Faculty face the finances of Poly lifestyle

Janelle Eastridge

When Brian Kennelly responded to the advertisement for an opening as the modern languages and literature department chair, he knew that the move from St. Louis, Mo., to San Luis Obispo would bring with it a change in the cost of living.

With this in mind, Kennelly flew out last May to look at Bella Montaña (he was on the waitlist at the time) and other housing options in San Luis Obispo and its surrounding areas. "I felt weird about forking out money I didn't have on something I had never seen before and that was out of my price range anyway," he said about Bella Montaña. "I felt about forking out money I didn't have on something I had never seen before and that was out of my price range anyway," he said about Bella Montaña.

Partly sunny weather

Today's weather

MUSTANG DAILY 2-PART SERIES

At the time, Kennelly figured he could sell the house he had bought nine years earlier in St. Louis (at $90,000) for $150,000, leaving him with about $45,000 plus his savings to put toward a house in California. Because of this, he came here in May with the intention of finding a house in the $100,000 to $200,000 range, but Kennelly soon found out that "you can't find a burned-out car to live in for that." So, his new limit shifted to $150,000. The Atascadero house he finally bought (with the help of his parents) cost him three times what his home in Missouri sold for — far exceeding both his hopes and his expectations for what he would find.

"I'm glad that I am back in California. It comes at a steep price, but I'm going to make it work," Kennelly said. And that's the attitude — and potential sacrifice — that many newly established Cal Poly staff and faculty must make to move to San Luis Obispo. According to www.bestplaces.net, the median home cost in San Luis Obispo is $542,000, and the cost of living is 5.7 percent higher than the nation's average.

For some, the decision to move to San Luis Obispo — despite the comparatively high housing and living prices — is one of necessity.

"I came here (this academic year) because Cal Poly students are split down the middle line with roughly half fulfilling their requirements with the Writing Placement Exam (WPE) and the other with the course option. The CSU Board of Trustees implemented the GWR to demonstrate a student's proficiency in writing prior to graduation. The GWR, Graduate Writing Requirement, applies to all majors and all students at California State University campuses.

Since 1976, the CSU system has imposed a test to demonstrate a student's proficiency in writing prior to graduation. The GWR, Writing Placement Exam (WPE), is required once a quarter or enroll in a GWR-approved course, where they will need to write a proficient in-class essay and receive a C grade or better for the duration of the course.

"Generally speaking, pass rate for the Writing Placement Exam is about 70 percent at Cal Poly," said Mary Kay Harrington, director of the Writing Skills Center. "Although there are some fluctuations, the pass rate has been about the same every quarter for the 15 years I have worked here; the bulk of those that pass the test pass with a score of eight." An eight on the 12 point system is the lowest passing score. Failing essays are deemed inadequate in one or more of the criteria: comprehension, organization, development and expression.

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Partly sunny weather

Today's weather
Housing continued from page 1

Poly offered me a good job in my field — academic jobs are relatively hard to get," said Matthew Moore, a political science professor, in an e-mail interview. "I lived in Vermont before coming to Cal Poly. As a ballpark estimate, I'd say that housing prices are 50 to 60 percent higher here than in Vermont."

"The cost of living makes it hard for faculty who are just beginning their families. Though Moore and his wife eventually bought a house in Atascadero, because "petty much everything south of the Castoro Grade or near the water was out of our price range," payments on the house will make saving for parenthood difficult, he said.

"We're very happy with it, but our mortgage payment is a very large chunk of our monthly income, and that makes things less flexible," he said. "For example, it will make it harder to take time off when we have kids, and it makes it harder to use for long-term expenses like home repairs, sending kids to college and retirement."

Other drawbacks related to housing and living costs fac­tory listed included San Luis Obispo's lack of discount stores, such as Wal-Mart and K-Mart; the county's shortage of entry-level jobs for college graduates; the city's focus on tourism, rather than its residents and high gas prices.

But then there are the beaches, outdoor recreation opportunities and year-round nice weather. In the end, the pros and cons must be weighed and taken together. It's a balancing act all potential faculty members must make.

As Bill Durgin, who came here from Massachusetts last fall to fill the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs said, "I think the Central Coast is a beautiful area and an excellent place to raise children."

