Polys gels festive for fall

The University Union Plaza and Mont Lawn were full of annual booths Tuesday at PULSE presented “Freaky Fall.” It’s an attempt to get people “healthy for the holidays and the rest of the year,” said nutrition senior Brooke Hons, who is on PULSE’s nutrition team.

All the teams of PULSE — Nutrition, Thoughtful Lifestyle Choices and Educational Resources on Sexuality — participated to give students a well-rounded experience.

The teams worked on the event for a long time and many members showed up to educate students about all aspects of a healthy life.

“We’ve been planning (the event) from last year’s training until now,” said psychology junior Mishal Davis, a member of the E.R.O.S team.

Students got a treasure map and received a sticker at each booth where they participated. Students with enough stickers were eligible for prizes that included gift certificates to El Corral Bookstore and House of Bread.

In the UU Plaza, the nutrition team gave out healthy treats and featured a guess-the-calorie-count booth and a wheel of trivia.

There was also a drum-digging booth and a bongo-racing trivia game that tested knowledge of lifestyle choices.

Across the street on Mont Lawn, the E.R.O.S. team boasted some crazy costumes and craziest activities.

They had a “Find the Monkey Treasure Hunt” — digging in a sand-filled pool for candy and other surprises — lube tasting, musical chairs and safe-sex-themed games like “Pin the (dental) Dam on Sam or Dan.”

New Web site sponsors networking at The Grad

Daniel Seguin

Wednesday night promises to be a very interesting evening as College Tonight Inc. invites students out to The Graduate for a night of drink specials and giveaways.

The purpose of the event is to introduce attendees to www.college tonight.com, a new social networking site specifically for college students.

“College kids are some of the most outgoing, social, intelligent people in the world,” said Zach Sochin, the company president and CEO. “They should really have a service that allows them to do what they do best, which is go out and network.”

The group is continuing its West Coast leg of the Disorient Tour, which runs simultaneously on the East Coast.

The event is being hosted by Trisha, one of the stars of the "The Mustang Daily" Disorientation, page 2

Businesswoman and olympian to speak

Rachel Gellman

Jennifer Azzi, one of the most accomplished basketball players of all time, a talented businesswoman and a motivational speaker, is scheduled to lecture on campus about “the leadership edge” as part of Cal Poly’s Business Council Professional Speaker Series.

“She’s speaking about personal success and leadership. She has a lot to offer every student,” Business Council president Andrew Flachner said. He noted that the lecture is open to all students on campus, not just those in the College of Business.

Azzi won a plethora of basketball honors in her career. She was Stanford’s first All-American women’s basketball player ever in 1988-89. She was an NCAA National Champion in 1990 and in that same year was named the NCAA West Region MVP.

Azzi was also given the Naismith Award and the Wade Trophy, making her the best athlete in the nation. She went on to win an Olympic gold medal with Team USA in 1996.

She played professionally in Europe, then in the American Basketball League and the Women’s National Basketball Association for several years. She now is on the USA Basketball Board of Directors and is a community ambassador for the NBA.

Azzi is also the youngest person ever inducted into Stanford’s Athletic Hall of Fame. In April she was inducted into the Bay Area Hall of Fame. She stood among Jerry Rice, Will Clark and Jerry Coleman at the induction.

Along with her athletic accomplishments, Azzi is a published author and the CEO of Azzi Training, a program that focuses on health from the inside out that won a national award for “Best New Business of the Year.” The program offers children’s camps, adult fitness programs and Wellness Days, which promotes the idea that health starts with the whole person and not just the physical body.

Azzi is also a member of the USANA Health Sciences Sports Advisory Board, which works to educate athletes as well as the public about nutritional supplements and their effects on health.

Former Business Council president Josh Burroughs works for USANA and has had the pleasure of meeting Azzi.

“She’s probably the most professional businesswoman I’ve ever met,” Burroughs said.

