Cal Poly custodian arrested for attempted murder

Kristen Marschall
MUSTANG DAILY

A Cal Poly custodian hit a supervising custodian with his car on the morning of Jan. 6, Reynolds was arrested and is in county jail.

James Reynolds

Custodial worker James Reynolds purposely hit a supervising custodian on the morning of Jan. 6. Reynolds was arrested and is in county jail.

Obama launches White House bid, says past 6 years imperiled U.S.

Nedra Pickler
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Sen. Barack Obama launched a presidential campaign Tuesday that would make him the first black to occupy the White House, and immediately tried to turn his political inexperience into an asset with voters seeking change.

The freshman Illinois senator — and top contender for the Democratic nomination — said the past six years have left the country in a precarious place and he promoted himself as the standard-bearer for a new kind of politics.

"Our leaders in Washington seem incapable of working together in a practical, commonsense way," Obama said in a video posted on his Web site. "Politics has become so bitter and partisan, so gummed up by money and influence, that we can't tackle the big problems that demand solutions. And that's what we have to change first."

Obama filed paperwork forming a presidential exploratory committee that allows him to raise money and put together a campaign structure. He is expected to announce a full-fledged candidacy on Feb. 10 in Springfield, Ill., where he can tout his experience in the state legislature and tap into the legacy of hometown hero Abraham Lincoln.

Obama has uncommon political talents, drawing adoring crowds even among the studious voters in New Hampshire during a much-hyped visit there last month. His star has risen on the force of his person-

see Obama, page 2

Poly faculty protest for higher salaries

Taylor Moore
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly faculty members picketed Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in protest of stalled California Faculty Association meetings regarding contracts with the California State University system.

The CFA is concerned with the lack of resolution between its 23,000 members and the CSU system. Most specifically, the CFA has an issue with the new salary changes.

Cal Poly is just one of the 23 CSU campuses where pickets are taking place this month.

“I believe the picketing is important to build faculty and public aware-

see Protest, page 2

The association recently failed to reach agree-

ments with the CSU system in December.
Protest

continued from page 1
ness of the situation, and to let the administration negotiators know that the faculty are unhappy with what has been offered,” said professor Richard Saenz, the president of the CFA Cal Poly chapter.

A budget request of $4.5 billion was approved by the California State University Board of Trustees for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The new budget is a $1.48 million increase from last year, according to the CSU system. Roughly $130 million of the prospected budget would go to decreasing the salary gap of CSU employees and faculty.

“The proposed budget requests full funding under the Compact for Higher Education to support an overwhelming demand for enrollment, address CSU employee salaries, and meet ever increasing health benefits and energy costs,” CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed said.

The suggested changes in salary appear positive for CSU faculty; however, the CFA is demanding more. The plan presents a 20.75 percent salary increase over the next four years. But of this roughly 21 percent increase, faculty will see only about 10 percent in salary boosts, according to the CFA Web site.

On another area of the increase, will not directly affect the salaries because of specific programs, like a merit program, set up by the CSU system.

Among its suggested plans are “guaranteed service salary increases not funded by reduction of the gener­al salary increase problems by allowing more senior faculty to rise above the maximum service salary step increases. Sessions to resolve the issues between the faculty union and the CSU system ended in mid-December without reaching any agreement. Since this standstill, CFA members and supporters have been rallying behind the CFA: CSU program to change the plans offered by the CSU system.

Roughly $130 million of the prospected budget would go to decreasing the salary gap of CSU employees and faculty. However, there is not enough money to further increase salaries.

“We are disappointed that although the CSU has put a generous salary increase on the table, the CSU and the CFA have not been able to reach agreement on a new contract through the negotiations process,” R. McCland, CSU vice chancellor for Human Resources.

In their campaign, entitled CSI: CSU (named after the hit TV series) the CFA hopes to invite public understanding and action into the issue. With this campaign, the CFA introduces their own ideas for increasing salaries and mending the ties between the organization and the CSU system.

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Picketing and rallies have been taking place around the state since early November. The picketing did not affect Cal Poly classes or stu­dent services.

Custodian

continued from page 1

Watson said the victim wasn’t hurt badly and only suffered bruises. The victim wished to remain anonymous and declined to comment.

“It’s certainly a scary situation,” Watson said. “I’ve been here five years and I haven’t seen anything like this.”

Kennedy was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and pos­session of a weapon — both felonies — and reckless driving. He was booked at the county jail, where he still remains on a $500,000 bail. His arraignment was scheduled for the morning of Jan. 16, but Watson said he had been postponed.

