Poly student spins to success on 'Wheel of Fortune' episode

Janelle Eastridge
MUSTANG DAILY

Jack Knoebber is a game show junkie. For the past six months, the art and design junior has consistently watched "Wheel of Fortune" on TV every night, stepping up his viewing habits from before. And when he recently received a new phone, he made sure to download the "Wheel" game as soon as possible. He's a self-described obsessed fan. "I've always liked that kind of stuff," said the art and design sophomore. "I've also always liked crossword puzzles, and they're kind of the same thing. I've always been good at those kinds of things."

But having this object of obsession has finally paid off for Knoebber. Three weeks ago, he drove down to Los Angeles to record an episode, which will appear on television June 6, for the game show.

The process has been long and intense, but ultimately enjoyable for Knoebber. After signing up two years ago on the "Wheel of Fortune" Web site and not receiving a response, Knoebber made a second attempt four months ago, "not really expecting (to get an e-mail) at all."

But two months later, that's just what he got. So, on Feb. 2, Knoebber skipped class and drove solo to Calfornia to make the 2 p.m. group audition. Once there, prospective contestants were separated into groups of 50.
Wheel of Fortune can be enthusiastic and loud, to see if you can look at the mail within two weeks. 

The audience finally arrived at 11 a.m., and the contestants drew numbers to see which episode they would appear on. Knoebber drew the last episode, meaning that he was required to stay at the studio until 6 that night.

During the recording of the other episodes, Knoebber sat in the audience “clapping [his] heart out” under the strict guidance of audience control staff.

But it was all worth it once he got onstage. One of the highlights was standing next to Pat Sajak behind the wheel. “It was really cool meeting him!” Knoebber said. “I always thought that he had a fake personality... But in real life he’s really nice and really personable.”

In a somewhat embarrassing, albeit ironic, moment, Knoebber froze up after buzzing in, only to finally recall the answer: speed reader.

Overall, Knoebber came in third place. But considering he walked away with an amazing experience and a little over $4,000, third place is not too bad. (On the show, Knoebber won $7,500, but the government taxes the show at about 40 percent, leaving contestants with a little more than half of their earnings.)

“I was excited that I got last place, but left with more than the (automatic) $1,000, like some of the other people who came in third place,” Knoebber said. 

Knoebber pointed out that there are thousands of people who sign up for game shows every year; only a couple hundred of those people are selected to appear for taping. But that’s not reason to give up hope — and Knoebber stands as an example.

“It seems crazy to be on a game show — it’s still surreal, like it never happens. But (people on game shows) are just normal people. I met some people who have been on three game shows before — it’s just luck,” he said.

“If anyone wants to be on one, sign up. You could get picked; it’s chosen randomly.”

San Luis Obispo County wine industry worth $1.6 billion

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — The San Luis Obispo County wine and wine grape industry have a $1.6 billion impact on the state and local economy, according to a new study.

Based on 2006 figures, a study of the economic impact of wine grapes and wines included such factors as wages, utilities, shipping and packaging costs and even lodging revenues from out-of-town tourists, said Christopher Taranto, spokesman for the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance.

The Economic Vitality Corp. of San Luis Obispo County and the alliance commissioned the study focusing on the Paso Robles area, where most of the county’s wineries are located.

The wine industry employs more than 6,364 full time people in San Luis Obispo County and it contributes more than $1.35 million in state and local taxes, the study showed.

Wineries attract 1.1 million visitors to San Luis Obispo County, particularly the Paso Robles area, and they spend about $96.5 million annually, the report said.

“Recent studies indicate the wine tourist seeks an experience and visits the area with the intent to buy wine, dine out, shop downtown and stay in our region,” Economic Vitality Corp. president Michael Marchak said.

Taranto said the alliance plans to use the study’s results to strengthen brand recognition.

“When you boil it down, brand awareness is what we’re shooting for. We’re competing for shelf space or space on a wine list,” he said. — The Associated Press

Vote continued from page 1

Edwards

Eight potential presidential candidates appeared on the ballot, including sixth place Barbara Boxer, who was trailed by Nassim Chomsky, Mitt Romney, Amy Goodman and Duncan Hunter. The ballots did not include a write-in option as they had originally intended.

