City pays for extended bus hours, students reap benefits

Though SLO Transit route five usually ran behind schedule, officials adjusted the route to run later and sit on campus more often. The bus travels through the Cal Poly Football and Madonna Fields.

California anxious about unusually dry January

Terence Chea
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — California experienced one of its driest Januaries on record, a worrisome development for a state that relies on winter rain and snow for its water supplies.

The unusually dry weather is stirring anxiety among some farmers and water managers, but California's water supplies are still healthy, thanks to heavy storms last winter that filled the state's reservoirs.

The state's snowpack is 57 percent below normal levels, and the Sierra Nevada only saw about 17 percent of its normal precipitation in January, said Elissa Lynn, senior meteorologist at the state Department of Water Resources.

But water levels in the state's reservoirs are still slightly above average because the state got 20 percent more precipitation than average last year.

"We may have a dry year overall, but our reservoir storage is in great shape from last year," Lynn said. "From the state water storage perspective, it's not a drought."

Water agencies around the state are closely monitoring water supplies and hope that February and March will make up for the precipitation shortfall, said Jennifer Persike, spokeswoman for the Association of California Water Agencies.

‘Seeds of Hope’ sent to Zambia

Business students gathered on Mott Lawn on Wednesday to raise money for several Zambian villages in need of clean water. A drill rig, displaying the importance of water sanitation, will be sent along with sand filters and a brick-making press.

Committee discusses library’s future, plans for coffee shop

Library officials are discussing adding a café and making the reading room open 24 hours a day.

Jackie Pugh
MUSTANG DAILY

The Robert E. Kennedy Library will be witnessing some changes to the second floor Learning Commons in the near future. With the population at Cal Poly growing, the need for more group study rooms has become a pressing issue.

A student advisory committee has been created by the Associated Students Inc. (ASI) to lead discussions between students and Michael Miller, dean of library services.

Some of the issues on the forefront are expanding the Learning Commons, adding a café and making the reading room available 24 hours a day.

"I guess further out, maybe in about 2013, we will be opening a major expansion to the building," Miller said.

The existing Learning Commons are on the north wing of the second floor which face the new engineering buildings. Yet, any changes made to this part of the library are heavily dependent on funding.

"What we’d like to do is integrate the books that are on that wing new into the other levels of the library and open up the space to create a series of group project rooms," Miller said. "Students have a lot of projects and yet there are very few places that see Library, page 2"
Weather

continued from page 1

Agencies, which represents 450 public water agencies in the state. "We’re not panicking." But for Central Valley farmers, the dry spell marks its latest battle with Mother Nature. Last spring brought floods, the summer scorched fields with triple-digit heat and a recent cold snap destroyed much of the state’s $1 billion citrus crop.

While most of the state’s crops are irrigated, wheat, barley, oats and grasses that depend on rainfall are suffering.

Hay farmers in the Imperial Valley lost their first cutting due to dry weather, a problem that will impact those growers as well as cattle ranchers looking for hay to feed animals on parched rangeland, said Dave Kranz, a spokesman for the California Farm Bureau Federation.

"It’s starting to be a concern," Fernandez said. "It’s too soon to tell what that’s going to mean long-term, but we’re at the point where we need to know whether to irrigate.

Cherry farmers in Northern California are worried rain showers come later in the season, which could hurt cherry trees already in bloom and reduce the crop size.

The lack of rainfall could also be leading to more wildfires, a recent blaze that destroyed multimillion dollar homes in Malibu, said Joe Edmiston, executive director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

"It’s very atypical to have a January fire," Edmiston said. "Typically you can put your fire gear away by mid-December. Up until a couple days ago, we were on fire deployment."

Kimball Garrett, who oversees the ornithology department at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, said they won’t know the extent of the damage to the bird population until spring. But he predicted the lack of rain would mark a "less vegetation, resulting in the lower breeding success of many species of birds.

California typically gets about 80 percent of its rainfall during the winter, but cities statewide reported significantly less than that in January, according to Brian Tenninger, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Monterey.

Sacramento recorded its driest January since it began keeping records more than 150 years ago. The city only saw 0.07 inches of rain — less than 2 percent of its 4.15 inches it typically gets in January.

"It’s weird," said George Cline, a NWS forecaster in Sacramento. "Usually January is a wet and cloudy month. It’s been clear and dry and cold."

San Francisco, which usually gets 4.45 inches of rain in January, has only gotten 0.65 inches, making it the city’s fifth driest January in the past 150 years.

Fresno in California’s Central Valley has reported 0.59 inches, down significantly from the 2.16 inches it normally sees in January.

Los Angeles recorded 0.19 inches of rain, compared with the 3.33 inches it sees in an average year. The city is on track to having its driest year ever, receiving only about 20 percent of the rain that it expects at this time of year, said Jamie Meier, an NWS meteorologist in Oxnard.

A high pressure ridge has blocked storms from reaching California over the past month, and no storms are expected for at least a week. But forecasters said there’s still time for California to catch up.

I wouldn’t worry too much just yet," Tenninger said. "You can make up for rainfall fairly quickly."

Library

continued from page 1

groups can go to find an environment that supports their work.

The new rooms would have white boards and display technology so that groups could bring their own laptops. And while the new rooms would account for most of the space on the floor, the section of the north wing that looks over the reading rooms would be turned into a coffee shop.

That doesn’t have a timeline because it depends on who would work with, whether it be Starbucks of Peet’s, Miller said.

Miller also seemed optimistic about making the reading room on the first floor a 24-hour facility by next fall. However, for the changes regarding the Learning Common, the more than 100,000 volumes that occupy the floor will take some time to move.

“We have to handle each individual volume by hand and then get the people to come in and construct the group rooms," Miller added. "The best case scenario, I would like to think, sometime next year it might be available."

Business and theatre junior Matt Marini is the chair of the student advisory committee and was chosen by ASI President Tadaki Maki to start the board. Having previously been on the executive staff, Marini jumped on the chance to head this new opportunity.

"The dean of the library attends our meetings and he asks us questions for the students’ input,” Marini said. "The plans for the library are changing and if the committee agrees or disagrees the administrators will take their opinions into consideration."

As of now, the committee represents all six colleges with an 11-member board. Marini sent out an e-mail to all the deans of the colleges asking for students that would want to join the committee.

"The first meeting will probably be the second or third week of February and we’ll probably meet once or twice a month and more if appropriate," Marini said.

The group will hold two meetings, one with Miller asking questions about renovations and the second will be without him so that students can see what needs to be changed.

"We wanted one with (Miller) there and one without so that students’ ideas aren’t pushed in one direction," Marini said.

