Drug ring busted that funneled pot through SLO

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — Federal and local officials said San Luis Obispo was a key distribution center for Mexican marijuana shipped nationwide.

Densely packed Mexican marijuana was moved to various locations in Southern California and then to San Luis Obispo before it was packaged for shipment east, authorities said.

Federal and local law enforcement officials on Wednesday displayed some of the evidence seized during the 15-month probe. Investigators said San Luis Obispo was likely popular because it's small, remote and centrally located.

There were four arrests.

In San Luis Obispo, the marijuana was repackaged into computer and television boxes for shipping nationwide. The pot repackaging took place in remote homes around the city because of the strong odor, officials said.

The San Luis Obispo County Narcotics Task Force investigation began after an Ohio-bound shipment of 631 pounds of marijuana was seized in 2005 during a routine Sheriff's Department inspection at a commercial warehouse.

"The locale is kind of central to the state. It's more of a quiet city. In Los Angeles, they are really looking for this type of stuff," task force Cmdr. Jim Rodríguez said.

The investigation included surveillance in the Southern California cities of Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana and Chino, as well as Santa Maria and Cincinnati.

— The Associated Press

Flexible Fastener: students, faculty design device for all facets of life

Josh Kranke

Cal Poly is looking to license out a flexible bolt that has uses in construction, medicine and many other facets of life.

The Flexible Fastener, designed and built by a team of Cal Poly students and faculty, can fit into nonaligned or mismatched holes and can be fastened to parts with nonparallel surfaces, such as roof trusses (which support roofs). They can also aid in robotics assembly and have the capability to add pliancy to artificial knees and other joints.

Cal Poly patented the Flexible Fastener in 2005.

The special bolts move side-to-side, like a spring, while remaining stiff top-to-bottom, which allows it to be tightened.

They have uses in everyday tasks, such as securing loads to the end of a truck or attaching nonuniform pieces together.

"If you buy something, like a spare part, and the holes don't match, or if you're a bad carpenter and your holes don't align, then this will work," said Sareed Nika, professor and graduate advisor for mechanical engineering, who oversaw the project. "You can use your imagination. Every time you need a device that needs bending and then tightening, then this would be appropriate."

The flexible bolts will be especially useful in retrofitting buildings with older architecture and unreinforced masonry, said architectural engineering professor Abe Lynn. Structural elements in these buildings are often hard to access, he said, making it difficult to drill holes that are exact in alignment and angle.

"Contractors were looking for these bolts a long time ago. It's like velcro; it's not going to replace every bolt, but there are certain situations where it will help make it easier," Lynn said.

Birthed from a "flash of imagination",

see Fastener, page 2

Riding to the top

Hayley Bramble

The Cal Poly Society of Automotive Engineers is moving full speed ahead into a busy quarter, working hard to prepare its cars for upcoming competitions.

SAE is divided into three teams: Formula, Baja and Supermileage. The teams all work on separate cars and compete in separate competitions, but come together as a club to share a design center and funds.

"That's the thing with our club: There's something for everyone," mechanical engineering sophomore Chris Dirkes said of the club's diverse interests.

Dirkes is the club's publicity officer and the Formula team manager. The team is going to the National Hot Rod Association Museum in Pomona with the Cal Poly Pomona SAE club this weekend for a panel discussion with hot rod and motorcycle builder Jimmy Shine.

see SAE, page 2

More women are single now than in recent years

Garesia Randle

BATON ROUGE, La. — Vernell Fields has always led an exciting life. Fields, 53, embarked on a college career at East Texas State University, now Texas A&M University Commerce, to pursue a career in criminal justice in the late ’70s — a time when women were just beginning to prove their professional worth in the workforce.

Fields said she never got the chance to make her law enforcement career a reality, but her professional life as a clinic manager for East Baton Rouge Tuberculosis Unit and a customer service associate at Dillard's has fulfilled her life over the years.

The Texas native packed her bags long ago to leave home and has lived everywhere from Maryland to Florida. She has visited Nigeria and has plans to vacation in China this summer.

But Fields has made this journey alone.

see Single, page 2
Single
continued from page 1
Fields is among the 51 percent of American women who reported living without a spouse in 2005. According to a New York Times analysis of Census Bureau data, the combination of widows, single, separated and divorced women has reached in peak, rising from the 35 percent in 1950 and 49 percent in 2000. Although looking in her life, entering a life of holy matrimony is far down on her list of things to do.

Not Lonely ... Just Single
Fields said she once had a desire to get married in her 30's when she could have children, but she never found anyone she deemed worth spending the rest of her life with.

"When I wanted to get married, men were coming back from the Vietnam War, and the quality and availability of men was not appealing," Fields said. "When (men) came back a lot of them had mental problems or went to prison. They just were not themselves."

Fields said her age has forfeited her chance to have children who could possibly care for her when she gets elderly, but she stands firm in her choice not to have children outside marriage. "I was not going to have a child and raise it by myself," Fields said. "I did not want to be selfish by fulfilling my needs to have a child and not look at the child's needs."

