16 vehicles vandalized over weekend

Kristen Marschall  
MUSTANG DAILY

Her car had been vandalized before, but Janet Hopton didn’t expect it to happen again. The biology junior parked her car in front of a friend’s house on Hathway Street on Saturday night and got a ride home from a friend. The next morning, she was shocked to see how different her car looked.

“I pulled up in front of it and my entire windshield had been smashed,” she said, adding that the car had visibly been jumped on, as there were footprint indentations. The truck parked in front of her had also been attacked, as well as three others.

see Vandalism, page 2

Tour rolls through town today

Racers move out at the beginning of Stage 3 of the Tour of California bicycle race on Wednesday near Stockton, Calif. Cyclists will be stopped in San Luis Obispo today shortly after 3 p.m. at the end of Stage 4. For a complete story, see page 16.

CSU faculty take first steps toward strike

Michelle Locke  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY, Calif. — Faculty at the California State University system have scheduled a strike authorization vote, a first for the nation’s largest four-year public university system.

California Faculty Association officials said Wednesday the vote is scheduled to take place March 5-8 at some of CSU’s 23 campuses and March 12-15 at the remainder, with the results to be announced March 21.

The vote authorization comes after nearly two years of so-far fruitless contract negotiations.

“We want to make a statement,” said John Travis, CFA president and a political science professor at Humboldt State University.

Faculty at CSU, which has more than 400,000 students, have never gone on strike and have never held such a vote, although they came close to scheduling a strike autor-

see Strike, page 2

After months of waiting, Apple store to open on Higuera St.

An Apple chain store will move into the space previously occupied by Men’s Express at 877 Higuera St.

Tyler Wise  
MUSTANG DAILY

With a swelling of commercial businesses taking root in town, San Luis Obispo will soon join the ranks of a growing number of cities worldwide to receive an Apple retail store.

Unlike the existing Apple retailers, such as the Mac Superstore located on South Higuera Street and El Corral Bookstore at Cal Poly, the new Apple retail store will be headed by Apple Computers Inc. — one of several hundred corporate chain stores to open up worldwide since 2001.

“We very much handpick our sites and we feel San Luis Obispo is perfect and ready for an Apple store,” said Apple representative and design manager Benjamin Lai. The city of San Luis Obispo with the intent to open a corporate retail store some time near the holidays. The vacant retail space formerly occupied by Men’s Express at 877 Higuera St.

see Apple, page 3
Campaign release plans that took effect at midnight due to a lack of notice. In the early morning Tuesday morning, local law enforcement officials patrolled the streets beginning at 7 p.m., as opposed to the eight that are on staff on an average weekend night. The core group of officers came from San Luis Obispo Police Department, California Highway Patrol and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Department. The San Luis Obispo Police Department also called upon University Police, Union Pacific Railroad Police, and officers from other cities within the county.

Out of the weekend’s 57 citations, 25 were traffic citations and 18 were for alcohol.

Scaled down from the previous two years, the police force only had one DUI traffic checkpoint near the intersection of Foothill Boulevard and Chorro Street across from Bali’s Yogurt. This stop, which operated from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday and 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday, screened 676 drivers for signs of intoxication, conducted seven field sobriety tests and made a single arrest.

Vandalism continued from page 1
cars parked behind her.

Lt. Chris Staley of the San Luis Obispo Police Department said, “Hopton’s was one of 10 attacks reported on Hathaway Street that night.”

“It looks like they left a place and on their way home, went on a downtown path,” Staley said.

University Police Department Chief Bill Watton said that path was likely from Mustang Village to a campus residence hall. In addition to the Hathaway Street vandalism, police found a broken windshield on a Mustang Village Mustang Van parked on a random street. “We think we may have identified a perpetrator,” Watton said. “It is pretty rare to have rocks thrown through the windshields of people’s cars parked behind her.”

As for Hopton, paying to tow her car and have the windshield replaced has added up to about $350 — and she still has to replace her car and have the windshield replaced. "I don’t really think the DUI checkpoints are going to deter senseless people who drink and drive on a regular basis, but putting them out there makes people think about it and question themselves,” biological sciences senior Patrick Kelly said.

There has also been discussion on the effects that reinstating the Mardi Gras parade for 2008 would have.

“It appears from student and community member leaders that, due to the campaign and student turnover, the memory of 2004 is gone,” Blanke said. “As far as the parade goes, it would be a shame to run a parade too soon, we could restart the celebrations and potentially flush $2 million worth of taxpayer money down the toilet.”

Unlike past years, 2007's city outreach plan did not have a slogan, but police officers still made the rounds by passing out door hangers in student housing complexes and talking with community leaders.

Three years after 2004’s riots, the San Luis Obispo Police Department has achieved its goal of significantly scaling down Mardi Gras celebrations.

“Cal Poly is known for being an amazing school, I don’t think Mardi Gras really hurt our reputation overall. No one is going to not come to school here because we party one weekend a year,” Kelly said.

Strike continued from page 1
rization vote in 2002, CFA officials said.

Contract negotiations began April 2005, but stalled last December, which include the amount of pay increase, are now before a fact-finder.

“We need to let that process continue,” said CSU spokesman Clara Potes-Fellow. “Once we see the results of the fact-finding, then is the time to take action.”

Traus said if faculty wait until fact-finding is over, it may be too late to benefit from it.

“Nobody’s going to notice if we strike in the summer,” he said.

Strike authorization would require approval by 50 percent of CFA membership plus one. If that happens, Traus said, “they most likely will have “rolling walkouts” — faculty striking for a short time on various campuses to lessen the impact on students.

UC Santa Barbara soccer player arrested in rape investigation

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — The University of California, Santa Barbara, will cooperate fully with a police investigation into a claim that a soccer team player raped a woman on an Isla Vista beach, the school’s athletics director said Wednesday.

Gary Cunningham also said he was “very distressed and saddened” to learn about the reported assault and allegations against Eric Frimpong.

Frimpong, 21, was arrested for investigation of rape on Saturday and released on $100,000 bail, authorities said.

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Express at 877 Higuera St. on the corner of Morro Street was selected to become the host for the new Apple store. The owners of the retail space, the Copeland family — who also own several retail spaces downtown, including the new Court Street shopping center — presented the design for the new retail space, with representatives from Apple, to the San Luis Obispo Cultural Heritage Committee (CHC) late last July.