"If I was in a life situation where I had small children at home and needed to buy a house again, I would not have taken the job here, because buying a house here is prohibitive for someone on my salary who's coming from a part of the country where real estate prices are reasonable."

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Obama calls for universal health care coverage, paid for by government, business, consumers

Mike Glover
ASSOCIATED PRESS

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Democrat Barack Obama is offering a sweeping plan that would provide every citizen a means to have health coverage and calls on government, businesses and consumers to share the cost of the program.

Obama said his plan could save the average consumer $2,500 a year and be ready to take effect in 2009.

"The time has come for universal, affordable health care in America," Obama said in remarks prepared for delivery Tuesday in Iowa City. A copy of his remarks and documents describing the program were obtained by The Associated Press.

Obama's plan retains the private insurance system but injects additional money into the system to pay for expanding coverage. It would also create a National Health Insurance Exchange to monitor insurance companies in offering the coverage.

Those who can't afford coverage would get a subsidy on a sliding scale depending on their income, and virtually all businesses would have to share in the cost of coverage for their workers. The plan that would be offered would be similar to the one covering members of Congress.

His package would prohibit insurance companies from refusing coverage because of pre-existing conditions. Obama's plan doesn't have the mandate that his rival John Edwards is proposing to ensure that all Americans get coverage. The 2004 Democratic vice presidential nominee would require everyone to have health insurance, the only thing that would change for you under this plan is the amount of money you will spend on premiums will be less," Obama said. "If you are one of 45 million Americans who don't have health insurance, you will after this plan becomes law.

Obama also called for a series of steps to overhaul the current health care system. He would spend more money boosting technology in the health industry such as electronic record-keeping, put in place better management for chronic diseases and create a reinsurance pool for catastrophic illnesses to take the burden of their costs off of other premium payers.

His plan also envisions savings from ending the expensive care for the uninsured when they get sick. That care now is often provided at emergency rooms. The plan also would put a heavy focus on preventing disease through lifestyle changes.

In all, Obama said, the typical consumer would save $2,500 a year.

Obama conceded that the overall cost of the program would be high, while not providing a specific number.

To help pay for this, we will ask all businesses, including the smallest businesses who don't make a meaningful contribution to the health coverage of their workers to do so to support this plan," said Obama. "And we also will repeal the temporary Bush tax cut for the wealthiest taxpayers.

Unveiling the proposal marks a crucial step for Obama, Serving in his first term as a senator, Obama often is criticized as not having the experience to be a serious candidate for the party's nomination.

Some also see him as offering more style than substance, and he's clearly hoping that spelling out a detailed plan to offer health care for all will deflect those criticisms. Polls also have shown that voters rank health care among their top concerns.

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Do we still think bronze is beautiful?

The perception that tanned skin is desirable might be changing, according to two new surveys that asked whether bronze skin is still considered beautiful. A poll of 1,004 people by The Skin Cancer Foundation and IVillage, found that 53 percent said they didn't think they looked better with a tan, and 63 percent said they are not more attracted to someone who is tan.

"These findings are encouraging. Once people stop linking their self-esteem to tanned skin, we will really begin making headway in the fight against skin cancer," Dr. Ferry Robbins, president of The Skin Cancer Foundation, said in a statement.

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From the American Academy of Dermatology:

- Sixty-nine percent do not think a tan makes them look thinner.
- Nine percent used sun lamps or tanning beds in the past year.

Other tidbits from their survey:

- More than half—54 percent—haven't been screened for skin cancer.
- New York, Miami, Tampa, Fla., and Los Angeles finished out the top five from among three contestants on associate press.

Arthur Max

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — A 37-year-old woman suffering from an inoperable brain tumor wants to donate a kidney before she dies and will choose the recipient from among three contestants on Dutch national television, a TV network said Tuesday, claiming it wants to highlight a crisis in organ donations.

The publicly financed television network, BNN, said it intends to go ahead with the program on Friday, despite the deadlock of public good taste.

"The information I have right now tells me that the program is unifying and unethical, especially due to the competitive element, but it's up to program makers to make their choices," government minister Ronald Plasterk.

Government interference, he said, would amount to censorship. BNN defended the program. "Some people will think it's tasteless, but we think the reality is even more shocking and tasteless: Waiting for an organ is just like playing the lottery," said network chairman Laurens Drillich.

