So that we couldn’t claim sexual discrimination, they also decided to close engineering technology.
— Barbara Weber  
Former home economics department head

The home economics department was originally a part of the School of Professional Studies. But when the school closed in 1992, the major was reassigned to the College of Agriculture.

Death of a major

As talk of closing the home economics department circulated in 1992, students and faculty members weren’t prepared to say goodbye.

Jackie Pugh  
MUSTANG DAILY

The decision to completely phase out the home economics department met resentment from the faculty and students. The chaos caused students to protest and march to President Warren Baker’s office several times in the spring of 1992.

One of the students who protested, Marshawn Porter, a home economics graduate, said the situation was disheartening. “It was a shock to us, and it was kind of scary because we invested so many years and we weren’t going to be graduating with the major we intended,” Porter said.

At the time, there were students who had just started the program and others who were nearly finished, said Porter, now an Arroyo Grande High School teacher.

see Major, page 2

Muslim Student Association: United by faith

Taylor Moore  
MUSTANG DAILY

Although Cal Poly lacks diversity, the presence of different cultural and religious clubs like the Muslim Student Association help alleviate the problem.

MSA has been an active club on campus for over 20 years. Much like Campus Crusade for Christ for the Christian students and Hillel for the Jewish students, MSA plays an important role for Muslim students looking to educate themselves and others about Islam and its view and role in the world.

“Many people do not know about Islam so what we do is educate from a Muslim perspective,” said biology major and member of the MSA Board of Directors Naiyarah Kolkailah.

Annual events sponsored by MSA include the Fast-a-Thon and Islam Awareness Week.

see Muslims, page 2

Student works to revive black sorority at University of Utah

Brock Vergakis  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — Aminatai Yusuf always wanted to be in a sorority. But when she arrived on the University of Utah campus as a freshman in 2002, the kind of sorority she wanted to join — a black one — didn’t exist.

In her final semester, she’s changing that for others. Delta Sigma Theta is becoming the only student-run Greek organization in the state specifically for black students. Her efforts come as the university struggles to maintain minority enrollment proportionate to Utah’s population.

“It’s very easy to spend a whole day on campus and never see another African-American student,” she said. “Membership, it seems the odds are against us.” That might be an understatement. There are more than 28,000 students at the University of Utah. Of those, 71 were black, female undergraduates last semester.

The school has had a handful of black fraternities and sororities in the past 30 years, but none survived. A Delta Sigma Theta chapter existed from 1996 to 2000, but ceased after its last member graduated. Its membership peaked at eight students — including two from Brigham Young University in Provo, 40 miles

see Sorority, page 2
Muslims

continued from page 1

The Fast-a-Thon is one of MSA's major events, and not only contributes to the education of fellow students but also helps the local and global community. Every year, MSA holds the Fast-a-Thon during the religious period of fasting, Ramadan.

Marya Mikati, an architecture engineering junior, said the club has recently shrunk because several members have graduated last quarter. Currently, the MSA has 10 to 15 active members in Cal Poly's chapter, which is one of thousands across North America.

"One of our goals is to recruit new members and we mostly do it through word of mouth," Mikati said.

The club tries to celebrate Muslim holidays, like Ramadan, and drink, including water, from dawn to sunset. One of the most important factors for this religious period is education, she said, because it helps non-Muslim students understand how life is for those who are less fortunate.

"The idea is to come together," Mikati said. "That's what unite us all is our faith."

As the only Muslim group on campus, according to Porter, students can join MSA and the rest of the Muslim community for the last week of August. Prior to the event, members find people in the local community and on campus to donate to their fast. After the event, all of the donations go to a local or global cause deemed important to MSA.

Past Fast-a-Thons have donated to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the South-Asian Earthquake, aid in a local food bank.

Not only is education a core value of the organization, both nationally and at Cal Poly, but the club also exists to unite Muslim students.

"The idea is to come together," Kollendahl said. "What unites us as our faith."

As the only Muslim group on campus, MSA has the responsibility to connect Muslim students and bring awareness to diversity at Cal Poly.

With a 64.7 percent Caucasian population on campus, according to the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis, MSA represents one of the ethnic minorities at Cal Poly.

Mikati said that she's never faced discrimination at Cal Poly because of her faith, but said there is a level of ignorance some students carry toward Islam.

"It's not done out of hatred," Mikati said of the stereotyping. She added that most students are "open-minded" when she informs them of her religion.

The national organization, MSA National, began in 1963 and became one of the few success with Muslim students that it was eventually divided into sub-chapters for regions in the United States and Canada. Both Muslims and non-Muslims are welcome at MSA events and meetings, and are encouraged to come and educate themselves about Islam and the Cal Poly Muslim community.

The first meeting of the quarter will take place tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in Engineering East building room 129.

Major

continued from page 1

"Because they never came out and said what they really were going to do, we felt that they were going to end it that next year, that meant everybody was going to be allowed to go to other majors," Porter said.

Porter's first rush period after years of dormancy begins next month.

Fraternities and sororities have been on college campuses since the 1800s, but the acceptance black student wasn't allowed. At Howard University in Washington, D.C., the first black sorority, Alpha Kappa Omega, formed in 1908. After segregation ended, many white Greek organizations refused black students. Unofficially, some still do.

That often unequal racial discrimination helped spread the establishment of black sororities and fraternities nationwide, encompassing the two different Greek systems on college campuses, especially in the South.