Bus

continued from page 1

University Square, Doscano and Los Osos Valley Road, Laguna Village, Horse Depot, and the Promenade.

Cal Poly also has bus stops in front of the Poly Gym and the Agricultural Science building via bus routes four and six.

PolyCard carriers can ride SLO Transit for free by simply swiping their card. For all others, the fee is $1, $0.50 for seniors and disabled, and free for children.

Get something to say?

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Study questions efficacy of the pill

Trevor Davis
OREGON DAILY EMERALD (U. OREGON)

The new generation of hormonal contraceptives are very highly effective," he said. University Health Center Director Tom Ryan called the initial report "construed." He said there's a chance the first generation of oral contraceptives were more effective, but they contained high levels of estrogen and progesteron, which caused side effects, as well as higher risks of serious complications. "As a result, pills have been developed containing much lower doses of hormone," Ryan said in an e-mail. He said it's possible the effectiveness of perfect use — taking the pill at the same time every day and not being affected by other medications or health problems — might be slightly lower compared to older, high-dose pills. Ryan assured that the newer pills are "highly effective contraceptives while greatly decreasing side effects and risks for users." Newer birth control pills are better than 99 percent effective with perfect use, said Jolene Siemsen, a nurse practitioner at the University Health Center. Ryan said that perfect use rates don't always mirror real-life situations. "Few of us can be consistently perfect," Ryan said. "The actual use effectiveness for oral contraceptives is about 95 percent, as compared to perfect use effectiveness rates over 99 percent." Siemsen said the original news report didn't concern her and that she is confident in the effectiveness of the pills. "Someone can always add comments to assure they're adequately protected," Siemsen said. She added that there might be concerns on the effectiveness of the pill in terms of body size. Most birth control companies test pills on average-weight women, so the effects on overweight and underweight women are unknown. Effectiveness also depends on the user's habits, Siemsen said. "You need to take the pills appropriately," she said. Ryan added that users should take the pill everyday at the same time. Siemsen said that the news report didn't increase student concerns about the birth control pill at the Health Center. "There weren't any new or different concerns," Siemsen said. "People are always interested in how effective the pill is versus a condom or another contraceptive method." At its meeting this month, FDA officials discussed clinical trial designs to include a broad range of users, according to an FDA statement. "The whole point of the meeting was really to say, 'going forward, what should clinical trials look like?'" Wetzig said. The FDA wants to investigate how well studies have documented real-world use of new birth control pills, which is less consistent than in clinical studies, Wetzig said. "Nearly 12 million women in the United States were on the pill as of 2002, making it that country's leading method of contraception," according to a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. The top-selling pill isOrtho Tri-Cyclen.

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Police issued a warning on Tuesday that a sex offender was released from prison and may be staying in local hotels until he finds a permanent residence. Paul McMillen, 57, was convicted in 1995 and "has a history of molesting neighbors' pre-teen female children," said Dan Blanke, San Luis Obispo police captain, in an e-mail. McMillen is being tracked by parole officers with a GPS device. "This Department believes that McMillen's release presents a potential threat to the citizens of San Luis Obispo," Blanke wrote in the e-mail. For any questions or concerns, detective Allison Martinez can be reached at (805) 781-7137.

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Local briefs
Question of the day:

What are your thoughts on public transportation in San Luis Obispo?

“I ride the bus twice a week. I enjoy that it’s there but I wish the hours were extended later, because sometimes I want to go to town and I don’t have a car.”

-U goel Scafer
social science
freshman

“I drive from Morro Bay and it’s terrible. I feel like I should use public transportation. It would save me the hassle of parking and driving.”

-Bjorn Sorenson
mechanical engineering
junior

“As a freshman I didn’t have a car so I had to take the bus. It was convenient that we didn’t have to pay for it, but it’s a lot more convenient to have a car.”

-Angelica Zerna
architecture
senior

“Buses cover a lot of the area, but they only run every 30 minutes so you’re either on time or 30 minutes late. That’s why I have a car now.”

-Will Law
mechanical engineering
freshman

“I used to take my bike and put it on the bus and then ride my bike around campus. I should probably still be doing that and not buying parking passes. Parking is terrible.”

-Andrea Canas
animal science
senior

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Year of the hi-def Super Bowl party: Fans snap up big TVs for big game

Dave Carpenter  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Smithie admits to a moment of doubt when he shipped out $10,000 for a 65-inch high-definition, flat-panel plasma TV and related gear last month.

The hesitation was brief. He’s a Bears fan, after all, and what better way to experience the Super Bowl than to see and hear every Brian Urlacher and too-heavy promotions by retailers and manufacturers.

"A lot of people want them and they’ve been waiting for prices to come down," said Mike Gatti, executive director of the Retail Advertising and Marketing Association, which conducted the nationwide survey on consumers’ TV buying intentions in early January. "They’re not still cheap, but they’re starting to get within range of people who are saying ‘I’m going to get one now.’"

In Chicago, where the Bears are making their first Super Bowl appearance in 23 years, flashy flat-panel sets are in demand like never before. A surge in business that followed the team’s Jan. 21 victory in the NFC championship game generated holiday-sized crowds of customers in the same theater departments of Best Buy stores for weeks, according to the nation’s largest consumer electronics retailer.

Some buyers weren’t waiting for installation appointments. Many shoppers said they would stand their flat-panel sets on the floor for the game and get them properly mounted later, according to Mike Obscura, a supervisor at a store on the city’s northwest side.

"Because the Bears won, it literally made people say ‘I’m done waiting. I’m going to get my flat-panel TV’ now," he said.

Ale Electronics, a gigantic family-run store in north suburban Glenview, Ill., that claims to sell more televisions than any other single store in the country, sold about 170 large-screen TVs a day in January during a traditionally slow month gone crazy. That made it its busiest month ever for TV sales.

Money isn’t necessarily an object. On one recent day at the 70,000-square-foot store, filled with fountains, granite and marble floors and vast aisles filled with high-def good- ies, shoppers were examining 50-inch televisions by Bang & Olufsen for $20,000 and even an 80-inch set dubbed "The Ultimate Plasma TV" for $150,000.

"People don’t care about price," said Mike Abt, president of the business his grandmother founded in 1936, said happily. "They’re asking the salesmen what’s the highest-quality set.

Bears fan Larry Kugler bought a 46-inch flat-screen TV for $2,700, and had it shipped to his second home outside Aspen, Colo., in time for a Super Bowl party he’s hosting for friends from Chicago.

"I want to make the experience a little bit better than viewing it on a 26- or 32-inch TV," the 49-year-old Chicago cleaning contractor said. High definition, he said, "just really enhances watching a sporting event. You can get a better feel for the performance on the field.