However, disputes with the CHC over Apple's requested design changes stalled the development.

Plans presented by Apple called for the stripping away of the marble colonnade at the entrance of the location, the removal of the brick bulkhead to incorporate larger windows and the replacement of the windows facing Morro Street with Apple's signature opaque "frosted" windows. These changes were met with much scrutiny by the CHC.

After several revisions were deferred to the Architectural Review Commission (ARC) by the CHC, Apple all but withdrew its plans and disappeared from city review until this January.

In a direct appeal to the City Council, Apple was finally awarded the permits to open a retail store in San Luis Obispo.

"They (Apple) appealed directly to us because the ARC would not approve their plans," said San Luis Obispo City Councilmember Christine Mulholland. "Through the process of appeal, anybody can come up to us for a direct vote of approval regardless of what, say, the ARC, might have disapproved."

Though it took several months longer than expected for Apple to receive the green light, it comes as no surprise to current local Apple retailer, who has been wary of the arrival of an Apple store for some time.

"I knew it was coming," said Preston Sirois, the computer division manager of El Corral Bookstore. "They might have fallen off the public radar here for a couple of months, but I was not surprised at all to hear that they would still pursue a store in town."

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For Williams, the decision by Apple to open a corporate store is reflective of his annual profits and the accelerating trend of commercial businesses flooding into the area.

"Last year we made over $6 million in revenue so I think that played a hand in Apple's decision to go corporate here," Williams said. "Apple seems to think we're a big town now because they look at the demographic and all the big stores coming in and they think that having another Apple store in town wouldn't hurt us."

Williams pointed out that the arrival of a corporate Apple store would be the first time that Apple has opened in a city of less than 100,000, making the San Luis Obispo store location the smallest per population (roughly 45,000).

For Sirois and Williams, having three Apple locations in such a small city would certainly have an adverse effect on their businesses.

"We have no say on what businesses can or can't come into town," Mulholland said. "Our job is to make sure those contractors and companies who want to come into town strictly follow the zoning and building regulations."

Apple Computers Inc. was not available for comment as to when it might open the store, but Councilmember Mulholland suspects that they will open sometime in the spring.

San Luis Obispo will become the 35th city in California to host an Apple retail store.

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Shane Williams
Mac Superstore owner

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Apple seems to think we're a big town now because they look at the demographic and all the big stores coming in and they think having another Apple store in town wouldn't hurt us.

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June 22, 2007

MUSTANG DAILY

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EVERY DRUNK DIAL NEEDS AN "UNDER FOUR" REMINDER. DRINK RESPONSIBLY.

MOST CAL POLY STUDENTS DRINK UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING. message brought to you by Cal Poly students based on a survey of 1,200 students www.unders.com
**Question of the day:**

Do you think Britney Spears can make a comeback?

"Oh my God, no. Not at all. I think she's gone crazy."
- Erin Rogers
biochemistry
freshman

"I do because she was really really good at one time."
- Sarah Scheritzer
forestry and natural resources
senior

"I think she'll be in the news for a while, but not as successful as she has been."
- Steve Rutter
mechanical engineering
senior

"No. I think she's dead. She hasn't made any music for a while."
- Katie Bohm
journalism
freshman

"I think it's just going to intensify her career. So many people are still gonna love her."
- Meghan MacRae
journalism
senior

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**Bush's plan to raise Pell Grant may be misleading for students**

Tim Magaw

**KENT, Ohio —** President George W. Bush signed a bill into law last week that would raise the maximum Pell Grant award by $260. The increase is effective at the start of July, bringing the maximum award to $4,310.

Financial Aid director Mark Evans said this is good news for some, considering about 10,000 students from the university's eight campuses receive this kind of grant, which is given by the federal government. Because they are grants and not loans, students do not need to pay them back.

"The Pell Grant program is the largest grant program for any institution," he said.

The legislation signed by Bush will fund most federal education programs for the remainder of the 2007 fiscal year. The president is calling for an even higher increase in the Pell Grant program in his 2008 budget plan, but it could be at the expense of other programs.

By 2008, Bush plans to raise the Pell Grant to $4,600, increasing it by $200 each year. This could be the largest Pell Grant increase in three decades.

According to the College Board, the maximum Pell Grant award in 1977 covered 72 percent of the total cost of attending a four-year public institution. But by 2004, the maximum Pell Grant covered only 38 percent of the total cost.

But in order to pay for his possible increase, which has a five-year cost of about $19.8 billion, Bush has proposed the elimination of the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program.

"Eliminating the program would have a major impact on our highest-need students," Evans said.

The supplemental grant program is for high-need Pell Grant recipients, he said.

Because allocations for the supplemental grants have already been received for the 2007-08 school year, the elimination wouldn't take place until the 2008-09 school year. But if the supplemental grant program is cut, students could be cut out up to $1,000 in the first year, he said.

"If they continue to increase Pell Grants by two or three hundred dollars in the next few years, they could eventually break even."

David Creamer, senior vice president for administration, said Bush's Pell Grant proposal could misinform some.

"It means for many students they might not see as much grant money as they would have expected," he said.

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(Sung in German, with English supertitles)
Free lecture at 7 p.m. in the Philips Recital Hall.

**And mark your calendar for February 28 - 7:30 PM - PAC**

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**National Philharmonic of Russia**

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Britney Spears flees Malibu rehab facility less than a day after checking in, reports say

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Britney Spears left a live-in rehabilitation facility early Wednesday, less than a day after checking in, according to several reports.

It was the second time in a week that Spears entered a rehab facility and checked out before her first day was finished.

The Associated Press news magazine "The Insider" initially reported that Spears called a car service, walked out and said that anything would change and that she'd been there before. The AP wasn't able to confirm those reports.

Rudolph, who is a regular at the Event Center in Antigua, in the Caribbean, but the AP wasn't able to confirm those reports.

"I can see how failing your family and friends at this time," Rudolph was quoted as saying. He didn't disclose why she entered rehab.

Spears had a meadow weekend that included shaving her head, tattooing her wrist and clubbing with friends. On Friday night, she shaved off her hair at a salon. Spears was later seen wearing an expensive blond wig.

Spears left a live-in rehabilitation facility less than a day after checking in, according to several reports. Spears called a car service, walked out and said that anything would change and that she'd been there before.