"The Big Donor Show" is produced by Endemol NL, which created the "Big Brother" concept in 1999 and marketed it around the world, setting off the rage of reality TV.

The network identified the donor only as "Lisa" and gave no other information about her. During the show, she will hear interviews with the three candidates, her family and friends before choosing who will get her kidney.

Viewers will be able to vote for a candidate via SMS text message, but the final determination will be Lisa's, BNN said.

Though she intends to donate the kidney while still alive, she would be free to donate other organs after her death under the normal organ allotment system, said BNN spokeswoman Marieke Saly.

But there's no guarantee that Lisa's choice will actually receive the organ.

Plasterk said that as with any transplant, the tissues of the donor and recipient must be compatible: "The doctors in this program can't make any concessions on that front," he said during a lively parliament debate.

"So it's very possible that in practical terms, we're not talking about anything here, because it's possible this transplant can't take place," he said.

Paul Beerkers, director of Kidney Association, welcomed the sudden attention to the problem of organ donations, but called on BNN to cancel the show now that it has gained publicity.

"There are about 1,500 people waiting on the list for more than four years, so something has to be done," Beerkers told AP Television News. "But let's be clear. This is not the way." Dutch TV producers have tested the limits of public good taste before.

Two years ago, a private station showing a "Big Brother" series followed the pregnancy of one of the contestants, then aired the birth. Though the mother hoped to win the $540,000 top prize, she quit before the end of the show.

Around the same time, BNN showed footage of their reporter snorting cocaine and then being interviewed about the experience in a talk show format.

Mike Stobbe

ATLANTA — A man with a rare and exceptionally dangerous form of tuberculosis has been placed in quarantine by the U.S. government after possibly exposing passengers and crew on two trans-Atlantic flights earlier this month, health officials said Tuesday.

The man was infected with "extensively drug-resistant"TB, also called XDR-TB. It resists many treatments and is exceptionally dangerous.

Last year, it hit an all-time low of 13,767 cases, or about 4.6 cases per 100,000 Americans. Tuberculosis kills nearly 2 million people each year worldwide.

Because of antibiotics and other measures, the TB rate in the United States has been falling for years. Last year, it hit an all-time low of 13,767 cases, or about 4.6 cases per 100,000 Americans.

The CDC urged people on the same flights to get checked for tuberculosis.

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Health officials say man with tuberculosis could have infected airline passengers

The infected man flew from Atlanta to Paris on May 12 aboard Air France Flight 305. He returned to North America on May 24 aboard Czech Air Flight 104 from Prague to Montreal. The man then drove into the United States.

He cooperated with authorities after learning he had an unusually dangerous form of TB. He voluntarily went to a hospital and is not facing prosecution, officials said.

The man is hospitalized in Atlanta in respiratory isolation, and 37,372 cases, or about 4.6 cases per 100,000 Americans.

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Bush tries to blunt criticism of immigration deal

Ben Feller
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLYNCO, Ga. — President Bush attacked opponents of an immigration deal Tuesday, suggest­ ing they "don't want to do what's right for America."

"The fundamental question is, will elected officials have the courage necessary to put a compre­ hensive immigration plan in place," Bush said against a backdrop of a huge American flag.

He described his proposal as one that "makes it more likely we can enforce our border — and at the same time uphold the great immi­ grant tradition of the United States of America."

Bush spoke at the nation's largest training center for law enforce­ ment.

He chose the get-tough setting as conservative critics blast a Senate proposal as being soft on people who break the law. Hoping to blunt that message, Bush emphasized that any new options for immigrants and foreign workers would not start until tougher security is in place.

The presidential stop came dur­ ing a congressional recess, with sen­ ators back home and facing pressure from the left and right on the immigration plan. Bush's aim is to build momentum for the legisla­ tion, perhaps his best chance for a signature victory in his second term. The Senate expects to resume debate on it in week­ end.

"A lot of Americans are skeptical about immigration reform, primarily because they don't think the government can fix the problems," Bush said.

"And my answer to the skeptics is: give us a chance to fix the prob­ lems in a comprehensive way that enforces our border and treats peo­ ple with decency and respect. Give us a chance to fix this problem. Don't try to kill this bill before it even moves," Bush told students and instructors at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Bush repeatedly cast the matter as one of political courage.

