Capps pushes student act in first 100 hours

Devan McClaine

Rep. Lois Capps, who represents three counties, including San Luis Obispo, was sworn in by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Capps pushes student act in first 100 hours

Devan McClaine

Rep. Lois Capps,' D-Calif., discussed the passage of the Student Relief Act of 2007 last Wednesday in an interview with the Mustang Daily.

Capps was embroiled in what the Democrat called "the first 100 hours," during which they pushed a number of pertinent bills through the House of Representatives.

The act, which has been stalled by partisan dysfunction in the past, will gradually lower interest rates on student loans from 6.8% in 2007 to a low of 3.4 percent in 2011.

The bill passed by a 386-71 margin, including 124 Republican votes, the most GOP support of any bill passed in the first 100 hours.

The vote signaled what Capps hopes to be continued bipartisan support for democratic legislation.

The bill would save an incoming Cal Poly freshman more than $2,400 and $4,700 over the life of the loan.

see Capps, page 2

Free from fire?

After the fires in Stenner Glen, the issue of alarms, sprinkler systems are brought to light

Canie Gaeto

After two fires broke out in the same Stenner Glen suite two weeks ago, three of the seven female residents have been relocated to other buildings and one has left the complex altogether. The fires, which caused an estimated $60,000 worth of damage combined, kept all residents of building eight out of their rooms on the nights of Jan. 8 to 9.

"Being back in the building after right after it happened has been scary, because you never know when it could happen again," said architecture freshman and building eight resident Jen Agus.

On Jan. 8 after a mattress caught fire, it was discovered that the battery had been removed from the suite's smoke alarm. The following night, another fire started due to the placement of a construction lamp near combustible materials.

An informational e-mail from Stenner Glen employees stated that the batteries in the smoke alarms are changed once a year and then they are tested again prior to student move-in day.

Due to the age of the building, the Stenner Glen housing complex is not equipped with emer-

see Fires, page 2

California businesses seek clarity on state's global warming law

Samantha Young

SACRAMENTO — Uncertainty over how California will implement new regulations requiring big corpo-

see Businesses, page 2

Brittany Ridley

Mustang Daily

Cal Poly Theism, a new religious studies program and focuses on the education of reli-

see Theism, page 2
Capps continued from page 1

Civil engineering senior Faryal Tognazzini said the bill may be too late for those graduating this spring.

"I think the bill is a good thing for the future, I just wish it had been passed sooner," she said.

Associated Students Inc. President Todd Maki also said the bill is a "good start," but had reservations as to the fate of the bill.

"At any time you can cut the cost of college, it's a great thing. The bill is a good step toward controlling the cost of the college experience and that's something we should look at as the tenure of the bill. Overall, it is a good piece of legislation," Maki said.

Although Capps acknowledged the bill it is not a solution to the rising cost of higher education, she called the act a "step in the right direction."

Opponents of the bill, mostly Republicans, point to the fact that the lowered interest rates are in effect only for the first half of 2011 when they reach a low of 3.4 percent — after which they presumably return to 8 percent.

Many said the bill was not a long-term solution to the financial aid burden for students. Rep. Howard McKeon, R-Calif., likened the bill to putting a "mortgage with no house." Other opponents pointed to the opulent spending of American universities as a problem in need of attention.

Aside from the passage of the bill, Capps had another reason to be excited; Democrats are in control of the House for the first time since 1994, and for the first time in U.S. history there is a female speaker of the House in the form of Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

"(Congress) has a lot to celebrate, this is a turning point for Congress and Speaker Pelosi will prove to be an effective leader," Capps said.

The 69-year-old Capps also views Pelosi's role as speaker as a sign to women everywhere that anything is possible.

She quoted Pelosi as saying this is "the breaking of a marble ceiling that had been in place in Washington."

Despite the initial excitement, Capps said that those facing challenges ahead, particularly with President Bush's decision to send additional troops into Iraq. The Wisconsin native said she was shocked at the president's decision to walk out of a historic nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia and send in more troops into Iraq, where we have received less than warm reception, Congress has to realize that we hold the purse strings," Capps said.

Capps went on to say she wants every member of Congress on record (referring to a public vote) as to their support or disapproval of the president's decision.

Capps represents California's 23rd congressional district, which encompasses portions of Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties. Capps won re-election to the 110th Congress in November, defeating then Los Obispos businessman Victor Tognazzini.

Theisms continued from page 1

For example, the Muslim Student Association has created a group called Asian Student Outreach. The group has created a forum for students to meet each other and discuss various religious and cultural issues.

"We focus on educating ourselves and other people about Islam, especially because there are a lot of stereotypes," said Naiyerah Kalkalikah. "We are trying to create a religious community for students to talk to when they are away from family."

"We have a small Muslim community, and whatever you don't know about you tend to fear," Kalkalikah said. "So seeing that there are Muslims on campus and that we do have a voice and we do have a perspective, is important."

Other religious clubs, like Hillel, a national Jewish organization that creates a religious community for students to talk to when they are away from family.

"The Jewish community at Cal Poly is not very big, so we aim to make a place for Jewish kids to come to when they are away from home for the first time," Ari Dhabhly, president of Hillel and business sophomore said.