"It's a great alternative method to just for fun, but it can't replace what can you do in the gym: 'Even if I had a Wii, I wouldn't use it as my workout regimen,'" Balangitao said. "I wouldn't be like, 'I'm only going to the gym for 30 minutes today, since I played the Wii earlier.'"

"I think that being physically in shape is really important and it's good that kids can be active while playing the games, rather than being a couch potato." According to a press release from VideoGameFitness.net, the International Sports Sciences Association (ISSA) is praising the Wii and other video games that help to combat childhood obesity. "Exertainment and home video consoles are the wave of the future," said Josh Trout, a kinesiology professor of at California State University, Chico. In a press release from VideoGameFitness.net, "Exertainment, and entertainment, is an excellent way for getting kids hooked on physical activity, producing good exercise habits that can last their lifetime."
Music companies target colleges in latest crackdown on downloads

Ted Bridis
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Cracking down on college students, the music industry is sending thousands more complaints to top universities this school year than it did last year as it targets music illegally downloaded over campus computer networks.

A few schools, including Ohio and Purdue universities, already have received more than 1,000 complaints accusing individual students since last fall — significant increases over the past school year. For students who are caught, punishments vary from e-mail warnings to semester-long suspensions from classes.

The trade group for the largest music labels, the Recording Industry Association of America, identified at the request of The Associated Press the 25 universities that received the most copyright complaints it sent so far this school year. The group long has pressured schools to get the request of The Associated Press the 23 universities nearly triple the number for the previous school year.

The top five schools are Ohio, Purdue, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Tennessee and the University of California at Berkeley, seventh on the list with 733 complaints.

"It's something we feel we have to do," RIAA chief executive Mitch Bainwired said.

The music group said each university should set its own penalties for sealing songs and said campuses are rife with such thefts. "When we look at the problem, it's particularly acute in the college context," RIAA chief executive Mitch Bainwired said.

Under federal law, universities that receive complaints must act more aggressively against online pirates on campus. "It's something we feel we have to do," RIAA President Cary Sherman said. "We have to let people know that if they engage in this activity, they are not above anyone's jurisdiction.

The top five schools are Ohio, Purdue, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Tennessee and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Tennessee and the University of California at Berkeley.

Sued the federal government because it's too much trouble to track down students at those schools include AresWarez, liitTorrent, Demonkey and other programs that operate on the Groenella and FastTrack services.

Under federal law, universities that receive complaints about students illegally distributing copyrighted songs generally must act to stop repeat offenders or else the school can be sued. The entertainment industry typically must act to stop repeat offenders or else the university to base policy on the results of research that shows that marijuana eased pain in some HIV patients.

The Oakland-based advocacy group wants a judge to force the department and the Food and Drug Administration to stop giving out information that casts doubt on the FDA position on medical marijuana is incorrect, dishonest and a violation of laws requiring the government to base policy on sound science," Joe Ellendorf, chief counsel for Americans for Safe Access, said in a statement.

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Silly trailer, ‘Terabithia’ isn’t a fantasy film

Aaron Allen

DIRECTOR'S CHRONICLE

Going into the movie "Bridge to Terabithia," I wasn't familiar with the 1977 Newbery Medal-winning children's book on which it's based, so I was expecting what the movie trailers had led me to expect: an epic fantasy full of strange and dazzling creatures on par with "The Chronicles of Narnia" or "The Lord of the Rings."

"Terabithia" is nothing of the sort: It's an intimate and very earthbound grade-school drama with the occasional flight of fancy as Jesse and Leslie, our young hero and heroine, escape the perils of playground bullies via their wildly vivid imaginations. Truth in marketing is about as flexible as taffy in a taffy-puller. I'm sure the movie's marketers were trying to sell the movie to the same fan base that made "Narnia" and "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy worldwide box-office sensations, but I can't help but wonder how much that misdirection will hurt "Terabithia" in the long run. Anyone going to see this movie expecting wall-to-wall action and more magical monsters than you can shake a wand at will be disappointed.

"Terabithia" is not "Narnia" and it's not "The Lord of the Rings." It's simply a good movie on its own merits and not on the merits on which the studio would like you to base your judgment.

Jesse Hutcherson ("Zathura") plays Jesse Aarons, a farm boy who's teased at school because of his hand-me-down clothes. He takes comfort in his drawings — vibrant illustrations of armor-clad bears and lumbering giants that exist in kingdoms far, far away from his family's farm. His dad (Robert Patrick, playing a nice guy for a change) strokes to make ends meet and lectures Jesse on the impracticality of immersing oneself in fantasies.

New to the neighborhood is Leslie Burke (AnnaSophia Robb), a radiant, blue-eyed blonde whose cutie-punk clothes immediately tag her as free-thinking and irresistibly cool. She has storytelling skills to match Jesse's drawings, and together they create the pretend world of Terabithia in their backyard woods. Jesse and Leslie's relationship is the kind of fifth-grade, boy-girl relationship that neither of them can quite fathom just yet. In a year or two, they might use their tree house for kissing, but for now, it's their fortress on the edge of Terabithia, where pine cones can be used as grenades against those armor-clad bears and ground-shaking giants.

It's actually during these trailer-touted fantasy sequences that "Terabithia" drops the ball. Jesse, or his imagined self, doesn't seem to take his killing of a friend seriously. The filmmakers should be commended for not shying away from that darkness and trusting the kids in the audience to be brave enough to face it. "Terabithia," after all, is about bravery in the face of reality.

Now why couldn't the ads focus on that instead of special effects?

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iGeneration obsesses over technology

TV, comics and board games reigned supreme, before we plugged our souls into the World Wide Web.

As you picture that proverbial tumbleweed rolling down the empty streets of your mind, let me be frank and tell you why that is: before the Internet, there was nothing. No iTunes, no YouTube, nothing. Simply a vast wasteland of potential, unrealized by generations past. It was not until the Generation exploded on scene in the mid-1980s that the world embraced modernity to its fullest. What is this new Internet generation, and who belongs to it? The "iGeneration," as it has come to be known, supersedes the MTV generation of the '70s and '80s, and includes those people who spent their formative years surfing the Web for hours on end, making sure the words "library catalogue" became completely obsolete. Ladies and gentlemen, the iGeneration is us and me. So, for those of you who enjoy a hearty dose of good-old-technology in fast-forward mode, here it is, we're living it.