“There was no write-in option and we’re not quite sure yet why that is. We’re going to talk with ITS (Information Technology Services) and our vendor about it because for our AIS Elections we are going to need that option,” White said.

The lack of a write-in option was one of only a few problems that AIS encountered in its testing.

“Any candidate or group that wants to run a campaign must have a system that will allow them to register voters,” White said. “It was not just about picking the right answers, though. The whole time they’re testing to see if you can be enthusiastic and loud, to see if you can look at the mail within two weeks. — problem AIS hopes to fix.

“We want to make sure that any problems people saw and anything cosmetic will be changed for the real election,” White said.

Despite the problems for a few students, most students made it through the electronic voting system successfully and 91 percent of students who voted said they would like to see electronic polling in the next AIS election. “Everything went great,” said biochemistry senior Peter Aseredian. “I liked the system. I thought it was much more efficient. It was quick and will probably save money on having to hire people and using paper.

White said they haven’t made a definitive decision on whether or not they are going to use the electronic voting system, but that they hope to decide by the end of the quarter.

“We’re going to meet with (ASI President) Todd Mak to continue discussions. I don’t think we’ll be able to make a decision just yet because we don’t want to rush into anything,” she said.

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Violence roars back to Baghdad as Shiite militia feels new pressures

Brian Murphy

BAHRAIN: Iraq - A suicide car bomber turned a venerable book market into a deadly inferno and gunmen targeted Shiite pilgrims Monday as suspected Sunni insurgents brought major bloodshed back into the lap of their main Shiite rival. At least 28 people died in the blast and seven pilgrims were killed.

"The violence - after a relative three-day lull in Baghdad - was seen as another salvo in the Sunni extremist campaign to provoke a sectarian civil war that could tear apart the Shiite-led government and erase Washington's plans for Iraq.

The Shiite Mahdi Army militia has so far moved full-scale retaliation through a combination of self-interest and intense government pressure. But the militia's leader, the radical cleric Mushtada al-Sadr, is now being cornered in new ways that have put him on the defensive.

An expected Cabinet reshuffle could take a serious bite out of al-Sadr's voice in government - a move strongly encouraged by Washington.

Al-Sadr also opened the door for U.S. and Iraqi troops to enter the Mahdi stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad - under a painstaking deal with al-Sadr - but his loyalists are still being hunted out-side the capital.

"His-Sadr and his forces could be feeling under siege," said Alireza Nourizadeh, chief researcher at the London-based Center for Arab- Iranian Studies. "That makes them less predictable. That means they could fight anywhere and anywhere at a moment's notice."

One possible sign of brewing conflict was the Sunni extremists keep the book market into a deadly inferno.

A suicide car bomber struck near the well-known Mutanabi book market in central Baghdad Monday, March 5, 2007, killing at least 26 people and injuring more than 50, in a first major blast in the city in several days, police said.

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Youssef Haider, 24, said the blast flipped burning cars with charred bodies trapped inside. He and co-workers used two-wheel pushcarts for shoe boxes to carry away the wounded.

In other violence, gunmen opened fire on Shiite pilgrims in several places around Baghdad, killing at least seven people, police said.

The Shiites were apparently heading to shrines and holy sites in southern Iraq for the annual commemoration to end a 40-day mourning period for the death of a revered seventh century Shiite martyr, Imam Hussein.

It was the bloodiest day in the capital in more than a week, and came on the heels of a major push by nearly 1,200 U.S. and Iraqi troops into storming Sadr City as part of a nearly 3-week-old security offensive across Baghdad.

The sweeps were drive to drive out militia and establish permanent stations in troubled areas. Search teams also uncovered a nearly ten-fold increase in hidden weapons stashes in the past week, the military said.

More than 21,000 small arms rounds were confiscated last week, up from 2,160 the previous week; 937 mortar rounds were discovered, up from 89 the week before, it said. Attacks on soldiers in some Shiite districts are also down sharply.

That's mostly because al-Sadr ordered his fighters to pull back after coming under strong government arm-twisting to allow the security plan to proceed.