At the University of Arkansas, black students were upset when the first black woman joined a traditionally white sorority there in 2003, said Scott Wolfe, associate dean of students at the school.

"There was a backlash from our African-American community that was prevalent," he said. "She had some nasty notes left on her car, in the residence hall and on her door."

Noise has joined since.

There are now historically black fraternities and sororities on more than 900 campuses. They are governed by their own national organization and have different recruitment processes and traditions than the traditionally white Greek system.

One of "the differences is that ours is a lifetime commitment," the other end at the college level," said Jennifer Carter, Western regional director for the National Pan-Hellenic Council, from Denver.

Some allow people to join after they graduate. That's what Cathy Christie did. She's the University of Utah's Delta Sigma Theta adviser. She graduated in 1989, but there was no chapter on campus. She formed a chapter for graduates in 1988.

"We see our collegiates as a training ground. They do public service on the campus and they do the community work, but even as adults we continue. We do even more so once we've got out of school," she said.

Christie remains active doing community service. It's one of the things that led Yves to form a chapter at the University of Utah. But she's not sure about the importance of her sorority being a black one on a campus that is 78 percent white.

"A goal of ours is to be more visible so other students can see African-American students in a positive light. There's so much negative activity around," she said. "The more organizations the school has that are related to a specific group, the better. It helps the university with recruitment, particularly with students who have relatives in black fraternities or sororities."
**State**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A wheelchair-bound man was convicted Monday of two counts of robbery and one count of attempted robbery in a San Francisco stabbing spree that spanned two months in 2005, prosecutors said.

Caoing Vinh Tran, 35, was arrested in April 2005 at his home wearing a necklace he stole two weeks earlier, according to the San Francisco district attorney's office.

After a three-week trial, the jury also acquitted Tran of one additional count of robbery.

**LOS ANGELES (AP) —** The California Highway Patrol recommended Monday that actress-singer Brandy be charged with misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter in a freeway crash that killed a woman motorist last month, a city attorney's spokesman said.

A message seeking comment from Brandy's publicist, Courtney Barnes, was not immediately returned. Earlier this month, Barnes issued a statement saying Brandy "wishes to publicly express her condolences to the family of the deceased."

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** A Democratic senator wants to cut off all Pentagon sales of surplus F-14 parts, saying the military's marketing of the spares "defies common sense" in light of their importance to Iran. Sen. Ron Wyden's bill came in response to an investigation by The Associated Press that found weaknesses in surplus-sale security that allowed buyers for countries including Iran and China to surreptitiously obtain sensitive U.S. military equipment including Tomcat parts.

**LAS VEGAS (AP) —** Lauren Nelson, a aspiring Broadway star, was crowned Miss America on Monday, the second year in a row that a Miss Nevada has won the crown.

Nelson, 20, of Lawnwood, is a student at the University of Central Oklahoma who wants to obtain her master's degree in musical theater.

"I wanted to be Miss America since I was 2 years old and never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be one of those girls on stage and never did I dream I would be Miss America," she said afterward.

**International**

EILAT, Israel (AP) — A Palestinian suicide bomber killed three Israelis at a bakery Monday in the first such attack inside the country in nine months, and the two radical groups that claimed to have sent him said they were trying to end weeks of Palestinian infighting by taking aim at Israel instead.

The bombing was praised by the Palestinians' governing Hamas movement as legitimate resistance — a position that was sure to harm efforts to end a crippling economic boycott imposed by the international community.

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) —** Hugo Chavez has just about everything a president could want: popular support, a marginalized opposition, congress firmly on his side and a booming economy as he starts his second term.

Now, he's about to become even more powerful — the all-Chavista National Assembly is poised to approve a "mother law" as early as Wednesday enabling him to remake society by presidential decree. In its latest draft, the law would allow Chavez to dictate measures for 18 months in 11 broad areas.

**DA won't file sexual assault charges against ex-Cal football star**

Marcus Wohlsen

OAKLAND, Calif. — Charges will not be filed against former University of California football star Marshawn Lynch despite an Oakland woman's accusations that he choked, slapped and sexually assaulted her, prosecutors said Monday.

An Alameda County Superior Court judge granted a restraining order Friday to the woman, who described herself in court documents as Lynch's ex-girlfriend. Lynch was not at the hearing.

Lynch, 20, announced earlier this month that he was slipping his senior year at Cal to enter the upcoming NFL draft, where he is expected to be selected in the first round.

But prosecutors said a lack of evidence — including no visible injuries or photographs of injuries, a witness' statement contradicting the accuser and inconsistencies in the woman's own story — meant the case couldn't go forward.

"We have an ethical obligation that we have to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt. And I don't think we can," said Alameda County senior deputy district attorney Kim Hunter.

The Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year allegedly assaulted the 20-year-old woman on Dec. 13 outside her mother's house in Oakland, according to a civil complaint she filed six days later.

"He said he was going to kill me because no one else can have me," she said in her application for the restraining order.

Lynch forced her into the back of a car, where he slapped her, choked her, made her touch his genitals and told the car's driver to take off with her, according to the document.

"Based upon the information that I'm privy to, including an interview with a third person who was present at the time, those allegations are false," said Lynch's attorney, M. Gerald Schwartzbach.

According to court filings in the application for the restraining order, Lynch was served in mid-January at a gym on Cal's campus with notice of Friday's hearing. But Lynch's lawyer said Lynch could never have received the notice because the star was running back was out of the state training at the time.

