the buyback event and encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to earn extra money and support the El Corral Bookstore."
New photographs from space suggest that water occasionally flows on the frigid surface of Mars, raising the possibility that the Red Planet is hospitable to life, scientists say Wednesday.

The new images, taken by NASA's Mars Global Surveyor before its contact with Earth, do not actually show flowing water. Rather, they show changes in craters that provide the strongest evidence yet that water coated through them as recently as several years ago and is perhaps doing so even now.

"This is a startling gun for water on Mars," said Kenneth Edgett, a scientist at San Diego-based Malin Space Science Systems, which operates the Global Surveyor. 

The news excited scientists who have long been extrapolating the life of the finding is confirmed, they say, all the ingredients favorable for life on Mars are in place: liquid water and a stable heat source.

In all, in Mars exploration missions, NASA has pursued a "follow the water" strategy to determine if water once existed on Mars, or whether present-day evidence of ice water that has not yet actually seen in water form in liquid.

"This underscores the importance of searching for life on Mars, either present or past," said Bruce Jakosky, a planetary geologist at the University of Colorado at Boulder, who had no role in the study. "It's one more reason to think that life could be there."

Some researchers were sceptical that liquid water was responsible for the surface features seen changes seen by the spacecraft. They said other materials such as sand or dry ice flow like a liquid and produce similar results.

There are those who are unable to forgive the Japanese, but others to the power of recompensation.

"There are some guys that are not going to get along with the last major gathering. I don't have in me any hatred for their heart," said 87-year-old survivor Hyland of Plainsview, Texas. "They were doing their job just like we were."

Hyland, who was almost killed in the attack, married a woman from Japan. They met at the 50th anniversary dinner and marry the following year.

"I got over it a long time ago," he said.

Former NBC anchor Tom Martinez, a decorated American who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II, "the greatest generation," said to the remote speaker for Thursday's ceremony. A moment of silence at the moment of attack, he said.

At the last major gathering, they formed long ago, when they were in their 20s. When they were 80s.

"We all have our turn and our turn is getting closer," he said. Until then, they are drawn to Pearl Harbor, and to each other.

Military historian Douglas Smith, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., says they are proud of their service and eager to return "to their glory days," but most of all they revel in the bonds they formed long ago, when they were in their 20s.

The bond is so strong that some ask to have their ashes interred inside the Arizona, laid to rest with shipmates who were not so fortunate as to survive Dec. 7, 1941.

"We're just a home," Middleton said. "They feel they're coming home."

Scientists said five to 10 pools of water rushed down the craters in each case. In both craters, scientists found bright, light-colored deposits several hundred yards long in gullies that weren't present in the original photos. They concluded that the deposits — possibly mud, salt or frost — were left when water recently cascaded through them.

"If we'd gotten there we'd have left deposits," Edgett said a combination of factors, including the shape and color of the deposits, led the team to believe it was recent water action and not dust that shifted down the slope. He said dust would leave dark deposits.

Water cannot remain a liquid on Mars for long because of subzero surface temperatures and low atmospheric pressure that would turn water into ice or gas. But scientists theorize that liquid water is being shot up from the surface in a underground source, like geysers.

The Global Surveyor, managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, abruptly lost radio contact with Earth last month. Several attempts to locate the spacecraft, which has mapped Mars since 1996, have failed and scientists fear the mission was likely at an end.

Mars formed more than 4.5 billion years ago and scientists general believe it went through an early wet and warm era that ended after 1.5 billion to 2.5 billion years, leaving the planet extremely dry and cold.

NASA's durable twin rovers have sent scientists strong evidence that the planet once had liquid water at or near the surface, based on observations of alterations in ancient rocks. The images from the Global Surveyor suggest the process is still occurring.

"We're now realizing Mars is more active than we previously thought and that the mid-latitude section seems to be where all the action is," said Arizona State University scientist Phil Christensen, who was not part of the current research.