In Sadr City, Iraqi troops set up checkpoints and took a far more visible role than Americans, who led the push in the area Sunday. The move was an apparent attempt to avoid Shiite anger in a place of past street battles with U.S. forces.

The troops plan to establish outposts in Sadr City that will bring together Iraqi police, military and U.S.-led forces, said U.S. Gen. Terry Wolff, who oversee training of Iraqi soldiers.

"It's about presence," he said.

But pressure on al-Sadr and his Mahdi Army continued on other fronts.

In the southern city of Karbala, the home of a Mahdi Army leader was raided in a joint U.S.-Iraqi operation, the U.S. military said.

Al-Sadr's followers also warned they would fight any Cabinet changes that would single them out.

"We will not give up our share and any of our ministerial posts under any circumstances unless all other blocs are subjected to the same procedure," said Saleh al-Ukili, head of the Sadr bloc in parliament, where the bloc controls 30 of the 275 seats.

An adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said 10 of the 39 ministry posts soon would be replaced - including five of the six ministers loyal to al-Sadr. The adviser spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not supposed to release the information.

Relations between al-Sadr and the government are already tense.

Late last year, the prime minister withdrew his official protection for al-Sadr and the Mahdi Army and allowed U.S.-led forces to close in.

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Briefs

State

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Municipal agencies may pro­vide tax-exempt bonds to a reli­gious school — as long as its curriculum includes secular classes, California’s high court ruled Monday.

The 4-3 decision reverses an earlier ruling and hands a victo­ry to three Christian schools in Southern California. In 2002, Oaks Christian School, California Baptist University and Anna Pacific University wanted to construct cafeterias, a mail center and ath­letic facilities using bonds from “joint power authorities.”

California has more than 350 joint power authorities — public corporations that provide tax breaks to institutional investors who fund public interest pro­jects with low-interest loans.

• • •

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Dick Cheney has a blood clot in his left leg, tests revealed Monday. He will be treated with blood-thinning medication for several months, a spokeswoman said. Cheney vis­ited his doctor’s office in Washington after feeling minor discomfort in his calf, said spokesman Lea Anne McBride. An ultrasound showed the blood clot — called a “deep venous thrombosis” — in his left lower leg, she said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A White House privacy board has determined that two of the Bush administration’s controver­sial surveillance programs — electronic eavesdropping and financial tracking — do not vio­late citizens’ civil liberties. After operating mostly in secret for a year, the five-member Privacy and Civil Liberties Board is preparing to release its first report to Congress next week.

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street seasawn through an erratic session Monday, trying to stabilize but ultimately finishing near in losses of the day amid worries about mortgage defaults and tumbling stock markets abroad.

International

MOSCOW (AP) — A mili­­tary correspondent for Russia’s top business daily died after falling from a fifth-story win­dow, and some media speculated Monday that he might have been killed for his critical reporting.

Ivan Safonov, the military affairs writer for Kommersant, died Friday in the fall from a window in the stairwell of his apartment building in Moscow, according to officials. His body was found by neighbors shortly afterward.

JABAR, Afghanistan (AP) — A coalition airstrike destroyed a mud-brick home after a rock­et attack on a U.S. base, killing nine people from four genera­tions of an Afghan family including a 6-month-old, offi­cials and relatives said Monday — one of the latest in a string of civilian deaths that threaten to undermine the government.

It was the third report in two days of U.S. forces killing civi­lians. The airstrike took place late Sunday in Kapa san province north of the capital, some 12 hours after U.S. Marines opened fire on civilian cars and pedestrians following a suicide bombing in eastern Nangarhar province.

Obesity surgery triples among U.S. teens

Lindsey Tanner

CHICAGO — The number of U.S. children having obesity surgery has tripled in recent years, surging at a pace that could mean more than 1,000 operations this year, new research suggests.

While the procedure is still far more common in adults, it appears to be slightly less risky in teens, according to an analysis of data on 12- to 19­-year-olds who had obesity surgery from 1996 through 2003.

During that time, an estimated 2,744 youngsters nationwide had the operations. The pace tripled between 2000 and 2003, reaching 771 surg­eries that year, the study said.