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**The Truth:**

Our Impact on the Environment

One of America's most honored science writers, Andrew Revkin has spent nearly a quarter century covering subjects ranging from Hurricane Katrina and the Asian tsunami to the assault on the Amazon, from the troubled relationship of science and politics to climate change at the North Pole. He has been reporting on the environment for The New York Times since 1978, a year that has taken him to the Arctic three times in three years. In 2003, he became the first Times reporter to file stories and photos from the sea ice around the Pole. He spearheaded a three-part Times series and one-hour documentary last year on the transforming Arctic (nytimes.com/earth "The Big Melt").

In 2003, Mr. Revkin's climate coverage won the first National Academies Communication Award for print journalism, presented by the nation's pre-eminent scientific body. He is a two-time winner of the Science Journalism Award of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2002 and 1985) and, along with other prizes, has won an Investigative Reporters & Editors Award.

Mr. Revkin has been a pioneer in multimedia journalism, shooting still and video imagery for many stories. In 2005, one of his Arctic images won an Award of Excellence in the Pictures of the Year International photographic competition (poyi.com/2001/03.php). In December 2005, he filed the first daily podcasts for The Times during the climate talks in Montreal, a running news event.

Mr. Revkin has a biology degree from Brown and a master's degree in environmental journalism from Columbia. He has taught environmental reporting as an adjunct professor at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism.
Iraqi cult planned attack on top Shiite clerics during religious festival, Iraqi officials say

Kim Gamsel

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's army announced Monday it killed the leader of a heavily armed cult of messianic Shiites called "the Soldiers of Heaven" in a fierce gunbattle last week east of Najaf that left two U.S. soldiers dead.

Senior Iraqi security officials said that as part of the plot, three gunmen were captured in Najaf after raiding a hotel room in the center of Iraq's most senior Shiite spiritual leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, with plans to attack it.

The U.S. military said Iraq security forces were sent to the area where the cult's leader had been identified as part of the plot, three gunmen were captured in Najaf after raiding a hotel room in the center of Iraq's most senior Shiite spiritual leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, with plans to attack it. The cult's leader, wearing jeans, a coat and a hat and carrying two pistols, was among those who died in the battle, al-Ghanemi said. Although he went by several aliases, he was identified as Duj Abdul Zahra Kadim, 37, from Hillah, south of Baghdad, according to Abdul-Hussein Abtan, deputy governor of Najaf. Kadim had been detained twice in the past few years, Abtan said.

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Microsoft launches long-awaited Vista operating system with Times Square bash, acrobatics

Jessica Mintz

NEW YORK — Acrobatics, blaring music and plenty of hype accompanied Microsoft Corp.'s long-delayed debut of its new Windows Vista operating system.

Hours before the software went on sale in New York, dancers clad in Microsoft color dangled from ropes high above street level Monday and unfurled flags to form the red, green, blue and yellow Windows logo against a building wall.

At a swank midtown eatery, speakers pumped out a hit from hip-hop hotshot Snoop Dogg before Steve Ballmer, Microsoft's chief executive officer, took to stage to proclaim, "Vista is the center, the launch point for the next generation of connected entertainment in the home."

Later, two explosively loud, percussion-heavy rock bands shook the walls and riled up a crowd of early Vista test users, PC and chip-maker employees and others amid flashing lights at the Nokia Theatre — temporarily renamed the Windows Vista Theatre — in Times Square.

"Vista was set to go on sale in 70 countries today, along with new versions of Microsoft Exchange e-mail software and the flagship Office business suite, which includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint." Several retailers had even scheduled midnight openings.

But unlike the recent launches of new generation game machines like Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 3, customers haven't been camping out for days.

"When I look at Windows Vista, I see a technology that is interesting, that is relevant, but to some extent is evolutionary," said Al Gillen, an analyst at the technology research group IDC. "I do not believe it will create a lot of motivation for people to rush out and get a new operating system."

In an interview, Microsoft chairman Bill Gates said the company actually wasn't pushing midnight sales events — after all, the software will be available as a download over the Web for the first time. Even that route will be relatively rarely taken — Ballmer acknowledged that, as in the past, most consumers will switch to Vista only when they buy new computers.

"More than five years in the making, Vista was released for businesses Nov. 30, but the unveiling for consumers of the latest edition of Windows — which runs more than 90 percent of the world's PCs — only came today. Vista retails for $199 to $400, depending on the version and whether the user is upgrading from Windows XP."

The Redmond, Wash.-based software maker contends that Vista is such a huge improvement over previous computing platforms that users inevitably will say "Wow" when they see it.

"Gates ticked off some examples, such as how Vista presents a slick 3-D graphical user interface and document icons that give at-a-glance previews. Gates said the next wow comes when people start using a system-wide search program that Microsoft's engineers built into both the operating system and new versions of Office."

"Vista comes as changing dynamics of computing — notably the rise of open-source software and Web-based services that replicate what traditionally could be done only on a desktop computer — are threatening Microsoft's dominance in the industry."

But Gates contended that the operating system has a higher profile than ever before, as the PC has morphed from a souped-up typewriter to a networked entertainment center, personal media library and gateway to the Internet.

"When people think about their PC, they think about Windows even more than who the manufacturer is. That determines how it looks, how you navigate, what the applications are that are available," Gates told The Associated Press.

And in this case Vista has folded in programs that users once bought separately — including automated backup systems and some spamware protections.