"Those determined to find fault with this bill will always be able to look at a narrow slice of it and find something they don't like," the president said. "If you want to kill the bill, if you don't want to do what's right for America, you can pick one little aspect out of it."

"You can use it to frighten peo­ ple," Bush said. "Or you can show leadership and solve this problem once and for all."

The bill would give temporary legal status to millions of unlawful immigrants, provided they came forward, paid a fine and underwent criminal background checks. To apply for a green card, they would have to pay another fine, learn English, return to their home coun­ try and wait in line.

The plan also would create a guest worker program. It would allow foreign laborers to come to the U.S. for temporary stints, yet with no guarantee they can eventu­ ally gain citizenship.

Both the new visa plan and the temporary worker program are contingent on other steps coming first. Those include fencing and bar­ riers along the Mexico border, the hiring of more Border Patrol agents and the completion of an identifi­ cation system to verify employees' legal status.

The legislation would also reshape future immigration deci­ sions. A new point system would prioritize skills and education over family in deciding who can immi­ grate.

Georgia's senators both played lead­ing roles in producing Bush's deal with the Senate. Yet they have also said they may not support the final bill, depending upon how it is amended.

Bush chastised those who say the proposal offers amnesty to illegal immigrants. He called it empty political rhetoric.

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Liquor ban quiets parties
along American River

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Authorities credited a liquor ban along the American River Parkway for a peaceful Memorial Day week­ end at one of the capital area's favorite party spots.

Sacramento County lawmakers banned alcohol for pedestrians — including those who stumble off rafts onto islands in the middle of the American River — after a drunken melee with oar-wielding boaters last Fourth of July left one man in the hospit­ al and 20 jailed.

"From wild to safery," said Albert Gonzalez of Rancho Cordova, describing the difference between this and previous years. "The cops .» re much more on the job.

Police and park rangers were out in force over the weekend with bull­horns and even helicopters warning boaters of the new laws. Revelers can still drink on their rafts, but not on

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Janelle Eastridge

Want an experience that will leave you exclaiming, "Yum-o!" and "BAM! That was good"? To original who is cooking classes offered locally.

The focus of these small, hands-on classes ranges from cooking appetizers to creating international feasts. This spring, the business is also offering wine and cheese pairing classes, which take place every Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. The cost, which includes complementary fonduée, is $25.

Dining with André: Owner and head chef André Averseng, who is originally from Aix-en-Provence in Southern France, is passionate about cooking. And this is something he wants to impart to his students, teaching them not just recipes, but straightforward techniques to work with.

"You have to follow your heart. You can't just learn from a book — you have to be above that. And that's what I want people to learn," he said. Though their classes may vary in focus, "they are all oriented toward the consumer," Dining with André co-owner Christina Averseng said. And what the consumer has asked for (in actual surveys, not less), the consumer gets.

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Dining with André: Owner and head chef André Averseng, who is originally from Aix-en-Provence in Southern France, is passionate about cooking. And this is something he wants to impart to his students, teaching them not just recipes, but straightforward techniques to work with.

"You have to follow your heart. You can't just learn from a book — you have to be above that. And that's what I want people to learn," he said. Though their classes may vary in focus, "they are all oriented toward the consumer," Dining with André co-owner Christina Averseng said. And what the consumer has asked for (in actual surveys, not less), the consumer gets.

The focus of these small, hands-on classes ranges from cooking appetizers to creating international feasts. This spring, the business is also offering wine and cheese pairing classes, which take place every Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. The cost, which includes complementary fonduée, is $25.
Book pays homage to childhood dream

Paulo Coelho's classic novel 'The Alchemist' is short and (extra) sweet

S

to the eyes of a
ong, author Paulo Coelho
his readers the importance,
difficulty and possibility of achiev­
ing lifelong goals.
One boy, named Santiago, has spent the latter
part of his childhood as a shepherd
rogramming throughout the land of
Andalusia.

The protagonist, a young boy
named Santiago, has spent the latter
part of his childhood as a shepherd
ming throughout the land of
Andalusia.

When Santiago is troubled by a
ream, he decides to join a
caravan headed toward an oasis in
the desert of Andalusia.

The theme of holding
on to a childhood dream through the endless travails of life drives
the story forward ...