Emerging within the paradigm of a modern world, the iGeneration of today has embraced anything "i," or Internet-related, toppling previous models of antithetical advancement. With the birth of the Internet, modern titans such as Apple, Google, and Microsoft have inched their "i"s into mainstream culture, leaving us gaga for ping up like mushrooms, combined with the technology of more MP3 players than we know what to do with, stimulation during this age of technological exploration is a non issue.

On the contrary, we are constantly being bombarded with stimuli, forcing many of us to hide out on the outer rim of social interaction in hopes of catching our breath. But let's be serious, I wouldn't have it any other way. This is our time, our age, our generation, our lives. We are the iGeneration.

"iGeneration" has come to be known as the new Internet generation, which superseded the MTV generation of the '70s and '80s.

MySpace page.

With new game systems like the Nintendo Wii and PlayStation 3 popping up like mushrooms, combined with the technology of more MP3 players than we know what to do with, stimulation during this age of technology is a non issue.

Daniel McNally

"Lost," "The Office," "24," "Arrested Development" and "Prison Break." What do all these shows have in common? They are entertaining, wildly addictive, available on DVD and ruining America's youth (myself included).

If you haven't watched these or any similar shows, you must have an angel watching over you. My only advice for you is that you sell your TV and remove your computer's DVD player to maintain this blissful ignorance. Pick up a hobby like chess or collecting French fries that look like former presidents. If you are in a room and you hear someone say, "Did you see that last episode of 'Lost'?" or "'24" is on tonight," leave immediately and take a cold shower.

It may sound harsh, but drastic measures are needed if one is to avoid these temptations. These shows are like cocaine, only they're measured in episodes instead of kilos, and they're 10 times as addictive.

Regardless, we're in this for the long haul. We are bound together by a social network driven by technology. So buckle your seatbelts people, we're in this for the long haul.

Alexandra Bezidian is a journalism senior and a minor in religious studies. E-mail questions or comments to alexb dezidian@gmail.com
New York Mozart Opera Festival presents ‘The Magic Flute for one night only

Janelle Eastridge

When 2006 Cal Poly graduate Jessica Reed left San Luis Obispo for Boston in the fall to pursue her master’s degree in music, she had high hopes of entering the professional opera world.

But that time has come sooner than expected — Reed will be making her professional debut tonight in the Mozart Festival Opera’s performance of Mozart’s, “The Magic Flute.”

“This is a dream come true for me — to make a professional debut on my home stage,” she said. “I definitely didn’t expect it to come this soon.”

Reed first met "The Magic Flute" during Georgio Lalow last February during a master’s class — a special class in which selected musically inclined students are critiqued by professionals. Last year, Lalow had been impressed with Reed’s talent, informing her that she was “ready to enter the profession.”

At a spontaneous coffee meeting, he turned this praise into a reality, offering Reed a chance to perform with the company at both Cal Poly tonight and again in Boston on March 6.

“Luckily my school (the New England Conservatory of Music) really values hands-on experience, much like Cal Poly,” Reed said. “So they really value me going out to get professional experience while we’re still students.”

The Mozart Festival Opera — sister company of Teatro Lirico D’Ortapa — made its U.S. debut in Fall 2003. Since then, the company has successfully completed tours of “Don Giovanni” and “Le Nozze di Figaro,” adding “The Magic Flute” to its repertoire this year.

“The Magic Flute,” or “Die Zauberflote,” is the whimsical love story of the Egyptian prince Tamino with a magical flute and a bird catcher Papageno, who are on a somewhat perilous quest for love. Reed will be performing the comic role of Papageno.

The work will feature a 50-piece orchestra, a full-opera chorus and internationally renowned soloists. The opera will be presented in the original German with English subtitles projected above the stage.

Music department Lecturer Jaclyn Krizter will conduct a pre-show lecture on the opera at 7 p.m. in the Philips Hall in the Performing Arts Center.

“I will be giving the synopsis for Mozart’s opera “Magic Flute” or, in German, “Die Zauberflote,” Krizter wrote in an e-mail interview, “Mozart was a Mason, as was his father, and I will be explaining the Masonic, esoteric significance of the opera.”

Showing in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center, the opera will begin in one-night performance at 8 tonight.

Tickets for the performance range from $42 to $54, with student discount available. Tickets can be purchased at the Performing Arts Center ticket office, at www.pacslc.org, or by calling (805) 756-2787.

There will be a student rush an hour before the show begins where tickets will be available for $5 with a valid PolyCard.

The real story, however, is how the “Shows can have such a big effect on so many people in the first place. Let’s face it, they are often repetitive, far-fetched and predictable. Watching an episode without knowing all the characters and the plot can be confusing and doesn’t amount to the same experience. That’s why, sometimes need an escape from our mundane work and responsibilities.

The fact of the matter is that shows are a little too good at getting their audiences hooked for our own good. That’s why I’m urging you to take time to limit the damage and avoid watching TV altogether. You’re better off pretending prime time programming doesn’t exist. After all, you don’t know what you sometimes need an escape from our mundane work and responsibilities.

Whitaker will probably take this and deservedly so. However, Smith put forth a moving performance in “Pursuit” opposite his son. The movie is a tear-jerker, and Big Willy’s charisma helps turn the film into a feel-good story.

Best Actress nominees:
Penelope Cruz in “Volver”
Judi Dench in “Notes on a Scandal”
Helen Mirren in “The Queen”

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again, “The Departed” is the best movie I have seen since “Crash.” The cast, Nicholson, DiCaprio, Wahlberg and Sheen, combined with one of the greatest directors of this generation in Martin Scorsese should equal an Oscar. It’s Easily one of the most dynamic movies of the last decade.

Best Actor nominees:
Leonardo DiCaprio in “Blood Diamond”
Ryan Gosling in “Half Nelson”

I will borrow those season-one DVDs of “Lost” after all.

Devan McClaine

This year’s Academy Awards seem to be absolutely loaded. I can’t recall a year this good since 1994, which featured “Forest Forrest,” “Shawshank Redemption” and “Pulp Fiction.”

This year’s nominee of “Babel,” “The Departed” and “Little Miss Sunshine” should run as close a race as the class of 1994. The best actor nominees are also stacked, unlike years past.