"Microsoft built Vista so that different layers could be upgraded separately, so it's possible that this is the last massive, all-in-one update for Windows. No matter how Microsoft chooses to roll out Vista's successor, Ballmer said there's still work to be done.

"There's so many areas in which we need innovation. Developers need a richer platform if we're going to get speech, voice, natural language, and more rich 3-D-type graphics into the user interface," Ballmer said. Plus, the technologies around the PC — chips, storage, high-definition DVD — all evolve, he said. "The operating system will need to evolve with them."

"Frankly, we've got a very long list of stuff our engineers want to do, a list that the companies here want us to do," he said.

Over the weekend, Dell Inc. started taking orders for PCs with Vista. Kevin Rollins, Dell's chief executive, said the company's Web site saw a 20 percent jump in traffic, with "tens of thousands of copies" of Vista sold for delivery Tuesday or later.

In Tokyo, about 80 people lined up Monday night at the Bic Camera Department Store to become among the world's first consumers to own Vista. Celebrities and executives wore on hand as a large-screen TV displayed a countdown to the midnight launch (10 a.m. EST).

The second person in line, Fumihiko Komura, 33, waited three hours and was hoping the new operating system will make his work in Web design easier.

"My expectations are very high for Vista," he said. "I want to try it out because it's new."

For a Tuesday morning store celebration, DSG International PLC's flagship PC World store in central London hired costumed characters, including Sherlock Holmes to signal security and a movie star to emphasize multimedia.
Imagine the scene: It's almost 3 a.m. on a Saturday. The Barcelona nightlife is in full swing. People in various states of inebriation are noisily walking down the long, crowded and vendor-lined La Rambla on their way to the next packed bar or techno-thumping discs clubs for the night, or, in rarer cases, heading home.

About halfway down the mile-long street, Maoz — the popular vegetarian hangout known for its delicious falafels and, my personal favorite, patatas flamencas — is overflowing with adoring fans, including me. This was the place to get fried potatoes. Not the bland french fries Americans are used to, but creamy-on-the-inside, crispy-on-the-outside sticks of fried goodness.

When I returned to San Luis Obispo a couple of weeks ago, I was ecstatic that a similar joint had opened during my stint in Europe. Bel Frites, located at 1127 Garden St., serves a plethora of Belgian fries and flavored dipping sauces. Mustang Daily recommends trying one of these dipping options: curry mango chutney, crème fraîche or roasted garlic honey.

The curry mango chutney lacks in style they make up for in substance — who cares what the dipping sauce is, as long as it’s good. Enhancement of your choice and a dipping sauce. Each week there is a featured special sauce and seasoning pairing. Though a bit steep in price, the classic ranch sauce. Indeed, the cool, creamy crème fraîche (similar to sour cream but thinner and less sour) is an excellent choice.

For those who prefer something spicy, the mustard dipping sauce is a smooth, tangy, garlicky twist on sweet-tasting honey mustard. If you are a fan of conventional honey mustard, then perhaps you should choose another dipping option.

If you’re more of a traditionalist, stick with the free condiments, which include sea salt, Heinz ketchup, malt vinegar and Tabasco sauce.

Connelly offer two varieties of fries: traditional fries accompanied by one or more dipping sauces, or seasoned fries tossed with a seasoning of your choice and a dipping sauce. Each week there is a featured special sauce and seasoning pairing. Though a bit steep in price, the fries are worth trying at least once or frequenting as often as possible. The void in my life since leaving for those looking for a with a hint of fresh dill. This is a refreshing and soothing choice.

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Connelly offer two varieties of fries: traditional fries accompanied by one or more dipping sauces, or seasoned fries tossed with a seasoning of your choice and a dipping sauce. Each week there is a featured special sauce and seasoning pairing. Though a bit steep in price, the classic ranch sauce. Indeed, the cool, creamy crème fraîche (similar to sour cream but thinner and less sour) is an excellent choice.

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Ryan Chartrand

“Smokin’ Aces” is a “smokin’ hot” 2007 action flick in the sense that, like smoke, it will fade away very quickly. It has enough testosterone built into it, however, to deem it the ultimate Friday night “guys movie” and the ultimate antithesis to “The Notebook” for the ladies.

Joe Carnahan, director and writer of “Smokin’ Aces,” is clearly a Quentin Tarantino fan, and I stress the word “fan.” The sadistic humor and stylish executions are certainly present, but are not nearly as effectively executed.

Carnahan’s carnage fest, while an enjoyable bloodbath for any male who likes big guns, is ridden with enough problems from the beginning to make the rest no more than cinematic anarchy.

“Smokin’ Aces” begins by grabbing an eclectic handful of characters and throwing them at a wall hoping some will stick, while others fall to the ground dead within 10 minutes. The first 30 minutes is entirely background information in an attempt to welcome you into a charming world of murder, cocaine and prostitutes. Carnahan should have stood outside handing out novellas for everyone to read before watching the film. Instead, he just tries to confuse you.

Once half of the characters suddenly die, the gist of the story is set in place. A $1 million bounty has been placed on the head of a renowned magician named Buddy “Aces” Israel, played by Jeremy Piven, who also has some complicated ties with the mafia. An eclectic group of hit men (and women) hear of the job and so begins a rat race to kill Aces, who has locked himself in a hotel suite with one too many grams of cocaine. The unbelievably creative tagline “May the best hit man win” sums up the rest of the film. If Carnahan’s way of saying, “Hey, that’s basically it for the story. Now look at this chainsaw.” Tarantino would be ashamed (then again, he’d probably also be on his feet applauding Carnahan’s visceral action sequences).