Emilie Egger is an English
junior. Please send any
comments, suggestions or
questions to mustangdaily
spotlight@gmail.com

"The Alchemist"

We learn the basis of the title
after Santiago's encounters with the
Gypsy and the king. At this point
in the story, he decides to join a
caravan headed toward an oasis in
his quest to reach his
personal mission is to
meets an Englishman who
spends two decades in
school, when you really should
be studying, but want to take a lit­
tle break for some reading.
There's nothing new about the
content; the story is timeless, but
the setting and characters are new.
"The Alchemist" presents the time­
old concept of pursuing dreams in a
new way, while keeping things sim­
ple and enjoyable.

The book is similar to other
recent (and not-so-recent) books in
its focus on an individual's quest to
realize a dream. Where it differs is
in its simplicity. "The Alchemist" is
told as a fable, with minimal char­
acters that take on roles representa­
tive of larger issues. What it lacks
in length, it makes up for in depth.

The book's mythic storyline is
intriguing and uplifting, making it
an inviting and encouraging
read for people of all ages. It is
enjoyable from start to finish, never
focusing on the negative for very
long.

Because of its brevity and overall
simplicity, the book is a great
option for the hectic last few weeks
of school, when you really should

Wishing to travel the world,
Santiago realizes that part of
his childhood as a shepherd
journey. The message
met a true alchemist.

 Zimmer is a fable, with minimal char­
acters that take on roles representa­
tive of larger issues. What it lacks
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ple and enjoyable.
Organic and Fair Trade Coffee at Julian’s

Melissa Montecuollo  
CAMPUS DINING STAFF WRITER

On Friday May 11, Julian’s celebrated International Migratory Bird Day. The purpose of this day was to give attention to the 350 species of migratory birds that travel between nesting places in North, South, and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. But what does this have to do with coffee?

Many of these migratory birds travel to nesting habitats where shade grown coffee beans are grown. The trees reduce the amount of fertilizer needed, allowing the coffee beans to be organically grown. This type of organic coffee is featured at Julian’s along with Fair Trade Coffee.

According to Julian’s manager, Patti Reaves, a third of the coffee served at Julian’s is organically grown so customers can have options. They have been serving organic coffee for over ten years.

"[Fair Trade Coffee] guarantees a minimum price and brings stability. We, producers, are not totally subjected to the law of supply and demand. We know that we will be paid at least US $69 the quintal. This guarantee makes it possible to plan long term, to invest, to develop technical support, in one word, to develop our business," said El Cebo Cooperative producer, Felipe Cancani Capsha on fairtrade.net.

Fair trade offers a fair price for both farmers and workers, provides environmental sustainability, and creates quality products.

According to the 2002 Annual Report more than 300 college campuses serve Fair Trade Coffee including Cal Poly, Harvard, Yale, Georgetown, University of Texas, Oklahoma State, and UCLA.

Other healthy options offered at Julian’s include trans fat free muffins and croissants, sugar free Torani syrups, sugar free ice cream, and low fat yogurt.

paid advertisement

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

MUSTANG DAILY

SPOTLIGHT

Film ratings to factor in cigarettes, smoking

Elyssa Thomes  
THE CALIFORNIA AGEE (UC-Davis)

With smoking restrictions in bars and restaurants as well as increased tobacco taxes, smoking cigarettes has become nearly illegal, especially in states such as California and New York.

Recently, health advocates and anti-smoking groups requested the Motion Picture Association of America include cigarette smoking in the movie-rating system. In response, the MPAA announced May 10 that it will consider non-historical gratuitous or glamorized smoking as grounds for an “R” rating.

“Clearly, smoking is increasingly an unacceptable behavior in our society,” said Dan Glickman, MPAA chair and CEO in a press release. “There is a broad awareness of smoking as a unique public-health concern due to nicotine’s highly addictive nature, and no parent wants their child to take up the habit. The appropriate response of the rating system is to give more information to parents on this issue.”

Underage smoking had been considered in ratings previously, as well as other parental concerns such as sex, violence and adult language. The MPAA will now include pervasive smoking and situations that make smoking appealing to a young audience when rating films.

This response is less severe than the original request, which called for any smoking in movies to warrant an “R” rating. Matthew L. Myers, president of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, released a statement condemning the MPAA’s announcement.