"I’m going to go get my flat-panel TV," said Abt. "Not the NCAAs, not the World Series — nothing."

"Nothing compares to football for performance on the field."

DEVORE (AP) — A small quake shook the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains on Tuesday, although there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The magnitude-3.3 tremor struck at 3:56 p.m. and was centered 6 miles west of Devore, according to a preliminary report by the U.S. Geological Survey. Devore is about 50 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

The ALBERTO GONZALEZ, Justice Department, said Wednesday. "The police training system has not gone nothing." The police training system has not gone.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said Wednesday he will turn over secret documents detailing the government’s domestic spying program, ending a two-week standoff with the Senate Judiciary Committee over surveillance targeting ter- ror suspects. "It’s never been the case where we said we would never provide access," Gonzales told reporters.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The police training system has not gone.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — How many legislators does it take to change a light bulb? In California, the answer is a majority — plus Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Despite the inefficiency of the common light bulb, a Democratic Assemblyman from Los Angeles wants California to become the first state to ban it — by 2012.

Assemblyman Lloyd Levine says compact fluorescent light bulbs, which often have a spiral shape and are being promoted at Wal-Mart, are so efficient that consumers should be forced to use them.

The compact bulbs use a quarter of the energy of a conventio- nal light.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Training the police is as impor- tant to stabilizing Iraq as build- ing an effective army there, but the United States has botched the job by assigning the wrong agencies to the task, two mem- bers of the Iraq Study Group said Wednesday. "The police training system has not gone well," said former Rep. Lee Hamilton, who co-chaired the bipartisan commission.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Decades after the Middle East was hit by the mass uproot- ing of Palestinians, it is again struggling with a gigantic refugee problem — this time from Iraq. The exodus — one million to neighboring Syria alone, according to the U.N. — is another unforeseen byproduct of the 2003 Iraq invasion.

Iraqis now make up more than 5 percent of Syria’s popu- lation, the U.N. refugee agency says. Jordan says its 700,000 Iraqis have swollen its popula- tion by 12 percent, and its officials say they have already moved to cut off the flow. So has Egypt, with 136,000 Iraqi newcomers.

ATTACKED PkESS
Kidnapping plot uncovered in Britain; 9 arrested on terrorism charges

Local residents talk to police officers in Birmingham, England Wednesday Jan. 31, 2007 following dawn raids when British counterterrorism police arrested eight men in an alleged kidnapping plot.

Rob Harris
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, England — Counterterrorism police arrested nine men in an alleged kidnapping plot Wednesday — a plan that reportedly involved torturing and beheading a British Muslim soldier and broadcasting the killing on the Internet.

The kidnapping plot was the first of its kind to be uncovered in Britain, according to counterterrorism officials who spoke on condition to be uncovered in Britain, according to counterterrorism officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

Police would not confirm the potential victim's occupation or details of the plot that was unraveled in the predominantly Pakistani neighborhood in central England. A dozen houses and two Islamic bookshops were cordoned off and being searched.

Since suicide bombers killed 52 people in London on July 7, 2005 — killings carried out by Muslim extremists who grew up in Britain — counterterrorism units have conducted several raids across Britain. Several sweeps have been conducted in Birmingham, including a raid in August, when suspects were arrested in a major plot to use liquid explosives to blow up at least 10 planes between the United States and Britain.

The potential victim of the latest plot — a British Muslim soldier — was under police protection, Sky News reported, saying the kidnapping was going to end in an "Iraq-style" execution. The British Broadcasting Corp. also reported that the plan was to kidnap a soldier.

"The threat of terrorism has been growing over the years," said David Shaw, a police spokesman in Birmingham. The operation took months.

Birmingham is the hometown of Britain's first Muslim soldier to be killed in Afghanistan last year — a death that prompted militant Islamists to denounce Cpl. Jabron Hashemi, 24, as a traitor. One site — that of extremist British sect al-Ghurabaa — posted an image of the soldier surrounded by flames.

Last year, a London street vendor was sentenced to six years in prison in a plot to kill a decorated British soldier. Abu Baker Mansha, accused of targeting Cpl. Mark Byles, whose address and other materials, were found in Mansha's apartment.

Byles was awarded a military cross for bravery following an attack in which several Iraqi insurgents were killed — explosions covered by British newspapers. One of the articles with Byles' name was circled and found in Mansha's apartment.

The Defene Ministry said 330 Muslims are serving in the British armed forces. It would not comment on reports that the intended victim was a soldier.

Dozens of people have been kidnapped in Iraq, and captors have often broadcast their pictures on the Internet.

One widely publicized kidnap-slaying was that of 62-year-old Kenneth Bigley from Liverpool. He was abducted from a Baghdad suburb where he was working in September 2004 and beheaded three weeks later. His death was captured on video.

"People don't trust their own children any more," said Shabir Hussain, chairman of the Ludlow Road Mosque in Birmingham. "You feel like you should challenge your son or daughter: 'Where are you going at night? What are you watching on TV? What are you doing on the Internet?'"

In a raid last year in London, a man was shot by police, sparking complaints from Muslim communities across the country.

"The police and government seem to be against Muslims and are trying to turn us against one another," said Kadir Mohammed, 18, who lives in one of the raided neighborhoods.

Britain's MI5 has said it set up a network of eight new regional offices across the country in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, including a center in the West Midlands.

The service had previously had regional branches in Northern Ireland, but uses the new offices to liaise with police in counterterrorism work.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's official spokesman declined to comment on the police operation.

Sky TV reported that British investigators contacted Pakistani intelligence agents four days ago about the plot. The Foreign Office would not confirm there were such discussions.

In Islamabad, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said, "The British authorities have confirmed to us that there is no Pakistan connection." She gave no other details on the contact between authorities in the two countries.

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The Hoff 'keeps it gay' in Vegas 'Producers'

Ryan Nakashima
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — If you thought David Hasselhoff's YouTube video rendition of "Hooked on a Feeling" was kitschy, just wait until you see him in a dress.

The former "Baywatch" lifeguard takes on the role of flamboyant director Roger DeBris in the musical "The Producers," which began preview performances Wednesday at the Paris casino-hotel on the Las Vegas Strip. The official opening is Feb. 9.

It marks the latest quirky departure for "The Hoff," who on YouTube does a fun run, flies through the air hanging onto a motorcycle and sings on a boat in front of an iceberg.

In the chopped-down 90-minute version of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, Hasselhoff sings, dances and even very campy, taking part in gay jokes that he insists are "really tongue in cheek and they're meant with a lot of respect."