Pearl Harbor

continued from page 5

Battlehip Row

Chum, 83, had just begun his workday as a civilian pipe fitter when he was thrust into assisting in everything from spraying water on the ships to aiding casualties.

"There was the time the first bomb dropped and for the next 15 minutes, it was complete chaos," he said. "I don't know what was going on. Everyone was running around like a chicken with their heads cut off.

Chun said the Oklahoman and West Virginia torpedoed by Japanese planes, then the tapping of sailors trapped in the hulls of sunk ships. He escaped death when a Japanese plane, leaving behind dead and wounded.

"How I never got hit, I don't know," he said. "I don't know what was going on. Everyone was running around like a chicken with their heads cut off."

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"The only way he knew it was me was the tag on my leg," Hyland said. "He (later) told me we looked like tossed turkeys lined up." hyland regained consciousness 18 days later, on Christmas night. During that time, his older brother visited.

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Today, scar tissue covers most of his right leg.

"I got a quick facial out of it. I used to be a frightened kid," he said. "I don't have any fears. They could fix their faces, but they couldn't build any legs.

And he lost many.

Many of the dead were teenage sailors and Marines away from home for the first time before they had the opportunity to get married, have children, build lives.

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Comments

There are no comments yet.

Submit Your Comment

About Author

Alicia Chang

Associate Editor

March 2006

The title of Alicia Chang's article is not specified in the provided text. It is clear that Chang is associated with the Mustang Daily, a newspaper, and that her article is related to the Pearl Harbor. Although the content provides details about the Pearl Harbor and the people involved, it does not include the specific title of the article in question.
Day
continued from page 16
son, the Run for the Dream Invitational in Fresno on Jan. 16.
Last month was Day's first time practicing the high jump since July 2005.

Day won the national championship in the high jump as a sophomore in 2005.

She said that her track coach, Jack Hoyt, knows she's been frustrated because she is not physically where she was before the injury, but most remain patient and wait out.

"I'm rusty, but getting better," Day said.

Track and field assistant coach Hoyt said she will be ready in time for the first meet to compete in the high jump.

"Until she gets the opportunity to compete, she won't push herself hard enough," Hoyt said.

He said that she is ahead of where he thought she would be since "from being in a boot back in July."

If Day's strength and running are normal from when she was healthy, she all has left to work on is her timing, Hoyt said.

After the Washington Invitational in Seattle from Jan. 27 to 28, bigger meets will be held throughout the season where she will face some pretty talented jumpers, including her sister Jazzy.

"We need to get her tuned up before the family group match," Hoyt said.

Hoyt is very proud of Day's accomplishments and believes she will qualify for the 2008 Olympics.

with two-time All-Star catcher Mike Lieberthal, who agreed to a $1.25 million, one-year contract on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old Lieberthal will serve as a backup to Russell Martin, who hit .282 with 10 home runs and 65 RBIs as a rookie last season.

Lieberthal signed a $1.15 million next year, and the Dodgers have $1.4 million option for 2008 with a $100,000 buyout.

In Los Angeles, Schmidt would join a rotation that includes right-handers Chad Billingsley (7-4, 3.80) and newcomer Randy Wolf, a 2005 All-Star who had major elbow surgery in July.

The Giants exercised that, knowing they would likely lose him in free agency after 2006.

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SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly softball head coach Jenny Cardon bolstered an emerging Mustang program recently, signing four California prep standouts in pitcher Anna Cahm (Los Altos), first baseman Krista Haux (Soquel) and utility players Stephanie Correia (Visalia) and Brandi Gutierrez (Livermore).

Gutierrez, a left-hander, was an All-Santa Cruz County Athletic League first-team and All-Orange (County Register selection for Los Alamitos High after compiling a 17-8 record with a .71 ERA during her 2006 junior season. The Cal Poly softball head coach also was a two-time first-team All-SCCIAL pick in 2005.

