SLOPD awarded grant, plans to cut down on DUIs, collisions

Amanda Retzer

Expect more lights, cameras and action on San Luis Obispo streets as the city police department received a $54,000 state grant, funding a two-year program focused on reducing traffic collisions and drunken drivers.

The California Office of Traffic Safety awarded the grant to the San Luis Obispo Police Department in October to help with the purchase of new equipment and enforcement of specific traffic measures. The Selective Enforcement Program (STEP) involves nearly 50 special enforcement units that will focus on high traffic areas, said grant director Sgt. John Bledsoe of the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

The highest collision rates occur on Monterey Street, Foothill Boulevard and the intersection of Santa Rosa and Marsh streets. Officers will focus more on catching drunken drivers, red-light runners and those not wearing seatbelts.

“We have an overwhelming amount of traffic collisions because of the traffic volume,” Bledsoe said.

The grant enables the city to purchase four speed limit/radar display signs to deter speeding drivers, as well as employing extra enforcement for additional traffic checkpoints. Officers will also receive a “hot sheet,” listing offenders who have repeatedly driven under the influence. “DUIs are a huge problem on the street. Last year alone there were more than 300 DUIs,” Bledsoe said.

Drunk drivers not only create a problem for themselves, but also for those around them. The city police department arrested at least 75 people last year for DUl collisions and that only includes those who were caught. STEP aims to make the streets safer by catching those who are drinking and driving, and deterring those who are thinking about it.

“I think it will make me feel safer driving at night, especially when I’m driving home from a party or downtown,” psychology junior Dale Parker said.

This program will put more officers on the streets to see Grant, page 4.

Student stabbed at party over weekend

Samantha Freitas

A Cal Poly student was stabbed Saturday night after a small confrontation at a party on the 400 block of Hathaway at 10:29 p.m., according to the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

Mechanical engineering sophomore Nathaniel Urciuoli was stabbed in the chest by a man who resisted leaving the party after being asked by Urciuoli and a few friends because of his suspicious behavior.

“I asked him to leave but he refused. I told him if he didn’t leave I would force him,” Urciuoli said.

The man appeared to agree to leave and started to hop the fence when he unexpectedly turned and punched Urciuoli with what police said was most likely a knuckle-blade before fleeing the scene. Urciuoli did not initially realize he had been stabbed.

“The actual pain was more from the punch,” he said.

After he felt a warm sensation and saw blood on his hands he notified a friend, civil engineering junior John Schiesser, that he had been stabbed and needed to go to the hospital.

Schiesser, who is an Eagle Scout, attended to Urciuoli immediately and had a friend drive them to the hospital.

see Stabbing, page 4

Whimsical novel ‘The Book of Lost Things’ sure to dazzle the imagination

IN SPORTS, 12

IN SPOTLIGHT, 6

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Restaurant

should come as no surprise that such a place would also bear Cream Cheese’s tag: he’s everywhere where graffiti is, everywhere it’s not, and already planning where it will be next. To him, the allure of graffiti is much more than an adrenaline rush.

“It’s like, why does a drug addict do drugs? Same thing. Why does an alcoholic drink every day? Why does a workaholic neglect his kids? It’s all the same thing. I just want to paint every day if I can,” Cream Cheese said. “I don’t have a good reason for writing graffiti. I’ve never got­ten laid off of it, it’s never brought me anything but trouble, but I just can’t stop doing it.” But if San Luis Obispo Police have their way, the last thing he will paint is his cellmate’s name.

“They’re crazy out here,” said Cream Cheese. “I think they want a trophy, I think that they would make a trophy out of it if they got me.” To be arrested now would almost certainly mean a felony count of vandalism for him. The damage he has caused in San Luis Obispo is well over the $400 cutoff for a misdemeanor charge and he’s already been booked in New York for vandalism.

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Question of the day:

Do gas prices affect how much you drive?

"I shop around for the cheapest gas and only drive when I need to."

"No, but it affects how much I drive by myself. I try to carpool more."

"No, I'm enjoying the cheapest gas and only drive when I need to."

"No, because now that I live in SLO and go to college, I just have to drive across town. Everything is compact here and my tank lasts for so long."

- Ari Elden civil engineering senior

- Bryan Goldfinger business senior

"No, because I still need to get to work and school. So I'll just keep paying."

- Tessa Bunge recreation administration junior

"America must not fail"

Terence Hunt ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A politically weakened President Bush implored a skeptical Congress Tuesday night to embrace his unpopular plan to send more U.S. troops to Iraq, saying it represents the best hope in a war America must not lose. "Give it a chance to work," he said.

Facing a political showdown with Democrats and Republicans alike, Bush was unfurling on Iraq in his annual State of the Union address. He also sought to revive his embattled presidency with proposals to expand health insurance coverage and to slash gasoline consumption by 20 percent in a decade.

Democrats — and even some Republicans — scoffed at his Iraq policy.


The speech included up to a dozen House and Senate members who have announced they are running for president or are considered possible contenders.

Bush divided his speech between domestic and foreign issues but the war was topic No. 1. Pelosi set the tone for Democrats. She sat silently and did not applaud as Bush warned of high stakes in Iraq and said American forces must not step back before Baghdad is secure.

With Congress poised to deliver a stinging rebuke on his troop increase, he made a personal plea to lawmakers.

"I have spoken with many of you in person. I respect you and the arguments you make," Bush said. "We went into this largely united, in our assumptions and in our convictions. And whatever you voted for, you did not vote for failure."

"Our country is pursuing a new strategy in Iraq and I ask you to give it a chance to work," Bush said. "And I ask you to support our troops in the field and those on their way."