Youngsters had slightly shorter hospital stays than adults and none died in the hospital during the study period. By contrast, there were 212 in­hospital deaths out of an estimated 104,702 adults who underwent obe­sity surgery in 2003, or a rate of 0.2 percent, the study found.

Researchers at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, N.J., and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center ana­lyzed a database of U.S. hospital patients. Obesity surgeries in children dur­ing the eight-year period and adults in 2003 were included in the analysis.

The study appears in Monday’s Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.

About 5 percent of children and adults had major complications, most­ly respiratory problems. Children spent an average of about 3.2 days in the hospital in 2003, versus 3.5 days for adults. Total hospital charges also were lower for pediatric patients, $30,804 per patient versus $36,056 for adults.

The youngest patient was 12, but most were older teens. Eric Decker was one of them. In 2003, at age 17, he had gastric bypass surgery, the most common obesity operation in teens and adults.

“I was 5-foot-8 and 385 pounds,” Decker said.

He had struggled with his weight since he was 11, and said he had tried just about every diet, but nothing worked.

Obesity surgery was a last resort for Decker, and doctors say it should be for overweight teens.

Decker had no major surgery complications. A year and a half later, he was down to 185 and says he has stayed there through diet and exercise.

“It’s definitely a painful surgery,” said Decker, a student at the University of South Carolina. It also requires drastic changes in eating habits, he said.

“I don’t regret it because it’s something that I felt God needed to change my health.”

Study co-author Dr. Thomas Inge attributed the surge in teen opera­tions to publicity about celebrities having obesity surgery, including pop singer Carrie Underwood and broadcaster Al Roker.

The numbers contrast with an estimate in January from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, which reported that 349 youngsters aged 12 to 17 had obesity surgery in 2004. The new study included children up to age 19, which accounts for the higher number, said lead author Dr. Randall Burd of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Burd said the numbers of young people undergoing obesity surgery likely has continued to rise along with adults having the surgery.

The American Society for Bariatric Surgery estimates that last year, there were 177,609 obesity surgery procedures from 2000 a decade ago and 103,200 in 2003. (That 2003 estimate is lower than the new study’s figure because the bariatric society bases its estimate only on reports from its members, not all doctors. The organization doesn’t have breakdowns on the number of pediatric operations. If it has kept pace with adults, the number of obesity surgeries in teens likely would climb well past 1,000 this year.

Inge, of Cincinnati Children’s, said the new study suggests the risks out­weigh the benefits for most patients. But it also left many unanswered questions, including how many teens are suitable candidates.

Obesity surgery during the teen years poses different psychological risks than for adults, Inge said. Many teens already are struggling with identity issues, and rapid weight loss after surgery can complicate them “into situations that they didn’t really imagine before,” he said.

His center is taking part in a five-year study to examine the medical and psychological results of obesity surgery among teens.

“It’s critically important that the short-term and long-term outcome of these kids is studied” because of the potential health implications, Burd said.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Panel Discussion: “How To Get Into The Biotech Industry”

1 – 2 pm University Union, San Luis Lounge

Networking With Industry: 2 – 3:30 pm University Union, Room 220

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Oil prices fall more than $1 a barrel on continued concerns over stock market declines and an indication by a OPEC official that the cartel won't cut production at its next meeting.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery tumbled $1.57 to settle at $60.54 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier, the contract dropped as low as $59.35 a barrel, dipping below $60 for the first time since Feb. 28. Brent crude for April also fell $1.34 to settle at $60.54 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

WASHINGTON — A White House administration board con-

firmed on Monday that two of the Bush administra-
tion's controversial surveillance programs — electronic eavesdropping and financial tracking — do not violate citizens' civil liberties, she said.

After operating mostly in secret for a year, the five-member Privacy and Civil Liberties Board, chaired by a longtime friend of the Bush family, is preparing to release its first report to Congress next week. The board finds that both the National Security Agency's war-

rantless eavesdropping program, and the Treasury Department's financial monitoring program have insufficient privacy protections, three board members told The Associated Press in telephone interviews.

Both programs have multiple layers of review before sensitive information is accessed, they said. "We looked at the program, we visited NSA and met with the top people all the way down to those doing the hands-on work," said Carol Dinkins, a Houston lawyer and former Reagan administration assistant attorney general who chairs the board.