Fields said she sometimes feels lonely, but being single gives her a sense of freedom that she would not otherwise have. "I have a stress-free life because I got the chance to do what I ever I wanted to do ... whenever I wanted to do it," Fields said. "I have had the chance to travel, and I did not have to worry about consulting with anyone or worrying about a family when I got ready to do something."

Karen Gall Lewis, marriage and family therapist and author of the self-help novel "With or Without a Man: Single Women Taking Control of Their Lives," said she has seen more of a social acceptance of women staying single during her 36 years as a therapist.

"There is not a financial need that women get married. There is no longer a social need. And there is much more pressure for women to have careers now," Lewis said. "When a woman has a career, she may not get married until 35. But she may have been in a committed relationship for 10 years. Society says it is OK until a woman gets to a child-bearing age. That is when the pressure comes in."

Percentages for widows and divorced women increase as women get older, according to 2005 Census Bureau data. Eighteen percent of women between the ages of 45 and 54 are divorced compared to 5 percent of women between the ages of 20 and 34.

Lewis said the percentages of divorced women and widows are higher for women after their 40s because many women do not remarry.

"There is some indication that older widows and divorced women don't get remarried the way they use to," Lewis said.

"One reason many older women don't get married again is, because they have been through marriage and don't want to start over with a new man and relationship that may not be good." The New York Times reported that 53 percent of American men are married and living with their spouses compared to the 49 percent of women who are doing the same.

"Women live longer than men," Lewis said in regards to the women's lower percentage of living with a spouse. "And these numbers for women living without spouses may be even higher because the census does not count the 80- or 100-year-old women living without a spouse."

Future Generations
Women between the ages of 20 and 34 rank the highest at 47 percent among other age groups of women who have never been married, according to the 2005 Census Bureau. These are the ages that most women are in college or in the primes of their lives and careers.

SAE
continued from page 1
The Formula team will also be featured on a new show called "Hard Drive" that will air on TLC. They are filming the show this weekend.

The Baja team is working on a new car for their competition in South Dakota on May 3. They are using the same frame as last year, but they have revamped it with new suspension and a redesign on select systems. At the intercollegiate competition in May, the Baja team will be judged not only on how fast the car can go but on the its design as well. The physical competitions are Maneuverability, Rock Crawl, Acceleration, Hill Climb and an Endurance Race that usually lasts 4 hours, according to the team's Web site.

Industrial engineering senior Holly Dunkel is the new manager of the Baja team. She said that the most important thing in considering a car design is "getting the horse power to the ground with as little loss as possible."

In addition to the car used for competition, the team also has a car used for driver training. The team practices and tests runs its car in the tractor training field.

Self-driving car may soon be a reality
Sarah Tomoser
THE DAILY UNION (BY U )

PROVO, Utah — What was once thought to be only a fantasy — selling a car where to go and then sitting back to enjoy the ride as the vehicle does the driving — is closer to reality.

A 2005 Dodge Caravan donated to the Brigham Young University, Engineering Department will be quite different from typical minivans that occupy the streets. Students and faculty will work to make the vehicle drive itself, with ease.

The car will be entered into the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Grand Challenge, which is in its third year. The vehicle that performs the best on a determined course, with obstacles, will win the competition.

The team of BYU students and faculty consists of about 50 people — including three faculty members, five graduate students and 36 undergraduate students.

"It's fun to have a big project with a lot of people working together; there's a lot of excitement," said Doran Wilde, an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering.

"This being our first year entering the challenge, we don't know how we'll do," Wilde said. "We hope to do well, but we don't expect to do as well as teams who have been doing it for three years."

The DARPA Grand Challenge has three stages.

The first stage will occur on April 13. Teams must send a five-minute video demonstrating their vehicle driving autonomously. The DARPA team of 50 is divided into three groups: Artificial intelligence, controls, and sensors.

Christopher Greco of Culpepper, Va., a master's student in electrical engineering, is the team leader over all three groups and is also the sensor team leader. Greco said he knows the experience he gains from the project will carry over into his career.

"Seeing the magnitude of this project, it's a good eye-opener for what kind of projects to expect in a job after college," Greco said.

The students involved believe the DARPA Challenge is a great opportunity to demonstrate their abilities to future employers.

"This kind of project is very innovative, and you've gained and put them into practice," Niku said. "It's a feeling of satisfaction to see the idea reduced to useful practice," Niku said. "It would be fantastic to see it in stores where people could actually buy it. But everything you see, someone has invented. It puts this in perspective."

Fastener
continued from page 1
while Niku's philosophy of design students was sitting in his office a few days ago, the projects were funded from the National Collegiate Innovators and Engineers Alliance to develop a prototype.

While recognizing the significance of receiving a patent on a product that will give prestige and recognition to the university, Niku said he has taken the process in stride.

"It's a feeling of satisfaction to see the idea reduced to useful practice," Niku said. "It would be fantastic to see it in stores where people could actually buy it. But everything you see, someone has invented. It puts this in perspective."