He said the Iraq war had changed dramatically with the outbreak of sectarian warfare and reprisals.

"This is not the fight we entered in Iraq, but it is the fight we are in," the president said.

"Every one of us wishes that this war were over and won. Yet it would not be like us to leave our promises unkept, our friends abandoned and our own security at risk."

"This war was topic No. 1.

"Reaching out to the SemiKrats. Bush opened with a tribute to Pelosi and paused to shake her hand. He also asked for prayers for Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson, hospitalized for more than a month after suffering a brain hemorrhage, and Republican Georgia Rep. Charlie Norwood, suffering from cancer.

"The majority of our military." said Webb, a Vietnam veteran opposed to Bush's invasion of Iraq.

Republican Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota, also took issue with Bush. "The majority of the nation no longer supports the war this war is being fought; nor does the majority of our military," said Webb, a Vietnam veteran opposed to Bush's invasion of Iraq.

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State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles International Airport would curb pollution, reduce water and energy use and use "green" designs for future buildings under a sweeping new environmental policy.

The city agency that operates the airport called Monday for a detailed environmental policy to be delivered within two months, and also adopted a policy of designing buildings with conservation in mind.

Last year, City Councilman Bill Rosendahl called for an environmental effort "to make LAX the greenest airport in the world."

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge said she will review the government’s inquiry into the clients’ right to a fair trial.

The government was shut out for best picture, with seven nominations, including best picture, a directing slot for Martin Scorsese and a supporting-actor honor for Mark Wahlberg.

ATLANTA (AP) — A potentially explosive dispute in the City Too Busy to Hate is taking shape over a proposal to break Fulton County in two and split off Atlanta’s predominantly white, affluent suburbs to the north from some of the metropolitan area’s poorest, black neighborhoods.

Legislation that would allow the suburbs to form their own county, to be called Milton County, was introduced by members of the Georgia Legislature’s Republican majority earlier this month.

Briefs

National

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The musical "Dreamgirls" led Academy Awards contenders Tuesday with eight nominations, but surprisingly was shut out for best picture, positioning the ensemble drama "Babel" or the mob saga "The Departed" as potential front-runners.

"Babel" was close behind with seven nominations, including best picture and acting honors for two newcomers to U.S. audiences, Adriana Barraza and Rinko Kikuchi. "The Departed" had five nominations, among them best picture, a directing slot for Martin Scorsese and a supporting-actor honor for Mark Wahlberg.

INTERNATIONAL

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Hezbollah-led protesters paralyzed Lebanon Tuesday, clashing with government supporters and burning tires and cars on roads in and around the capital to enforce a general strike aimed at toppling U.S.-backed Prime Minister Fuad Siniora. Three people were killed and dozens injured.

What had been planned as a peaceful work-stoppage around the country turned into the worst violence since the pro-Syrian Shiite Hezbollah and its allies launched a campaign two months ago to oust the government.

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — China has sent men into orbit and launched dozens of satellites, but its test of a satellite-killing weapon is shaking up perceptions about where the Chinese space program is headed.

The test, confirmed by Beijing on Tuesday after nearly a two-week silence, has drawn criticism from the U.S. and Japan, and touched off fears of an arms race in space.

The Chinese test “was an overly military, very provocative event that cannot be spun any other way,” said Rob Hewson, the London-based editor of Jane’s Air-Launched Weapons.

Grants

continued from page 1

"I just did what I’ve been trained to do. I took off my shirt and applied pressure the entire way to the hospital," he said.

Police have no current leads on the man and believe that he is most likely an out-of-towner.

The legal repercussions for drunk- driving in California depend on the amount of alcohol consumed and prior convictions. First time offenders over the age of 21 with a blood alcohol level of over 0.08 percent will receive a four-month driver’s license suspension. Those under 21 with any level over 0.01 percent receive an automatic one-year suspension. More details are available on the DMV California Web site at www.dmv.ca.gov.

USTILL COLDEN BROWN,

neediness for more police funding in the city.

"We are so understaffed and busy with other calls that we don’t have the enforcement to do what we would like to do," Blidhoe said. "We apply for the grants that we feel will really make an impact on the city in a positive way, and there is a strong need for more traffic safety, enforcement and education in this city."

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Send a letter to the editors!

Submit your thoughts, opinions, rants and raves in 500 words or less to www.mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com
WASHINGTON — The Army general who would carry out President Bush's new war plan urged a skeptical Congress and American public Tuesday to be patient, but acknowledged "the situation in Iraq is dire.

"None of this will be rapid," Lt. Gen. David Petraeus told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "The way ahead will be neither quick nor easy.

Many in Congress, including some Republicans, oppose Bush's plan, which would send an extra 21,500 U.S. troops to Iraq as part of a revised strategy for quelling sectarian violence in Baghdad and stabilizing the country. Before Bush's build-up began in recent days, there were 132,000 U.S. troops there.

In a sign of the strain of the Iraq war, the top generals in the Army and Marine Corps told a House committee Tuesday voiced concern about the military's ability to respond to other world crises.

"We have examined other war plans and our capability to respond to those plans, and we see that we are lacking in some areas in our ability to do so," said Gen. James Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps.

"We feel we would be able to respond with those forces that are not committed to Iraq or Afghanistan — that the response would be slower than we might like," he said.

Bush nominated Petraeus to replace Army Gen. George Casey as the senior American commander in Iraq. Petraeus is considered a shoe-in to win Senate confirmation as commander of Multinational Forces-Iraq, but senators used his appearance Tuesday before the Senate panel to question him on how Bush's new strategy would work.