The Orthodox Christian Fellowship holds meetings on campus to discuss Jesus Christ in a way of focusing on Orthodox beliefs, said George Karanas, president of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship and mechanical engineer senior.

Cal Poly Theism focuses on educating students about these religions and many more. The club hosts monthly presentations with practitioners and religious studies scholars.

"Last month we had two Hindu teachers present who were followers of a specific Hindu guru," Weitzel said. "The month before we had a Buddhist monk come to speak on us campus."

The group is currently working to bring a Balinese speaker to campus, Weitzel said. By bringing new beliefs and cultures to campus, they hope students will become more aware and interested in the study of religions.

"Almost every religion has some misconceptions and that can lead to conflict," Weitzel said. "I think we have to understand a neutral understanding ultimately turn out to be a much more peaceful path."

Additional information on upcoming Cal Poly Theism events can be found on their Web site at www.ca.calpoly.edu.

Businesses continued from page 1

Cement manufacturers and others that will be affected by the law.

Monday's meeting was the first that included a workshop focused on how to get the state's green-gas law implemented. The law imposes the country's first statewide cap on emissions, aimed at reducing heat-trapping gases by an estimated 25 percent by 2020 — a tough target to achieve.

The law is one of the key ways California seeks to combat the effects of climate change. Scientists and experts in various state agencies say climate change threatens California's water supply, agriculture, forests and coastline.

Among the first challenges in imposing the emissions cap is a directive by the Legislature to create initial steps industries can take to reduce emissions before the cap take full effect in 2012.

As part of that initial urge, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this month proposed that the air board adopt regulations promoting the use of low-carbon fuels. The governor last week signed an executive order mandating that California refines the reduction carbon content of passenger vehicle fuels 10 percent by 2015.

The air board, which has jurisdiction over vehicle emissions, is considering implementing the proposal. Where the other early reduction regulations could happen and how companies might get credit are key parts of the debate. At the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, for example, officials are considering using manure to generate electricity. But executives are questioning whether they should hold off on the project until they are required to reduce emissions.

Fires continued from page 1

greency fires. Many said that the bill was not a

"If Stemmer Glen had sprinklers, the fire damage would have been a lot less, insignificant," said Fire Marshall Jon Tringham.

Cerro Vista is the only on-campus student housing to have a full sprinkler system with fire sprinklers in the common areas and all bedrooms. Yosemite and Sierra Madre dorms do not have sprinklers in the student bedrooms, while the North and South Mountain halls have no sprinkler systems.

"I think that all student housing should be equipped with sprinklers, it would create a safer environment," said Stemmer Glen building resident Manager Jacky Jacobs.

Adding fire sprinklers to a building like Stemmer Glen would cost about $4 or $5 per square foot and they can usually be installed with minimum amounts of construction, Tringham said.

"I would be interested in paying more money to have sprinklers installed while I still live here. I am considering getting fire insurance now because my room contains almost everything I own," Agius said.

This year, campus housing officials installed new wireless smoke detector systems in three of the South Mountain dorms. If smoke is detected, each device is capable of transmitting that information directly to public safety. During summer quarter the wireless system will be added to the remaining three buildings.

"After we complete the red bricks we will continue on to Yosemite, Sierra Madre and the (North) Mountain halls. Soon all of the student housing on campus will be a part of the wireless smoke detector system, we are on the right track," said housing and business director Alan Pepe.

All students living in Stemmer Glen received e-mails following both fires with information on how to ensure their smoke alarms are functioning properly and encouraging students to report those who tamper with the equipment. Residents of building eight, where both fires occurred, had a private meeting last week to discuss what happened, what fire safety and the feelings of the students involved.

"I'm really glad they held that meeting because it reminded me that everyone living there is in the same boat and now we all will be watching for signs to prevent fires in the future," Agius said.

Would the fires this year deter you from living in Stemmer Glen? Take the poll at www.mustangdaily.net

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

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Bombs strike Shiite targets; 137 dead across Iraq

Kim Gansel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide bomber crashed his car into a central Baghdad market crowded with Shiites just seconds after another car bomb tore through the stalls where vendors were hawking DVDs and used clothing, leaving 88 dead Monday in the bloodiest attack in two months.

The bombings, along with a double bombing that killed 12 people in the town of Khalis, buttressed Shiites during one of their holiest festivals. The attacks were the latest in a renewed campaign of insurgent violence in advance of a U.S.-Iraqi security operation.

In all, 137 people were killed or found dead across Iraq, including a teacher who was gunned down as she was on her way to work at a girls' school in a mainly Sunni area of Baghdad. The toll also included the bullet-riddled bodies of at least 30 people, apparent victims of death squads largely run by Shiite militias.

In the provincial capital of Baqouba, state television reported that gunmen attacked the mayor's office, ransacking the building and setting off explosives that damaged the structure.

Police said the mayor was kidnapped, a report that U.S. officials said they could not immediately confirm.

The twin bombing in Baghdad was the single deadliest attack against civilians in Iraq since Nov. 23, when suspected al Qaeda in Iraq fighters attacked the capital's Sadr City Shiite slum with a series of car bombs and mortars that struck in quick succession, killing at least 215 people.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, denounced Monday's attack and blamed Sunni Saddam Hussein, branches of the coalition of Sunni Arab tribes and even the U.S. military, which was killed and 29 wounded, police said.