"When I put on the dress, it was very disconcerting, I said, 'There goes my audience,'" said Hasselhoff, 54. "But I think it will be so funny and so over the top that people will enjoy it."

"He has a fearless quality and he's not afraid to try anything," said director and choreographer Susan Stroman. None of DeBris' appearances are abbreviated, she said. "I have to say (David) has been very gracious about letting it be Max and Leo's show, Max and Leo have the last bow," she said.

But Hasselhoff is clearly the draw for the casino's show, said Michael Raben, vice president of marketing for Paris Las Vegas, and will attract an international female audience that has seen him on TV.

Hasselhoff said he will be with the show at least three months, and afterward he'll resume taping of "Baywatch." He may do both for a while, and perhaps even migrate to another property on the Strip with a one-man singing show: "Something very straight," he said. "Something for the ladies."

"He does have the chops to get through it," Stroman said. The former "Knight Rider" actor also has his "ego in check" and doesn't take his Hollywood persona too seriously, she said. "He has a fearless quality and he's not afraid to try anything."

Hasselhoff gets star billing for the show, even though it's mainly about a scheme by producer Max Bialystock, played by Brad Oscar, and his accountant Leo Bloom, played by Larry Raben, to over-finance a surefire Broadway flop and pocket the difference.

"It is still the story about Max and Leo," although their scenes are shortened, Stroman said. None of DeBris' appearances are abbreviated, she said. "I have to say (David) has been very gracious about letting it be Max and Leo's show, Max and Leo have the last bow," she said.

But Hasselhoff is clearly the draw for the casino's show, said Michael Weaver, vice president of marketing for Paris Las Vegas, and will attract an international female audience that has seen him on TV.

Hasselhoff said he will be with the show at least three months, and afterward he'll resume taping of "America's Got Talent" on which he's a judge.

He may do both for a while, and perhaps even migrate to another property on the Strip with a one-man singing show: "Something very straight," he said. "Something for the ladies."

Orchesis Dance Company presents "Dancing on the Edge" Feb. 2-4 and Feb. 8-10 with performances at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The show incorporates ballet, jazz, hip hop, Fosse, hip hop, K-pop, hip hop and tap, ballroom, Filipino and Mexican traditional dances. Tickets are $12 for the public and $9 for students.

The official opening is Feb. 9.

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Associated Students Inc. and the Cal Poly Multicultural Center hosts "Another Type of Diversity" an open mic night dedicated to spoken word poetry. The event runs today from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center Pavilion, room 328.

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JESSICA GREENWALT MUSTANG DAILY
V for ‘Volver’: more proof of Almodovar’s brilliance

It is an homage to the colorful world of Hollywood in the ‘50s, complete with superb narrative vision and a Spanish bombshell hugely reminiscent of Sophia Loren in her glory days. “Volver” is proof to the skeptics who contend that long dead are the creative masterminds of old, and attests to the potent creativity of our own age. This film gracefully falls into place as being one of the finest Spanish exports since paella and perhaps Picasso.

Thematically, in true Almodovar fashion, “Volver” is saturated with dynamic characters, intense plotlines and colorful landscapes. Set in both “the burbs” of Madrid and a small village in the La Mancha region of Spain, a place Almodovar calls home, the film explores the familial bonds between three generations of women who struggle with daily life, death, and the shocking secrets of the hereafter.

Penelope Cruz does a fantastic job as Raimunda, a working-class mother haunted by an unsettling family secret. Together with her sister Sole (Lola Dueñas), her daughter Paula (Yohana Cobo), and her close friend Agustina (Blanca Portillo), Raimunda not only uncovers the truth surrounding what can only be described as the family ghost, but also discovers some important truths about herself. Following a whirlwind of plot twists and turns, from an unexpected murder to the return of an unexpected guest, “Volver” depicts the undiluted, unashamed fortitude of women in numbers and culminates in a triumphant display of sisterhood.

Cinematically, Almodovar takes his audience into the heart of the complicated and oftentimes misunderstood world of women, entertaining us on a roller-coaster ride of life’s ups and downs, through intense bits of happiness and to the very brink of utter despair. Together with his characters, we the audience experience a kind of cathartic self-awareness as only Almodovar is capable of creating on film.

Overall, “Volver” proves to be a relatively benign mix of murder, mystery, and scandal; for all intents and purposes, a classic melodrama. This film comes fully equipped with droll humor, gratuitous boob shots, and of course, a kind of violence that Hitchcock would appreciate. Combined with the sultry looks of Spanish señorita Penelope Cruz, “Volver” is everything the American public relishes in movies.

With the help of this predominantly all-female cast combined with a little something-something from the genius of Almodovar, Cruz delivers her best performance to date, proving to the world that this Spanish actress is the real deal. Can we say “bravo, Oscar?”

It is a fact that “Volver” is the film to watch out for at the Academy Awards, and steps up to bat a number one on this year’s must see movie list. But please, don’t take my word for it. Go out and see for yourself. Bravo, Pedro. Bravo indeed.

Alexandra Bezdikian is a journalism senior with a religious studies minor. Her column, Pop Tart, covers a range of artistic mediums and trends in American pop culture. Send any questions or recommendations to abezdikian@mustanmail.com.
Cal Poly offers artisan cheese making courses, workshops

Cal Poly's Dairy Products Technology Center welcomes cheese makers from all over the country to participate in special courses.

Brittany Ridley
MUSTANG DAILY

Great cheese comes from happy cows, and happy cows come from California — or so they say about real California cheese. And Cal Poly's Dairy Products Technology Center is a major contributor to California's cheese production.

The center will be offering two cheese making workshop this year on March 20 to 23 and Sept. 11 to 14.

Cheese makers from around the country travel to San Luis Obispo to participate in the weekend courses, said Phillip Tong, professor and director of the Dairy Product Technology Center.

"It's pretty unusual if you are eating cheese from California that someone from that cheese company hasn't taken our classes," Tong said. "Some of the very largest operations like Kraft have sent people to our short courses. We have had people from the East Coast and South America take the classes."

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science began offering the courses approximately 20 years ago, and since then has instructed well-known cheese makers from companies such as Cowgirl Creamery, Three Sisters Cheese and Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese.

"They come from all across the country," Laurie Jacobson, outreach specialist for the Dairy Products Technology Center said. "Pretty much any person making farmstead cheese in California has come to one of our farmstead courses."

The courses began with the Cheese Short Course I, a workshop designed to teach large cheese makers the basic scientific skills and information needed when manufacturing cheese.

As the course became more popular, the need for a course focusing on small artisan cheese makers became imperative, Jacobson said.