If Carnahan is to retain his legacy gained from his breakout film “Narc” after releasing this barely decent hit man flick, it will only be because of the 50-caliber sniper rifle. Carnahan practically rocks the theater with each bullet that tears apart not only human bodies, but a good portion of a floor of a building. Just about everything else considered gruesome or brutally pleasing in “Smokin’ Aces” has either been done before or is as pointless as watching any of the film’s characters inevitably die.

I almost feel sympathetic to the established actors like Ben Affleck, Jason Bateman and Ray Liotta who were thrown in as useless characters, rendering them cameos at best. On top of that, Alicia Keys proved in her first motion picture debut that some musicians aren’t meant for the big screen. That leaves Piven and Ryan Reynolds, who plays an FBI agent trying to protect Piven from the party of killers, to hold the film together with their comical talent and the occasional dramatic self-reflection scenes. It’s too bad their characters are only slightly developed at best.

The core issue with “Smokin’ Aces” isn’t that it’s simply a bloodletting between the most one-dimensional characters you will ever see, but more so because there’s no reason to care. Carnahan never gives any indication that there’s anything below the surface of his visual madness, leaving you with only excessive blood, carcasses and even more prostitutes to take home in your head (although I understand if some of you enjoy that reward).

“Smokin’ Aces” is no doubt an entertaining series of stylishly directed action sequences, but unless sometime next week you are daydreaming about carving out someone’s heart, “Smokin’ Aces” will be as forgettable as “Underworld: Evolution” was this same time last year.

Above: Femme Fatale Georgia Sykes (Alicia Keys) stares down the competition. Right: Rip Reed (Jason Bateman) gets caught with his pants down.
LOS ANGELES — Another week, another awards show, and the Oscar situation looks as up in the air as ever.

"Little Miss Sunshine," took the Screen Actors Guild's ensemble prize Sunday night, the group's equivalent of a best picture award. Top acting honors, however, went to obvious front-runners Forest Whitaker, Helen Mirren, Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson.

"Sunshine," the low-budget, road-trip charmer, came out of the Sundance Film Festival and bested bigger studio competition in "The Departed," "Dreamgirls" and "Babel." "Sunshine," as he turned to co-stars Alan Arkin, Steve Carell and Abigail Breslin.

Asked what an Oscar would mean, Whitaker said, "It would mean a great deal to all of us. Making a movie isn't always a great experience, that's the facts. This really was a remarkable experience."

Whitaker won best actor for his thunderous turn as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland," with Mirren taking the best actress statue for her searing portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen."

Mirren seemed visibly stirred by her best-actress win (her second award of the night), beginning her acceptance speech at the Shrine Auditorium with a shaky, "Be still my beating heart, be still.

"When I did my costume fitting for "The Queen," I walked in and saw all those sensible shoes and those tweed skirts, laid out in a row, and I cried. I thought, 'I can't play anyone who chooses to wear those clothes, I just can't do it.' I learned to love the person who chooses to wear those clothes."

Earlier in the evening, Mirren won a SAG award was for playing a dramatic role for Murphy, he pointed out that the last time he accepted the award in a fake accent. "I've been acting for some 25 years now and this is a tremendous honor to me. No, I'm sorry," he said, cracking up. "It's just when the British people come up and get the awards, it's so smooth with their stuff. And I feel goofy up here 'cause I don't being stuff."

Backstage, Murphy said he and his "Dreamgirls" castmates were as surprised as everyone else that the film received a leading eight Oscar nominations but not one for best picture.

"We got eight nominations, that was a great thing. We were happy about that," he said. "I was so happy to be nominated. I wasn't feeling disappointment about anything. I was caught off guard that we didn't get nominated for best picture but I've just been happy, nonstop happy.

On the television side of the awards, "Grey's Anatomy" won best dramatic series on the heels of its Golden Globe victory and in the midst of its off-screen troubles involving homophobic slurs uttered by actor Isaiah Washington, who has since entered counseling.

"Grey's" co-star Chandra Wilson, in accepting the award for best actress in a drama, addressed the matter with humor: "It's about those 10 cast members sitting over there, and the other one in rehab."

America Ferrera, two weeks after her surprise Golden Globe win, took the prize for best actress in a comedy series for her starring role as a sweetly awkward fashion magazine worker in "Ugly Betty."

Discussing the unprecedented success for the show, which has a largely Hispanic cast, Ferrera said: "What's great is that Latinos are a huge part of the audience. It's wonderful for them to begin to see representations of themselves on screen, which is something I pined for when I was younger."

"I just want to thank you for making my film with me. And for accepting me," said Hudson, a former "American Idol" contestant who looks more destined than ever for Oscar greatness.

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How to create a celebrity scandal

Turn on a television and what do you see? That's right, people who have little talent, lots of money, and a whole lot of problems. I'm talking the Paris Hiltons, Britney Spears and Lindsay Lohans of the world. The only problem with these ladies though, is that the act is getting kind of old. I mean really, how many rehab visits, bad parenting instances, and sex tapes do we really need?2 It is getting old girls, and it is time for some new scandals to arise. In my newest "Guide to Life," I'll be giving you the advice to create a Hollywood-esque problem in your life that will surely propel you to super stardom.