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News editor: Kristen Marschall • mustangdailynews@gmail.com
Friday, January 26, 2007

BY THE NUMBERS
51
The percent of women separated or divorced in 2005.

53
The percent of men separated or divorced in 2000.

49
The number of single, separated or divorced women in 1950.

35
The number of single, separated or divorced women in 2005.

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Number of women who reported living without a spouse in 2005.

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**PASSPORTS NOW REQUIRED FOR MEXICO, CANADA**

Kate Biggins  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**KENT, Ohio —** Students planning to travel to Cancun or the Caribbean Islands over Spring Break will have to invest a little bit more money than usual into their vacation. As of Tuesday, all American air travelers are required to have a valid passport in order to fly out of and back into the United States. According to a fact sheet provided by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Consular Affairs, the air travel law is the first phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, designed to strengthen border security.

Rick Webster, vice president of government affairs for the Travel Industry Association, said most travelers who fly to their international destinations already have passports. "We’re hoping that (Tuesday’s) first phase of the implementation of Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will be a non-event," he said. "We’re hoping it’s been well-publicized enough that there won’t be any issues." In the past, travelers to Mexico, Canada, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda were not required to carry a passport. Under the new law, only air travelers are required to carry passports across international borders.

Linda Clopsey, clerk of Kent, Ohio City Council, said the city of Kent has been providing passports since 2002. Since that time, more than 2,550 passports have been processed. Normal passport processing time is eight weeks and costs $97 for $157, the process can be completed in six weeks. The city of Kent receives $30 from each application.

In a memo sent to Kent Mayor John Fender and the City Council, Clopsey called passport sales a "financial success" for the city.

"People are applying for a variety of reasons," she wrote, "from the young man who was just naturalized to the elderly couple going on a cruise for their golden anniversary." But Webster said the final phase of the plan, which will be carried out sometime in 2008 or early 2009, will affect more people by requiring international land and sea travelers to carry passports.

"Looking down the road, when the implementation occurs for sea and particularly for land border travel, there’s where we’re much more concerned," Webster said. "You’re dealing with a much higher volume of travelers." Pat Smith, media relations manager for Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, said the new law won’t affect airport personnel much. "By the time (travelers) have gotten to us, they already have their passports," Smith said. "Really, nothing is going to change."
Briefs

National

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks pulled back sharply Thursday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 100 points, as investors grew concerned over a lackluster report on sales of existing homes.

The drop in the Dow and a reversal of two days of strong performance by tech stocks came as a sell-off occurred in the bond market. The 10-year Treasury note broke through a 200-day moving average of 4.85 percent. Earlier in the day, investors' cheer over quarterly reports from eBay, Inc., Nokia Corp., AT&T Inc. had faded to translate to gains as strong earnings news had done in previous days.

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — A 101st Airborne Division soldier was sentenced Thursday to 18 years in prison for murdering a detainee and taking part in the killings of two others in Iraq last year.

Pfc. Corey R. Clagett, 21, was one of four soldiers from the division's 3rd Brigade "Rakkasans" who were accused in the detainees' deaths during a May 9 raid on the Muhtaha chemical complex in Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad.

International

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A suicide car bomber struck a mostly Shiite neighborhood in the Iraqi capital Thursday, killing 26 people, hours after the prime minister promised the coming U.S.-Iraq security sweep in the capital would pur­ sue militants wherever they were hiding. The blast occurred shortly after two rockets slammed into the heavily forti­ fied Green Zone. Two hours later, a second huge explosion rocked the area.

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia responded with silence Thursday after Georgia revealed a foiled effort by a Russian man to sell weapons-grade uranium in an episode that appeared to cast doubt on the nation's ability to halt the black market trade in nuclear material.

The origin of 3.5 ounces of highly enriched uranium seized last year and attributed to Moscow is unclear and some experts accused Georgia of trying to embarrass Russia at a time of strained rela­tions between Moscow and Washington.

The Russian government said nothing publicly about the inquiry.

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McPhee University Union
Bldg. 2, Room 213

BE READY TO INTERVIEW FREE PIZZA, DRINKS & PRIZES

Obama calls for universal health care within six years

Nedra Pickler
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Every American should have health care coverage within six years, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama said Thursday as he set an ambition goal soon after jumping into the 2008 presidential race.

"The time has come for universal health care in America," Obama said at a conference of Families USA, a health care advocacy group.

"I am absolutely determined that by the end of the first term of the next president, we should have uni­versal health care in this country," the Illinois senator said.

Obama was previewing what is shaping up to be a theme of the 2008 Democratic primary. His chief rivals, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and John Edwards, see strong proponents of universal health care and have promised to offer their plans.

Obama said while plans are offered in every campaign season with "much fanfare and promise," they collapse under the weight of Washington politics, leaving citi­enz to struggle with the skyrocket­ing costs.

He said it's wrong that 46 mil­lion in this country are uninsured when the country spends more than any one else on health care.

He said Americans pay $15 billion in taxes to help care for the uninsured.