Khalis is in the volatile Diyala province, where fighting has raged for months among Sunni insurgents, Shiite militias, Sunni militia leaders and 33 key Sunni leaders. US. and Iraqi forces captured 16 militants and U.S. and Iraqi troops.

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State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paris Hilton was placed on 36 months probation and ordered to pay fines after pleading no contest Monday to alcohol-related driving convictions, a reduction of an original charge of driving under the influence.

Hilton did not appear in court. The plea was entered by her attorneys Howard Weitzman and Shawn Chapman Holley, the city attorney’s office said.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Eureka man pleaded guilty Monday to knowingly using $1,100 in fake currency, U.S. Attorney Kevin Ryan said.

Rickie Shane Cook, 32, admitted passing several of the counterfeit bills to merchants in Eureka during one day in March 2005.

Cook, who faces a maximum 20 years in prison, will be sentenced April 30.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Grey’s Anatomy" star Isaiah Washington, under fire for using a gay slur about a co-star, met Monday with gay rights activists who said he agreed to help educate the public about the cruelty of such language.

"He seemed very sincere in his desire to work in an ongoing basis," said Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

Briefs

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will tell Americans Tuesday night he has important plans for health care, education and other kitchen table topics that have little to do with Iraq. Yet if the state of the union is strong, so is the nation’s skepticism that he can deliver.

For the first time, Bush will give his State of the Union address with Democrats in power and looking over his shoulder — literally, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi seated right behind him. Most people have no confidence that Bush and a Democratic Congress can solve problems together, a troubling sentiment that has only deepened since the November election, an Associated Press-AOL news poll finds.

LAS VEGAS (AP) — While winners can still work for world peace, the Miss America Organization for the first time has focused its community service efforts on a single cause — helping children’s hospitals.

Under a partnership with the Children’s Miracle Network, the 86-year-old pageant established a "national platform" to advocate on behalf of children’s hospitals.

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The closest aide to the late Pope John Paul II published a new book that Soviet spies could have been behind the 1981 assassination attempt in which the pontiff was gravely wounded by a Turkish gunman.

But Stanislaw Dziwisz offered no facts to back up his theory, according to excerpts of "A Life with Karol" provided by Italian publishing house Rizzoli on Monday.

International

NEW WESTMINSTER, British Columbia (AP) — A Canadian pig farmer confessed Monday to killing 49 women and was caught before he could reach his goal of making it an even 50, prosecutors told jurors at the man’s trial.

Robert William Pickton, 56, has been charged with killing 26 women, mosty prostitutes and drug addicts.

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Glaciers all but disappear from the Alps by 2050, scientists warned Monday, basing their bleak outlook on mounting evidence of slow but steady melting of the continental ice sheets.

In the United States, glaciers have been shrinking by about 3 percent a year, said Roland Huner of the University of Innsbruck’s Institute for Ecology.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The world’s top three spammers, saying they have been behind the 1981 assassination attempt in which the pontiff was gravely wounded by a Turkish gunman.

But Stanislaw Dziwisz offered no facts to back up his theory, according to excerpts of "A Life with Karol" provided by Italian publishing house Rizzoli on Monday.

MySpace sues Colorado man for sending millions of spam messages

Gary Gentile

LOS ANGELES — The popular social networking site MySpace.com has sued a Colorado man once accused of being one of the world’s top three spammers, saying the man gained access to MySpace profiles using stolen passwords and used the information to send spam bulletins.

MySpace, which is owned by News Corp., claims Scott Richter and his various companies, including OptInRealBig.com and Medabakery.com, sent millions of spam messages to members using technology that made the messages look like they had come from individual members’ accounts.

The lawsuit was filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles and asks for damages, an injunction preventing Richter and his companies from sending or helping send MySpace, and to require all profits gained as a result of the actions.

"Managing its rapid growth has been a challenge for MySpace, which has fallen prey to people who launch spam attacks," said an OptInRealBig.com spokesperson.

Richter agreed to pay $7 million in a settlement with Microsoft Corp. over spam messages.

Industry executives ask Bush to accept climate change action

H. Josef Hebert

WASHINGTON — Chief executives of 10 major corporations urged Congress on Monday to require limits on greenhouse gas emissions this year, contending voluntary efforts to combat climate change are inadequate.

The call for immediate action came on the eve of President Bush’s State of the Union address in which he is expected to reiterate that the industry on its own is making progress in curtailting the growth of heat-trapping emissions without the need of government intervention.

But the executives and leaders of four major environmental organizations said in a letter to Bush that mandatory emissions caps are needed to reduce the flow of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere.

“We can and must take prompt action to establish a coordinated, economy-wide market-driven approach to climate protection,” the executives, part of a coalition called the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, said in a letter to the president.

The executives, representing major utilities, aluminum and chemical companies and financial institutions, said the cornerstone of climate policy should be an economically viable emissions cap-and-trade system.


At a news conference, the executives said that mandatory reductions of heat-trapping emissions can be imposed without economic harm and would lead to economic opportunities if done across the economy and with provisions to mitigate costs.

Many of the companies already have voluntarily moved to curb greenhouse emissions, they said. But the executives also said they do not believe voluntary efforts will suffice.