Tom Ramler, assistant director for Custodial Services, was not avail­able for comment.

Local briefs

DIABLO CANYON — A fire that broke out on the north end of the Diablo Canyon property on Sunday afternoon was 75 percent contained as of 4 p.m. Tuesday, the California Department of Fire said in a press release.

Though 300 acres were burned on the property that contains the nuclear power plant, the CDF and PG&E expected to have the fire entirely contained sometime today and controlled by Saturday.

Over the next few days, the land will be mopped up and rehabilitated, the press release said.

Thus far, the CDF estimates that about 300 firefighters have lent their support, as well as several federal, state and local government agencies.

... CAL POLY ... — A memorial for Spencer Wood, who died unexpectedly on July 22, 2006, will be held in the Business Silo, building 3, room 213, on Jan. 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Though two memorial services were held for Wood during the summer, his friend Sarah Arceo said many of his Cal Poly friends could not be there due to timing and location.

Wood was a history senior from Newport Beach and a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

— Compiled by the Mustang Daily staff

CUSTODIAN

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— Compiled by the Mustang Daily staff
Winter storm battering Northeast after hammering Midwest; death toll climbs to 46

Ben Dobbin
ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Power lines were down, highways were treacherous and spring-like temperatures were only a memory Tuesday in parts of the Northeast in the wake of the storm that earher had placed the Midwest and Plains with a heavy shell of ice.

The death toll from the storm was at least 46 in seven states.

The weight of the ice snapped tree limbs, shorted out transformers and made power lines sag, knocking out current to about 145,000 customers in New York state and New England by Tuesday morning. Some New York customers might have to wait until Wednesday night. As of Tuesday morning, about 215,000 homes and businesses still had no electricity.