Best Picture nominees:
“Babel”
“The Departed”
“Letters from Iwo Jima”
“Little Miss Sunshine”
“The Queen”

I’ve got to go with Kate Winslet; she has been nominated five times and she’s only 31. Winslet is riveting in “Little Children,” which is probably the best movie that nobody has seen. Winslet doesn’t exactly carry the film, but it is the primary reason why you can’t take your eyes off the screen.

Best Director nominees:
Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu for “Babel”
Martin Scorsese for “The Departed”
Clint Eastwood for “Letters from Iwo Jima”
Stephen Frears for “The Queen.”

If Scorsese doesn’t win, he should send Travis Bickle to the homes of every Academy voter. The movie is explosive and Scorsese helped light the fuse. He helped push as an amazing cast to deliver the year’s best film.

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The Mozart Festival Opera — sister company of Teatro Lirico D’Ortapa — made its U.S. debut in Fall 2003. Since then, the company has successfully completed tours of “Don Giovanni” and “Le Nozze di Figaro,” adding “The Magic Flute” to its repertoire this year.

“The Magic Flute,” or “Die Zauberflote,” is the whimsical love story of the Egyptian prince Tamino with a magical flute and a bird catcher Papageno, who are on a somewhat perilous quest for love. Reed will be performing the comic role of Papageno.

The work will feature a 50-piece orchestra, a full-opera chorus and internationally renowned soloists. The opera will be presented in the original German with English subtitles projected above the stage.

Music department Lecturer Jaclyn Krizter will conduct a pre-show lecture on the opera at 7 p.m. in the Philips Hall in the Performing Arts Center.

“I will be giving the synopsis for Mozart’s opera “Magic Flute” or, in German, “Die Zauberflote,” Krizter wrote in an e-mail interview, “Mozart was a Mason, as was his father, and I will be explaining the Masonic, esoteric significance of the opera.”

Showing in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center, the opera will begin in one-night performance at 8 tonight.

Tickets for the performance range from $42 to $54, with student discount available. Tickets can be purchased at the Performing Arts Center ticket office, at www.pacslc.org, or by calling (805) 756-2787.

There will be a student rush an hour before the show begins where tickets will be available for $5 with a valid PolyCard.

It’s that they are good at making us want to empathize with and relate to their characters. That’s why I’m urging you to take time to limit the damage and avoid watching TV altogether. You’re better off pretending prime time programming doesn’t exist. After all, you don’t know what you sometimes need an escape from our mundane work and responsibilities.

As for me, there is no hope. I’ll have to hit rock bottom before I ever recover. I’m going to spend the next few weekends cooped up in my room, catching up on each season of “24” and letting my mind run. At least I’ll be thoroughly entertained. After that, you know, maybe I will borrow those season-one DVDs of “Lost” after all.
Loving, learning and living together

Caffeinated cramming sessions. Period professors. Documented love affairs. On the list of clichés under the heading of "unifying college experience" is a major one that most of us won't ever forget when we think back to our college days: the distinct (repetitive) recollection of our merriment and misadventures with roommates.

Freshman year, it's you and your dorm mate. You share a cozy 12-by-12 space with another terrified freshman who tries, as you do, to make the best of the new experience by hanging posters on every spare square inch of brick wall, and stocking the mini-fridge with drinks (like water).

Dorm-roommate stories cover every genre, from horror to epic to romance. Maybe you get along with your roommate swimmingly; or you spend most of your time out socializing for the sole purpose of avoiding him or her; or you are plainly indifferent to each other, but take care to mind when there's a scrunchie on the doorknob.

Then you move on, perhaps to sophomore on-campus residencies or migrate into the big scary off-campus world of leases and landlords. Presuming you have some choice in your living arrangement, it's a safe and easy route to pick a group of friends with whom you get along... right? So you may think! Whether you're an apartment nomad or you've had the same roommate since dorm life, whether you live with one or other roommates, you've had designated dinner nights or keep entirely to yourselves, living with roommates in college proves this truth: you can't live with just anybody, no matter how fond you are of each other.

In relationships, the same rule applies: just because you love each other to pieces doesn't necessarily mean you can live together. For example: generally speaking, having a good, solid friendship seems like golden ground upon which to build a steady roommate-ship. But even the closest of BFFs won't know they can share a kitchen, bathroom and bedroom without killing each other.

In the same vein, having a healthy, stable friendship (and obviously, mutual desire) seems like enough rationale to move in; but you may not really know your significant other as well as you'd like to think.

If we could set up a camera to scrutinize our own behavior for a 24-hour period, we would end up with a video chalk-full of the little quirks and idiosyncrasies potential roommates would have to live with. Some examples? You use a new cup every time you get a drink from the kitchen. You leave your socks in little corners in the bedroom and forget you ever took them off. You are loyal to the sacred order of always performing your preparatory routine; but you'll never know until you live it.

When you get along with someone so well, you predict only the best for a cohabiting arrangement; but you'll never know until you live it.

It's a process that takes time and patience. When you get along with someone so well, you predict only the best for a cohabiting arrangement; but you'll never know until you live it. When it comes to romantic relationships and cohabitation, love isn't necessarily easy.

To address the so-called statistics: the psycho-happie — the psychological findings that become misconstrued on their way into the mainstream — on cohabitation is complex and shouldn't be reduced to if-then logic. Living together before marriage does not "cause" divorce.

The correlations stand on their own and need context to be understood. Moving in together is a huge step in a relationship. It means a new sense of obligation, of responsibility; it means that in a way, you will be answering to one another person, and he or she will be answering to you.

Harmony is possible... as long as you both know what you expect. Of course, there are fundamental living habits to get used to. Perhaps he/she goes to bed at 9:30 p.m. and you're up at 1:30 a.m.; he/she likes to eat dinner at 6 p.m. on the dot, and you sometimes just snack; he/she thinks you're making a huge step in a relationship. That's why you have to set up a camera. Living together has the potential to either strengthen or weaken even the most compatible of relationships. Of the myriad things to think about, perhaps the most important thing to keep in mind is this: it takes concerted effort and mutual understanding as well as love and affection to keep any relationship — between roommates, significant others, or both — happy and functioning.

Sarah Carlson is an English and Psychology junior and Mustang Daily reporting columnist.