Gutierrez, a first-team All-Southwest Yosemite League selection this past season, hit .465 with 25 RBIs and four homers while compiling a .386 on-base percentage and an .849 slugging percentage. An All-SWYL second-team member in both her freshman and sophomore seasons, Gutierrez is a three-time scholar-athlete at Ridgeview High.

A three-time All-West Yosemite League first-team player at Redwood High, Correia paced the conference with a .438 batting average and was second in the EIRL with a .91 ERA, as well as a 12-2 K/B ratio. Correia, who also compiled a .91 ERA in the circle, is a 2005 NFFA All-American Scholar-Athlete and a three-time Redwood HS Scholar-Athlete.

By Cal Poly, which went 27-23 overall last year and posted a 11-7 mark to finish third in the Big West Conference, opens the 2007 season with a doubleheader against Wisconsin-Platteville and California State, Bakersfield, on Feb. 9. The Mustangs have won seven of their last nine games and have won five of their last six road contests. This season marks the third year in a row that Cal Poly has opened with a doubleheader. The Mustangs were 8-0 in 2006 and 4-0 in 2005.

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Days return from injury bodes well for Poly women's indoor track team

Cal Poly senior Sharon Day won the national championship in the high jump as a sophomore.

Nicole Small/Associated Press

Since childhood, many have dreamed to fly like Superman or Peter Pan. Shown during her sophomore season, in which she won a national title in the high jump, Cal Poly senior Sharon Day has high hopes for the women's indoor track season.

Report: Dodgers, Schmidt agree to 3-year, $47 million deal

Since 2001, Jason Schmidt has won 76 games for the Giants with the Dodgers. Along with Troy Smith, Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn and Arkansas tailback Darren McFadden are up for the top award in college football.

Ohio State QB Smith headlines Heisman finalists

Troy Smith booked his trip to the Heisman Trophy ceremony before the season even began. Why wait? Smith, the heavy favorite to win college football's most prestigious award, was selected as a Heisman finalist Wednesday, along with Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn and Arkansas running back Darren McFadden.

Athletics at Poly more prominent than you might think

You won't see a Cal Poly athlete on the front cover of Sports Illustrated, or any other major sports magazine or newspaper, for that matter.

John Middelfauth

O'SHEA'S cube TO THE MARVIN

Johnny in the Box

You won't see a Cal Poly athlete on the front cover of Sports Illustrated, or any other major sports magazine or newspaper, for that matter. But don't let that fool you — every day when you go to class, you are surrounded by some of the best collegiate athletes that this country has to offer. Cal Poly athletics has had a fall to remember, and I don't feel like the majority of this school really appreciates what's going on.

I was always told that Cal Poly has everything to offer — except when it comes to collegiate sports. If you want to have a chance to watch football on TV, it's taken me three years and a lot of sacrifice to realize that is far from the truth.

Let's start with football. Over the last two years, Cal Poly has produced back-to-back Buck Buchanan Award winners in Jordan Beck and Chris Gocong. The majority of people at this school have no clue what this award is or means. Let me tell you a group of people who do: NFL scouts. Both individuals were selected in the third round of the NFL Draft. The 2006 roster also featured some big-time talent. Great West Football Conference Defensive Player of the Year middle linebacker Kyle Shortwell is up for the Buchanan this season. Whether he wins the award or not, he has already made his mark in college football and has scouts excited. A sure draft pick, Shortwell just continues the tradition that is being created under head coach Rich Ellerson. Additionally, cornerback Courtney Brown is a free safety and Kenny Chicoine are NFL prospects as seniors. They are two members of that defensive secondary that held Division I-A bowl-bound San Jose State to 152 yards passing. Cal Poly men's cross country finished 13th in the nation, while being led by All-American junior Phillip Reed.

Notice a trend?

The Cal Poly volleyball team had a successful season. They lost to UC Santa Barbara in the conference tournament, but took them all the way to five sets. The adventure came to an end when the Gauchos went on to win a national title.

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