Icy roads cut into Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observances from Albany, N.Y., to Austin, Texas, where officials moved Texas Gov. Rick Perry’s inauguration indoors Tuesday.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The AVENUE</strong></td>
<td>Located across from Mott gym</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 7:00am - 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;The Ave- We've got what you want! Hungry for chicken? A custom-made sandwich? Fresh sirloin? How about a burrito? A bagel or some soup? The AVENUE features Chick-fil-A®, with chicken entrees, Red Dragon Wok with rice bowls, Nathan's® for hot dogs and the firm's Tapangos Sopes, with Mexican cuisine, and City Deli, with custom-made sandwiches. Why not enjoy a frozen yogurt at Sweet Persuasions?&quot;</td>
<td>Mon-Thur: 10:30am-9:00pm Fri: 10:30am-10:00pm Sat: 11:00am-9:00pm Sun: Noon-9:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fresh-Pizza</strong></td>
<td>Located downstairs in the University Union</td>
<td>Mon-Thur: 10:30am-9:00pm Fri: 10:30am-10:00pm Sat: 11:00am-9:00pm Sun: Noon-9:00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fresh, delicious pizza by the slice or share a whole pizza with friends. Complete your pizza with a salad from our 40 item salad bar and a choice of a wide variety of beverages. Occasional live entertainment. For fast on-campus delivery call, 756-4089</td>
<td>Mon-Thur: 6:00pm-8:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canyon Mart</strong></td>
<td>Located behind the Ag Science building</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 10:00pm Sat: 9:30am - 5:30pm Sun: 10:00am - 10:30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Your convenient source for special foods and groceries. A convenience store that has just about everything you could need during a day on campus, plus many items you want to take home.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 11:00am-4:58pm Dinner: 5:00pm-8:00pm Sat &amp; Sun: Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Garden Grill</strong></td>
<td>Located down the stairs from the U.U. Plaza</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 10:00am - 5:00pm Sat: 10:00am - 10:00pm</td>
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<td>Garden Grill is the fresh place to eat, serving freshly tossed salads, hand carved meats, sandwiches, made-to-order pastas, Harris Ranch burgers hot off the grill, fruit, and lots more.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 7am - 7pm, Sat: 10am-3:30pm, Sun: Noon-7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Silo's</strong></td>
<td>Located on the first floor of the University Union</td>
<td>Mon-Thur: 7:30am-9:00pm Fri: 7:30am - 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Serving freshly brewed coffee, espresso drinks from Lattes to Blended Java Blasts, and a wide assortment of freshly baked pastries form cookies to muffins. Our coffee beans are freshly roasted locally and are also available by the pound. Dreyers® ice cream is scooped up for cones, milkshakes and espresso creations.</td>
<td>Mon-Thur: 7:00am-9:00pm Fri: 7:00am-3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jucy's on View Drive</strong></td>
<td>Located on Poly Science View Drive, near the mail kiosk, between the Rec Center and U.U.</td>
<td>Mon-Thur: 7:30am-3:30pm Fri: 7:30am-10:00pm Sat: 11:00am-9:00pm Sun: Noon-9:00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fresh, fast, fun juice drinks from apple juice to smoothies. Blended drinks made to order while you watch, from great ingredients like pure fruit juice, whose fruit, nonfat frozen yogurt, sherbet, protein powder, wheat germ and other delicious and nutritious stuff.</td>
<td>Mon-Thur: 7:00am-9:00pm Fri: 7:00am-3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Park</strong></td>
<td>Located in the Dexter Building</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 9:00am - 4:00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Everything from candy bars or sandwiches to fresh brewed coffee. The Park has an attractive seating area that offers you 24 hour a day hospitality. Other vending locations include all the Residence Halls, Library, University Union, and Business.</td>
<td>Always Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandwich Stand</strong></td>
<td>Located across from the UU ATMS</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 7:00am-10:15am Lunch: 10:30am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>Begin your day with a delicious breakfast croissant, breakfast burrito or waffle. For lunch, as well as at breakfast, let us build the &quot;sandwich of your dreams&quot; from a selection of over 45 items.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 7:00am-10:15am Lunch: 10:30am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tacos Del Norte</strong></td>
<td>Located between Kennedy Library &amp; Dexter bldg</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 8:00am - 2:30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Express Mexican Cuisine, value priced for a great on-the-go meal. Burritos, quesadillas, coffee, orange juice and milk available for breakfast. Tacos, burritos, quesadillas, nachos, rice, beans and soft drinks at lunch.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: 8:00am-2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vista Cafe</strong></td>
<td>Located up the stairs, across from the Rec Center</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: Coffee Break: 7:30am-10:30am Lunch: 10:30am - 2:00pm</td>
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<td>Cafe-style lunch service, featuring Mexican entrees, made-to-order sandwiches, salads, soup and desserts. Phone your order to 756-4942 for quick pick-up &quot;On the Go&quot; take out.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: Coffee Break: 7:30am-10:30am Lunch: 10:30am - 2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VG Cafe</strong></td>
<td>Located among the residence halls</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: Breakfast 7:00am-10:15am Lunch: 10:30am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>VG Cafe is the place to go! A convenient place to grab something to eat and offering a grand view and a wide selection of items, including grill items, pasta, sub, salad bar items, desserts, and beverages.</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: Breakfast 7:00am-10:15am Lunch: 10:30am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vista Grande Restaurant</strong></td>
<td>Located near the entrance of the University Union on Grand Ave</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: Breakfast 7:00am-10:15am Lunch: 10:30am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>Full service dining room with a wonderful view of the campus and San Luis Obispo. We serve lunch during the week and Sunday brunch featuring soups, salads, sandwich, desserts and a variety of contemporary and ethnic dishes. Reservations recommended call 756-1204</td>
<td>Mon-Fri: Breakfast 7:00am-10:15am Lunch: 10:30am-4:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hours vary on holidays, quarter breaks and summer quarter. For menus, photos and more information, check our web site www.calpolycorporation.org/campusdining
Bomibing at Baghdad university kills 65

The U.N. reported that 34,000 civilians have been killed in Iraq in 2006. Kim Gamel

BAHDAD, Iraq — An explosion outside a Baghdad university as students were boarding for the day killed at least 65 people on Tuesday in the deadliest of several attacks on predominantly Shiite areas. The attacks — and the announcement of four U.S. military deaths — came on a day the United Nations released a report on the death toll in last year's sectarian violence.

Attacks in Baghdad — including the university explosion, blasts at a motorcycle market that killed 13, and a drive-by shooting — killed 22 in Iraq on Tuesday, said police. At least 11 people were killed in the aftereffects of the first explosion, police said. About 45 minutes after the university attack, gunfire rang out in another Shiite neighborhood in the city of Mosul, which has seen a recent increase in violence. The deaths raised the number of the city's security forces to 3,126 members of the U.S. military who have died since the Iraq war started in March, according to an Associated Press count.

In Baghdad, the deadliest attack took place in a primarily Shiite neighborhood and appeared to be the work of Sunni Muslims, calling those responsible "a desperate group of terrorists and Saddamists." The military said four U.S. soldiers with Task Force Lightning were killed Monday in the northwestern part of the city of Nasiriyah, where the U.S. forces are protective of the area.

On Monday, the Iraqi government hanged two of Saddam Hussein's henchmen in an execution in a public square, said the ousted leader's half brother, was beheaded, and police said two of the minivans they were in were targeted by a suicide bomber.