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor!

submit your opinions in 250 words or less to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Republicans got U.S. into wars in the first place

Do not be dining the Democrats, Brian Eller! In your column, you say "Democrats have tried to undermine the military success and safety of our country." But he fail to point out that the Vietnam, Gulf and Iraq wars were all started by Republicans as president.

You also said that "the Vietnam War happened under the watch of a Democratic president," but you forget to mention that the Republican President Dwight Eisenhower was the first president to send American troops to train the South Vietnamese army in 1959, and that the war happened under the watch of both parties. Eller, know your role.

Also, I can't believe that you criticized "The Vagina Monologues" without even realizing the importance of the messages it was giving. Selina Chang

Software engineering sophomore
STAFF COMMENTARY

EA Sports: It's in the (monopoly) game

There was once a time when the Madden NFL video game series was the best on the market by its own merits. Now it is the best simply by default.

The Madden series used to stand proudly above rivals such as the NFL Quarterback Club, NFL GameDay and NFL Xtreme series. Then, something happened that the "Madden" series' publisher — EA Sports — and nobody else could have predicted.

A game was better.

Any unbiased eye can see that ESPN NFL 2K5 was superior to Madden NFL 2005 in nearly every way possible. In fact, its graphics and gameplay are in many ways still better than even Madden NFL 2007.

Now, don't get it twisted. "Madden" series' producers have always known that their game has always been a quality game. Its explosion in popularity in the 1990s is a testament to that fact. Madden '96 on Sega Genesis might be the finest 16-bit football game ever created.

"Madden" series' producers weren't afraid to EA Sports bashing without reason here.

However, it was certainly unfair for EA Sports to sign an exclusive agreement with the NFL in December 2004 — shortly after ESPN NFL 2K5 release — in order to block publisher Sega Sports and developer Visual Concepts from continuing the NFL 2K series.

That's called a monopoly.

Now get ready for something extraordinary. EA Sports has whipped out the company knew it was beat, on more fronts than one.

For starters, ESPN NFL 2K5 only cost $20 for the PlayStation2 and Xbox platforms. Madden NFL 2005 cost $50.

As soon as the gamer boots up ESPN NFL 2K5, they feel as if they are immersed in SportsCenter, with authentic music and personalities they love. Britten frets gamers with his enjoyable quips prior to kickoff. Busy Kolber reports from the sidelines and you actually get halftime and week-by-week clips and highlights of games throughout the league.

The commentary was smoother, too.

Whereas the ESPN NFL 2K5 commentators have passionate discussions and mild-mannered arguments during the game — like a real broadcast — the Madden series' commentary is plain, uninspired and choppy.

While the gamer might hear something like "New York has struggled to control the line of scrimmage, as evidenced by these time of possession stats" on ESPN NFL 2K5, the Madden counterpart might come out like: "Cincinnati...has two timeouts remaining...down 14...in the third quarter."

The Madden series are like McDonald's food; it is popular and might taste good, but is pre-packaged, lacks attention to detail and you know there's probably something better.

As soon as EA Sports threw the lasso around NFL exclusivity, it began to fail in it.

And why not? It has no current competition.

There is no real reason for EA Sports to strive to improve the quality of its Madden games for the time being because they know die-hard football fans and gamers alike will shell out $50-earned money to get the most recent NFL game.

And there is only one per year.

The one thing the NFL Quarterback Club, NFL GameDay and NFL Xtreme series can be credited with — while they were inferior competitors to both the Madden and NFL 2K series — was giving EA Sports and Sega Sports reason to push the envelope.

The Madden series' hit rock bottom with this past fall's release of Madden NFL 2007 on the Xbox 360.

If you own an Xbox 360 and have not decided what NFL game to buy, don't pick up Madden NFL 2007.

The reason?

You can get the same game — Madden NFL 2006 — for roughly $30 cheaper used.

Madden NFL 2007 is inexplicably absent of certain features even EA Sports had been able to staple down in the past.

But for some reason, gamers can no longer create players without going through a rigorous training combine.

Why can't the gamer edit player attributes? Madden '96 was no way, for instance, to improve Dallas quarterback Tony Romo's preseason rating of a journeyman to Pro Bowl status.

And where the hell are the historic rosters?

Folks see these features that the Madden series had implemented more than a half decade ago on the original PlayStation?

Why are they suddenly missing on Xbox 360, a console that dwarfs the original PlayStation in every capability imaginable?

2K Sports announced Jan. 31 that the wheels are in motion for a next-generation game called All-Pro Football 2K8, which will feature any NFL teams, players, stadiums and so on.

It's nice to see 2K Sports getting back into the ring, but sad to see them forced to resort to making a non-NFL title simply because EA Sports is too chicken to man up and put out a better game than its chief competitor.

Yes, the Madden series is here to stay and does excel in aspects such as franchise mode and practice play. But when it comes to simple gameplay, Madden NFL 2007 on Xbox 360 can't even hold a candle to 1995's Tecmo Super Bowl on the Nintendo Entertainment System.

Let alone ESPN NFL 2K5.

Trisitan And is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily sports editor.

STAFF EDITORIAL

OK, it's time we had a little chat about opinions...

Welcome to the opinions page. Yep, opinions. It's as in people's views. The Mustang Daily serves as the public forum for Cal Poly students and faculty, meaning that when you send us a (coherent) letter to the editor, we run it. When you send us a (coherent) guest commentary, we run that too. We want to get your voice and message out to the general student population if you've got something to say.

We also have columns, like Sarah. "Like Sarah" you probably pretty familiar with this year's columnist lineup by now (and if not, just look to the bar on the right). Again, we try to bring in diverse opinions and views every week so that you, our readers, can see what's going on outside your bubble and think twice about your beliefs and decisions.

Now get ready for something extraordinary folks they're columns Columns. They don't write straight-up news articles for the Mustang Daily; moreover, they don't receive academic credit and are not paid for their contributions. Instead, they have to come up with a fresh topic every week and write 600 to 800 words about it. It's a challenging job.

They're not journalists in this context they're ordinary students who have stepped up to contribute their writings every week for your engagement and consideration. If you're looking for objective reports on what's happening around campus and in the community, that's what the rest of the paper's all about. But here, in the section you're reading right now, it's all about personal points of view.

Articles don't exist in the opinions section just commentaries, editorials (opinions that reflect the editorial staff), columns and letters to the editor. Furthermore, columns, commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mustang Daily editorial staff.