"The program is structured and implemented in a way that is properly protective and attentive to civil liberties," she said.

Some board members were troubled by the Department of Homeland Security's error-ridden no-fly list, which critics say use subjective or inconclusive data to flag suspected travelers.

One area the board will focus on in its report is the computerized anti-terrorism screening sys-
tem recently announced by DHS and used for years without travel-
ized anti-terrorism screening sys-
tem.

Americans who fly abroad.

and used for years without travel-
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civil liberties," she said. "There's a general sort of recidivism in the market," said Tobin Gortey, a commodity strategist with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney. "There are ongoing ramifications from China's drop last Tuesday. It was a jolt to the global economy."

In recent weeks, the administra-
tion's benchmark Shanghai Composite Index plunged 9 percent, trigger-
ing huge losses on Wall Street and other mar-

kets. The index was still closed as of 7 a.m. on Thursday as trading was halted in New York.

But the board was reassured by the NSA's findings about the program's "multiple layers of checks and balances and accountability," he said. "The procedure running the program themselves are very well-trained and identified bright lines."

The board's initial findings come as Congress is moving for-
ward on measures to give the board more authority and make it more independent of the presi-
dent, he said.

Both conservative and liberal civil liberties groups have called on the members to aggressively review the eavesdropping program and have questioned whether board members would stand up to the president if he thought it was "flouting the law."

In recent weeks, the administra-
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see the program. But many lawyers and civil liberties attorneys have remained skeptical about its legali-

ty, he said. "The Justice Department inspector general is investigating whether the agency used any of the information improperly."

Marc Rosenblum, executive director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, called on the board to review the eavesdropping program in conjunction with "a broader array of approval even before the administration was forced to back-
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"We have no confidence in the current board in its ability to pro-
vide meaningful evaluation of important programs such as the

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## White House says surveillance program OK

Hope Ven

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Enemas, iPods and emotions run amuck at weekend indie rock show

Brendan Fowler of the band BARR gave himself a nasal enema at my house before he played the show at the Steynberg Gallery Sunday night. The process is much the same as a regular enema: you mix a powder with distilled water and place it into a tube with a long spout. However, with a nasal enema, the water apparently shoots up through one nostril (nosit A) and comes out another one (nosit B).

He's doing this because he's sick, and while it's slightly embarrassing for him to ask me to do it in my bathroom upon meeting me, it turns into a night-long joke. And such is the music and performance of BARR. At times it's humiliating and embarrassing and nakedly emotional, but it's just as posed alongside some sort of sick and weird humor that makes the whole experience oddly comforting and friendly.

BARR and Mamie Stern both arrived at my house coming hot off new releases ("Summary" and "In Advance of a Broken Arm," respectively). Stern has achieved mainstream publication hype and a burst of attention by enacting the right way because he then tells me that song is one of the few things he's ever made that he's proud of.

It's a really serious moment until Mamie Stern yells about hurrying up. It's ridiculously appropriate that the call of Tio Albion's ends the conversation forcing it into a hug and "come back again soon."

Show tip: Mountain Goats on Saturday at the Steynberg Gallery. It may be sold out by the time you read this. So if you can't get tickets, maybe see Port O'Brien play at Steynberg Gallery on Thursday at 7 p.m.

SLO Art Center gets ‘Wild About Color’

The San Luis Obispo Art Center celebrated all things colorful at its latest exhibit "Wild About Color." Featured artwork incorporated multiple colors, textures and mediums. The center is currently displaying two exhibits, "A Different Way to See Abstract Arts" and "Soft Strategies: The Skin Series," March 2 to April 2.

"Brushstrokes" will be featured March 10 through April 15.

McGuire and Hester is hosting an information session on campus March 6th from 6:30pm - 7:30pm in Building 19, Veranda C

We will also be on campus on March 7th for interviews; to schedule a time please contact
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Hi-Tek's newest CD raises the bar for other hip-hop DJs

The Cincinnati-based DJ adds Tek's new album, "Hi-Teknology 2," to his status as an elfbrt with Talib Kweli on 2(X K)'s late 1990s. In many cases, such try that Hi-Tek has worked under a label in between buttons and underground hip-hop icon some of the underground hip-hop culture's defining albums.