Sen. Carl Levin, committee chairman and a leading war policy critic, pressed Petraeus on whether the flow of additional U.S. troops could be halted in midterm if the Iraqi government failed to meet its commitment to provide thousands more Iraqi troops.

"It could," Petraeus replied. Earlier he said there were no "specific conditions" the Iraqis must meet in order to keep the flow of U.S. forces moving. The last of five additional U.S. brigades are scheduled to arrive in the Iraqi capital in May; the first got there just days ago.

Petraeus said that in the event the Iraqis did not meet their commitments, he would consult with Defense Secretary Robert Gates on how to respond. "I said we would not have accepted the nomination to take command in Baghdad if he did not believe Bush's plan could achieve its goals.

In his opening statement, Petraeus, 54, painted a grim picture of conditions in Iraq.

"The situation in Iraq is dire. The stakes are high. There are no easy choices. The way ahead will be very hard. But hard is not hopeless," he said.

Petraeus is a former division commander and once the head of the training mission. Devoted early in the war to trying to win the hearts and minds of Iraqis, Petraeus later wrote the Pentagon manual on how to tackle insurgencies. He also previously supported expanding U.S. forces in the region.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a leading proponent of Bush's troop build-up plan, asked Petraeus how long he thought the U.S. build-up could be sustained.

"I am keenly aware of the strain on the Army and Marine Corps," Petraeus said, adding that he welcomes Bush's proposal to increase the size of the land forces over the coming five years.

Asked by McCain how soon he thought he would know whether the new strategy was working, Petraeus said, "We would have indicators at the least during the late summer. As currently planned, he said, the last of the five additional U.S. Army brigades would be ready to fight in Baghdad by the end of May.

"I wonder whether the clock has already run out," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, a sponsor of a GOP-led resolution saying the Senate disagrees with the build-up.

"I don't know what the time limitation is," Petraeus replied, adding that it would be reasonable to give the Iraqi government more time to gain its political footing and to make the tough decisions needed to quell sectarian violence.

Casey said last week that the new U.S. troops might be able to begin leaving as early as late summer.

White House hopeful Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., launched a sharp attack on the administration's Iraq record and called Bush's new strategy "a dead end."

Anne Flaherty ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

http://www.mustangdaily.net

Petraeus predicts tough days in Baghdad
PARK CITY, UTAH (AP) - Last year's big road-trip tale at the Sundance Film Festival was greeted with guffaws. This year's hit met with sob's.

Both "Little Miss Sunshine" from last year and the current Sundance entry "Grace Is Gone" are highway heartbreakers, "Sunshine" showing a family that comes together through hilarious adversity, "Grace" depicting a family shattered by the cruellest of tragedies.

Starring John Cusack, "Grace" tells the story of a stern, loving but emotionally distant father who learns his wife, an Army sergeant, has been killed in Iraq. Unable to tell his two young daughters, he takes them on a trip to an amusement park, buying a few days before he has to break the news.

First-time director James C. Strouse's script came Cusack's way at just the right moment. Angry that the Bush administration had banned media footage of coffins coming home bearing soldiers killed in Iraq, Cusack had been looking to tell the story behind one of those coffins.

"I thought, though, that my experience of war, as a 髈soldier, was not something that I was going to stop anything? Do you think if you don't show the coffins we won't feel anything?"

Cusack, 40, also was interested in doing something "that didn't have me in it in a lot of ways." His character, Stanley Phillips, is a humble family man, an atypical role for the actor who's known for dark, anti-establishment roles in films such as "The Grifters," "Being John Malkovich" and "High Fidelity."

Mostly acting opposite adults in the past, Cusack spends most of his time in "Grace" in the company of John Connolly (above) explores the more serious side of war and family grieving in his new Sundance Film Festival winner "Grace Is Gone."

New indie film depicts a 'Grace'-less war's impact

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"The Book of Lost Things" by John Connolly, a story poignant as it is imaginative and chilling.

The book begins in London just before the bombings of World War II. Young David is reeling after the death of his beloved mother. Confused, depressed, and without a channel for his grief, David retreats into this world of books — for it is through their shared love of reading that he feels closest to his mother. David's mother tells him that stories are alive, but "without a human voice to read them aloud, or a pair of wide eyes following them by flashlight beneath a blan­ket, they have no real existence in our world. They are like seeds in the beak of a bird, waiting to fall to earth, or the notes of a song laid out on a sheet, yearning for an instrument to bring their minis­ tiny into being."

As David's grief grows deeper, he begins to have seizures, and hears his mother telling him she is still alive and calling him to come and rescue her. At the same time, he starts to hear books talking to each other and catches glimpses of a mysterious "crooked man." When the real world and the fairytale world of David's imagination overlap, he must decide whether he wants to return to his imperfection or stay in the fantasy land for­ ever.

Connolly is best known for writing thrillers, and his experi­ ence in the genre is palpable in the first-person voice in "The Book of Lost Things," which runs through Sunday, includ­ ing scenes -- the well-known (Sleeping Beauty, Snow White) and the lesser known (Childe Rowland, The Goose Girl).

I was disappointed by the rushed, deus ex machina ending, and one painful foray into humor, but the ideas and tone of the rest of the book more than made up for its imperfections.

"The Book of Lost Things" ties into so many levels. Whether it is, as Strouse suggests, commentary on modern life or reading like an edge-of-your-seat adventure, it is a powerful story about stories and tales and the power that they wielded over us, and that we in turn wield over them.

"The Book of Lost Things" is a film alongside the "Behind the Scenes" section of the Web site www.thebookoflostthings.com, where Connolly describes the origin of the film and some basic primal instincts that remind us of our shared human experience.