"We started doing the new course, Dairy Science and Technology Basics for the Artisan/Farmstead Cheesemaker, because people were coming to the Cheese Short Course I and it wasn't meeting their needs," Jacobson said. "The farmstead class covers some of the issues that smaller cheese makers face. We get a lot of people that are sheep's milk, goat's milk people. It's just a totally different crowd than the short course I."

Both courses are sold out annually.

"Usually, the classes get sold out about a year in advance, so there is a waiting list for the March workshop," Tong said. "They fill up right away. The cheese classes in particular have been very popular over the years and because we do hands-on cheese making we limit the class to 35 people so they get a chance to get their hands dirty."

The artisan/farmstead course it open to students and community members who are interested in learning more about the art of artisan cheese making, Tong said.

"The class we offer in the fall, which is more geared toward the artisan cheese maker, has a lot of individuals that just like cheese and want to learn more," Tong said. "We've had culinary instructors and cheese buyers come take the class. It's very much like the wine industry was about 20 years ago. We are starting to have computer science people, doctors and lawyers who are tired of city life and decide they want to make cheese. So they come take our class and decide if they want to get into the cheese making business."

Along with the growing popularity in artisan cheese making also came the growth of California cheese production, Tong said.

"California is soon to be the largest cheese producer in the United States," Tong said. "We are going to surpass the state of Wisconsin in the next year or two.

The dairy sector is the largest agricultural sector for the state of California. It's much larger than the meat, wine, fruit or vegetable sectors. If California were a country we would produce more milk than Australia and New Zealand together."

Tong said the cheese industry is a growing and successful field that all students should consider when entering the work force, especially those in chemistry, microbiology, marketing and engineering.

Cal Poly also offers a 10-week cheese making course to students. For more information on the Dairy Products Technology Center workshops go to www.calpoly.edu/~dptc or call (805) 756-6101.

The farmstead course I is open to those in chemistry, microbiology, biology, agriculture, marketing and engineering.

For more information on the classes or courses offered by Cal Poly's Dairy Products Technology Center, call (805) 756-6101.

Animal science senior Chelsea Turpen purchases some Cal Poly artisan cheese at Campus Market. The cheese is produced exclusively on campus at the Dairy Products Technology Center.

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HOME SCHEDULE
Feb. 2 San Diego State 6 p.m.
Feb. 3 San Diego State 1 p.m.
Feb. 4 San Diego State 1 p.m.
Feb. 6 Fresno State 6 p.m.
Feb. 9 Nevada 6 p.m.
Feb. 10 Nevada 1 p.m.
Feb. 11 Nevada 1 p.m.
Feb. 16 Washington 6 p.m.
Feb. 17 Washington 1 p.m.
Feb. 18 Washington 11 a.m.
Feb. 21 British Columbia (exhibition) Loyola Marymount 6 p.m.
March. 2 Loyola Marymount 1 p.m.
March. 3 Loyola Marymount 1 p.m.
March. 4 Loyola Marymount 1 p.m.
March. 24 Oregon State 6 p.m.
March 25 Oregon State 6 p.m.
March 26 Oregon State 1 p.m.
April 5 *Northridge 6 p.m.
April 6 *Northridge 6 p.m.
April 7 *Northridge 1 p.m.
April 10 *Northridge 1 p.m.
April 11 *Northridge 1 p.m.
April 21 *UC Riverside 6 p.m.
April 22 *UC Riverside 1 p.m.
May 11 UC Davis 6 p.m.
May 12 UC Davis 6 p.m.
May 13 UC Davis 1 p.m.
May 18 *Cal State Fullerton 6 p.m.
May 19 *Cal State Fullerton 6 p.m.
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I have no qualms admitting it: I’m a geek.

Mostly I’m referring to my technological geekiness, which I’ve been spending some extra time cultivating lately. In the past couple of months I have acquired a cell phone (very slim, very sexy) cell phone, an MP3 player (small, black and NOT an iPod!), and various accessories (gigabyte microSD card, card reader, Bluetooth dongle).

I know more than a few people (including some of my anti-tech friends) who are no doubt wrinkling their noses in disdain to see yet another poor young thing swept up by this confused electronic revolution, Dagnabbit. What in tarnation is this world coming to?

The exchange of information over the virtual lines has now blended seamlessly into modern culture. It feels as though ages have passed since I first took to e-mail, instant messaging, and surfing the Web. For better or for worse, Google is now a verb and text messaging has become our electronic revolution, Dagnabbit. Whatever it is that we’re doing, we can’t help but check every five minutes (before, after, and during class) for a text message from our significant other. The instant presence monitoring their phones from it than have a conversation/phone call helps tremendously with having to cope with the geographic separation. It enables us to share our lives even while we’re apart, and sharing — anything from the mundane to the miraculous — is a natural desire and vital component in any relationship.

But electronic communication is a temporary solution, and only a way to deal with the situation as it currently stands. It works well enough to hold us over until the next time one of us can make the two-hour-ish drive to visit the other.

There are a thousand or more different, subtle nuances in human interaction that you just can’t get from even the speediest connection. Electronics and electronic communication may have made a place for themselves in the world of the relationship, but take them for what they are: more placeholders for real human interaction.

Why would anyone want an electronic intermediary to disrupt a pleasant face-to-face conversation; a quiet dinner at your favorite club, being able to contact my significant other for real human interaction.

Would anyone want an electronic intermediary to disrupt a pleasant face-to-face conversation; a quiet dinner at your favorite club, being able to contact my significant other for real human interaction.

Whether you meet online or not, electronic media are key in the progress of a modern relationship.

One night, laptop in hand and cell phone in the other pocket, I find myself in the middle of a conversation with someone I’ve never met before. It begins with some research, an introduction, and a phone number. The conversation can start and continue with any device that has internet access, which makes the relationship completely flexible.

Mostly I’m referring to my technological geekiness, which I’ve been spending some extra time cultivating lately. In the past couple of months I have acquired a cell phone (very slim, very sexy) cell phone, an MP3 player (small, black and NOT an iPod!), and various accessories (gigabyte microSD card, card reader, Bluetooth dongle).

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Why would anyone want an electronic intermediary to disrupt a pleasant face-to-face conversation; a quiet dinner at your favorite club, being able to contact my significant other for real human interaction.
Youth still waiting for the world to change

Kristin Coletti
DAILY FREE PRESS (PENNSAUKEN)

It is me, or do today's antivarist protesters look more like our parents, our peers? Although some young people are speaking out, the majority seems to be adults old enough to have protested the Vietnam War.

You might say that's because most young people today support the war, but a national Election Day poll reported in the Philadelphia Inquirer last Saturday found that 62 percent of young people are opposed.