"It must be mandatory, so there is no doubt about our actions," said Jim Rogers, chairman of Duke Energy. "The science of global warming is clear. We know enough to act now. We must act now."

"It is not the executive branch, but the executive branch of the executive branch," said John Paul II suggested in a new book that Soviet spies could have been behind the 1981 assassination attempt in which the pontiff was gravely wounded by a Turkish gunman.

But Stanislaw Dziwisz offered no facts to back up his theory, according to excerpts of "A Life with Karol" provided by Italian publishing house Rizzoli on Monday.

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Supreme Court strikes down California sentencing law

Mark Sherman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, in a new chief justice's
joining the majority, made clear
Monday that judges, not juries, must
determine facts that justify harsher
prison sentences.

In a 6-3 ruling, the court struck
down the so-called Determinate
Sentencing Law, the latest in a series
of decisions limiting judges' discre­
tion in sentencing.

In California, thousands of
inmates may be eligible to have their
sentences reduced, in many cases by
about a year.

"This court has repeatedly
held that, under the Sixth Amend­ment
any fact that exposes a defendant to a
greater potential sentence must be
found by the jury, not a judge, and
established beyond a reasonable
doubt, not merely by a preponder­
ance of the evidence," Justice Ruth
Bader Ginsburg wrote for the court.

The majority was one vote larger
than the 5-4 rulings that have been
the exception in sentencing cases. In
its first major case dealing with the con­
stitutionality of prison terms, Chief
Justice John Roberts joined
Ginsburg's majority opinion.

By contrast, the other new justice,
former federal prosecutor Samuel
Alito, issued a strong dissent.
California's law "is indistinguishable
in any constitutionally significant
respect" from the federal sentencing
guidelines that have been approved
by the Supreme Court.

Alito's dissent also suggested that
the court may not be doing tinkering
with the federal sentencing scheme, if
the justices apply the same line of
reasoning to two federal sentencing
cases they will hear next month.

Justices Stephen G. Breyer and
Anthony M. Kennedy also dissented.

Several states have changed their
sentencing laws to require prosecu­
tors to prove to a jury aggravating
factors that could lead to longer sen­
tences. The court did not prescribe a
way to fix the California law. "The
equilibrium lies in California's court,"
Ginsburg said.

Justices Antonin Scalia, David H.
Souter, John Paul Stevens and
Anthony M. Kennedy also dissented.

California had argued that a 2005
state Supreme Court decision inter­
preting the state law effectively
brought the state into compliance
with the U.S. high court's rulings.

The law instructs judges to sentence
inmates to the middle of three
options, unless factors exist that justi­
fy the shorter or longer prison term.
The judge in Cunningham's case
imposed the longest possible term.

The state warned that its criminal
justice system would be burdened by
having to re-sentence thousands of
inmates.

There were just under a quarter­
million felony convictions in the
state in 2005. Data from the 1980s
cited by the California Supreme
Court suggest that roughly 15 per
cent of cases involving just one
felony count result in sentences in
which a judge, not a jury, finds an
aggravating factor to justify the addi­tional
punishment.

But Justice Gold, Cunningham's
lawyer, told the court that in many
cases the standard term and longer
option differ by just a year. In practi­
cial terms, many of those who might
be affected by Monday's ruling might
already have finished serving their
time in prison.

Several justices suggested during
oral argument in October that the
state could tweak the law, rather than
overhaul it, to remove constitutional
violations.

Just ask Elie Saab. The Lebanese
designer became a household name overnight when
Halle Berry wore one of his dresses to accept her
Oscar for Best Actress in 2002. He is now a
Hollywood fixture, dressing clients from
Beyonce Knowles to Sheryl Crow.

On Monday, Saab showed diaphanous gowns
that tapped into the current mood for draping
and Empire-line waists.

"There was a lot of draping because I tried to
create modern goddesses," the designer
explained after the show.

Italian designer Valentino took a "less is more"
approach with a white collection that paid
homage to his landmark 1968 show in
Florence's Piti Palace.

References to that era — when clients
included Jackie Kennedy — included an ivory
silk brocade coat with tubular piping, high­
wasted bubble skirt and diamond bauble ear­
ings. And there was the obligatory Greco­
pleated gown in white chiffon.

Supernatural types may be interested to know
that Valentino has a track record of dressing the
most Oscar winners — three over the last 15
years.

Bucking the industry trend, front row guest Diane Kruger
was making her choice without the help of a professional stylist.

"I have a really great relationship with the people from Dior
or Chanel, so I tend to just call them directly. It's faster and I
used to model, so I know what I like," the "Troy" star told The
Associated Press at the Dior show.

Kruger admitted the approach was not footloose.

"I wore one outfit to the Golden Globes one year that I pre­
vented, and it was a really great dress, but I think it wasn't the
right occasion," she said, diplomatically declining to name
the designer responsible for her fashion faux pas.
Port O’Brien captures SLO’s heart

I feel like I’ve been babbling about Port O’Brien since the first time I saw them perform. It’s hard not to because everyone else is talking about them as well. Not only have they been getting better, they have been getting bigger. A review in the defining independent music blog Pitchfork Media put them in the view of the music hipsters out.

side San Luis Obispo and the Bay Area. In addition, they just landed a spot on the revered Folk Yeah festival alongside some great and well-loved folk artists. This rise in popularity once again packed the Steinberg Gallery with many more people than I expected as Port O’Brien played their last local show for a while. They played along-

der of the band having copious amounts of pus extracted from his throat. And she followed that with a song that seemed somewhat reminiscent of Rilo Kiley member Jenny Lewis. And she followed that with more guitar stories, one of which involved a seedy bar in San Luis Obispo and a man in a green mesh shirt.