"We can't afford another dispointing charade in 2008, 2009 and 2010," Obama said. "It's not only irresponsible, it's wrong."

Obama's call was an echo of a speech he made last April when he said Democrats "need to lead" by demanding that the core values that make us Democrats, the belief in universal health care, the belief in universal education, and then we should be agnostic in terms of how to achieve those values."

His argument Thursday not only will be considered through the prism of the presidential campaign, but weighed against Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's ill-fated plan to overhaul the health care insurance system when she was first lady.

Even after leading that calamitous attempt in 1993, Clinton remains in favor of universal health care and has made it a central theme of her presidential bid.

"One of the goals that I will be presenting ... is health insurance for every child and universal care for every American," she said at a community health clinic in New York City. "And then we enter the 2008 Democratic Field. That's a very major part of my campaign." I want to hear people's ideas about how we can achieve that goal!"

On Thursday, she criticized Bush's proposal to make health care more affordable through tax breaks, arguing that it would lead to less funding for hospitals.

Addressing the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Clinton was self-depre­cating in describing her own expe­rience in the health care debate and joked that Bush would need some heavy-duty protection as he wades into the fight.

"I welcome his participation in the health care debate. But let him send to him a suit of armor because I know nobody who puts a foot in health care debate is gonna need that. I've got the scars and experience to show for it," she said.

As for the New York senator.

Another candidate, Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich, also backs uni­versal health care.

Ford posts record net loss of $12.7 billion in 2006

Tom Krisher
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEARBORN, Mich. — Ford Motor Co. lost a staggering $12.7 billion in 2006 — an average of $1.925 for every car and truck it sold.

The company that invented the assembly line and whose name was a byword for the auto industry warned it will bleed cash for two more years before it has a shot at turning a profit.

Ford's fourth-quarter loss, announced on Thursday, was the worst in the company's 103-year history and came amid shrinking demand for sport utility vehicles and other gas guzzlers and huge restructuring costs tied in part to the plant closures of 16 plants.


"A fourth-quarter loss of $5.8 billion helped drive up the red ink, which for the year amounted to $6.79 per share versus a profit of $1.41 per share, or 77 cents a share, in 2005."

Although huge, the losses were far from the largest or annual corporate deficits on record — Time Warner Inc. reported a $97.2 billion loss in 2002, largely due to new accounting rules about how to value assets. Ford could not be reached Thursday for comment on accounting rules.

For Ford, it wasn't the most annual total in the auto industry. General Motors Corp. lost $23.4 billion in 1992, due mainly to accounting rule changes on bank guarantee liabilities.

The Dearborn-based company Predicted more losses for this year end in 2008, but Ford said in restructuring plan is on track to

see Ford, page 5
Students clash at a Beirut university, 2 reported dead

Brian Murphy / Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Government and opposition supporters clashed at a Beirut university campus Thursday, battering each other with sticks, stones and even construction hats and carrying makeshift weapons — chair legs, pipes, garden tools, sticks and chains — converged on the university and clashed with the police.

The army was called in with armored vehicles, firing tear gas and live rounds in the air to try to disperse the crowd.

Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah later appealed for calm on television, asking his followers to clear the streets and allow security forces to operate.

"It is a religious duty. All must leave the streets and remain calm and restrain themselves and leave the arena for the army and the security forces to shoulder full responsibility to control the situation," Nasrallah said in an audio message broadcast on Hezbollah’s Al-Manar TV and other channels.

Al-Manar reported two of the Shiite group’s supporters was killed. Security officials could not immediately confirm the deaths but reported 17 people wounded. Other TV stations reported that about 25 people were injured.

The opposition has moved into the university to try to topple Saniiora’s government. The prime minister has refused the opposition’s demand for a veto-wielding share of the Cabinet.

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Art, wine and food a-plenty at Cambria Festival

Hayley Bramble

In January, Cambria is usually a sleepy little town, but for the past few years, the small community just 35 miles north of San Luis Obispo has sought to liven things up a bit.

The Cambria Art and Wine Festival starts today and will run through the weekend, rain or shine. The fifth annual festival offers wine tasting, fine dining, and local artists' work.

"It was kind of my brainchild," said Nancy McKarney, who chairs the event. "I got stuck with," said Nancy and local artists' work.

This year, they have added another day and another event to the festival.

"It has grown from a one-day event to a three-day event in four years," said Mary Ann Carson, executive director of the Cambria Chamber of Commerce. Carson has been involved with the Chamber of Commerce for 10 years and helps put on the festival along with the Allied Arts Association.

Saturday includes wine tasting from all local wineries and an art show. The main event takes place at the Veterans' Hall, but additional wine tasting is available at the Josslyn Center on Main Street. Artist's work is also displayed throughout the town. Art pieces are available for purchase through a silent auction, which closes at 5 p.m. that evening.

This year's addition to the festival is a special banquet at the historic and award-winning Bramble's Dinner House. The Kapermons family, who has owned and operated the restaurant since 1982, will host the event on Saturday at 6 p.m. Each of the meal's six courses is paired with a specially selected wine, most of which are from local wineries. The dinner requires a separate ticket, but includes all other events with its purchase.