The Cincinnati-based Hi-Tek used "Hi-Teknology 2," a superlative anthology of the finest hip-hop voices from all over the map, to give fans something new while at the same time paying homage to his roots.

Several songs stand out, but it is clear which is best among the 15 tracts — the last one, "Music for Life." The song spans nearly seven minutes and features an unbelievable collage of performers, including New Common, Buta Rhymes, J. Dilla and Marsell Ambrosia.

The song uses a phone message recording of "next message," to segway from one trac to the next. Nas verse, is always, is exceptional: "It started with rhymes I heard on my in the wall. The bouncy's basketball on playgrounds and all. Father did his blues smooth, leg­ cendary jazz man, saw his wife sec­ ondary to his true passion..."

"Hi-Tek himself holds his own with the others on the track, saying: "My whole life, man, is really music, when I'm not pressed out, it's my sanity." Common reminisces of his child­ hood: "So vivid to a younger, common up amongst street hustlers... Givin' the ghetto a taste of what freedom is like..."

At the end of the beautifully written lyrics, the listener is thrown for a loop when the narrator says, "first wipped message." What follows is J. Dilla (in a mocking tone) taking on a Top 40 mindset, bragging about his reputation and how others can't keep up amongst street hustlers. Givin' the ghetto a taste of what freedom is like..."

The song likely to get the most radio play, "Where It Started A," is a masterpiece in its own right, featuring Kweli, Jadakiss, Raekwon the Needles and this song is no exception:"Every song on the CD feels like a Hi-Tek song than, "Can We Go Back," which features verses from Kweli and a mesmerizing chorus from Ayak.

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**MUSTANG DAILY**

**“The voice of Cal Poly”**

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*HUMOR COLUMN*

Is your Facebook addiction properly fed? Part II

_About the Editor_ by **Mike Homowitz**

**Mike’s Guide to Life**

BY MIKE HOMOWITZ

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Moral arguments differ from political ones

As an ardent advocate for civil liberties (and particularly of First Amendment rights which provided the basis for the Texas v. Johnson decision relating to flag burning), I agree with Eller the inadequacy of arguments in the SFUS flag burning by the College Republicans. However, I believe Eller's column includes dual arguments: one defending the act on a constitutional basis, and the other justifying the act on a moral basis. To Eller, the act was neither legitimate nor morally justified, as he argued from a political-religious standpoint. There must be a distinction between these two arguments for, as I'm sure, there is no way you can agree with Eller on the first, and fervently disagree on the second.

It is a lament to our First Amendment rights that we should hear such dissonant views; but those views should not be disregarded against the basis of the majority views held by the SFUS administration.

I will refrain from bucking Eller's view relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, for that is not the real issue at hand (even if it is sensational).

—_Audrey Crescenti_

Political science and history student

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**Smokers should keep their cigarettes under control**

Somehow Hayley Bramble is convinced, in her March 2 commentary, “‘Give smokers a break,’” that we should be a little more tolerant of smoking. In the comments, Bramble compared smoking to drinking coffee and to the more serious consequences of drinking alcohol. The difference between smoking and coffee is that coffee doesn’t engulf the nearby eater. The comparison to alcohol is better, as far as being supported on the argument of tolerance toward smokers, it seems to justify shaming smokers. Smoking and drinking does have serious health risks with traffic accidents but it is also illegal and socially anathema. In comparison, smoking, grossly off limits, is not competing in the Olympics.

Mike Homowitz is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily humor columnist. See how he dances when you set him@nullhikehimowitz.com.

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**Nonsmokers die too**

Bravo to the staff commentary Friday, “Give smokers a break.” I had no idea smoking was taboo here. I’ve now inclined to pick it up again. In the indelible words of Bill Hicks, “Do you guys go up to cripped people dancing? You sick f—! I’d quit smoking if I wasn’t afraid of becoming one of you... nosy, self-righteous sadists.” Here’s an update for anti-smok-ers: nonsmokers die every day.

PRAHMAHIS! Sleep well.