Port O’Brien then took the stage in their full band form which featured members of the BloodyHeads. Somehow, lead singer Van Pernotakoski got crazier and wilder than ever before. He sped through songs while mixing the whole affair with bizarre, crazed humor that kept the audience engaged. In addition, he enlisted the help of the house-clarinet player to help flesh out the sound even more. The show definitely changed my perception of the band to some extent. Before, they were a really good local band that I knew some members of. After the show, I realized the band is a lot more and that they definitely have become a unique band I love...

‘Letters’ delivers poignant antiwar message

John Conroy

Following in the Americanized footsteps of last fall’s “Flags of our Fathers” comes its extremely powerful and contemplative companion piece, “Letters from Iwo Jima.”

Directed by Clint Eastwood, “Letters from Iwo Jima” follows a small group of Japanese soldiers during World War II. The men were burdened with the difficult task of defending the island of Iwo Jima from oncoming U.S. troops who wanted to use the island as a platform to launch an attack on Japan. There is an extremely pessimistic feeling to the proceedings, underscored by a lack of supplies from the mainland and the constant fight against discipline. The sentiment is echoed by the men themselves, as one soldier digging a trench observes: “This is the hole that we will fight and die in.”

The Japanese troops are told to move off the beach and into the mountains by General Tadamichi Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe), who begins clashing with the other officers who accuses him of being an American sympathizer — he had lived in America for a time.

“Letters from Iwo Jima” touches subtly and beautifully upon concepts such as the dehumanization of the enemy in battle and the desensitization of war upon not only the characters, but the viewers as well — it test whether a present-day American audience can be sympa-

thetic toward a former enemy. The Japanese audience can be sympa-

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The ladies of Wisteria Lane are back and feeling frisky

Any Asman
MUSTANG DAILY

A shoot-out in the supermarket. An antenna-striker convict caught in the middle of a steamy love triangle. A suck of human teeth hidden under the pantry floorboards.

Sound like the plot to a melodramatic soap opera, or maybe a creepy horror flick, right? Well, not exactly. It's simply a handful of the devilishly clever storylines from the current season of ABC's hit show, "Desperate Housewives." The brainchild of comedy wiz Marc Cherry (The Golden Girls), "Desperate Housewives" hit the Hollywood television scene in 2004 to rave reviews from critics and viewers alike. Not only did the dramedy feature creative plot elements and a wimpy script (a refreshing change from the current sea of clever storylines from the current soap operas), it bored another new phenomenon: sexy and strong women characters over the age of 40.

Overnight, the show seemed to reanimate the quality of prime-time television, as well as the floundering careers of its ensemble cast, led by the powerhouse presence of Teri Hatcher ("The Adventures of Lolo and Clark").

Cast and crew members received a slew of nominations and awards. Men around the world were introduced to the fiery Eva Longoria. And women around the world learned to view plumbers' cranks in a completely different light thanks to the lovely physique of James Denton — definitely a win-win situation for everyone.

However, as in obviously rock second season came to a close, it appeared that "Desperate Housewives" Meda touch might have an alarmingly short lifespan. Could the once sizzling show survive the elements (not to mention entertaining the talents of the amazing Alfred Woodward)? The forecast on summer Lane was all but sunny.

Fortunately, after a brief summer hiatus and a somewhat awkward pre-season lead-in that magically slipped the span of six months, the show is back and setting a pace that may make them better than ever.

It seems that Cherry and crew have done some much-needed trimming, say goodbye to the drooping storylines (Andrew's sick fascination with the tradition of the Hollywood musical, I really can't pinpoint a concrete reason for the rehabs of musicals. It is just as hard to explain the appeal of musicals in the first place as it is to try to investigate their comeback. Perhaps in today's world, we all need a few story gaps and that the men of Wisteria Lane are hurting for screen time. Still, the television season is young and the plot-line pickings are ripe.

Fear not, ladies and gentlemen, "Desperate Housewives" is taking a cue from one of its newest characters and bringing itself back from the dead.

Movie musicals starting to make a comeback on the big screen

Mark Rice
CONSENT DRY SON (CORNELL U.)

I really don't need to recommend "Dreamgirls" to you; the Golden Globes already has by awarding Bill Condon's flashy and fun musical award for Jennifer Hudson and the Condon's flashy and fun musical one of rock's greatest tragedies won a movie based upon what music ed her award to Ballard. The Dreams that is pushed out in ter III the entire movie, and Condon drugs, and poverty. She died nearly after being kicked out of the ^

the real Effie White — Florence was hence Terri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman and Marcia Cross) joined by Mike the plumber (James Denton). "Desperate Housewives" airs Sundays at 9 p.m. on ABC.