Smile and Nod was established in 1998 by Cal Poly improv enthusiasts. What started as one show per quarter sparked two shows every weekend. The shows are performed and organized by students every Saturday night, and the themed shows are organized only once every quarter.

"Any of our shows are a fun and inexpensive way to do something on a Saturday night," the theater arts major said. "There's high quality, entertaining comedy. It does not take the whole night, only a few hours of fun. The goal is for the audience to have a good time.

The improvisational troupe Smile and Nod is the only one in the state and advertising sometimes includes standup comedy. Short form improv contains a series of games with specific objectives in the "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" style. Long form shows are a little more complicated.

"Long form is more complex," Agron said. "It incorporates true storytelling from cast members, and scenes (inspired by audience members). They intertwine and it comes together in an interesting, unpredictable, smart, fast-paced type of improv.

Tickets are $5, and audience members dressed as a rock star or rapper get $1 off. Ticket reservations can also be found on the group's Web site Smileandnod.org.

Smile and Nod to 'Rock' out

Whitney Diaz

Improv students plan to do their best rock star or rapper threads this Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the Cal Poly Blackbox Theater.

This quarter's first themed improv show is "Rock vs. Rap," where the team not only dressed up, but the audience is encouraged to get stylish, too. A member of 2003, co-manager Stephanie "Tanner" Agron encourages students to attend.

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English student Rachael Burrell, a member of Smile and Nod since 2006, said that improvisational comedy takes a lot of teamwork, honesty and trust.

"As honest response is the funniest thing," she said. "You have to really trust each other."

Although they are on stage, Agron stressed that improvisation is not scripted or easy.

"We have rehearsals and practices just like a sports team," she said. "There are no plays, or scripts. So we're working toward learning how to listen to one another. Improv is most definitely based on teamwork."

Smile and Nod starts the first show at 8 p.m., and the second begins at 10 p.m. The shows are separated by short form and long form improvisation, sometimes including standup comedy. Short form improv contains a series of games with specific objectives in the "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" style. Long form shows are a little more complicated.

"Long form is more complex." Agron said. "It incorporates true storytelling from cast members, and scenes (inspired by audience members). They intertwine and it comes together in an interesting, unpredictable, smart, fast-paced type of improv.

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Get your New Era Caps here!

Show your Cal Poly ID for 20% off any sports merchandise through February 4th.
Apple's iPhone nothing more than an over-hyped James Bond gadget

Ryan Chartrand

Now that the buzz of Apple's latest "revolutionary" product, the Apple iPhone, has died down, I'd like to take a moment to bring you back to reality (a cruel, yet slightly more logical world. What always amazes me about Apple gadgets, since they are not more than that, is that not only will the duched Apple fans always look past the steep prices, but the outsiders, those who wish they were "cool," follow suit. It's like in the '90s when everyone had to have the thickest Fogs or the most flamboyant yo-yo. Money simply doesn't matter in an "iLife." If only for a moment, stop acting like your shiny iPod ear buds fit snugly in your futile attempt to "fit in" and listen.

In five months, Apple will force you to donate $600 to their cause (aka ruling the world); in return, you will own a 4 1/2 inch long James Bond video phone that has four gigabytes of space and doubles as an ancient "cell phone," which is apparently used for communication between two human beings. Unfortunately, this will be the most insane donation you will ever see if only for a moment, why an iPod of yours, you might as well waste a good amount of it on some worthy headphones for that iPod of yours. After all, what good is life if you can't block out everyone surrounding you.

No. 1) A 250 gigabyte hard drive: $70 — First, let's prove the fact that Apple has lost their mind in thinking they can charge you over $100 for a piece of hardware with only four gigabytes of space. Sure, a hard drive isn't in pocket form, but isn't having 246 extra gigabytes of space better than watching three minutes of "Law & Order" while waiting in line for a Big Mac?

No. 2) A 4.8 ounce bottle of Arbonne Ginger Citrus Body Butter: $5 — The iPhone is approximately 4.8 ounces of pure silk. If you absolutely must carry something around with the same weight, it might as well be some delicious body butter. You might even end up looking as smooth and silky as the back of an iPod Video.

No. 3) Seven inch portable DVD player: $80 — First, let me apologize if this feels like a MasterCard commercial. Second, if you so desperately need to watch movies while driving home from work or hang-gliding over the Eiffel Tower, why not buy a portable DVD player for about one-seventh the price? Even a lonely blank DVD holds four gigabytes of space, whether on a phone or a DVD, is nothing to dance in the streets about.

No. 4) Font Creator: $10 — Since you were a poor child growing up in Rama, you've always dreamed of having your own font to use in Microsoft Word (which you have on your iMac to prove you are a walking contradiction). Forget your fancy phones and start making dreams come true through your very own Make a Wish Foundation.

No. 5) Lost Season One and Two: $90 — These are almost as essential as food. Without these, you might die of a starving mind by June.