First step is to pick a drug of choice. You could choose cocaine, pot, or even ecstasy, even though there have been no such reports. It seems like the popular thing to do these days is really to pick some sort of substance, stick to it, and use it till you need rehab. As I always like to do with my "Guide to Life" though, is to not just point out what is going on in the world, but also give you an example or two of things you can actually do yourself to get on your way to success. But what you pick doesn't have to be so serious though, you can actually do yourselves a favor and then stick with it till someone calls you out on it or a problem. Mine would be cereal. Wait a minute, cereal? Yes, cereal and yes I did just eat cereal. You see, cereal is easily the most undererrated vegetable there is, simply because it is cheap. Many times, now, if people were to find out that I was addicted to the first reaction would be that I was a disgusting pervert. Look deeper though. I think it is damn good, but everyone seems to forget that. Really I were to be able to have so much of it that it would send me to rehab, then, "Hello Lindsay Lohan," because I'll be joining her shortly.

The next step is to refuse to wear any sort of undergarment. Nothing has been more popular lately than paparazzi shots of celebrities without bras or panties, with the pictures spread all over the Internet. As far as trends go, there really is nothing more pop- ular these days than nipple slips or upskirt shots for that quick celebrity fame, because it seems like just when you forget about some celebrity staffer, a picture of her boobs-hope to appear on the Web.3 If you have more decency than to show your most private area though, and as a first reader of my article, I'm sure you do have more decency than that, I will offer you an alternative. That would be to wear mirrored underwear. What? Mirrored underwear? Yes, mirrored underwear. It is common for the paparazzis, or to localize it, that creepy guy who always is taking pictures at parties, to snap that picture and instantly distribute it as creepy guy who always is taking pictures at parties, to snap that picture and instantly distribute it as creepy guy who always is taking pictures at parties, to snap that picture and instantly distribute it as creepy guy who always is taking pictures at parties, to snap that picture and instantly distribute it as creepy guy who always is taking pictures at parties, to snap that picture and instantly distribute it...OK, wait, no I wasn't actually watching the WNBA, I swear I fell asleep while watching ESPN and when I woke up it was on.

TO THE EDITOR

What if the United States was occupied by foreign forces?

I read that in the newspaper or watch on the news about how horrible the Iraqi war has gone. Well, I see parallels over how the insurgents are winning and we, the Americans, are not. I beg to differ, but I would like to switch the eyes of an insurgent. Let's imagine the war where the insurgents hold our cities and towns and we have to make do with what we have been given. Imagine the United States subject to Sharia law and completely operated by Al-Qaeda. We're able to take pot shots at a few of them, and we manage to make it through every day in an attempt to stop the public from collaborating with the Al-Qaeda invaders. Over time, Americans seem to be turning to Sharia and want to move forward with their lives. We find that 65 percent of the population wants Al-Qaeda to leave, but hatred for the U.S. insurgent forces — the "Wolverines" — is at about 95 percent. The people hate the occupiers, but they loathe the Wolverines.

Imagine now, a year into the occupation of America, George Bush's two daughters were killed in a firefight with the enemy, which had surrounded the sorority house where they were hiding. A year later, President Bush was pulled out of a septic tank in Crawford by the Federal Reserves, put on trial and sentenced to hang, which he did on national television. Dick Cheney, captured in an early morning raid several years ago, has an irresistible urge to target the Wolverines, and Condoleeza Rice was murdered by a suicide bomber that last fall.

Everywhere you turn, Al-Qaeda forces run security patrols and check points, trying to deal with the Wolverines. Stopping this requires calling upon our own, which is further alienates us from a public that already despises us. Does that feel like winning to you? Me neither.

Mike Heinowitz

* 1 OK, wait, no I wasn't actually watching the WNBA, I swear I fell asleep while watching ESPN and when I woke up it was on.
* 2 Fine, the sex tapes don't really get old. You with me, fella?
* 3 Panties and spread in the same sentence? No pun intended.
* 4 With that, Rose O'Donnell you HAVEN'T been forgotten, and Scarlett Johansson you HAVE been forgotten.
* 5 Upskirt and watch! Again, no pun intended.
* 6 Oh my bad, or should I say the ladies of Hollywood and Rosie O'Donnell. ZING!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Scott Nordholm

Pol's Daily

Check out today's

Online Exclusive Column

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor!

mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

All letters must be 250 words or less. No letters may be edited for grammar, style and spelling.
Football

continued from page 12

and Ellerson said they are excited to play a full home season in Alex C.
Spates Stadium, which had its seat-
capacity elevated from roughly
8,400 last season to 12,000 via ren-
ter’s psyche is the students were
made a real impact on our football
season finale Nov. 18.

were not completed until the regu-
lar-season finale Nov. 18.

"I think it’s going to be great," Ellerson said. "I think the thing that
made a real impact on our football
Ellerson said. "Then we’ll have a junior day in April."

Kyle Shotwell, cornerback
Courtney Brown, nose tackle Chris
White and free safety Kenny
Chicorne run through drills is still
being scheduled.

"Their agents, they’ll set those
things up," Ellerson said. "Then
we’ll have a junior day in April."

The highest-profile NFL Draft
prospect for Cal Poly is Shoerwell, who led all players in the East-West
Shrine Game with seven tackles
(five solo) on Jan. 20 despite being
one of only four players in the 82nd
annual all-star game from a non-I-
A school. He won the Buck
Buchanan Award as the top defen-
sive player in 1-A after racking up
122 tackles and seven sacks this past
season.