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**Correction**

The Mustang Daily staff tales pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and thank you for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

March 6, 2007

**Volume LXXI, No. 105**

**Mustang Daily**

**I hope there are still enough apple z’s in the world to save my ass.**

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**Editor in chief:** Emily Rancer
**Managing editor:** Jennifer Hall

*www.mustangdaily.com*
As of Monday, former Cal Poly star Jordan Beck was listed on the Atlanta Falcons’ Web site as the starting middle linebacker on the team’s depth chart.

**SOUTH BAY**

**ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons opened free agency Friday by signing fullback Ovie Mughelli and releasing injury-plagued insideback Ed Hartwell.**

The Falcons also released veteran linebacker Roc, who was used previously on special teams.

The 6-foot-3, 250-pound Mughelli, who spent the last two seasons with Baltimore, agreed to a six-year, $13.8 million contract that includes a $5 million signing bonus.

Even though he has only 12 career carries for 50 yards, new Falcons coach Holmgren was willing to pay top dollar for a bruiser blocker who could clear holes for running backs Warrick Dunn and Jerious Norwood.

"One of the top blocking fullbacks in the National Football League," Petrova said. "Adding a play­er of his caliber to our team immediately makes us better." 

Last season’s fullbacks, Jourdan Caffin and Fred McCray, are both unrestricted free agents.

Hartwell only played 13 games in two seasons after signing a $26.25 million contract. He received a four­year contract and $8.5 million signing bonus when he left Baltimore two years ago to bolster the Falcons’ run defense. But he tore an Achilles’ ten­ don in just the fifth game with his new team, ending his season out for the rest of the 2005 season.

Shortly before last season, Hartwell underwent surgery on both knees, delaying his return. He sus­ pended starting only 11 games in two seasons with Baltimore.

Reese played in all 32 games for Atlanta after being signed as an unem­ ployed free agent from the Philadelphia Eagles in 2005. His release saves the team $700,000 under the salary cap.

Hartwell’s release clear the way for third-year player Jordan Beck to take over in the middle. Another option is outside linebacker Keith Brooking, who filled in during the frequent injuries.

Tamera Pressey are expected to do well for the team’s offense.

The March Triathlon Series is open to any person who would like to compete. Those interested can register online at Active.com or with registration forms available at the Rec Center.

**Atlanta cuts LB Hartwell, possibly clearing way for poly grad Beck**

Atlanta Falcons’ President Tony Tata cut the braids off his team’s defensive linemen Friday morning, possibly clearing the way for third-year player Jordan Beck. Beck, who started nine of the Falcons’ 11 games last season, is now likely to be the starting middle linebacker.

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Santa Clara's upset bid falls short, 77-68 to Gonzaga in WCC championship game

The Bulldogs clinched a ninth straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Anne M. Peterson

PORTLAND, Ore. — Derek Raivio scored 28 points and Gonzaga earned a spot in the NCAA tournament with a 77-68 victory over Santa Clara in the West Coast Conference championship game Monday night.

Top-seeded Gonzaga (23-3) has been to the NCAA tournament the past eight years, but this season Gonzaga had to win a ninth trip to make it one more time.

The Bulldogs, who finished the regular season one game ahead of Santa Clara (19-14), won eight of the last nine WCC tournaments, with the streak interrupted only by San Diego in 2003.

The Zags led by as many as 10 points in the second half, but it was David Pendergast's 3-pointer with 4:36 left that made it 63-52 and put the game in hand.

The Broncos were defeated with a minute left in the game when Joey Kampt's 3-pointer narrowed it to 73-68. Gonzaga answered with Micah Downs' dunk and a pair of free throws made by Raivio for the final margin.

Gonzaga had a bye until the semifinals at the University of Portland's Chiles Center. The Bulldogs advanced with an 86-70 victory over fifth-seeded San Diego.

Second-seeded Santa Clara (21-10) beat St. Mary's 63-47 to advance to the title game. The Broncos have not been to the NCAA tournament since 1996, Steve Nade's senior year.

Matt Boudin added 14 points for Santa Clara and had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

But after the game, the fans chanted "Rudy! Raivio!" over and over again. Raivio's father, Rick, was a standout at host Portland and his name hung from the rafters of the university's Chiles Center as part of the school's Hall of Fans.