In his book, Connolly traces legends from various sources, including references to Greek mythology, and reaches back to some of the stories' earliest ver­ sions — the well-known (Sleeping Beauty, Snow White) and the lesser known (Childe Rowland, The Goose Girl).

One word of advice: read the book alongside the "Behind the Scenes" section of the Web site www.thebookoflostthings.com, where Connolly describes the origins and some basic primal instincts that remind us of our shared human experience.

President Bush's handling of the war.

Many people left Saturday night's premiere of "Grace Is Gone" miffed and teary-eyed, the simple yet powerful story of a family's sorrow and rage at the death of a soldier. But it turns out these were exactly the right moments at the right time. The very same viewers who wept at the screening also booed at the screening of "Grace Is Gone." People left the theater with a sense that maybe, after all, there was something being said that was worth hearing.

"I hope it's the type of story that holds up for 30 or 40 years from now, but I hope that it does sort of hit a nerve," said director Strouse, who wrote "Losersome Jim," which premi­ ered at Sundance last year. "Part of the inspiration was to take it out of the war debate and just show real conse­ quences and let that speak for itself. Not one thing or the other, but just let people decide for them­ selves."

Like "Little Miss Sunshine," which was snapped up by Fox Searchlight last year, "Grace Is Gone" connected with film buyers as well as audiences. The Weinstein Co. bought "Grace Is Gone" for $4.1 million.

"Grace Is Gone" is one of several Iraqi-themed films at Sundance, which runs through Sunday, includ­ ing the documentaries "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib," "Rory Kennedy's examination of abuses by US. soldiers at the prison," and "No End in Sight," Charles Ferguson's examination of abuses by U.S. jailers.

"Grace Is Gone" is set in the present, in essence "about stories and tales and some basic primal instincts that remind us of our shared human experience."

In his book, Connolly journeys into the fairytale world of a young boy's misfits and fringe players in such heartbreakers, "Sunshine" showing a family that comes together through hilarious adversity, "Grace" depicting a family shattered by the cruellest of tragedies. But I hope that it does sort of hit a nerve," said director Strouse, who wrote "Losersome Jim," which pre­ miered at Sundance last year. "Part of the inspiration was to take it out of the war debate and just show real conse­ quences and let that speak for itself. Not one thing or the other, but just let people decide for them­ selves."

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The Oscar race begins: 'Dreamgirls' misses out on best picture nod

'Prairie Home Companion' creator to visit Cal Poly stage

Christina Casci

Acclaimed radio host and author Garrison Keillor will perform in the Performing Arts Center tonight at 8 p.m. Keillor last visited Cal Poly in 2002 for a sold-out show with the San Luis Obispo Symphony. Keillor is the best-known for his radio show, "A Prairie Home Companion," which was recently adapted into a film.

In the tradition of his popular radio show, expect to hear some anecdotes about life and a few songs. Painter Rich Dworsky who has performed with Keillor on numerous occasions will join him.

The show was started in 1969 as a 12-minute radio show. It transformed into a live broadcast radio show 1974, according to the show's Web site, http://prairiehome.publicradio.org.

Although the show ended in 1987, it was resurrected in New York a few years later. After getting some publicity, Keillor brought it back to Minnesota where it is still recorded today.

In 2006, the movie "A Prairie Home Companion" was released. It is a celebrity rendition of the radio show. It stars Keillor, Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin, Woody Harrelson, Tommy Lee Jones and Lindsay Lohan. The movie focused on the cast members of the soon-to-be-defunct radio show of the same name who get paid a visit from death (as played by Virginia Madsen) on the show's Web site, http://prairiehome.publicradio.org.

"Like the show that inspired it, 'A Prairie Home Companion' is not about anything in particular. Perhaps it is about everything in general: About remembering, and treasuring the past, and loving performers not because they are new, but because they have lasted," wrote film critic Roger Ebert in his review of the film.

Keillor has been nominated at the Grammys numerous times and was once the spoken word category. He was also inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1994.

Keillor has also written twelve books, three of which were written for children. This includes the now-famous "Lake Wobegon Days." The famous satirist and radio personality will only be here tonight, don't miss your chance to see him. For samples of his show, go to 'A Prairie Home Companion' Web site, as mentioned before.

Tickets for tonight's show can be bought at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, the show is almost sold out, so students can purchase rush tickets two hours prior to showtime.

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Grace continued from page 6

million early Sunday morning, just hours after the film's premiere.

With company founder and savvy Academy Awards campaigner Harvey Weinstein behind it, the film could earn Cusack the Oscar attention that has eluded him so far.

Cusack brings a marvel of mix of restraint, careful angst and hesitant paternal affection to Stanley, a man both proud of his wife's service for her country and devastated by the sacrifice forced on his family.

Missing out on awards attention does not seem to bother Cusack.

"I kind of feel comfortable not being in the VIP circle," Cusack said. "I don't want to be too inside the system. I have a good thing where I'm both in it and out of it at the same time.

"I also think that if you don't run for office, you shouldn't be bitter that you didn't get elected. I'm sure if Harvey gets this up, and he said he thinks the performances are really strong, he'll really push it, and he's great at that politics. So he'll push me in it, and maybe something will happen."

"In the Sundance catalogue," 'Grace Is Gone" is referred to as an "anthem movie," a description Cusack and Straw are a little reluctant to embrace for worries it could turn off viewers, giving them the impression the film is a political diatribe rather than a hushed portrait of grief.

"If that puts it into a certain box of being an angry polemic, no," Cusack said. "But do I think it's an anthem movie? Absolutely."