The Ladies of Wisteria Lane (from left: Eva Longoria, Nicolete Sheridan, Terri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman and Marcia Cross) joined by Mike the plumber (James Denton). "Desperate Housewives" airs Sundays at 9 p.m. on ABC.

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by the red of an explosion or blood. It is only punctuated
equivalent of a meditation: he moves
extravagant mountains as if they
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Eastwood creates the cinematic
similarly poetic and demulcent “The
Thin Red Line” than the raucous
Eastwood draws closer to the island. Eastwood
achieves an effect that is powerful without being melodramatic, aiming
for the head and less for the heart.
But "Letters from Iwo Jima" doesn’t avoid the human angle.
When a Japanese soldier, Nishi, cap­
utes a battle from the enemy’ s per­
Taking a potential risk here, he por­
work since 1992’s “Unforgivable.”

Wii will rock you — and burn calories
Melissa Perry
THE INDEPENDENT COLLEAGUE
In 1985 when Nintendo intro­
duced in Entertainment System, we
jumped for joy that there was more
than just a single joystick to break
your wrist to.
Then every system tried to top
one another by trying to bring next
generation of virtual reality.

KISS ME
I work at the
Mustang Daily!

NEW
BUNUELOS
FLOR OR TORTILLA, DEEP FRIED
UNTIL GOLDEN BROWN,
THEN SPRINKLED
WITH CINNAMON
SUGAR

TAPANGOS
Located between Dexter and the Library.
Open:
8am-2:30pm
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Gift Certificates Available
Free Brown Wax with Facial
Mike’s checklist for new relationships

MUSTANG DAILY
(The voice of Cal Poly)

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HUMOR COLUMN

Mike’s guide to life

BY MIKE HEINWOITZ

For the last year and a half — and — I don’t know — two days ago, I was a single man. I lived my life without the responsibility of having a girlfriend. But just recently, I am back on the market, and am now in a relationship. It is a new time for me, as I must adjust to this life with my new girl by my side. And there are certain things that I must share with you, my loyal reader, as I go through them in my relationship.

Before I really jump into this “Guide to Life,” I must point out the great love column that is the Mustang Daily every Thursday. “Love in the Time of College,” written by Sarah Carbone. While she seemingly knows her stuff in each of her columns, she does realize that it is time to get a man’s perspective on this whole dating thing. I’ll try not to cross any lines here or step on your toes, as I’ll let you in on my experiences of the early stages of a relationship.

To help me do so, and to aid me in this, instead of referring to my girlfriend by her real name, I’ll just use the word “Woman” as a proper noun to describe her.

First things first, and probably the most defining part of any relationship — make sure to quickly identify the one she is in on both Facebook and MySpace. Everybody knows that there is no faster way in the world to spread the news of a relationship than the Facebook news feed. We went through the national progression of having our status say “Boyfriend” on Facebook, then “Blank,” and then, of course, finally having it say, “In a relationship with Woman.” With the status change, “Congratulations” quickly came to me from all around. If it isn’t right on Facebook, it isn’t right in reality.

With MySpace, the Top has already changed. Instead of “MySpace” or “Top 8,” it has already been changed to “Status.” The Top 4 is past; the word “Woman” as a proper noun to describe her is in.

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One way for me to do this is to refer to her as “my bitch.” Hold on, before you start flooding the Daily with letters about how chauvinistic I am, I’ll just bear with you. In no way am I calling Woman a “bitch” but rather I am using it as a term of endearment as I really can’t call anyone else that.

So, well, she still didn’t really like that idea, but we compromised, which is ever so important that I can refer to her as “my bitch” if she is not anywhere near me. Buddy bing, buddy boom and the give and take in the relationship is oh so strong.

Fashion is another thing we talked about, and it should be something you talk about with your new girlfriend too. I noticed the other night that she was wearing Lüggi. While I pretty much hate them unless they are properly worn by you, Eskimos, I just don’t understand them. Instead of me telling her to never ever wear them again though, I looked for another option, and told her to never ever wear them with her pants tucked into the top. Communication really is the key.

On the same subject of fashion, I told Woman that with hoop earrings, great philosophers and long-time friend Ben Kim once said, “The bigger the O, the bigger the H.” I just thought about it.

Well, I really truly hope you learned something from this article. I mean, I’m not saying it’s a subject I am clueless about, but this might be close to it. So far so good though, so take the advice and you too will be on your way to the start of a great relationship.

Mike Heinwoitz is Features editor and Mustang Daily humor columnist. Go beyond his Facebook status and check out www.mikeheinwoitz.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop sending us spam

Enough is enough! I’ve had it with spam from my Cal Poly e-mail address. I was forced to have an e-mail address to a system that is either nonfunctional or does not change its name. Now to make matters worse, I get spam for all kinds of craziest, from drugs to be a traveling agent. I am tired of it! So what, we didn’t pass the student reference to increase fees last year so my e-mail account was no more than to make up the funds. I can’t believe that a technical school has so many technical problems. As far as I see point are administrators responsible to protect our privacy? Something needs to be done! I am open to suggestions.

Mark Henderson

Liberal studies senior

SUGGEST COMMENTARY

‘Grey’s Anatomy’ star’s insults humorsless

Mark Potts

(APRIL 18, 2007)

Inisher Washington (Dr. Preston Burke on “Grey’s Anatomy”) made a mistake. Sure, he said a derogatory word about homosexual people, but that’s not the mistake I’m talking about.