Scott Dougherty led Santa Clara with 16 points.
Poly triathlon team to host event this month
Samantha Freitas

The Cal Poly Triathlon Club is preparing to host and compete in the March Triathlon Series at Lopez Lake in Arroyo Grande on March 31.

The series is comprised of the first annual March Warm-Up Triathlon and the second annual March in Motion Olympic Distance Triathlon. March in Motion is also the championship race for the West Coast Collegiate Triathlon Conference.

"There will be between 300 and 400 college students competing in the race," race director and mechanical engineering senior Ryan Weeks said. "There will probably be more college students racing this race than there will be at Wildflower."

The West Coast Collegiate Triathlon Conference is a collective group of West Coast schools, most of whom host their own student-run triathlons.

"The conference provides competition between West Coast schools that is individual of nationals," Weeks said. "The championships can be seen as a mini-nationals for the West Coast schools."

Cal Poly is expected to do well in the race. Weeks said the team's biggest competitor will likely Cal. Last year, the March Triathlon Series fell on the same weekend as mini-nationals for the West Coast Collegiate Triathlon Conference, and the conference is comprised of the biggest competitor in the race."

"There will be between 300 and 400 college students competing in the race," race director and mechanical engineering senior Ryan Weeks said. "There will probably be more college students racing this race than there will be at Wildflower."

The event is put on entirely by students, so the Triathlon Club is looking for student volunteers, typically to help on the course at the finish line or by directing traffic.

"We would love to have any volunteers who are willing to come out," Weeks said. "We're offering free camping, prizes, food and entertainment. It should be similar to Wildflower, just a little more low-key."

The March Triathlon Series is one of two races the Cal Poly Triathlon club hosts each year, the other being the Chains of Love triathlon that was held in February, and is its main fundraiser.

"We're not getting paid anything, but we do these races so we can subsidize and make racing nationals less expensive for our team," Weeks said. "Fundraising that we do for this race will help decrease costs for racing nationals in Alabama and Wildflower."

Cal Poly placed fifth overall at the event.

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Eggleston, Stockalper take first-team All-Big West honors

Tristan Aird

Cal Poly senior forwards Jessica Eggleston (left) and Derek Stockalper (right) have led historic seasons for both Mustang basketball teams. The women's team won the eight-game streak against the Big West's top teams — their longest since 1981-82 — and the men have won 18 games, a school record since moving to the Division I level in 1994-95. Both play in the Big West Conference Tournament at the Anaheim Convention Center this week.

"Our team has been so special this year," Eggleston said. "Our players have been so fierce in their efforts. We've had great games, great losses, and have been shown that we can compete with the best teams in the conference."

For the Mustangs, senior Lisa Modglin was named to the second team and sophomore guard Trac Clark and senior forward Tyler McGinn received Honorable Mention status.

"It was a goal of mine this season to make first team," Eggleston said. "I really shooting to become Player of the Year, but didn't get that honor, which is fine. It's a great honor to be nominated by the coaches in the league and seen as an important player."

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Mustang softball star CF Modglin named Big West Player of Week

Cal Poly senior Lisa Modglin leads the Big West in average, slugging percentage, OBP, runs, hits, homers and total bases.

After batting a team-leading .421 (8 for 19), slugging .947 and hitting a pair of leadoff home runs in the same day, Cal Poly senior center fielder Lisa Modglin captured her second straight Big West Conference Softball Player of the Week honor Monday.

Kings' Artest arrested for alleged domestic violence

Sacramento has excused its perennia1 all-defense forward from the team indefinitely.

Juliet Williams

SACRAMENTO — Sacramento Kings forward Ron Artest was arrested Monday and excused indefinitely from the team after a woman said he shoved her to the floor inside his home and prevented her from calling 911.

Placer County sheriff's authorities said the woman reported she and Artest were arguing inside the home Monday morning when he pushed her. The argument moved outside when Artest tried to leave in his Hummer, sheriff's Sgt. Andrew Scott said.

Kings forward Ron Artest was arrested for alleged domestic violence