"The terrorists want to stop education," the students had nothing to do with politics. They only came to university to learn," he said.

The terrorist attacks Tuesday in the deadliest of several attacks on predominantly Shiite areas. The attacks — and the announcement of four U.S. military deaths — came on a day the United Nations released a report on the death toll in last year's sectarian violence.

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The Glass Castle

By Emilie Egger

The Glass Castle is a memoir by Jeannette Walls, detailing her childhood growing up in a family of four children who were forced to become independent at an early age. The novel follows the family through their journeys and travels across the United States during the years their children are growing up. The novel progresses through a series of anecdotes that tell the story of the author's youth. The second out of four children, Walls recalls her murky past in an uncannily delightful way.

With a set of circumstances such as theirs, the Walls children were forced to become independent at an early age. For starters, there are their parents. Walls' father, Rex, is in many ways both the best and worst thing that happens to her. On one hand, he is extremely creative, and brings out the inventive side of his middle daughter. An intelligent man, he rarely misses an opportunity to teach his children something about the world, and inspire them to do something great. In fact, the title of the book comes from his dream of building a "glass castle" for his family, even when they were wallowing in extreme poverty.

However, he is also the town drunk. When he drinks, he loses all of his fatherly instincts and brilliance. His alcoholism also interferes with his ability to keep a steady job. Instead of bringing home an income, he brings shame, embarrassment, and much anger to his family. Often disappearing for days or weeks at a time, his children come to learn that they can't depend on him. Walls' mother is also emotionally unavailable. Once an aspiring artist, she resents her children because motherhood has forced her ambitions to the backseat, and is constantly reminding the kids of it. Besides being selfishly bitter, she is also startlingly impractical. She does little to fill her role as an adult in the home, refusing to work even when money is tight and generally forcing most of the household pressures onto her children. Once, when her son and daughter find a diamond ring in the backyard, that she looks back at her childhood with a forgiving fondness that causes the reader to enjoy the book, rather than weep through the entire thing.

If the book has a fault, it is its overall simplicity and predictability. Although each chapter has a valuable place in the timeline of Walls' early life, the overall picture seems to lack the depth it could have had. There is no surprising twist, hidden meaning, or insightful ending. After awhile, it seems just like another good story. However, some might say that its simplicity is actually the book's greatest strength. The objective of the book isn't to surprise its readers, but to inspire them through the author's personal experiences. The readers are encouraged to take from the book what they will; nothing is explicit.

Walls is a strong storyteller and the descriptions of what she overcame as a child are simply amazing. Her detailed settings and characters alone make this a good read. Plus, much of the book is funny. All of the elements of a good story are there. If a reader is looking for an encouraging account of triumph over hardship without the overwhelming sadness, The Glass Castle is for him or her.

Buyer's Tip: Don't read the back cover, it gives too much away.
"Epic," a new photography exhibit of outdoor images taken by a Cal Poly rock climber, opened Friday in the Associated Students Inc. Epicenter Art Gallery. The display features a variety of spectacular landscapes from all over California. From vibrant neon sunsets in Mammoth to a snow covered landscape at Mt. Sill, there is something there for everyone to appreciate.

Outdoor enthusiast and microbiology senior Chris Kornblatt is the man behind the photos. The display represents his journeys in California over the past two years. "Some trips allow me to ponder the complexities of the environment, but this is rare because there is usually a mad dash to ‘bag’ a peak and return to San Luis Obispo by 6 p.m. on Sunday in hope to finish class work," Kornblatt writes of his weekends away from San Luis Obispo in the description of his exhibit.

A picture taken at Fear Lake in Sequoia National Park stands out from the rest in the exhibit with the jagged outline of a peak reflected perfectly on the glassy lake below. Of the 14-mile hike it took to get that photo, Kornblatt said, "It could be a day trip, if you push yourself."

For the best local hike, Kornblatt says Mt. Valencia in Montana de Oro is the place to go, especially before dawn. "You hear your breath and you hear the ocean," he said, noting the peaceful quiet of an early morning hike. Then, as the sun comes up, "God turns the volume on" and you can start to hear the birds chirp, he said.

Kornblatt's favorite journey over the past two years was the trip he took to Mt. Sill in the Palisade Crest over Memorial Day weekend. In late May, the landscape at 14,000 feet is still covered in snow. A guest book at the event allows students to leave their comments. One student thanked Kornblatt for sharing his experiences and commented that the photos truly were epic.