Just like college students in the '60s and '70s, we can hold signs, organize rallies, march through Washington, write letters to our legislators and join political campaigns.

If nearly two-thirds of young people today are against the war, then why aren't more out there protesting?

OK, this may sound crazy, but I think I found the answer in a John Mayer song.

In his latest tune, "Waiting on the World to Change," Mayer sings: "We just feel that we don't have the means/To rise above and beat it." His words speak volumes.

Unfortunately many young people are under the false assumption that our generation is powerless against our government's decisions. Sure, it may seem like the current administration operates according to its own agenda and doesn't care what the little people think.

But as American citizens living under the Constitution, young people have the rights and the means to publicly protest the war and the government.

And that's pretty powerful.

Remember that they once offered to stuff us, the students, in high school? Well, it really comes into play for young people today because it's more important than ever to know your rights.

Our generation is learning religious freedom, the First Amendment guarantees us the freedoms of speech, press, assembly and petition.

Yep, that means we can openly voice our political views through speaking and writing, organize and join political groups and appeal to the government about our grievances.

Some young people are doing just that and making changes in big ways, even if it's just a small part.

Many took part in an anti-war rally Saturday on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Whether you agree with these protesters or not, you have to admit that they got their point across and made people think.

While not everyone is inclined to protest, there is no excuse not to vote.

Voting is one of our most important constitutional rights and civic duties, less than half of young Americans aged 18 to 24 voted in the November 2004 elections.

How can we expect our concerns and opinions to be heard if we don't take advantage of our opportunity to determine the political direction of our nation?

Staying informed also helps us to become politically-minded citizens.

However, only 40 percent of people ages 18 to 24 read a newspaper on weekdays, according to data from a consumer market company Scarborough Research.

Some young people avoid going to the news or reading newspaper articles because they are upset and disturbed by the state of the world.

Others just don't see the point in keeping up with events that they feel they have no control over.

But by remaining ignorant to what is happening in the world, we are giving all the power to the decision-makers and underestimating our power of public opinion, and nothing good can come from that.

To its credit, John Mayer's song does capture the ambivalence some young Americans, including myself, feel about the war in Iraq.

We're not sure what the best course of action is to take; with the United State's purpose there so unclear and the stakes so high, it makes sense that we're struggling to find a solution.

We don't want to see our young soldiers carried away in body bags, but we also don't want to "cut and run" too soon and risk leaving Iraq an unsecured haven for terrorists.

Still, no one can argue that young people don't have the means to speak out, and we feel passionately about something. We can and we should ask questions if we are confused by the mixed messages we receive from the government and the media.

If you have something to say about the war or another political issue, take a lesson from the old folks.

Stop waiting and start changing.

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

GUEST COMMENTARY
Holistic college admissions devalue academics

Anna Williams
THE DAILY CATOON (U. WISCONSIN)

According to an ACT report released last March, high school graduates are unprepared for college in math, science and reading.

Furthermore, the number of unprepared students has risen over the last decade, with 49 percent of those who took the ACT lacking the reading and math skills needed for success in college.

But while academic preparation has plummeted in recent years, the push to participate in clubs, activities and extracurricular activities has grown. However, statistics suggest that high school students should refocus their attention on academics instead of activities in which they have little interest.

Holistic admissions, which take criteria such as an applicant's race, legacy and extra-curricular activities into consideration, has contributed to increased pressure placed on students to participate in out-of-classroom activities.

High school students feel students, unless they do year-round sports, participate in student council, predate as vice president and help out the student body in their community.

On yeah, and they may do other things, like take first-chair clarinet and help out the at-risk kids in their community.

Because of the pressure of holistic admissions, high school students feel students, unless they do year-round sports, participate in student council, participate as vice president and help out the student body in their community.

The Green Spot
by Ryan Chartrand

High school students should focus their attention on academics instead of activities in which they have little interest.

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New law against feeding homeless in Orlando

Todd Lewan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO, Fla. — At Lake Eola park, there is much beauty to behold: robust palms, beds of cheery begonias, a canopy of lake fountain, clusters of friendly egrets and owls, an amphitheater named in honor of Walt Disney.

Then there are the signs:

DO NOT FEED. OTHERWISE BE IN A HORIZON­

AL POSITION ON A PARK BENCH ... DO NOT SLEEP OR REMAIN IN ANY BUSHES, SHRUBS OR FOLIAGE ... per city code sec. 1BA.99 (A) and (6).

Visit the park’s restrooms, and you’ll find this sign on the wall above the hand dryers:

BATHING AND/OR SHAVING IN RESTROOM IS PROHIBITED ... per city code 18A.09 (p) ... LAUNDERING CLOTHES IN LAKE EOLA PARK IS NOT PER­

MITTED.

Since joggers and dog walkers tend not to snooze in flower beds, and because employees at the glitzy office towers around Lake Eola don’t scrub laundry in park sinks, it’s clear, says Monique Vargas, at whom the notices are targeted.

“They’re talking to us, to the homeless,” says Vargas, 28, who says she has lived on the streets, in parks or under over­

passes, since age 16. “It’s a way of saying, ‘Your kind isn’t want­

ed in our city’.”

Orlando, population 200,000, works hard to conjure the image of a true-life Pleasureville: a safe, welcoming place, where visitors can soak up year-round sunshine and devour choreographed experiences at palm-ring­ed theme parks. But its spotless sidewalks, sparkling lakes and twinkling skyline belie a real city with real maladies — most notably, a surging number of homeless people that authorities are struggling to control.

For the first time anyone in Orlando could remember, not only were feeding measures being struck down by the courts, the city tried to discourage aggressive beggars by obliterating them to carry ID cards, and later by confining them to 3-by-15-foot “panhandling zones” painted in blue on side­

walks downtown.

Despite these laws, the number of people living on the streets of the Orlando metro area swelled, from roughly 5,000 in 1999 to an estimated 8,500 today, dwarfing the city’s shelter capacity for 2,000 people.

So in July, the city commission tried a “supply-side” approach. It passed an ordinance regulating the feeding of large groups of people in Orlando’s downtown parks.

Those who wished to feed more than 25 hungry individu­

als at parks within a 2-mile radius of City Hall could do so, but only if they obtained a “Large Group Feeding Permit” from the parks department — and no one would be granted more than two feeding permits a year.

No exceptions.

For the first time anyone in Orlando could remember, not only would panhandlers find themselves in the crosshairs of the law, but so would those trying to help them.