No. 6) Share E=E-c sound isolating earphones: $32 — If you're going to be out wasting money, you might as well waste a good amount of it on some worthy headphones for that iPod of yours. In five months, Apple will force you to donate $600 is because it compares so many marvelous gadgets into one beautiful array of brilliance! Perhaps, but how often is it that you find yourself completely disconnected from your computer and all forms of entertainment? The only time of day that you are detached from modern technology is when you're at class, and even there you're most likely listening to your iPod. You then go straight home and watch movies on your computer, listen to music on iTunes and call people on your pathetic $300 phone. Why is it so necessary to combine your entire multimedia life into one piece of hardware, poorly categorized as a "phone," when you are only cut off from computers and entertainment for a few hours a day? Because Apple owns you, of course.

I am also well aware that the iPhone is considered cheap compared to some phones on the market. That, however, is far from the point. This is about the Apple lifestyle that has infiltrated American culture and sent one too many college students into unnecessary debt. Please, step out of your life and use the greatest gadget ever invent­ed: your mind. Apple will easily get you so deeply involved in watching your iPod to add to your collection (most likely a pile of broken iPods). I am sure many of you are thinking, "Ryan, you fool, the reason the phone costs $600 is because it combines so many marvelous gadgets into one beautiful array of brilliance!" Perhaps, but how often is it that you find yourself completely disconnected from your computer and all forms of entertainment? The only time of day that you are detached from modern technology is when you're at class, and even there you're most likely listening to your iPod. You then go straight home and watch movies on your computer, listen to music on iTunes and call people on your pathetic $300 phone. Why is it so necessary to combine your entire multimedia life into one piece of hardware, poorly categorized as a "phone," when you are only cut off from computers and entertainment for a few hours a day? Because Apple owns you, of course.

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New Jennifer Garner movie ‘Catch and Release’ a dead fish

Tripp Laino
The Dime Magazine

While Susannah Grant is known for adapting interesting and new stories for the silver screen ("Erin Brockovich," "Ever After"), her latest endeavor and her first in the director's chair, "Catch and Release," fails to be anything more than a predictable, by-the-book romantic comedy. Despite turns from Jennifer Garner and Timothy Olyphant, Garner and Olyphant develop a nice chemistry, but in the context of the film, the justifications for their relationship never appears as anything but "falling into the arms of the other for a shoulder to cry on." Olyphant's character provides Gray's with comfort in her time of need, and he also fills her in on some details she didn't know about her deceased fiance — DouglasDeparted fiance Cirady Douglas. (805) 215-9713

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LET STUDENTS KNOW ABOUT YOU
The rules of French dating...or lack thereof

You meet someone at a party, in a class, through mutual friends. Go out to dinner or on a coffee date or two. Suffer through the somewhat that your female friend has already gone through, and you and your newfound infatuation decided to be boyfriend and girlfriend. This is what most American 20-somethings know as dating.

I'd like to think that before I decided to take a year off from Cal Poly and move to France, I had this system down pretty well. However, after breaking into the social scene in Paris, I realized this meant nothing. Much to my surprise, I've learned that Americans are the only ones that have a significant dating system. In the past five months I've adapted to living in a big city, speaking a foreign language, eating absurd amounts of food and cheese, and being stereotyped as "that blonde girl from California." I was well aware of the notorious reputation of French men, but after my arrival in Paris I was surprised about the way they woo women. I never expected that French "hatting" would be so different.

So here's the scene: I'll go out with some of my girlfriends to a club and we usually feel ourselves approached by French men, as well as the occasional for­eigner. Sometimes we can't help but laugh when we hear the same pick-up line for the 100th time: "I think you are very charming...I would like to get to know you...perhaps we could get a coffee...I want to kiss you." NO! I don't know you, you are not kissing me and no thanks on that coffee. These are the words that usually flow from my mouth in my mangled French after a complete stranger approaches me in such a manner.

I guess I find this so shocking because I like to think that American men have at least some tact (no offense, guys) and would never approach a girl like this. Although, I have discovered that the French handle rejection a lot better than their American counterparts. Telling someone "no" will sometimes lead to their incessant questions in their attempts to make you change your mind. "Where are you from? Oh, California...San Francisco or L.A.? Do you have to give some of the men credit; not all French guys are so upfront and desperate. However, those desperate ones I've not have tended to be somewhat obnoxious. All girls love attention and the occasional compliment, but there is nothing attractive about incessant and overwhelming text messages and phone calls from someone you hardly know.

I once met this French rugby player whom, by the time I had come home for the night, had already come on me seven times. I came home with text messages on my phone asking me to coffee the next morning. This caught me off-guard and was quite the opposite of what I was used to. (By this I mean a contrast to most American guys who ask a girl for her number and other never even plan on calling, or decide to play the wait­ ing game for days and days.) Two casual dinners later and I found myself being practically stalked by this guy. Every time I would choose to spend time with my friends and not with him, he would get upset. I felt like I was arguing over such trivial and insignificant matters with someone I thought was a friend. I was a bit distressed about the situation I decided to speak with two French girlfriends of mine. After I told them that I went to dinner with this guy a few times and now he wouldn't leave me alone they said: "Well you know, you are his girlfriend." WHAT?! I was dating the French rugby player and didn't even know it. As I was soon to learn, there is no discussion of dating or being exclusive with someone in France like in the U.S.