So if you have your own thoughts on a particular topic, by all means, write in. This is why the Mustang Daily exists to share stories and thoughts. You can send letters in to mustangdaily@opinions@gmail.com (see the ad on page 10 for further instructions) or you can send in guest commentaries, which should be around 300 words and cover original topics (see the ad on the upper right).

If you've ever thought about writing in but haven't yet, you should the next time you're feeling passionate about something. Without the courage to speak up, this page could become pretty darn bland. Keep it spicy.

Eds reflect the opinion of the Mustang Daily editorial staff.

www.mustangdaily.net

STAFF EDITORIAL
Blair announces withdrawal of at least 1,600 British troops from Iraq

David Stringer

LONDON — British troops have achieved many tangible successes in Iraq — securing oil platforms, rounding up rogue police units and driving smugglers carrying weapons and contraband from waterways and border crossings.

Now some of these tasks will be ceded to Iraqi troops for good.

Under proposals laid out by Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday, Britain will withdraw about 1,600 troops from Iraq over the coming months and hopes to make other cuts to its 7,100-troop contingent by late summer.

British troops would likely stay in the southern Basra region until at least 2008, the Iran-Iraq border and maintaining supply routes to U.S. and coalition troops in central Iraq, Blair told legislators.

Britain could further reduce its force level to below 5,000 once a base at Basra Palace is transferred to Iraqi control in late summer, the prime minister said.

"What all of this means is that Basra is how we want it to be. But it does mean that the next chapter in Iraq's history can be written by Iraqis," Blair said.

The announcement, on the same day Denmark said it would withdraw in 460 troops, comes as the U.S. is implementing an increase of 21,000 more troops for Iraq — putting Washington on an opposite track to its main coalition allies.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice played down the British pullback, saying it is consistent with the U.S. plan to turn over more control to Iraqi forces.

"The British have done what is really the plan for the country as a whole, which is to transfer security responsibility to the Iraqis as the situation permits," Rice said. "The coalition remains intact and, in fact, the British still have thousands of troops deployed in Iraq.

British troops have performed many humanitarian tasks — helping open hundreds of schools, fitting hospitals with modern equipment and replacing leaky water pipes — but some say the real British legacy is likely to be a consolidation of Shite control.

British forces already acquiesced to a "situation of quiet sectarian cleansing" in the south, said Anthony Cordesman, an expert on Iraq at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. The decision to pull out of Basra only underscored the political reality of Shiite primacy in the region, he said.

Rear Adm. Richard Cobbald, director of the military think tank Royal United Services Institute in London, said Britain's decision to pull back "needed to be made."

"I would admit that there is a sense of uncertainty, but things are not getting better with the British in Basra," he said. "The British are aggravating tensions by just being there."

British troops have mounted recent operations against Shiite militia, most notably raiding a Basra police station in December that had been run by a rogue police squad and freeing 70 people held captive.

Some analysts fear a militia resurgence once British troops withdraw and warn Iran may attempt to step up influence in the region.

Blair's official spokesman, on customary condition of anonymity in line with policy, acknowledged British officials "still believed Iranian supplied ordinance is coming across the border."

But Blair said the decision to withdraw was made because the south had "no Sunni insurgency, no al-Qaida base, little Sunni on Shia violence." The Iraqi capital Baghdad, however, was suffering from what he called an "orgy of terrorism unleashed upon it in order to crush any possibility of it functioning."

The other major coalition partners in Iraq include South Korea (2,300 troops), Poland (900), Australia and Georgia (both 800) and Romania (600), according to the Brookings Institution.

South Korea plans to halve its 2,300-troop contingent in the northern city of Irbil by April, and is under pressure from parliament to devise a plan for a complete withdrawal by year's end.

Polish Prime Minister Lech Kaczyński has said his country's troops would stay no longer than December.

German official warns against unrealistic expectations for Middle East peace push

Anne Geera

BERLIN — Germany's foreign minister warned Wednesday against building unrealistic expectations for a U.S.-backed push toward peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Still, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier cheered the effort led by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who came to Europe to report on her meeting Monday with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

"We have to show a great deal of realism," and not get ahead of what is still a tentative but hopeful process, Steinmeier said at a press conference with Rice.

He acknowledged, as Rice has done, that peace prospects are clouded by uncertainty over the political role of Palestinian Hamas militants.

Asked about Britain's decision to pull some 1,600 troops from Iraq, Rice said the move is consistent with the U.S. plan to turn over more control to Iraqi forces when possible.

"The British have done military missions in Afghanistan. It is not unusual for a large country such as Britain to set their plan for the country as a whole, which is to transfer security responsibility to the Iraqis as the situation permits," Rice said at a press conference with Steinmeier.

"The coalition remains intact and, in fact, the British still have thousands of troops deployed in Iraq," she said.

Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday, Blair told legislators.

Britain's decision to pull back "needed to be made," Rice said.

"The British are aggravating tensions by just being there."
Texas campus offers Mean Greens, low-calorie cafe with smaller portions

Jamie Steingle
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENTON, Texas — These days Mean Green means more than the green-jerseyed football team at the University of North Texas.

The campus also has a hot new cafeteria called Mean Greens. And as you might suspect, it serves up a lot of green, and otherwise healthy, food.

Steven Garza says he's been eating most meals there since it opened in October. One day recently, he was dining on a turkey sandwich, three pieces of sushi, vegetable soup, milk and water.

Garza likes the fact that an entire generally has fewer than 300 calories and 10 grams of fat. And meals with an entree and three side dishes usually has fewer than 350 calories and water.

The competing campus dining spots offer everything from barbecue to pizza to more traditional cafeteria lines. There are also two other larger dining halls on this campus of 32,000 students.

Mean Greens manager Peter Balabuch seems to be pleased with how his operation is doing.

"The people that have come like the offerings. We can keep them coming," he said.

Phillips said that opening Mean Greens was a risk because even though students said they wanted healthy options, it was hard to tell if they would actually choose healthier.

"Students today are more health-conscious, and there are definitely more and more options," said Jodi Smith of the National Association of College & University Food Services.

Across the country, university cafeterias are trying to serve up less processed and lower-salt items, more protein and not exceed 10 grams of fat.

"I'm always looking at those little tags," said 21-year-old Garza, who likes to get about 30 grams of protein per meal and not exceed 10 grams of fat.