"Enjoying nature with this sense of awe contributes to my quality of life," Kornblatt said. "Each one of us is connected to the natural world, even in the largest of cities."

The display also encourages its patrons to get outdoors and see those landscapes for themselves. A table at the exhibit features information on Pear Lake, Mt. Sill, Charlotte Dome, and Cathedral Peak, where some of the photos were taken. "Epic" will remain on display in the UU until Jan. 31. Call the Epicenter at 756-5807 or visit www.asi.calpoly.edu.
Indie favorites The Shins show range in newest album ‘Wincing the Night Away’

Taleen Kalenderian
EILEEN BLAK (UCLA)

More than two years since Natalie Portman insisted that The Shins would change your life, ‘Wincing the Night Away’, the band’s third full-length album, is finally nearing its long-awaited release date.

What many forget to consider, however, is a little detail of release dates. ‘Chutes Too Narrow’, The Shins’ sophomore album, was released prior to ‘Garden State’, the film that made the two life-changing songs from the first album famous, pushing the band to the forefront of indie sub-stardom. That The Shins’ new material took a backseat for a time may be why ‘Wincing the Night Away’ is a product of an unassuming band having some sorting out to do.

The opening song, ‘Sleeping Lesson’, is an open canvas created as one of the album’s memorable bookends, building slowly off a swelling Zombies feel and flourishing into a space of pop-laden exuberance. ‘A Comet Appears’ gently holds the album to a twang, twinkle-lit finish, courtesy of a harmonium.

But that’s no testament to track-by-track cohesion. The meat of the album is composed of nondescript Shins numbers arranged carefully in a blender with songs trying to take on a new direction. The result is one which confuses an investment in safety for the large part of the record. With songs such as ‘Split Noodles’ and ‘No Hair’, The Shins’ tendency for departure (wincing, if you will), number like ‘Sea Legs’, an attempt at a decent upbeat beat, seems a shocking arrival.

This doesn’t make the album anything short of charming, however. For instance, the band provides a quiet homage to the shorter songs from albums of old with the spooky minute-long drums and fuzzters of ‘Pure Berry’. Tracks such as ‘Turn On Me’ (taken to ‘Come for Good’ from ‘Chutes’) and ‘Red Rabbits’ are catchy, vintage Shins, insist on enjoyment.

‘Phantom Limb’ is the shimmering single of ‘Wincing’. It holds the album’s shaky balance together and introduces frontman Jared Followill as a mercurial artist whose touch gives the band’s tracks a necessary edge. Jared’s voice remains perfectly childlike, as does his band’s, making it a more complete package.

Whether ‘Garden State’-bred fans are already busy changing their lives with their unpretentious listen the album did leak on the Internet well ahead of 2005’s, ‘Wincing the Night Away’ is no magnum opus. It is as much a technological struggle with new material and part good ol’ Shins fun which yields, incidentaliy, a delicate handful of beautiful numbers — and enough reason for Hollywood to keep up with their pace this time around.

The Shins first made their way into pop culture history on 2004’s ‘Garden State’ soundtrack. Their newest creation, ‘Wincing the Night Away’ is a combination of guitars and percussion.

DJ Culture: Papa’s Got a Brand New Bag

Daniel Seguin
SPOTLIGHT

Ice cubes tinkle inside half-consumed cocktail glasses; cigarette smoke drifts languidly throughout the spacious nightclub. The well dressed men and women talk, smoke, drink and wait — in anticipation. The mingled conversation travels through the room with an undertone like an electric current.

They are waiting for the show to start. The rumor is that he is pretty good at what he does. The much anticipated DJ walks into the booth; slips on the headphones. The atmosphere-electrifies another notch.

He perceives the first beats through the room as the DJ works with archives; records albums, it is referred to in the industry as ‘spinning vinyl’. There are many DJs in the industry that prefer to remain loyal to what is often referred to as the ‘old school’ way of doing things. This means that those DJs have a preference for using their turntables to spin their records, while trying to avoid technology as long as they are able to.

DJ Chad Fischer, an art design senior, hosts a Monday night hip-hop show titled “Table Manners” on KCPR. He remains loyal to his roots and civilized form of conversation, while trying to avoid technology as much as possible. This means that those DJs of a windfall, when it comes to things like pitch control and multi-tasking and media convergence.

‘I think where I’m heading is you’ll be able to digitally mix DVDs, videos, play ‘em in the club on TV screens,” said Liesch.

‘DJ’s have now turned into YJF, doing ‘em in a more visual way,’ he said.

Offering a final thought, Liesch said that, overall, it is not about being able to visualize the music, but about making it a more complete package.