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Even after I had other foreign friends tell me how characteristic the "dating" system is to the United States, I wonder why many Europeans find our methods so obscure. I mean, would you really want to be attached to someone as their boyfriend/girlfriend if you hardly knew them? I guess it's all of these subtle differences that account for misunderstood and misinterpreted cultural differences.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Memorials should highlight the good and bad

Well, today I open my paper to find not one, nor two, but three different articles bashing the Mustang Daily for implying that Spencer Wood was drunk the time he died. All of them praised him and what he had achieved in life, and not one of them seemed the least bit inclined to admit that he had a single flaw. This, I find, is the problem with memorials. When I die, I want it known that I strived for future space colonization and that I played dodgeball, but I do want it known that I was a boy genius. What is the point of a memorial if it's not honest? When I'm memorialized, I want to be a real person, and to quote the Barenaked Ladies, "anyone perfect must be lying." Why is it so wrong to admit that in the midst of his caring, kindness, and charisma, Spencer Wood made a few mistakes in his life?

It's not overly impressive for a perfect person to be kind, caring, and talented, but I think it makes a person far more memorable if they did these things while overcoming some shortcomings. Simple, isn't it?

Submit your letters no later than five days before you return your Mustang Wood as Christ returns (the feeling I get from these articles), and let's remember who he really was: a good friend, a charitable person, and just perhaps, someone who drank more than he should have one night in his entire life.

Troy Kuesnetz
Aerospace engineering and physics senior

Check out today's Online Exclusive Column

www.mustangdaily.net
Top 10
continued from page 12

Hall of Fame Paul Warfield was a
widow.

7. 1986 New York Giants
Lawrence Taylor piled up 20.5
sacks and led a dominant defense fea­
turing players such as Harry Carson,
Leonard Marshall, Carl Banks, Jim
Burt, Erik Howard and Pepper
Johnson, among others.
José Morris rushed for 1,516 yards
and 14 touchdowns to quietly lead
the league's ninth-ranked offense.
Actors such as Harry C’arson,
wideout.
The team featured the triplets
(Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and
Michael Irvin) in their passing
 playbook. Aikman was the quintessential
leader: calm, cool and error-free.
Smith had a.master year behind a
monumental offensive line with 1,773
yards rushing and a since-broken
record of 25 touchdowns.
In between snorting cocaine off
stripers, Irvin managed more than 1,600
yards receiving and hauled in 10
touchdowns.

5. 1976 Oakland Raiders
They get the nod over the 1983
Los Angeles Raiders because of their
multitude of Hall of Famers or play­
ers who should be in the Hall of
Fame — quarterback Ken Stabler,
receivers Fred Biletnikoff and Cliff
Branch, tight end Dave Casper,
offensive linemen Art Shell, Gene
Upshaw and Dave Dalby, defensive
lineman Otis Sistrunk, linebackers
Phil Villapiano and Ted Hendricks,
cornerback Willie Brown, safeties
George Atkinson and Jack Tatum and
punter Ray Guy, to name a few.

Add Sanders to a stellar defense
that already had defensive end
Charles Haley, defensive tackle Leon
Lett and safety Darren Woodson, and
you had a dominant unit. Although
you wouldn't let them date your sis­
ter, this was an awesome collection
of football talent.

3. 1978 Pittsburgh Steelers
Considered one of the greatest
defenses in sports history, the
Steelers captured four Super Bowls
in five years. We'll take the 1978 team
over any other because it featured
one of the best players ever, in
excellent Dallas team 35-31 in one
of the greatest Super Bowls ever.
Also, the team featured 10 Hall of
Famers, including head coach Chuck
Noll.

The Steelers' defense was
undoubtedly forged by its "Steel
Curtain" defense. The unit featured
four Hall of Famers, with one at each
level, including Joe Greene at defen­
tive tackle, linebacker Jack Ham and
Jack Lambert and Mel Blount at cor­
nerback. The group terrorized NFL
defenses for the better part of a
decade.

The offense wasn't too shabby
either, with Terry Bradshaw, 1,000-
yard rusher Franco Harris and the
Canton-bound receiver duo of Lynn
Swann and John Stallworth. Center
Mike Webster was a standout on
an offensive line that continually
shut down the best. Inside linebacker
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For four answers, call 1-900-385-5605. $1.20 a minute or, with a credit card, 25¢ a minute.


As for the All-Star voting... I think it's an excellent idea. The fans get to vote, and I think that's exactly what they should do. It's their league, and they should have a say in who's on the team.

Assistant to the head coach of the Minnesota Vikings, 2003.

Awards for the top four moments from the past 50 years, 1997.

The最具影响力的中国设计师，2016.

The top four moments from the past 50 years, 1997.

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Poly women swimmers ready for San Diego St.