"Desserts are all 150 calories or less, with choices that include brownies, peanut butter cookies and a mini chocolate torte with strawberry sauce.

"I'm always looking at those little tags," said 21-year-old Garza, who likes to get about 30 grams of protein per meal and not exceed 10 grams of fat.

"Desserts are all 150 calories or less, with choices that include brownies, peanut butter cookies and a mini chocolate torte with strawberry sauce.

Another reason to like Mean Greens is the way it's organized.

"I like to go out and have a good meal, but I don't want to feel guilty," said Garza.

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Women
continued from page 16
play against UC Riverside, which has seven players 6-foot or taller. The defending Big West tourney champi­ on Highlanders also boast a roster that has swatted 159 shots this season, compared to only 47 by our oppo­ nents.

"They're huge," Mimnaugh said of the Highlanders. "You've got 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 — that's the frontcourt and the backcourt. They're so big, they do a lot of things defensively. They like to switch screens, which has created some problems already. They're huge, so defensively, we're probably going to

Men
continued from page 16
that will be regionally televised on Fox Sports Net Prime Ticket.

Bromley has said that possibly the most important statistic to him is field-goal percentage defense.

"When asked Monday what area of the defense he was most hopeful to shore up, Bromley said: "It's not one thing. I wish it was one thing. I wish it was one thing. I wish it was one thing. I wish it was one thing. I wish it was one thing. I wish it was one thing." Bromley joked. "They've got a lit­ tle bit of everything. They've got good guards. We've got to defend them by three here," Bromley said. "We've got the right

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{BY THE NUMBERS} & \\
1.6 & - BPI for Titus Shelton. \\
23.7 & - Cal Poly's 3-pointers per game. \\
342.324 & - Assist-to-turnover ratio for the Mustangs.
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& \text{We Deliver!} \bigg/ \\
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Voight takes third stage; Leipheimer finishes second, maintains overall lead

SAN JOSE — Jens Voight of Germany easily outsprinted race leader Levi Leipheimer to claim the third and most difficult stage Wednesday of the Amgen Tour of California.

Voight (CSC), the 2006 Tour of Germany winner who also won a stage of the Tour de France last year, claimed the 94.6-mile Stockton to San Jose road race in 3 hours, 43 minutes and 6 seconds. Leipheimer (Discovery Channel), of Santa Rosa, gained six bonus seconds for finishing second and extended his race leader from one second to 15 seconds.

Voight, who gained 10 seconds for the first win in his long career in the United States, also gained three bonus seconds earlier in the stage to move into second place overall.

Christopher Horner ( Predictor- Lomax) of Bloomington, Minn., finished third in the stage and moved into third overall, 15 seconds behind.

"I think we did a great job to make it to the finish ahead of the group," said Leipheimer, who has led the race since winning the prologue last Sunday in San Francisco. "It was a hard day for our team and it was a real bike race today."

Voight, Leipheimer and Horner were among five riders who reached the top of Sierra Road, the steepest climb of the race, after 76.5 miles. The climb, a 1,500-foot ascent in approximately three miles that reached an 11 percent grade, split the field into numerous groups and resulted in the race's largest finishing time gaps. Nine riders finished outside the time limit and were eliminated from the race, reducing the field to 130.

The top three finishers eventual-

rally rode together entering San Jose and often exchanged positions with each other, sprinting quickly.

"I started sprinting out of the final corner and when I looked back and saw no one was coming back to me, I thought it would be enough," said Voight, a 2001 race leader of the Tour de France. "If Levi didn't get some seconds in the sprint, I would be in the lead.

The eight-day, 639-mile race continues Thursday with 132.6-mile Stage 9 from Stockton to San Luis Obispo. Riders will race the longest stage of the race. It will primarily take the field on a coastal route and will include three lower level climbs during the first half of the stage and an undu-

>4 Some contests
>17 Day spa
>18 Breaks

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Edited by Will Shortz

ACROSS

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3 Room Available
4 'Tuckie up' or 'Passengers'
5 Sticking points
6 Not 4 it for the money
7 Senior ... Tour...Tours
8 Cobweb
9 Hardly four-star cuisine
10 Big name in menswear and croquette
11 2BR IB A condo w/ fenced yard
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Surging Mustangs look to knock off first place UCR at home tonight

The Mustangs have allowed an average of 81.5 points over their last four games.

Taylor Moore

The Angos Tour of California bicycle race comes through downtown San Luis Obispo this afternoon, bringing two Cal Poly graduates with it.

San Luis Obispo will play host to the race for the third year in a row as the fourth stage ends shortly after 3 p.m. today at the cross-roads of Osos and Monterey streets.

Stage four begins in Seara at 10 a.m. today and travels approximately 130 miles on U.S. Highway 1 to reach San Luis Obispo in the early afternoon. This stage, one of the longest of the tour, brings the event into its second half.

The two Cal Poly graduates competing are Lucas Euser, 23, and Ken Hanson, 23, both residents of San Luis Obispo. The tour is an eight-day event.

“I’ve been riding a bike since I could breathe,” Euser said. “I’m really passionate about racing and bicycling.”

Euser, who graduated this past fall with a degree in industrial technology, has been racing professionally for the past two years. Competing in last year’s race, he placed 49th out of 97 racers.

“I think I was 49th,” Euser said. “More importantly however, we stood out as a team.”

Euser is training with Team Slipstream, sponsored by Chapelle. The team is gaining global attention for its young, multiracial riders and plans to compete in the Tour de France in two years.

Team Slipstream is doing well so far in the race, with one of its riders currently in second place.

The team’s biggest competition is the Discovery Channel team (the same that Lance Armstrong rode for), which is presently in first place.

For Hanson, the tour is an introduction to professional racing. After riding in collegiate competitions since 2002, Hanson joined the Swiss-American BMC team in 2005. This is the first year the team has become professional riding group.

Overall standings at the end of the second stage put Euser in 72nd place — 27 seconds behind the leader Levi Leipheimer (C.U.) of the Discovery Channel team. Hanson placed 135th coming in about 4 minutes, 27 seconds behind Leipheimer. There are 141 riders competing in this year’s tour.

Today’s stage is the longest of the competition and is one of the most trying stages for riders who lack endurance. However, Euser said that toews, page 14