U2 already has a pair of greatest-hits albums, "Best of 1980-1990" and "Best of 1990-2000," so "U2:18" might seem like a cheap cash-in on previously released material. Unfortunately, it is. The band doesn't really need another compilation, and "U2:18" doesn't provide anything new or revelatory about the most popular band in the world.

U2, led by singer Bono and guitarist The Edge, started out as an above-average punk outfit before finding its footing as a socially-conscious band with a penchant for sweeping anthems. Driven by the rhythm section of Larry Mullen Jr. and Adam Clayton (the two members of the band that actually have names), U2 married ecclectic experimentalism with simple rock beats, a combination that proved to be both artistically and commercially successful.

On 1995's "Achtung Baby," it reinvented itself as an electronic/dance band. U2 continued along this path for the decade until re-engraving itself as a neo-classisc pop band, which was evident on its most recent two albums, 2000's "ALL That You Can't Leave Behind" and 2004's "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb.

Sadly, despite this history, there's a lot wrong with "U2:18." It isn't arranged chronologically, so it's nearly impossible to get a feel for the band's considerable artistic growth. This problem is compounded by the complete absence of several key U2 albums, including 1981's "Boy" (the band's debut), 1982's "October," and 1993's "Zooropa.

The music that is included is generally great, though it relies a bit too heavily on U2's later renaissance. Songs like "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" and "New Year's Day" have a timeless, anthem-type quality to them, while love songs like "One" and "With or Without You" hint at the band's depth. The best songs on the compilation (still one of the defining songs of the 1980s) is U2's tribute to Martin Luther King Jr., the fiery "Pride (In the Name of the Love)," which features fantastic guitar work by The Edge.

The two new songs on the album are respectable, but not nearly as good as the rest of the collection's material. A cover of The Skids' "The Saints Are Coming" featuring Green Day, "Window in the Skies" is a U2-by-numbers anthem that showcases a fine vocal performance by Bono despite an excess of strings.

Still, for a collection that purports to be a collection of singles, it's disappointing just how many of the band's biggest singles have been forgotten. "I Will Follow," "Gloria," "Bad," "Stay (Faraway So Close!)" and "Even Better Than the Real Thing" among them.

"U2:18" is also disappointing because it omits unreleased albums tracks, so the breadth and depth of U2 is lost in the commercialization of the singles.

It also fails to include anything from any of U2's side projects, which means "Miss Sarajevo" (featuring Luciano Pavarotti), one of its best songs from the 1990s, is also missing.

In the end, it's hard to see the point of a compilation like "U2:18." Faithful fans will most likely own most all of the band's material, and wouldn't feel compelled to buy the disc simply for a few new songs.

Those unfamiliar with U2 will be better off buying one of its previously released "Best Of" collections, or better yet, picking up 1995's "The Joshua Tree" and 1991's "Achtung Baby." There's no arguing with the greatness of the band's material included on the disc. However, it's hard not to wish for more of it.

Moore speaks about her battle with depression

NEW YORK (AP) — Mandy Moore has a lot going for her, including a starring role opposite Diane Keaton in the upcoming comedy "Because I Said So." Even so, she says she's grappled with depression.

"A few months ago I felt really low, really sad," says the 22-year-old actress-singer who released her latest album "Dreams" on Nov. 20. That is the band's third greatest hits album and features songs such as "Brand New Day" and "With or Without You."

Come to the information meetings scheduled on:
Thursday, January 25, 2007
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Graphic Arts Bldg 26 Rm 104
For more information: contact Miriam Rahban, London Study Program Coordinator, Math Building 38 Room 415, 756-6161, marrahban@calpoly.edu http://londonstudycalpoly.edu

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For more information: contact Miriam Rahban, London Study Program Coordinator, Math Building 38 Room 145, 756-6161, marrahban@calpoly.edu
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Mandy Moore recently spoke with Jane Magazine about her struggle with depression.

COURTESY PHOTO: Jane magazine, on newsstands Tuesday.
POLITICAL COLUMN

I sure must be interesting to work in the California Assembly. I mean, it must feel great to propose bills designed to tackle the very serious issues facing California. Take, for instance, Democratic assemblywomen Sally Lieber who plans to propose a bill this week to outlaw spanking. Currently, beating, torturing, abusing, and killing (along with many other things) are all illegal in California, but not spanking. Lieber says the bill would be written broadly and would define such things as "any striking of a child, any corporal punishment, smacking, hitting, punching, any of that." Essentially, any physical punishment, even a light slap on the wrist could soon be illegal. Violators of this new law, according to Lieber, would be subject to a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a $1,000 fine.

While many see this bill as an unnecessary intrusion into personal family matters, and nearly impossible to enforce, laws like this have been implemented in several European countries. Of course, many psychologists claim that spanking is incredibly harmful to young children, and should never be done. However, this claim is somewhat debatable. For instance, in the book "Freakonomics" (one of my favorite books), the author used the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (a massive study measuring the progress of over 20,000 children from kindergarten through fifth grade) to conclude that children who were spanked regularly (according to their parents) had test scores equivalent to their peers. On a side note, the authors hypothesized that, since the study measured the scores of children whose parents actually admitted to spanking their kids to a researcher, it was possible that the qualities of honesty and candor that these parents possess offset the negative qualities of spanking. Certainly, spanking that goes overboard (i.e. abuse) is horrible and something that is indefensible. On the other hand, effective and disciplined spanking, depending on the situation, seems like it has certain benefits. For instance, if a child attempts to cross a road without holding a parent's hand, a child may be taught to be safe. While many see this as an unnecessary intrusion into personal family matters, and nearly impossible to enforce, laws like this have been implemented in several European countries.