“We are deeply disappointed that the movie-ratings policy announced today by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) falls short of the real change needed to reduce youth exposure to smoking in the movies,” Myers said. “This policy fails to implement the recommenda-

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The United Nations was originally founded in 1945 with the intention to maintain and promote peace, human rights, justice, social progress and freedom. During the course of the Cold War, the United States effectively used the U.N. as a tool and democracy. To be sure, the U.N. was founded upon just principles; principles that should be followed by the United States. However, the U.N. as an institution often comes across to us as ineffective, and sometimes in need of taking actions that promote the principles it was founded upon.

American voters will not forget the events of the last week for a long time. If anything, this was the biggest moment in Congress regarding the war since it was first authorized in 2001. It was the day when Congressmen Democrats took the mandate that would end their majority in both houses of Congress and ran it through a paper shredder. It was the day when Democrats contradicted the war they promised they would end, and in doing so ignored the will of the American people.

Zach Austin is a political science junior and Mustang Daily political columnist.
Cleveland shot 27 for 33 from the free-throw line in its 91-87 Game 2 win. James scored 25 points as the Cavaliers evened the Eastern Conference Finals with a 91-87 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Frankly continued from page 12
was runner-up in 1976, 1983 and 1984, but couldn't nail down a championship.

A crowd of onlookers grew throughout the day as word of the unlikely title run spread. Just two games away from the Coppa Italia title game, it was standing room only. We moved. Rome and aced AC Milan. And, in the end, we met Juventus in the final leg of our journey.

This match would be the ultimate David versus Goliath scenario. We're talking a one-star team against a 4.5 star team, one of the worst teams in the Champions League and —Leliron James

FIFA 2005 against one of the best. It was a miracle that Hellas survived to the championship game. We knew what was necessary — a killer training montage. On went the Rocky theme song and we trained. We worked on our eyes-to-finger coordination, stretched out the muscles and did laps up our stair-case. We stepped it off with a Rocky-like pose on our balcony — game time.

Juventus kept Lunco quiet and put one past Poglio to win the first game. However, in most soccer playoff, there are two games and the aggregate score is taken between those two games to decide the victor. We still had a chance.

We fell back quickly in game No. 2 as Juventus scored in the fifth minute and took a 1-0 lead into halftime. Downstrode, we held our heads low as the players headed to the locker room.

"What the hell are you guys doing?" our roommate yelled at us. "You need to pick your heads up and play! It's not over!"

A slow clap emerged from the back of the room. Chairs and I looked at each other, shook our heads and clasped our hands as a sign of unity.

We scored in the opening minutes of the second half. Then came another just minutes later. However, Juventus stepped up the defense.

In the 90th minute, the aggregate score knotted at two and the game destined for overtime, Lunco took a long ball in the middle of the field, dribbled past two Juventus defenders and stroked one for the upper right. The ball hung in the air for a moment before splashing into the back of the net.

"GooOoOoOoOoOoOoOoOoO!!!"

"Cue the "Chariots of Fire" theme song. The next moments unfolded in slow motion. I leapt from my chair and whooped my arm around my roommate and I had conquered all of Italy with the most unlikely of teams.

"Note: This story is loosely based on Saturday's actual events."

Stanley Cup continued from page 12
Like 2006, the 2007 Stanley Cup Finals will be a showcase of geographical extremes.

Ottawa is a hockey hotbed, the capital of Canada and a city that played home to 10 Stanley Cup champions between 1893 and 1934. Three of the top four scorers in the playoffs so far are Senators: Dany Heatley, the Canadian native acquired in a trade with Atlanta a couple seasons ago (21 points), young homegrown center Jason Spezza (20 points) and captain Daniel Alfredsson, the face of the Ironclads since being drafted in 1994 (17 points). Anchored in net by young goaltender Ray Emery, who made a name for himself when Dominik Hasek went down with an injury in the 2006 playoffs, the Senators represent the chance for a Canadian team to bring the Stanley Cup back to its home country for the first time since 1993, when the Montreal Canadiens, ironically, defeated the Southern California challenger Los Angeles Kings in five games.

While Anaheim has no truly meaningful hockey legends in its stor­bybook, the team has finally emerged from the humbling specter of Disney's ownership from 1993 to 2005 to become a legitimate contender.

In four years, the Ducks have been to the Western Conference Finals three times, and played for the Stanley Cup twice. Head coach Randy Carlyle has prepared his young talent for this moment, and with the steady presence of an All-Star caliber defense, this year very well could be the year.