Cal Poly sophomore Amy Speer competes in the 200 butterfly in the Mustangs' 153-143 nonconference and diving team will travel to Pepperdine in Malibu to take on San Diego State. The Mustangs will have their final tune-up for February's Big West Conference Championships this weekend.

Cassel Gaeto

The Cal Poly women's swimming and diving team will travel to Pepperdine in Malibu to take on San Diego State in a nonconference meet at noon Saturday. The meet is the women's last meet before entering the Big West Conference Championships in Long Beach from Feb. 21 to 24. The Mustangs have already defeated Pepperdine twice this season, but are yet to swim against San Diego State.

"Pepperdine and San Diego State are both good teams, and we could very well win the meet, but I'm more concerned about how sharp we come across and how we do individually," Cal Poly head coach Tom Milich said.

The women lost to their last opponents, UC Davis and Pacific, in a meet Jan. 20. The team started off its training by swimming about 11 miles per practice and Milich is slowly working down the swimmers' mileage to get them ready for the races they face at the end of the season.

"This is going to be a tune-up meet for us," Milich said. "In swimming you train so hard and so much to prepare for the championships, sometimes you just want to cut out the competitions and get to training!"

After Saturday's competition, the women will not have any other meets until the championships. The time off between the meets will allow the women the necessary time in the pool instead of on the road.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL UPDATE

Cal Poly handed visiting Pacific a 77-62 Big West Conference loss Thursday night in Mott Gym to improve to 6-12 overall and 2-4 in Big West play, Cal Poly senior forward Jessica Eggleston had 24 points and eight rebounds and sophomore forward Megan Harrison added 13 points.

Eggleston was one point short of a career high in scoring. The Mustangs continue their four-game home stand against Cal State Northridge at 4 p.m. Saturday.

For a full recap of Thursday's game, see www.mustangdaily.net on Friday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL UPDATE

The Tigers handed the visiting Mustangs a 66-43 Big West Conference loss at Alex G. Spanos Center to drop Cal Poly to 9-9 overall and 2-4 in the Big West. The loss snapped a three-game overall winning streak for Cal Poly, which fell to 1-7 on the road this season.

Point guards Chaz Thomas and Trae Clark led Cal Poly with 12 and 10 points, respectively. Anthony Esparza led Pacific with 13 points, 13 rebounds and four assists.

The Mustangs continue their four-game road trip at Cal State Northridge at 7 p.m. Saturday.

COMMENTARY

Mustang Daily picks top 10 Super Bowl champs

Devan McClaine and Tristan Aird

One day from Super Bowl XLI, we got to thinking, which we don't do much of.

But when we do, it's usually about football.

And this it, was about ranking the top 10 Super Bowl champions — with one condition: Only one team from each franchise can appear on our list. For example, you'll notice the omissions of several 49ers, Steelers and Cowboys teams for the sake of diversity.

We ranked the teams Nos. 1-10 and assigned point totals to each based on where they fell.

Much to Devan's dismay, the 2004 New England Patriots are nowhere to be found. To Tristan's shock, the 1996 Green Bay Packers are off the list.

Now to count down:

10. 1999 St. Louis Rams

Along with San Francisco's Roger Craig in 1985, running back Marshall Faulk was one of two play-by-play announcers in league history to surpass 1,000 yards rushing and receiving. He finished with an all-time league record 2,429 yards from scrimmage.

And even Faulk wasn't this team's MVP. That would be Cinderella quarterback Kurt Warner, formerly of the Arena Football League's Iowa Barnstormers. Warner threw for 4,353 yards and 41 touchdowns with only 13 picks.

The receivers on this team — Isaac Bruce, Torry Holt, Az-zahir Hakim and Ricky Proehl — caught in waves and ran deep crossing routes that made defensive backs backs heel spin.

Taylor and Paul Hornung. The defense was led by linebacker Ray Nitschke and cornerback Herb Adderley. The team was well-coached. After a victory over Dallas in the famous "Ice Bowl," Lombardi's squad featured nine Hall of Famers if we count the coach.

The grand daddy of them all, lit to count down:

9. 1966 Green Bay Packers

The grand daddy of them all, literally. The first team to win the Super Bowl makes the list over their 1996 counterparts. Tristan made a strong case for the Brett Favre-led Packers, which finished first in scoring and rushing.

In turn, I made the argument for the Tom Brady-Bill Belichick 2004 Patriots. In the end, we decided we had to include a Vince Lombardi team. The Super Bowl trophy is named after him.

Call me old fashioned, but what happened to smash mouth football? Lombardi was as old school as high call the plays and differen rants.

But when we do, it's usually about running backs. Lombardi wouldn't have any other team on his list. They don't do much of.

This 17-0 squad won games by scores of 34-13, 23-0, 52-0, 31-10 and 16-0.

It's not counted as such, but this team mirrored that image. It was ranked fourth in the league in fewest points allowed, picked off 29 passes and rolled up 57 sacks.

The only reason this team is not higher is because it hardly dominated in the playoffs, getting by with 12 points.