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Caring parents who occasionally spank their children are certainly better than the parents who don't take the time to discipline their kids at all. On the other hand, effective and disciplined spanking, depending on the situation, seems like it has certain benefits. For instance, if a child attempts to cross a road without holding a parent's hand, a child may be taught to be safe. While many see this as an unnecessary intrusion into personal family matters, and nearly impossible to enforce, laws like this have been implemented in several European countries. Of course, many psychologists claim that spanking is incredibly harmful to young children, and should never be done. However, this claim is somewhat debatable. For instance, in the book "Freakonomics" (one of my favorite books), the author used the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (a massive study measuring the progress of over 20,000 children from kindergarten through fifth grade) to conclude that children who were spanked regularly (according to their parents) had test scores equivalent to their peers. On a side note, the authors hypothesized that, since the study measured the scores of children whose parents actually admitted to spanking their kids to a researcher, it was possible that the qualities of honesty and candor that these parents possess offset the negative qualities of spanking. Certainly, spanking that goes overboard (i.e. abuse) is horrible and something that is indefensible. On the other hand, effective and disciplined spanking, depending on the situation, seems like it has certain benefits. For instance, if a child attempts to cross a road without holding a parent's hand, a child may be taught to be safe. While many see this as an unnecessary intrusion into personal family matters, and nearly impossible to enforce, laws like this have been implemented in several European countries. Of course, many psychologists claim that spanking is incredibly harmful to young children, and should never be done. However, this claim is somewhat debatable. For instance, in the book "Freakonomics" (one of my favorite books), the author used the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (a massive study measuring the progress of over 20,000 children from kindergarten through fifth grade) to conclude that children who were spanked regularly (according to their parents) had test scores equivalent to their peers. On a side note, the authors hypothesized that, since the study measured the scores of children whose parents actually admitted to spanking their kids to a researcher, it was possible that the qualities of honesty and candor that these parents possess offset the negative qualities of spanking. Certainly, spanking that goes overboard (i.e. abuse) is horrible and something that is indefensible. On the other hand, effective and disciplined spanking, depending on the situation, seems like it has certain benefits. For instance, if a child attempts to cross a road without holding a parent's hand, a child may be taught to be safe. While many see this as an unnecessary intrusion into personal family matters, and nearly impossible to enforce, laws like this have been implemented in several European countries.

Political scrutiny not limited to conservatives

In response to Patrick Mc Mahar's sarcasm regarding conservatives "educating" us about Barack Obama's song, I don't think that scrutiny of a candidate is anything exclusive to the American people. Furthermore, Sen. Clinton's campaign doesn't seem too eager to answer religous implications of Obama's past. The "biographical" piece on Fox News was not instigoted by Fox, but rather an investigation of Obama by political opponents within the Democratic Party — their background check showed that he was raised as a Muslim by his stepfather in Indonesia and that he spent at least four years in a Madrasa. It was Clinton's camp that first brought the question to the table. Are the American people ready for an elected president who was educated in a Madrasa a young boy and has been forthcoming about his Muslim heritage?

Cal Poly getting my parking spot

The PAC/AS is employeesuppying the parking situation while people are paying for parking but then disappear when the event is over. There are ninety million people trying to get out of the parking structure and no one to coordinate. Would it be too hard to block off the top ramp so two lanes of cars could leave the structure? Would it be too hard to put out some cones and have some direct, ALL traffic towards Grand Avenue and the 10? Second, UPD: Why don't you think traffic management is your job? I know you personally didn't pave over the 1000-plus parking spots to the library but it would be wise to make a lot of men to me if you would help direct traffic to minimize the flow of those parking spots. Last Thursday it took me 35 minutes to get out of the over-flow lot. Thirty-four officers were so frustrated at that point, I may or may not have run over the pedestrian who tried to step in front of my car. Picking up bodies is a terrible job and I wouldn't wish it on anyone. The UPD and your campus doing something to help direct traffic would be wonderful.

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Jennifer Hall
you look at what all the Colts bring to the table, I could see why they would.

The Bears and the Colts last met in the 2004 season at Soldier Field and Manning rallied a Chicago defense missing injured linebacks Brian Urlacher for four TD passes in a 41-10 runaway victory. Chicago's quarterback that day was rookie Craig Krenzel, who had four turnovers. Chicago cornerbacks Charles Tillman and Nathan Vasher will be on the spot, trying to contain Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne. And then there's tight end Dallas Clark giving the Colts a big threat over the middle.

The Bears did clamp down on the New Orleans Saints and their top-rated offense last week, coming up with four turnovers and yielding a pair of touchdowns, one on 88-yard return to Reggie Bhuller.

One similarity between the Saints and Colts that won't mean much they both play in a domed stadium. But the weather in Miami will be much better than the weather the Saints faced in Chicago.

"We've got to win it. You don't make it this far and not win it. Our goal all year has been to win the Super Bowl," linebacker Hunter Hillenmeyer said.

The Bears defense get a lift Tuesday when a judge granted a request to allow defensive tackle Tank Johnson to leave the state of Illinois as he awaits a trial on gun possession charges. So, there's a Tank going to the Super Bowl.

Chicago's defense sagged in the final stages of the regular season, missing defensive tackle Tommie Harris and safety Mike Brown, both lost with injuries. Now it will be tested as much as it has all season.

One player who will have a homecoming of sorts in Miami is defensive end Adewale Ogunleye, traded from the Dolphins to the Bears during the preseason in 2004. While with the Dolphins in 2003, he led the AFC with 15 sacks.