The Stanley Cup Finals represent the best the of sport that hockey has to offer — speed, finesse, physicality, excitement and the realization of a dream for every athlete on the ice.

Like 2006, the 2007 Stanley Cup Finals is the most exciting year for the NHL. The on-going labor dispute with the NHL and its players has cast a cloud over the sport, but for a few weeks, the NHL is in the spotlight.

"Note: This story is loosely based on May 30, 2007, actual events.

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NEEDS AN "UNDER FOUR" REMINDER. DRINK RESPONSIBLY.

MOST CAL POLY STUDENTS DRINK UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING.
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To apply, please send your resume and a brief cover letter to classifieds@mustangdaily.com.
Poly women's water polo club team 2nd in nation

Janelle Eastridge
MUSTANG DAILY
MUSTANG DAILY

After placing fifth nationally last year, the Cal Poly women's water polo club team bounced back this season to clinch a second-place finish nationally and first regionally.

The team held after a somewhat difficult start, which led to a decision mid-season to fire head coach Todd Kucko and replace her with Matt Andrews, a 2006 Cal Poly graduate and former Mustang men's water polo player.

"We did a lot of things wrong, and we just worked a lot harder to keep the Cal Poly blood, to find someone who knew how the team worked," Calhoun said. We were lucky to find someone who had been on the men's water polo team.

Andrews was named Coach of the Year in the Pacific Coast region. Region MVP honors went to club president Amanda Callhouse. Four players — Calhoun, Jenkins, Collen Schreitmueller and Elisa Hooper — were named to the national collegiate club championship teams. Rich Miller and Roxanne Eastwood were named to the second team.

The team held two tournaments at Cal Poly and one at Cuesta College. It also traveled to other colleges and other schools within the Pacific coast region, which includes other universities located in California.

Earlier this month, the Mustangs traveled to Williamsport, Mass., where they played in the national championships May 9. The team placed second, losing only to Fresno State.

"They've always been our rivals, so it was hard losing to them," Callhouse said. As a club team, the players manage everything from finances to travel arrangements themselves. They also have to pay $400 to play, Calhoun said.

About 30 players were on this year's team, with only 12 traveling to games. Callhouse and Jenkins agreed that the season was particularly enjoyable compared to years in the past.

"This was one of the most fun years we've had," Callhouse said. "Last year was a hard year — we got fifth at nationals and there was a lot of turmoil within our team. This year we all had a lot of fun, and that's the most important thing. We had everyone here — to have fun and because we

see Water Polo, page 11

Desme joins exclusive club of Big West Players of Year

Justin Fassino
MUSTANG DAILY
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly junior right fielder Grant Desme takes a swing during the Mustangs' 9-5 nonconference loss to visiting San Diego State on Feb. 2 at Baggett Stadium. He was 3 for 3 in the game.

Triton Aird
MUSTANG DAILY
MUSTANG DAILY

...and it wasn't won by eligible players such as Jason Giambi, Lyle Ovsey and Troy Tulowitzki. Big West Conference Player of the Year honors went to Cal Poly baseball player Grant Desme on Tuesday. The junior right fielder was the only player in the Big West with at least two at-bats per game to finish the season with a batting average above .400 (.405). He won the conference's triple crown, pacing the Big West in home runs (15) and RBI (53) along with total bases (143) and was tied for third in runs scored (54).

"It's a big honor," Desme said Tuesday in a phone interview. "I'm kind of speechless about it."

And the soft-spoken Bakersfield native put up all those numbers despite missing the final six games of the season with a fractured right wrist.

"I try to stay away from looking at the stats," Desme said. "I didn't know how I was doing with the whole conference."

Cal Poly's Big West opponents also might not want to look at those statistics. Desme led or tied for the team lead among regulars in doubles (17), slugging percentage (.733), walks (36), on-base percentage (.494) and even stolen bases (12).

And his glove? Desme committed only two errors in 50 games for a .982 fielding percentage. The .969-2, 210-pound Stockdale High product said the award was not something he had been planning for.

"It's not something I came into the year shooting for," Desme said. "It's just something I want to have."

The award could be viewed as something of a message to the playoff selection committee, which Monday passed up the Mustangs for the NCAA Tournament despite a 32-24 overall record, a fourth-place finish at 13-8 in Big West play and wins in 19 of their last 27 games.