‘It’s just as much visual as it is music now. All about the DJ’s think that’s where we’re going with it.’

The current question facing most DJs today is this: How do I keep up with current technology while remaining true to my position?

The three formats are vinyl (record albums, digital (CD), and computerization (programs). Each format will be discussed, focusing on their usage by different DJs in the industry, and the ways that those DJs see the future with regard to new technologies in the business.

The first, and pretty much the original format that most DJs prefer working with are record albums. When a DJ works with records albums, it is referred to in the industry as ‘spinning vinyl’. There are many DJs in the industry that prefer to remain loyal to what is often referred to as the ‘old school’ way of doing things. This means that those DJs have a preference for using their turntables to spin their records, while trying to avoid technology as long as they are able to.

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POLITICAL COLUMNS

Soldier drug use increases

By now, everyone knows about the "surge" into Iraq. However, I will spare you from having to read another editorial about this topic. Instead, I want to focus on a growing trend in Iraq, which no one is talking about: the increase in drug use by U.S. soldiers to cope with stress.

In the president’s remarks last week, he basically concealed that for the past four years in Iraq, we have been asking our soldiers to do more and more with less. Sadly, this wasn’t the first time this administration said something along those lines, as Rumsfeld once told the troops “You go to war with the army you have, not the one you want.” As a result of this stubbornness and warped perception of efficiency, the strain and stress on our soldiers has been staggering.

Just how hard has the government been stressing our soldiers in Iraq? According to Foreign Policy in Focus, the average tour of duty for a soldier in Iraq has been 130 days.

During the first Persian Gulf War, the average tour of duty was only 156 days. Furthermore, the very reliable Government Accountability Office (GAO) has estimated that since 2003, there has been an average of 2,500 attacks on U.S. soldiers every month, that’s 83 attacks per day! Because of this overwhelming fatigue and fear, it is not surprising to learn that more and more soldiers are turning to drugs to escape from their surroundings.

So how many of our soldiers are using drugs in Iraq? Reliable statistics on soldier’s use of drugs are hard to come by, but the Pentagon estimates that between 3,000 to 8,000 soldiers in Iraq have used marijuana, cocaine, heroin or amphetamines. While these estimated rates are nowhere near as bad as in Vietnam, where TV footage of soldiers getting high became a common sight, nowhere near as bad as Vietnam, where TV footage of soldiers getting high became a common sight, the problem among the troops is still moderate. Maybe this growing drug trend is an indication of just how hard we are stressing our government’s personnel planning that our troops in the difficult position they find themselves in today. I still marvel at the fact that our government consistently overestimates our soldiers to over-achieve in Iraq without the necessary troop strength to do so, yet the drug problem among the troops is still moderate. Maybe it’s indicative of the fact that the discipline and strength of our many soldiers can never be destroyed by the incompetence and recklessness of a few politicians.

Patrick Molnar is a business sophomore and Mustang Daily political columnist.

Affirmative action harmful

As college students, we have had a long history of filling little boxes in on tests. I remember that every year through grade school, high school, and college, I was most confused about those identity boxes. See, I’m exactly half Asian-American and half European-American, and unfortunately, no such box exists for this particular mix. As a kid, I would select “other” if they had that option, sometimes I would fill in two boxes if they let me, and other times I would fill in White or Asian depending on how I felt at that particular moment.

Over the past few years, things have changed, and we now can call to state (my option), select two or more affirmative option boxes from the addition of more race groups. (i.e. Pacific Islander, Central European Asian, Native American, Eskimo, Antarctican, Sub-Saharan AFRICAN, European Colonist Native Immigrant, etc.)

These multi-racial boxes allow those of us who have at least .001 percent of something else.

My point is, these boxes shouldn’t matter at all, so why even ask for them? Unfortunately, these boxes still matter, especially when applying for internships and post-graduate programs, and are part of a wider range of affirmative action programs. Administrative action programs (predating affirmative action programs) cause harm not only to the racial groups penalized because of it, but hurt those who benefit even more. Let me give an example: during the Week of Welcome (2004), I remember a meeting in the PAC about diversity. During this meeting, people were allowed to go toward the microphone and say whatever they felt. I remember one young black woman go up and talk about how she felt that one should not assume that she got into Cal Poly because she was black, but rather because she actually had high SAT scores and a strong grade point average. I don’t know if people think that when they see her, but without affirmative action, this would be impossible.