"For me it brings it full circle," Ogunleye said. "Going back to Miami is big because that's where I started in this league, and it's going to be a little surreal."

"I think, 35 years old, wow, that's young," Davis said. "But you don't have to be old to be great. You have to be good. You have to want it. You have to have a desire, a passion for football.

The Raiders also will retain defensive coordinator Rob Ryan, who built an above-average defense last season despite the offense's woes. Kiffin, who left for the Senior Bowl after Tuesday's news conference, plans to hire an offensive coordinator soon.

And he has plenty of additional personnel ahead with the Raiders. Davis has fired three coaches in the last four years while attempting to get his club back to respectability, but nothing has worked during the worst four-year span in franchise history.

After losing to Tampa Bay and former coach Gruden in the Super Bowl following the 2002 season, Oakland has endured four straight losing seasons, losing more games than any NFL club and culminating in the NFL's worst record in 2006. As Davis reflected on what he called the "year of infamy," he realized the Raiders needed a profound change.

As time went on, I realized that we had to go in a different direction," Davis said. "We have to move the clock back. We have to get youth in the organization, and we have to go ahead and attack someone who really means that he will attack." The Raiders have the No. 1 pick in the upcoming draft, and now they also have Kiffin in charge of a new offensive philosophy. Oakland managed just 168 points last season — fifth fewest in a 16-game schedule in NFL history — despite decent offensive talent, including receivers Randy Moss and Jerry Porter and running back LaMont Jordan.

Kiffin, a former Fresno State quarterback who played under current California coach Jeff Tedford, is younger than a number of players who finished the season with Oakland, including defensive tackle Warren Sapp, fullback Zach Crockett and receiver Alvis Whitted.

But Kiffin's ambition and confidence won over Davis despite his youth. Though Kiffin revealed little of his personality in his first public appearance in Alameda, he isn't worried about giving orders to players who are his chronological peers.

"Players don't care about age," Kiffin said. "Players want to be coached. Great players want to get better, and that's what we're going to do. We will be up front with our players. We will be honest. We will have high standards for them, and that's what they want."

Davis fired Art Shell after the disastrous season and apparently become fixated on hiring a young offensive mind to succeed him. This strategy has worked for Davis before: Madden was just 14 months older than Kiffin when he took over the Raiders in 1960, and the Raiders compared Kiffin's hiring to Madden's appointment in the fourth sentence of their news release Tuesday.

Gladen was 34 when he took over in 1998, and Shanahan was just 35 in 1988. Even Davis became the Raiders' head coach at 33 years, 6 months in 1963 — more than 12 years before Kiffin was born.

Kiffin continued from page 12 defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, has just one season of NFL experience — as Jacksonville's defensive quality control coach in 2000. But the 78-year-old Davis wasn't afraid to hire a coach young enough to be his grandson.

In fact, Davis wanted another talented young offensive mind to lead the franchise where John Madden, Mike Shanahan and Jon Gruden excelled in their 30s. Shanahan and Gruden won Super Bowls with other teams after leaving the Raiders rancously when their ideas clashed with Davis' vision for the franchise.

"I realize that's where I started in this league, and it's going to be a little surreal," Davis said. "Players don't care about age," Kiffin said. "Players want to be coached. Great players want to get better, and that's what we're going to do. We will be up front with our players. We will be honest. We will have high standards for them, and that's what they want."

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Pittsburgh’s superstar center leads the NHL in points (72) and assists (48) and is tied for eighth in goals (24).

Alan Robinson

Perhaps it is a surprise only that it has happened to Sidney Crosby this quickly, this impressively.

Sidney Crosby has been viewed as hockey’s next great talent, one who might be good enough to rival Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux, since he was set

scoring records at age 13. Now, as Crosby nears his first All-Star game at age 19 Wednesday in Dallas — yes, the same age No. 99 and No. 66 made their All-Star Debuts — it appears to be happening.

For the first time since Crosby was setting a standard for hockey

stardom 27 years ago, a player not yet in his 20s has become his sport’s sign-

ature figure. Crosby is not only the NHL’s most popular player — as evi-
denced by his landslide win in the All- Star voting — but arguably in best player.

“Yes, definitely, there’s not even any question,” said Pittsburgh Penguins linemate Mark Recchi, who, while more than prepared, echoes a senti-

ment shared widely by numerous NHL players, executives and coaches. Check out the reaction of Canton

Braves’ young center Daniel Briere, upon learning his dad would start the All-Star game: “Wow, you get to play with Sidney Crosby.”

It’s not just that Crosby is scoring, but how he’s scoring, with a vase,

passion and a drive. In successive games against Tampa Bay earlier this

month, he scored while sliding on his side, controlling the puck while doing

so, and from his knees.

Despite a politeness and maturity that would be uncommon for players

five years older than himself, Crosby has an edge, too. After being sucker

punched in the stomach last week by the Islanders’ Jason Blake, he charged

at Blake with a look that couldn’t mask his anger and dedication.

No more Mr. Nice Scorer.

Frankly

continued from page 12

Spartans — Kirkish was Cal Poly’s King Lemonds — the Spartan king. Kirkish was on the front lines along with his foot soldiers as the Mustang Maniacs made their stand.

The Mustang Maniac faction numbered no more than 50, but they, while their University of California counterparts tried to drown out noise coming from Cal’s roaring section, stood admirably in defiance of
caucoslo tyranny.

The final attendance was tallied at 3,748 and about 3,700 of those
donned the blue and gold. That’s about 74 USC Santa Barbaras
to every one Mustang Maniac — advantage; Cal Poly.