Burroughs has seen Azzi speak at two conferences through USANA. She speaks at conferences internationally, and takes her speeches to her audiences, whether they are for adults, basketball coaches and players, or corporate groups or children.

“If you want to know how to set yourself aside from the crowd and have that leadership edge, you will drop everything to go and see her,” Burroughs said.

Flachner said the Orange College of Business is excited to be collaborating with the athletics department, Career Services and Associated Students. In this event.

Shannon Stephens, director of academic services for the athletics department, said athletes, especially members of the women’s and men’s basketball teams, are excited about the event.

“She can motivate our athletes to become leaders,” Stephens said.

Burroughs said the event will be free speech and will take place in the Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre at 2:10 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 18.
Debate
continued from page 1
Maloney said the event will be moderated by a student who will be running the first half of the debate. In this portion, each speaker can give his views and facts on the issue. After that, there will be an hour-long question and answer session where students will have the opportunity to ask the speakers direct questions.

ASI program coordinator Michelle Curro said in the past, this session where students will have the opportunity to ask the speakers questions directly will probably stay after to give them their feedback. Curro said they attend the event. "It is just to provide them with the information and facts and really let students with the information, not judgment or trying to sway them one way or another," Curro said.

The whole purpose of bringing the True Life Series is to provide students with the information, not judgment or trying to sway them on an issue or type of discussion. These include everything from dangers to art exhibits. "We don’t make our decisions in a small fish bowl; we go out and ask for student opinion," Curro said. She said many of the events taking place this year are the result of student feedback from last year and therefore reflect student interest and desire for knowledge.

"These are some serious topics we are talking about and can be very influential in someone’s life if they attend the event," Curro said. The two speakers have done similar events in the past and are very knowledgeable about the issue of marijuana legalization.

Hager has been editor of High Times for 15 years and founded Amsterdam’s Cannabis Cup. In addition, he is a documentary filmmaker and has written several books, including "The Octopus Conspiracy." Stutman worked for the DEA for 25 years, spending 13 of those years as the head of the DEA’s New York office. There were 15,000 drug arrests made during his tenure. He is also a leading advocate for drug prevention, treatment and education. His autobiography, "Dead on Delivery," was made into a very successful TV movie.

The debate will be held in Chumash Auditorium at 8 p.m. and is free with a valid student ID.

Disorientation
continued from page 1
Real World: Sweden” on MTV while the East Coast event is being hosted simultaneously by another one of the show’s stars at the same time.

“They’re really fun-loving and exciting, and people love to come out and see them," Suchin said. "They really host a great event."

Suchin talked about the direction in which he would like to see the company head. “Our goal is to show people that mobility can extend the author of the physical Internet," Suchin said. "The experience for College Tonight goes far beyond the dorm room chair."

The Graduate is located at 950 Industrial Way. The event begins at 10 p.m. and will feature several prize giveaways, including everything from T-shirts and shot glasses, to a spring break trip worth $1,000.
WORD ON THE STREET

“What’s your favorite gaming system and game?”

Compiled and photographed by Jennifer Ingar

“Tiger Woods’ on PS2. I play with my roommates and it’s really competitive.”
— Tyler Johns, business senior

“I don’t play games.”
— Patrick Roark, English junior

“Final Fantasy” on my original Nintendo. I like it because back in the day the graphics didn’t matter, but the storyline did.”
— Diana Zaida, economics junior

“Guitar Hero” on PS2. It’s fun and you don’t have to be good at the guitar to play.”
— Marina Baraaat, English junior

“You deserve a break.