The mistake is that he didn’t make it clear and that’s why people are having a hard time with this. Mel Gibson’s drunken trade was funny, but Mel Gibson is a rich man and they called women’s breast was hysterical and the fact that he made fun of “Welfare” was a nice touch. Michael Richards, on the other hand, was funny because he just went too far. I think something he said was ridiculous and off the wall. Now here comes Washington who just spreads hot potatoes in a slightly less heated location. Boing.

For those of you who are mad, I mean funny, in a very cynical and sarcastic way. Of course, the comment these people made aren’t funny, just the way they did it (turn Washington). Can’t you imagine a red-faced Mel Gibson cuffed up, screaming anti-Semitic remarks. And we saw Richards’ videos. He was standing on a stage, faking about. It’s funny, honest.

In the end, all three men apologized, recognizing that they need help to keep their demons on lock. Blah, blah, blah.

Listen, I like Mel Gibson, so it was upsetting to see him get blackballed like he did. But, he’s suffered for what he did, “Apocalypto” didn’t make a dollar and now a lot of people hate him. Michael Richards ... well, he fell back into oblivion and made Jerry Seinfeld mad at him. So what should Washington’s punishment be? Simple: cancel “Grey’s Anatomy.” That’s the only thing that can be done. You say fire him? I say no! Get rid of the show all together, it’s not needed.

Larry St. Donatto, at mad at me. Washington is the one that brought this on, not me. If he didn’t say what he said, I wouldn’t be calling for cancellation. Am I a fan of the show? I ask, No, no I am not! Why? Cause it’s a ripoff of “Scrubs.”

Hospital! Check. Humor mixed with the occasional drama! Check. A black and a white doctor who are friends! Check. Female characters that name their veggies funny name? Check. It’s all these people, don’t deny it.

And if you do deny it, then I guess you support Isaiah Washington. What do you do now? What do you do?

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor!

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

January 23, 2007

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MUSTANG DAILY

Editor in chief: Emily Rancer
Managing editor: Jennifer Hall

9 www.mustangdaily.net

*That happened to me once with a drug*
San Diego on Friday.

...two singles apiece for the Mustangs.

...a 5-3 game and belted an 115-98 win over Grizzlies...

...Cal Poly pulled away.

...the alumni and Sean Alexander and...

...Iverson and Anthony laced together, Iverson and Anthony...

...he returned from a 15-game suspension...

...he was moved to the dual match by the No. 45 Bulldogs by a team score of 5-2.

...the Mustangs scored four times in the second inning, thanks in part to RBI singles off the bats of second baseman Pat Perret and center fielder Logan Schafer and added a run in the third on a double by Kepner and an RBI single by Morel.

...the next home meet for Cal Poly will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday against Pac-10 for Cal State Bakersfield in Mont Gym.

**Current Poly baseball players beat alumni, 11-3**

The Mustangs officially open the season at the University of San Diego on Friday.

**SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT**

Freshman catcher Wes Dorrcll drove in four runs with a pair of doubles and left fielder Mark Nobriga pitched to scoreless innings to lead Cal Poly to an 11-3 baseball victory over the alumni squad Saturday afternoon in Biggorn Stadium.

Dorrcll doubled home a pair of runs in the seventh inning to break the Mustangs' first home series will be San Diego on Friday.

**San Diego on Friday.**

...season at the University of SW'kTS...nominated for highting and Iverson added 23 in points.

...Nujqçets owner Dave Thompson, one of clients such as Pittsburgh Steelen...

...the Bulldogs by a final team score of 38-0. Cal Poly suffered five major decisions, but no falls were recorded...

**Shorthill continued from page 12**

Shorthill said, "(Sarsi) actually follows Cal Poly football because he has a lot of friends who go to Cal Poly."

...So far, so very, very good.

**Finally together, Iverson and Anthony light up scoreboard in 115-98 win over Grizzlies**

The two combined for 51 points in a home win.

...continued from page 12

Shorthill was interviewed last week by representatives of the Carolina Panthers and Baltimore Ravens. Baltimore uses a 3-4 base defense similar to Cal Poly's double-eagle flex scheme, which goes from a 3-4 to a 2-8 front during the course of a game...

...11.4 rebounds and 2.8 blocks, the most important statistic to him is field-goal percentage defense. That is a category his team has fared well in, limiting opponents to 42.3 percent shooting. He credited junior shooting guard Dewin Whithen for much of that, saying, "He's developed into a team defender."

...Something Bromley is concerned with is depth underneath the basket.

Although starting sophomore center Titus Shelton and junior sixth man Dreshawn Vance have combined to average 16.3 points, 11.4 rebounds and 2.8 blocks, the luxury of another post presence is all in limbo, Bromley said.

...Those two kids play above the rim," Bromley said of Shelton and Vance. "There's got to be another guy."

Cal Poly will try to win its fourth straight when it visits three-time defending conference champion Pacific (6-11, 2-2 Big West) at 7 p.m. Thursday.

**Basketball continued from page 12**

...to a 20-point first-quarter lead, never trailing and turning it on in the fourth quarter with a series of alley-oop jams from Iverson to Anthony that capped the duo's debut.