As most of you know, this administration’s decision to over-eliminate affirmative action in Proposition 209, affirmative action programs in California is opposed to have been eliminated (with some minor exceptions). In fact, since imple-

logic, shouldn’t it also be a problem that more than 75 percent of NHB players are black? Is it not a problem that nearly all the running backs in the NFL are black? Where is the outrage? Why don’t we have more Asian-American running backs? Of course, it shouldn’t be wrong that an NFL bama picks the best players, or that NFL coaches select the best running backs. In the same light, colleges should be pick-
Eggleston, whom Mimnaugh tabbed could be a boost. Cal Poly is 1-7 on three of which in conference — could be a boost. Cal Poly is 1-7 on the road this season.

"We have a monkey on our back being on the road," Eggleston said. "At home we always play a little better, so I’m definitely looking forward to it."

Eggleston called the rash of injuries the Mustangs are experiencing "pretty tough."

"We’re getting pretty thin at point guard," she said. "It’s a team effort. We’re all had to pitch in and help out."

One of the players helping out is Eggleston, who had a team-high four assists in a 78-64 loss at UC Davis on Jan. 11, and dropped a team-leading six dimes in a 64-49 loss at Cal State Fullerton on Dec. 28.

"Jessica Eggleston is a great player," Mimnaugh said. "She’s had to do a lot more distributing, which isn’t necessarily her strength. She’s still one of our top assist people on the team, but at the same time, I’d love to see her on the receiving end of a lot of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody who’s averaging 20 points a game instead of 13 points a game. She’s just having to do so much for us right now."

Eggleston, who averages 32.4 minutes per game, said the area Cal Poly is most trying to shore up is its position, then you’d see somebody of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody of those passes. If she were in that position, then you’d see somebody of those passes.

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Cal Poly will have a chance to show improvement in those areas when it hosts rival UC Santa Barbara Saturday. The Mustangs have a dual with Pepperdine in Malibu on Saturday.

The Mustangs' first home series will be Feb. 2-4 against San Diego State, coached by Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn. Mustang women's tennis wraps up Cal Winter Invitational

"They’re intense on defense and they’re very physical. They’re second in conference right now, so they’re obviously doing something well." Mimnaugh added: "We have to do their coming in the second half)."

"Watching film, the little bit that we have, they’re pretty good," Eggleston said of the Gauchos. "They’re intense on defense and they’re very physical. They’re second in conference right now, so they’re obviously doing something well."

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Mimnaugh added: "We have to do the prediction. A preview of baseball season for Cal Poly, which is coming off a 25-27 campaign in 2006.

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Polio's Day second in high jump at Dempsey Indoor Meet

Cal Poly senior Sharon Day cleared 5 feet, 8 inches in her signature event.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly's Sharon Day and Danielle Ayers-Stamper competed at the Dempsey Indoor Preview hosted by the University of Washington on Saturday. Ayers-Stamper had a great start to her season placing fourth in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 9.17 seconds. She tied for fifth just trying to get 20 points every night. Detroit coach Flip Saunders said Webber would play as a reserve Wednesday against Utah.

Webber, who grew up in Detroit and played at Michigan, became a free agent after Philadelphia bought out the final 1 1/2 years of his contract last week. The five-time All-Star agreed to give the 76ers $2 million this season and $2 million next season when he was due to make about $43 million over the two years. Sacramento gave him a $12 million, seven-year contract in the summer of 2001.

Webber strongly considered joining the Miami Heat on the Los Angeles Lakers, but he couldn't pass up the chance to play in Detroit. He will start at center for a contending team at home, where he can improve his image with disinterested fans.

After announcing Monday he would join the Pistons, Webber watched them play the Minneapolis Timberwolves in a front-row seat at The Palace. He was greased by a noun, standing out.

It was a much warmer welcome than Webber had received previously because of his unsavory relationship with deceased Michigan booster Ed Martin that led to NCAA sanctions.

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Poly women's hoops squad battles injuries

The Mustangs have been forced to play five freshmen at the same time during a 5-11 season.

Tristan Aird

The Cal Poly women's basketball team is in the middle of a nine-day break in between games and a 14-day gap in between Big West Conference contests. It couldn't come at a better time. Injuries keep mounting for the Mustangs (5-11, 1-3 Big West), who have lost eight of nine following a 4-3 start that included wins over Oregon State and two West Coast Conference teams.

Already without starting back-cour because of respective injuries, Cal Poly could soon be playing for an extended period of time without one of its most versatile players — sophomore forward Megan Harrison. She averaged 8.1 points, 3.8 rebounds and 1.1 steals per outing in the 15 games she played so far this season.