“It’s not illegal to feed the homeless in Orlando,” said Jay Leno, host of NBC’s “Tonight Show,” who told a studio audi­

ence last summer in Burbank, Calif., during his opening monologue, “Have you seen the fat people walking around Disney World? We should make it illegal to feed THEM.”

But when the Orlando Sentinel posted Leno’s wisecrack on its Web site, local bloggers weren’t laughing.

“Feeding the homeless only encourages more home­

lessness,” one resident, with the moniker “Justin Credible,” wrote. He then summed up his argument in an equation: “Less Homeless Less Problems Better Place to Live.”

Another, “TG,” didn’t oppose feeding the destitute. “But there are places set up for this. Soup kitchens exist ... It is not unreasonable to want to keep Lake Eola Park from becoming a homeless cafeteria.”

William Beem added: “For what it’s worth, La-Vegas enact­

ed a similar law at the same time as Orlando. Tourist towns think alike.”

Indeed, a week before Orlando’s ordinance took effect, Las Vegas criminalized giving food to even a single transient in a city park.

In August, the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit challenging the Las-Vegas ban, saying it violated constitution­

al protections of free speech, right to assembly and right to practice one’s religion. A federal court in Nevada has prohib­

ited the city from enforcing the ordinance until a final ruling is issued.

Advocates for the homeless feared it wouldn’t be long before other cities passed similar laws. As it happens, they were right.

Already, the cities of Dallas, Fort Myers, Fla., Gainesville, Fla., Wilming­ton, N.C., Atlanta, and Santa Monica, Calif., have laws restricting or outright prohibiting the feeding of the homeless. In Fairfax County, Va., homemade meals and meals made in church kitchens are distributed to the home­

less unless first approved by the county.

Other cities, including Miami, are considering similar anti­

feeding measures.

“We’ve seen cities going beyond punishing homeless peo­

ple to punishing those trying to help them, even though it’s clear that not enough resources are being dedicated to helping the homeless or the hungry,” said Maria Foscarinis, exec­

utive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, NLCHe, a non-profit in Washington, D.C.

A 2006 report on 67 cities by her group and the National Coalition for the Homeless, a nonpartisan, non­

profit network, found an 18 percent increase since 2002 in laws prohibiting aggressive panhandling; a 12 percent jump in laws outlawing “passing” beg­

ging; a 14 percent rise in laws defining string or lying in public places as criminal acts.

Says Michael Stoos, the coalition’s executive director in Washington, D.C.: “If the idea is to drive the visible homeless out of downtown America, so that cities can attract develop­

ers, big money.”

What’s with attracting investment?

Nothing. Stoos says — unless it comes at the expense of decency. “It’s a sorry state of affairs when you can feed the squirrels and doves and pigeons at Lake Eola but not a hun­

gry guy down on his luck.”

Undeniably, a quarter century has done much to Orlando. Once a sleepy town, it is today a city with a growing sky­

line, widening freeways, sidewalk cafes, and strip malls with neon signs in Thai, Vietnamese, Indian and Japanese.

In their stairwells. There were reports of carjackings. There was an “alternative location near downtown, on Sylvia Lane,” where Bremer points out, “feedings can take place any day, any hour.”

The locale she referred to is roughly a 15-minute walk from City Hall, a sweep of blacktop where charities fed groups of destitute men and women several years ago. Shadowed by an overpass, the parking lot is surrounded by a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire and flanked by an electrical power station and railroad tracks.

The city has provided portable toilets and picnic benches, but there is no running water to wash one’s hands, says Jacqueline Dowd, a lawyer with the ACLU, who has also sued to overturn Orlando’s feeding ordinance.

“Yet a restriction on the time, place and manner of feedings, nothing more,” she says. While she would prefer that feedings be done through existing agencies such as the Salvation Army, it has also set up “an alternative location near downtown, on Sylvia Lane,” where Bremer points out, “feedings can take place any day, any hour.”

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President Bush criticizes executive salaries in speech Wednesday

Ben Feller  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — President Bush took aim Wednesday at lavish salaries and bonuses for corporate executives, standing on Wall Street to issue a sharp warning for corporate boards to "step up to their responsibilities" and tie compensation packages to performance.

Bush's "State of the Economy" speech, delivered from the financial center of the world, was aimed at bringing his economic message out of the shadows of the Iraq war. On his second day in a row focused on the economy, the government reported faster-than-expected growth of 3.5 percent in the final quarter of last year.

The president acknowledged people's continuing nervousness about their financial picture, despite a string of similar reports that provide some reason for optimism. He said some workers are being left behind in the booming economy and the disparity between the rich and the poor is growing.

"The fact is that income inequality is real. It has been rising for more than 25 years," the president said. "The earnings gap is now twice as wide as it was in 1980," Bush said, adding that more education and training can lift peoples' salaries.

The president spoke to an audience of business leaders at the venerable Federal Hall - a symbol of both America's democracy and its economic resilience. Later, he stepped along Broad Street to shake hands with New York police officers and then ducked inside the New York Stock Exchange.

The surprise visit caused a frenzy on the economy's already chaotic trading floor. It was a better view of him on television than the poor is growing.

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Johnny continued from page 16

really matter.
My first target was Peyton Manning. I waited my turn until I saw an opening.
"Peyton, if Eli got arrested after the Super Bowl — what will you have to say?" "What are you talking about?" "Shaq/Jay-Z party will you have to go to?" "What?" "Related question then."
I waited my turn until I saw an open window.
No comment, understandable; he’s just really focused. I’ll ask a football-related question then.

"Hypothetically speaking, could the Cal Poly football team beat the Colts on their best and your worst day?"
"Cal who?"
I was done with Peyton right there. I was off to Marvin Harrisson. Since I have never heard Harrison speak, I was wondering what type of interesting insight he may have into the game.
"Marvin, have you considered "Dancing with the Stars"?"
Not only did Harrison not comment, he didn’t even really move. I felt I was wasting my time with a guy who may not even be able to talk. So I decided to go check out our Bear camp. I know just who I wanted to talk to — Brian Urlacher, the reigning Defensive Player of the Year and one bad man, if you know what I mean.
"Brian, do you not like Matt Leinart now that he’s dating your ex-girlfriend Patts Hilton, and do you think with his serious ‘Hollywood’ persona that he actually can last?"
This must have been a sore subject because he gave me the look I like better — leave quietly, and quickly at that. I could feel things turning for the worse very quickly so I made a beeline for the next player available. It turned out to be "the Tank" Johnson.
"Tank…uh…uh……never mind!" As I looked at the 6-foot-3, 300-pound man with an arsenal at his home similar to that of the U.S. Marines, and a nickname like that I actually can last?"
The Super Bowl is nuts and it’s only week and winning over the Bears fans who stayed to watch their once-proud franchise marks a record in its 13th consecutive loss. "When you miss a game, you come back with new energy," Bryant said. "I was just really excited to be out there playing."