In addition to the noteworthy
performance at the East-West
Shrine Game, Shoerwell was voted
by the game’s coaches — including
Don Shula, Dan Reeves and Mike
Singlesky — and selection com-
mittee as the Pat Tillman Award
winner. The honor is given to the
most outstanding player of the East-West Shrine Game and the top
defensive player in I-AA after racking up
122 tackles and seven sacks this past
season.

"He really did a nice job for himself," Ellerson said of the
6-foot-1, 235-pound Shotwell. "He
really represented himself well. I
haven’t had a chance to talk to any-
body who was there. Winning the Tillman Award, he helped his cause.

"I think what will be really
important for him is how he tests.
Like a lot of our guys, he’s an extra-
ordinary player but a tweener from
a size standpoint. They really test
the heck out of those guys physical-
ly. They’re always going to question
the level of competition week in,
week out. You mitigate that with
your testing."

Although it is unclear where
Shoerwell is projected to be chosen
in the April 29 to 29 draft, it can’t
hurt getting some national publici-

In his “East-West Shrine report”
published Jan. 23, Yahoo! Sports
writer John Murphy wrote of
Shoerwell: "The Buck Buchanan
Award winner was worked hard by
close Mike Singletary during posi-
tional drills but then drew praise
from the Hall of Fame linebacker,
who said Shoerwell was one of the
hardest working kids he has seen
the past few years."

Come takes pride in the fact that
players from Cal Poly, including
linebacker Jordan Beck (2004) and
defensive end Chris Gocogn (2005)
— have appeared in the East-West
Shrine Game for three consecutive
years. Prior to 2004, the last time
the Mustangs had a player in the
East-West Shrine Game was center-
backer Stan Jerrin in 1951.

"I’m really proud of them," Cone
said. "The program has done so
much to put a positive Cal Poly
name forward. A lot of Cal Poly
students and alumni are very excited
about the image that we’ve obtained
from the exposure that the program has generated."

High school signing day

approaches

The deadline for high school
seniors to sign national letters of
intent to play collegiate football is
Feb. 7.

Ellerson could not comment on
specific individuals, but said the
program hopes to sign about 15
players.

"It’s gone well again," Ellerson
said. "I try to be patient in the
process. We’ve still got recruiting
goin’ on. It’s been another remark-

able year. We think we’ve identified
some extraordinary people.
Everybody we’ve brought on cam-
pus has committed to us. We’re
doing a good job of identifying the
right guys. Some of the guys are
going to recruit quite heavily.

One newcomer the Mustangs
know they will have the services of
is Allan Hancock College transfer
Jonathan Dally, a quarterback
whom Cal Poly announced Dec. 20
had signed a national letter of
intent.

The 6-foot-1, 180-pound Dally,
a former standout at Kriegers High
in Santa Maria, threw for 2,229
yards and 24 touchdowns in his two
seasons at Allan Hancock.

Dally completed 71 of 122 pass-
es (58.2 percent) for 1,050 yards
and 13 touchdowns and rushed for
310 yards and seven scores as a
sophomore. He was a two-time All-
Western State Conference selec-
tion.

"We have Jonathan enrolled, he’s
doing a nice job," Ellerson said.

The incumbent starter is Matt
Brennan, who completed 45 per-
cent of his passes for 1,208 yards
and 10 touchdowns with seven intercep-
tions and ran for 344 yards
and two scores as a sophomore in
2006.

Asked whether the position will
be open come the start of spring
practice Feb. 21, Ellerson said, "I
hope it’ll be open. Hopefully it’ll
help Matt if he’s very competitive.
That’s good for everybody."
The bucket contained nearly two dozen surgeries and other procedures, including cast changes under anesthesia. He spent time in a sling to ease pressure on his legs, had pins inserted and was fitted at the end with an external brace — extraordinary measures for injuries that most horses never survive.

Weeks of positive reports turned into months. Barbaro wascyling the morning after his setback, gobbling up his feed and trying to walk out of his stall. But Richardson was not so sure. His greatest fear became reality — laminitis struck Barbaro’s left hind leg.

On Sunday, a day after Barbaro’s fight for survival had reached a critical point, Richardson compared the various injuries to a “house of cards.” One card fell, and the rest started to crumble.

In this case, it was the laminitis that attacked both front feet that left him vulnerable.

“Let that him with not a good leg stand on,” Richardson said.

The disease affected his personality too. The eyes that had been so bright and full of life were darker Monday morning. Barbaro clearly was not himself. “You could see he was upset,” Richardson said. “That was the difference,” he said. “You could put him in the water, you could move him around.”

On Thursday, Barbaro was euthanized.

“Certainly, grief is the price we all pay for love,” co-owner Ciretchen Jackson said. “It was the right decision, it was a good decision.”

“Dictator” was one of five names Barbaro had been given. Roy Jackson said. “It was the right decision, it was a good decision.”

"Certainly, grief is the price we all pay for love," co-owner Ciretchen Jackson said. “It was the right decision, it was a good decision."
Mustang women's golf team young, hopeful

Cal Poly opens the spring season in Calimesa from Feb. 12 to 13.

Brittany Ridley

The Cal Poly women's golf team is working to break records this season with a group of new freshmen.

The Mustangs kicked off their season in September and took first at the Lady Braveheart/UC Valley Golf Course in Calimesa from Feb. 12 to 13.

"As a team I know one of our goals is to break 300 for the first time, but we haven't done that yet," Cal Poly senior Jessica Huss said. "After being on the team for four years, I would say that this has been our best season ever."