**Mustang wrestling squad goes 0-3 at tournament**

Cal Poly lost to a pair of ranked teams at the Chippewa Challenge hosted by Central Michigan on Sunday.

**SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT**

The Cal Poly wrestling team went 0-3 at the Chippewa Challenge, a round-robin dual meet tournament, Sunday on the campus of Central Michigan in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

...The Mustangs' first dual was 34-6 defeat to No. 18 Tennessee-Chattanooga, which boasts five nationally ranked wrestlers. Cal Poly lost eight of the nine matches wrestled and forfeited the 125-pound weight division.

...during his 36-day layoff. "It's like a new beginning for us," Anthony said. "And we're going to give it all we've got and see how the game goes."
The two-time Super Bowl-winning head coach was 54-32 with the Cowboys.

Jaine Aro
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill Parcells could have returned to the Dallas Cowboys for one more shot at becoming the first coach to lead three teams into the Super Bowl.

He could have come back to try ending the longest playoff drought in the franchise's proud history. Or he could have come back to finish what he started in developing quarterback Tony Romo and a 3-4 defense.

Instead, a couple of weeks after a gut-wrenching playoff loss in Seattle, Parcells decided Monday to call it a career, ending a four-year run in Dallas and a 19-year tenure in the NFL that produced two championships.

"I am retiring from coaching football," Parcells said in a statement. "I want to thank Jerry Jones and Stephen Jones for their tremendous support over the last four years. Also, the players, my coaching staff and others in the support group who have done so much to help Dallas is a great city and the Cowboys are an integral part of it. I am hopeful that they are able to go forward from here."

Reasons for a gruff demeanor and colorful quotes, Parcells leaves with the ninth-most wins in NFL history and a career record of 183-136-1. He was 34-32 in Dallas, counting two playoff losers. He had one year left at more than $5 million on a contract extension signed last January.

"I am in good health and feel lucky to have been able to coach in the NFL for an extended period of time," the 65-year-old coach said.

Although he failed to make the Cowboys champions again, Parcells leaves the Cowboys better than he found it. The club went from three straight 5-11 seasons before he arrived to making the playoff races twice.

"His contributions to the game of football and to the NFL are immeasurable," team owner Jerry Jones said in a statement. "We will always be grateful for his dedicated effort and commitment to the Dallas Cowboys." 

Parcells expected big things in 2006 and, thanks to the emergence of Romo, Dallas had a two-game division lead in December. Then the Cowboys lost four of their final five games, including the last three. The capper came against the Seahawks after Dallas bungled the hold of a short field goal with a little more than a minute left.

"I did the best I could," Parcells said following that game. "But it wasn't quite good enough." 

The going theory was that Parcells wouldn't end his career that way. The longer he waited to make an announcement, the likelier it seemed that he would return — especially since he was going to his office every day.

Then came Monday's statement via a morning e-mail. He didn't even hold one last news conference to entertain with old stories and witty lines.

But Parcells isn't exactly rushing out the door.

"Bill will continue to come to work here at Valley Ranch through at least this week," Jones said. "And we will continue to meet and address the present status of our team while also discussing the future." 

"Clearly, we wanted Bill to return for next season, but I am completely understanding and respectful of his decision to retire from coaching."

A team spokesman said Jones and Parcells will discuss various aspects of the organization — though not necessarily whether Parcells thinks should take his place.

Expect Jones to handle that himself, in his doing, after degrees of success since buying the team in 1989.

His first two hires, Jimmy Johnson and Barry Switzer, combined to win six Super Bowls, keeping up the reputation started by Tom Landry. But the Cowboys haven't even won a playoff game since Johnson, who has taken the Switzer, Chan Gailey, Dave Campo and now Parcells all tried and failed.
GREG BEACHAM

The Oakland Raiders hired Lane Kiffin as their coach Monday night, making the 31-year-old Southern California offensive coordinator the NFL's youngest head coach.

Kiffin, the Salem News' Bay Area defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, earned the job with a strong interview Monday after the Raiders failed to reach a deal last week with 32-year-old Steve Sarkisian, Kiffin's fellow assistant to Pete Carroll at USC.

Raiders owner Al Davis quickly moved to land another up-and-coming offensive mind with stellar college credentials, but just one season of NFL experience — as a defensive quality control coach with Jacksonville in 2000.

Raiders senior personnel executive Michael Lombardi confirmed the hiring in an e-mail to The Associated Press. The agreement was first reported by the Contra Costa Times and ESPN.

Kiffin is the Raiders' 14th head coach — and the youngest in franchise history.

The former Fresno State quarterback is younger than at least nine players who finished the season with Oakland during its NFL-worst 2-14 campaign, including defensive tackle Warren Sapp, fullback Zack Callahan, Norv Turner and Shell, who returned to the Raiders last year.

Kiffin was at USC for six years. While former Raiders assistant Sarkisian coached from the sideline last season, Kiffin called the plays for the Rose Bowl champion Trojans.

Sarkisian had two strong interviews with the Raiders last week, but decided to stay at USC on Friday night. Both claimed Sarkisian never was offered the job, though numerous media reports said Sarkisian turned the club down.

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