FSN Prime Ticket adds Poly men’s hoops game for TV
The Mustangs’ Big West Conference game at Cal State Fullerton on Feb. 24 will be regionally televised.

FSN INTEGRATION REPORT
The Cal Poly men’s basketball game at Cal State Fullerton will be televised by Fox Sports Net Prime Ticket on Feb. 24. Tip has been set for 6:05 p.m. to accommodate a live telecast.

The game was selected today as the “best available” game among the Big West schedules for that date.

Giana Magnoli, Copy Editor (0-0)
5. Ryan Chartrand, Online Editor (21-15, -56)
7. Sara Hamilton, Reporter (20-16, -66)
9. Frank Stranzl, Ast. Sports Editor (16-20, -49)

Kobe scores 43; L.A. wins

The team is made of nine boarders, two female shortboarders and one longboarder.
Currently, it costs $30 per competition with a $60 membership fee that covers the year. The season runs from October to February, with four competitions throughout the year and finals ending in March.
Club vice president and philosophy sophomore Patti Alleborn has been surfing since she was 12 years old and teamed up with Davis to start the club last quarter. "It has been a struggle, but it’s a lot of fun," she said. "I’ve gotten to know a lot of cool, unique, fun people and just surfing with everyone is way chill."

Surfing continued from page 16

on their averaged scores in technique, style and wave selection.

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Tickets
PAC Ticket Office 805-756-2787
Admission
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General $12
Performances
Feb. 2 8 p.m.
Feb. 3 8 p.m.
Feb. 4 2 p.m.
Feb. 5 8 p.m.
Feb. 6 8 p.m.
Feb. 7 8 p.m.
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College of Liberal Arts & IRA

Truck Runs on Fryer Fat
Melissa Montecuollo
CAMPUS DINING STAFF WRITER
This year, one of Campus Dining’s big box trucks has been converted to run on fryer fat — otherwise known as "Biodiesel."
According to Mike Hogan, Campus Dining Facilities Manager, for the next three months, this truck will run a mix of 20% biodiesel, then switch to 50% biodiesel for a few more months and eventually increase to 100% biodiesel come time near the 2007 graduation this spring.
"Biodiesel is harder on hoses and filters than standard fuel," said Hogan. "Some components will need to be changed every quarter; however, the truck should run normally otherwise." This is not the only measure Campus Dining is taking toward sustainability. Each week, 6,000 pounds of cardboard is recycled as well as much of the aluminum, plastic, glass, and paper used in Campus Dining. In addition, 300 produce pounds of trimming and egg shells are composted daily, along with many buckets of coffee grounds.

For more than a quarter century, Campus Dining has been among the annual winners in the "Big Game" Reduction Award Program which recognizes businesses making strides in sustainability.

paid advertisement
Los Angeles — Junior left fielder Lucas Duda's three-run home run Tuesday night at Dedeaux Field.

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The Trojans scored a run in the first inning on Matt Cooke's RBI single but Cal Poly answered with a run in the first inning on singles by Ken Lee, Pat Perez and Kyle Smith. USC then broke the game open with the Mustangs.

Sophomore southpaw Tommy Milone picked up the win, allowing two runs and six hits in six innings.

Duda's three-run home run to right.

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with no walks and six strikeouts.

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Sophomore southpaw Tommy Milone picked up the win, allowing two runs and six hits in six innings.
Jessica Eggleston and Megan Harrison combined for 78 points in the Mustangs’ last two games, both wins.

Tristan Aird MUSTANG DAILY

It is no coincidence that when the Cal Poly women’s basketball team is winning, its standout tandem of forwards performs well.

So well, in fact, that senior Jessica Eggleston and sophomore Megan Harrison combined for 78 points, 28 rebounds, 12 assists and six steals over their past two games last week in leading the Mustangs to consecutive victories for the first time since November 2006.

“They complement each other really nicely,” Cal Poly assistant coach Kerri Nakamoto said of Eggleston and Harrison. “Inside-out, one plays perimeter, one plays inside. They can swap equally well from there. They look for each other now. After a year of playing together, they’ve really developed their game together.”

Nakamoto spoke Monday at a weekly athletics department press conference in the absence of head coach Fath Mimnaugh, who was busy recruiting.

Eggleston, Harrison and the rest of the Mustangs (7-12, 3-4 Big West Conference) hope to be competitive in points scored at Cal Poly with Eggleston, who is ninth all-time in points scored at Cal Poly with 1,000 points in a career.

The return of the Cal Poly surfing club has been long overdue, but finally the club is back to the top three in the second round and whoever advances in the first round will be back to the top three in the second.

Cal Poly shortboarder and agricultural business senior Matt Cooke advanced to the second round.

“There was a lot of good competition who really rip from other schools,” Cooke said. “While Mira Costa College of Manhattan Beach won the competition, there was a mix of UC and CSU schools as well as community colleges that competed in the heat.

“There are 29 teams total and at least 18 or 19 are state or UC schools, the rest are community colleges,” Cooke said. “I’m just really happy that Cal Poly is getting on the boat.”

The surf club is now looking to end the season stronger as it takes on its next competition from Feb. 9 to 10 in Huntington Beach.

However, Cal Poly surf club team member and biology sophomore Megan Cimino made it clear that those interested don’t have to surf competitively to be in the club.

“We plan to have surf trips and social events for the rest of the year,” she said.

The club plans on visiting South Jersey, Sands Pitts and the Hazards around this area, as well as a trip to Mexico or Big Sur for spring break.

Tryouts were held two weeks ago at Studio Drive in Cayucos.

Cal Poly senior forward Jessica Eggleston is the reigning Big West Conference Player of the Week. She averages 13.8 points, 7.6 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 2.1 steals per game.

That production has been key for an injury-plagued team that is playing without four-year starting point guard Sparkle Anderson.

see Basketball, page 15

Cal Poly business sophomore Derek Davis surfs in Costa Rica during his opening right down the middle of the Colts defense. I was in — Snowflake, but she was nowhere to be found.

Since the Mustang Daily forgeted to give me a media pass, I had to find another way in. I finally found an opening right down the middle of the Colts defense. I was in free to ask all the questions I wanted to.

I was so tired of hearing the same pointless questions asked by the same boring reporters. It’s either “Pyton, will the thumb injury affect your ability to throw the out to Wayne?” or “Lovie, why does your team get no respect?”

I was not going to let myself fall into that mold. It was time for a reporter to ask the questions that see Johnny, page 14