Huss said much of the team's success can be credited to many of its newcomers.

Julia Heath, Stephanie Yocum, Maddy Fletcher, Hannah Brah, Eloise Walker and Kelly McCann are some of the girls that now travel to tournaments, which creates a lot more competition on the team for spots, Huss said. "They have definitely brought the team up a level."

Yocum, a freshman, finished third in Cal Poly's November Invitational with the team's lowest stroke average (78).

"We are quite young, but our freshmen class has been doing very well so far," Cal Poly head coach Scott Cartwright said. "Hopefully the freshmen will continue to mature and we can bring in more players to help them out."

Cartwright said he also hopes to see Huss finish her fourth and final season on the team with a win.

Huss wouldn't mind that.

"I would like to drop my scoring average, and as a team I think it would be nice for everyone to drop their scoring average so that we can do well at conference," Huss said. "I would like to see that improve a lot this year. Then hopefully we can finish in the top three."

With new team members and record scores during the fall season, Huss said she can only see the women's golf team becoming even stronger with a lot of success in the years to come.

"I could definitely see the team getting really good in the future," she said. "I could see them winning conference in the next few years if they keep going, which they will because our coach is good at bringing on players. I think we will win a lot more tournaments won in the future than we have in the past. We have such a tighter group of girls that will shoot lower."

MUSTANG DAILY EXCLUSIVE

Poly football schedule a work in progress, minus Sac State

The Mustangs and Hornets will not play each other for the first time since 1982.

Tristan Aird

The Cal Poly football team expects to play five home games and six on the road in 2007, although the program is still struggling to finalize its schedule.

Cal Poly athletics director Alison Cone and head coach Rich Ellerson confirmed Monday.

Neither Cone nor Ellerson named specific opponents, but both confirmed in separate interviews that Sacramento State has backed out of the series, meaning that Cal Poly and Sacramento State will not play each other for the first time since 1982.

"That thing's made it most difficult is losing the Sacramento State games," Ellerson said. "That threw things into a tizzy."

Two of the five Great West Football Conference schools — UC Davis and South Dakota State — have already announced their respective schedules for 2007. Cal Poly is somewhat behind in finalizing its schedule, Cone said, because schools are becoming more reluctant to play in San Luis Obispo, where the Mustangs are 19-3 over the past four years.

"In football, when you're losing a lot, it's really easy to get games," Cone said. "Also everybody wants to play you." Cone said. "This year's just been a bigger challenge than most and I still expect that will continue. But we will play five home games. We're very excited about them."

Cone said she hoped that Cal Poly's schedule would be announced "within the next couple of weeks."

"It's close," she said. "There have certainly been obstacles. As the program has received such national attention, we're kind of perceived by a lot of people to be a loss. As people are looking to schedule, everybody's kind of scheduling strategically. People don't want to play us."

Although the all-time series between Cal Poly and Sacramento State — which dates back to 1967 — is tied at 15-15, Cal Poly has won the last four games by a combined score of 143-53.

"I would characterize it as a surprise," Cone said of Sacramento State not playing Cal Poly. "They had a number of factors. Their (Big Sky) conference added Northern Colorado, they had eight conference games. (UC) Davis because Davis is right across. They play Davis and they needed to play two (Division I-A) money games."

Ellerson added: "I don't think that will stay that way. It's crazy that they're not on our schedule. At the end of the day, we need each other."

Sacramento State athletics director Terry Wanless said in a phone interview Monday that the Hornets had little choice in the matter.

"We ran out of dates," Wanless said. "It had nothing to do with Cal Poly. I have great respect for Cal Poly. I know they're struggling to get games."

Wanless said part of the problem is that I-AA programs are not allowed to play 12 games like their I-A counterparts, something he hoped would change with proposed NCAA legislation which eventually failed.

Wanless said: "We're a lot more at our level playing I-AA teams."

Wanless added: "We really don't have an answer to that question. The probability in the near future isn't great."

Although the Hornets are yet to announce their schedule, Wanless said the team's two I-AA opponents are New Mexico and Fresno State.

Sacramento State will open the season at Fresno State on Sept. 1.

Cal Poly played two I-AA opponents last season, losing 17-7 at eventual New Mexico Bowl champion San Jose State before winning 16-14 at San Diego State.

"There are a lot more at our level playing I-AA teams," Ellerson said. "What that means is there are fewer I-AA games out there for us."

The lone Great West team Cal Poly will play at home in 2007 is North Dakota State, which essentially ended Cal Poly's postseason hopes with a 51-14 rout of the Mustangs in Fargo, N.D., last November.

Cal Poly's three other Great West games last season were at home.

"It's especially difficult, the way our conference's schedule's set up," Ellerson said. "It's 1-3 as opposed to 2-2. Next year we have three conference games away and one at home. We're going to try to fix that in the near future. It's hard enough to find home games."

Ellerson said he hopes Cal Poly can establish contracts with other schools in the future that will make it harder financially for schools to back out.

"On the future schedules, we're trying to make buyouts not an option for people," Ellerson said. "Ellerson said that the prior contract Cal Poly had with Sacramento State was established before his arrival in 2001. Cone was named interim athletics director in January 2005.

"There will always be a challenge, it's inevitable," Ellerson said of scheduling. "This year was especially difficult. When somebody drops us or changes conferences, those are things that kind of mow­ ball on you."

Regardless of who Cal Poly's home opponents are in 2007, Cone said: see Football, page 10