"Megan Harrison got injured in practice, we need to see if she's done for the season as well," Cal Poly head coach Faith Mimnaugh said Monday at a weekly press conference. "We've got a pretty big beat up where we're going to try to take the physical losses we've had and turn them into positives."

Already out for the season are four-year starting point guard Sparkle Anderson (ACL) and starting junior shooting guard Toni Harrison. She averaged 8.1 points, 7.3 rebounds and 2.7 steals per game before their seasons ended prematurely.

"It's been a constantly evolving team," Mimnaugh said. "Different aspects have been altered because of our changing personnel, which seems to be constant. Where we have to convert two guards into point guards, then we've got people that are standing around waiting for the outlet when they should be running. Having Sparkle out of the lineup has been a big loss."

A promising crop of six freshmen — sometimes five on the floor at a time — have helped keep the Mustangs afloat for the time being. Among the freshmen seeing an increase in minutes are power forward Lauren Leath on Tuesday night in Mott Gym.

Below, Cal Poly sophomore point guard ChaT Thomas (10) handles the ball under defensive pressure from Sacramento State senior guard Haron Hargrave. The Mustangs won the nonconference game 74-65 in Mott Gym to improve to 8-8 overall. Stockalper and senior power forward Tyson McGinn led Cal Poly with 17 points apiece.

For a full recap of Tuesday night's game, see Thursday's Mustang Daily.

Mustangs go to .500 with 74-65 win over Sac State at home

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NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Left, Cal Poly senior wing Derek Stockalper (25) looks for the entry pass against Sacramento State sophomore guard Loren Leath on Tuesday night in Mott Gym. Below, Cal Poly sophomore point guard ChaT Thomas (10) handles the ball under defensive pressure from Sacramento State senior guard Haron Hargrave. The Mustangs won the nonconference game 74-65 in Mott Gym to improve to 8-8 overall. Stockalper and senior power forward Tyson McGinn led Cal Poly with 17 points apiece.

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Larry Lage

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Detroit Pistons hope Chris Webber can do for them what Rashied Wallace did in 2004, come on board midseason and spark a run to an NBA championship.

Webber does, too, because winning a title would fill the biggest void on his resume.

"I'm excited to be home in Detroit, but I'm more excited about being on this team," Webber said Tuesday after signing with his hometown team. "If this was not a good team, it would not be that much fun."

"This team was already great before I got here, so in no way am I acting like I'm doing this team a big service. I'm part of a great machine."

Webber will make about $260,000 with a prorated contract for the veteran's minimum to play the rest of the season. The Pistons see Webber, page 11

Webber signs with Pistons for minimum

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Frankly Speaking

Frank Stranzl

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Briskly made my way across campus after class let out last Thursday night. It wasn't the cold that had me in a hurry, though.

It was game night, and I was intent on sitting down in Mott Gym before the halftime buttered sounds. The scoreboard showed a predictable 14-point Cal Poly lead against UC Davis. I didn't expect the Aggies to put up much of a fight, especially being that they're not officially a Division I team until next season after their transition process from Division II is complete.

"Did I miss anything big?" I asked my buddy Terrance, who was saving a seat for me.

"Nah, not much. A dunk by Dreshawn (Vance) and that's about it. Davis' offense is pretty much no bueno."

The synopsis delivered by Terrance gave me hope that Cal Poly would run away with the game. Enter Cal Poly's evil twin — for the sake of a name, we'll call him Bob.

Bob doesn't score too many points and tends to get torched defensively, sometimes for 50 points in a half. Bob built his brick houses from the free-throw line and gets pounded on the boards.

Bob is Cal Poly's alter ego. Bob is why Cal Poly is 7-8 instead of 10-5. Sometimes Bob stays dormant for the first half and wakes up just in time to toy with the Mustangs in the second half. Sometimes he wreaks havoc for the entire game.

For example, week one, game one: Cal Poly 41, Southeastern Louisiana 23. Then, along came Bob. Final score: Southeastern Louisiana 76, Cal Poly 69.

On Dec. 3, Bob was on the court for the full 40 minutes. San Jose State won its first game of the season 80-63. To date, the Spartans are 2-14.

Bob has also made appearances against Long Beach State and, most recently, UC Davis. Cal Poly isn't a bad basketball team. They are only a 7-8 record. However, Bob is a very bad basketball team and Bob is preventing the Mustangs from having a real shot at a run at the Big West Conference title.

On that frigid Thursday night, Cal Poly failed to put away a mediocre, at best, opponent in UC Davis. The Mustangs didn't shoot poorly — 52.6 percent from the floor and 4 for 8 from 3-point range see Frankly, page 10

What about Bob?

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