The best the Gauchos’ faithful could muster was a few “if you can’t go to school, go to state,” chants. Some of which originated with a little encouragement from a flashing “state school” message on the score-

board.

Cal Poly fans might have been cheered, but chant with that by fercy by Cal Poly’s Spartan-like force.

The Mustangs shot back at the state-school hunter with everything from “start-ing salary” to “UC... OK, I know I can’t “say” it, but if you’ve been to a UC-N.I.-Cal Poly bas-
ketball game, you know the final three letters to its return.

And, as the game neared in end with Gauchos fans filling out early, a

call spread over Kirkish’s face.

The Gauchos tried a few more chants in the waning minutes, but each was met with the ultimate comeback a crowd can offer near a
game’s end: “Scoreboard! Scoreboard!”

Not happening.

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

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for more information.

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Poly hopes experience leads to breakthrough softball season

The Mustangs are 62-39 over the past two seasons, but still looking for that elusive first NCAA Tournament berth.

Amanda Retzer

The Cal Poly softball team is preparing to begin the season with 14 returns on its 19-player squad.

"We only lost two seniors so the big core of our group is still here," junior pitcher Robyn Kontra said. "It wasn’t a massive transition."

The players not only click on the field, but also continue the camaraderie developed over the past couple years.

"We should be better because we’ve been playing together for so long," redshirt freshman pitcher Briana George said.

Cal Poly will likely rely on its reserves, head coach Jenny Condon said.

"Our strength is our depth," Condon said. "We have five pitchers and defensively, we have a great backup at every position. We don’t have any glaring weaknesses so we’ll have to wait and see how it plays out."

The team’s first chance to try its lineup comes Feb. 9 when it opens the season with a doubleheader at home against Washington to begin the Mustang Classic at Bob Jansen Field.

The Mustangs did not face Washington last year so they’ll be using their opponents as a gauge for their performance early on.

"With Washington I just want to see where we’re at," said Condon, who is 62-39 in her two years at the helm. "They are traditionally a top-10 team and what better way to start the season at home than with a top-rank opponent."

Cal Poly is coming off a 27-23 season.

"We want to be really explosive out of the gate against Washington," Condon said.

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The last two years, Cal Poly has been controversially left out of the postseason.

The Mustangs were 35-16 overall and left out in 2005. It was disputed again last year after Big West rival UC Santa Barbara qualified despite the fact that Cal Poly beat the Gauchos twice during the regular season and finished with a better record.

But the Mustangs have already been preparing to reach the tournament this time around.

"We’ve strengthened our schedule even more, but we will need to beat those top-ranked teams, not just play them," Condon said. "If we take care of that, we should have no questions come selection Sunday."

Besides focusing on the outside competition to strengthen the team, the Mustangs have also been concentrating internally on preparing for starting roles.

"We are carrying 19 players this year and throughout the fall, they had to compete and fight for a starting spot, which overall makes our team better," Condon said. "Our best nine are going to play regardless of if you’re a walk-on or if you have a full-ride scholarship, if you’re one of our best players, you’re going to play."

And there has been plenty of opportunity to show off skills in practice time. The Mustangs have an intense preseason practice schedule with three-hour workouts Monday through Thursday as well as Friday mornings.

With their first game in a little more than two weeks, they will soon switch to three-day-a-week practices while traveling and playing games Thursday through Sunday.

One of their main focuses so far has been the rotation.

"We have five different pitchers and we’ll be tough for opposing batters," Condon said. "They all complement each other well and that’s a luxury that most programs don’t have — depth in pitching."

The team also showcases freshman Helen Pena, a left-handed pitcher, something that the team hasn’t had in a while, George said.

Condon feels the diverse range of talent can help the Mustangs have a highly successful season.

"We play teams the traditional top 20, the Pac-10," she said. "We host both Washington and UCLA and it’s just a stronger conference throughout."

Even though the Bears have won 15 of 18 games, including two at home in the playoffs, they’re not considered as good as their record, in part because the NFC North is considered a weak division in the weaker of the NFL’s two conferences.

"We’ve won more games than anybody else in the league. That’s enough right there," coach Lovie Smith said. The Colts also have 15 victories, including the playoffs, and four losses.

"As far as us being underdogs, if you see Bears, page 10

The Bears don’t mind underdog role in Super Bowl XLI

Chicago was second in the NFL in points scored this season and third in fewest allowed, but is still a seven-point underdog to Indianapolis.

Rick Gaso

It’s hardly a surprise to the Chicago Bears that they are underdogs to win Super Bowl XLI against Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts’ high-powered offense.

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"As far as us being underdogs, if you see Bears, page 10

Raiders introduce Kiffin as new head coach

Oakland general managing partner Al Davis indicated that Lane Kiffin will call the team’s plays on offense.

Greg Beacham

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Kiffin, who took the job Monday, became the youngest head coach in club history and the NFL’s youngest in several decades. If the job of rebuilding a 2-14 club intimidates him, Kiffin doesn’t show it while sitting next to Davis in a sharp black suit.

"I’m extremely excited about this opportunity and where I see this place going," Kiffin said at the Raiders’ training complex. "It’s a historic franchise that has had great success and has fallen on tough times, but we will bring it back to where it was before. We will do that through hard work. I’m prepared to roll up my sleeves and go to work."

Kiffin, the son of Tampa Bay owner Malcolm, was introduced as the new head coach in a press conference at Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum. But Thursday was a chance to review the team’s first practice of the 2007 season.

Samuel, the second-year head coach of the Southern California Trojans, is the only coach in the SEC to have made the playoffs in his first two seasons.

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