Cal Poly even took two of three from the Big West's most traditional power, Cal State Fullerton, which went 10-11 in the Big West but got into the tournament. While at UNLV, Williams shared the award with UC Santa Barbara's Scott Cerny in 1986. It was then won in 1989 by Goodwin (Fresno State), 1992 by Nevin (Cal State Fullerton), 1996 by Kotay (Cal State Fullerton) and 2001 by Crosby (Long Beach State).

Although neither Giambi (Long Beach State), Ovsey (Nebraska) nor Tulowitzki (Long Beach State) won the award, they were all close, being named first-team all-conference twice each.

The last Cal Poly player to win the award was catcher Kyle Blumenthal in 2005.

In addition to Desme, Cal Poly see Mustang, page 11

see Water Polo, page 11

Having people forgotten the Stanley Cup Finals?

Justin Fassino
MUSTANG DAILY
MUSTANG DAILY

Nearly 15 years ago, the Ottawa Senators, one of the NHL's original six teams, returned to the league.

A year later, riding the wave of its popular movie franchise, Disney brought hockey to Ontario County in the form of the Mighty Ducks.

Now both of these teams are looking to win their first Stanley Cup of the modern NHL era.

What will you about the NHL playoffs or Major League Baseball. The most exciting sports event of the entire season is the Stanley Cup Finals. Never mind the tradition of the trophy or the traditions of hockey.

Every minute of every game will feature athletes giving every ounce of energy and effort to get their hands and names on the silver chalice.

Defeneman Chris Pronger and the Edmonton Oilers came within one game of bringing the cup back to the city last year when they stormed through the playoffs as the No. 8 seed, finally losing to the Carolina Hurricanes. Not happy with his situation in Edmonton, Pronger asked for a trade mere weeks after his season was over.

Enter the Ducks, with a new uniform and a group of young talent, ready for a shot at the big show. The Oilers traded Pronger to Anaheim in return for Jeffrey Lupul, defensive prospect Ladislav Szechy and a bundle of high-round draft picks. In essence, the Ducks placed all their proverbial eggs in the basket that Pronger would lead to get them to the promised land.

Pronger, a Norris Trophy winner for the league's best defeneman in 2000-01, joined 2003-04 Norris holder Scott Niedermayer as one of the NHL's most fearsome blueliners. Coupled with the return to form of Teemu Selanne in Anaheim, sports pundits across the continent immediately awarded the Ducks the edge over their once-again able opponents and a game had even been played.

see Stanley Cup, page 10

Frankly Speaking

Prepared yourself for the greater sports story — ever. By the time you've finished reading this column, I promise you a laugh and maybe even a tear. If you don't laugh, let me know and I'll ghost ride my Dodge until you do.

Are you ready? Are you sitting down? Are your eyes stretched and ready to do their thing? Here comes the assessment.

With every great sports story there's a dream and with every dream comes a journey. This journey began Saturday morning in a house located on a street on the east end of Foshill Boulevard. While most were still asleep, a man rose from his bed.

He would've loved to remain in a comatose state of sleep along with the rest of his housemates, but what seemed like a flock of chirpy-birds happened to be stationed outside his windows.

"What are people supposed to do at 6 a.m. on a Saturday morning?" I wondered.

I could've chosen to attack that mountain of laundry in my closet or my room, but that wasn't my destiny.

I zapped at my PlayStation 2, a love story I've had for many, glorious hours together in the past, but a general disinterest in video games abruptly ended our relationship about six months prior.

I browsed the six games in my collection and popped FIFA 2005 into the console.

"Just one game, I thought. Three hours later, I was one-quarter of the way through a season with Hellas Verona of the Italian Serie B, the second division of Italian soccer.

A knock at the door — "Dude, can you hear those damn birds? What are you playing? Oh! FIFA? Can I play?"

Brought together by boredom and a flock of chirping birds, we were ready to take on all of Italy in a quest to take Hellas Verona to Coppa glory. The Coppa Italian (Italian Cup) is awarded to Italy's top team. It pinned teams from Italy's A, B,C and D leagues in one March Madness-like tournament.

I did the research on Wikipedia, Hellas Verona had zero Coppa Italian championship appearances in the club's beginning in 1922. The club