LUCY’S JUICE ISN’T CHEATING

Sara Wright, Campus Dining Staff Writer

Don’t get mad: Lucy’s smoothies are still the same size.
Despite appearances, you get just as much in your cup as last year. What’s the difference?
Campus Dining has ceased the use of styrofoam (polystyrene) across campus as part of its efforts toward sustainability. That means no foam take-out boxes or cups.
Instead, Lucy’s Juice and Lucy’s Juice, Too are using plastic cups and lids like those used for cold drinks at Julian’s.
The plastic cups hold 20 oz. of smoothie, which, though hard to believe for some, is how much the taller polyethylene cups contained.
“The foam just took up more space than the plastic does in the new cups,” said Advertising and Promotions Coordinator Kathleen Pennington. “They still hold the same amount.”
At the start of fall Quarter, some returning students were disappointed to see the change at Lucy’s, though several were pleased with the shift from foam to plastic.
Lucy’s Juice, next to the Sandwich Factory and Lucy Too, at the Dexter building, are the on-campus sources for smoothies. Popular with students wanting a healthy snack between classes, the smoothies are made with fruit juice, whole fruits and either non-fat frozen yogurt or sherbet. Power powders such as protein and calcium can also be added to the drinks.

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“You deserve a break.”

INTERNATIONAL

EMEK HEFER, Israel (AP) — With eight wives and 67 children, Shahalah Abu Arrar has given new meaning to the term “family man.”

Abu Arrar, 58, is a member of Israel’s impoverished Bedouin Arab community. But even in a traditional nomadic society where men commonly have seven wives and many children, Abu Arrar is exceptional.

“Thinking about a new wife, No.9,” he told the Israeli daily Ye-diot Ahronot in a recent interview.

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MUStAND Daily

Wire Editor: Christina Casci

Wednesday, October 17, 2007
Dalai Lama brushes off Chinese anger

Foster Klug

The Dalai Lama, after meeting privately Tuesday with President Bush, brushed off China's furious reaction to U.S. celebrations this week in his honor.

"That always happens," the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet's Buddhists said with a laugh while speaking to reporters gathered outside his downtown Washington hotel.

The White House defended the meeting in the president's residence and dismissed Beijing's warning that the talks and the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to him on Wednesday would damage relations between the United States and China.

The Dalai Lama is hailed in much of the world as a figure of moral authority, but Beijing reviles the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and claims he seeks to destroy China's sovereignty by pushing for independence for Tibet, where the Dalai Lama is considered a god-king.

When asked if he had a message for Chinese President Hu Jintao, the Dalai Lama playfully patted a reporter on the cheek and said, "You are not a representative of Hu Jintao."

"We know each other and we have developed, I think, a very close friendship, something like a reunion of one family," the Dalai Lama said, speaking of Bush.

Bush and U.S. lawmakers on Wednesday will present the Dalai Lama, who has lived with followers in exile in India since they fled Chinese soldiers in Tibet in 1959, with the prestigious congressional honor.

"We in no way want to stir the pot and make China feel that we are poking a stick in their eye for a country that we have a lot of relationships with on a variety of issues," said press secretary Dana Perino. "And this might be one thing that we can do. But I don't believe that that's going to soothe the concerns in China."

The Dalai Lama's visit here came as China was holding its important Communist Party congress.
Serving Poly some humor
Student-run humor Web sites The Seven Year Plan and Funnyology parody college life

Mollie Helmuth
MUSTANG DAILY

Interviewing the creators of comedy Web sites The Seven Year Plan and Funnyology made it obvious that these guys are utilizing their gifts; they seem to emanate hilarity without intention.

Let’s start with The Seven Year Plan (TSYP), a parody of college life featuring articles, videos, a “Guide to College” and a forum for discussing “mildly humorous nouns,” among other topics. The creator is business alum Noam Bleiweiss, who started the site about a year ago with the help of friends. Bleiweiss collaborates with a core group of ten contributors to the site, including student writers, a content editor, a grammar editor and a web designer, most of whom are Cal Poly students and alumni.

“It’s a lot like the White House,” Bleiweiss explained in an e-mail interview. “If TSYP was America and I was stu­pid George Dubya, they’d be my group of really intelligent and hardworking advisors.”

Just because it’s a comedy site doesn’t mean there’s no truth to the advice columns. The “Guide To College” section addresses issues such as long distance relationships and leaving a budget, as well as some more scandalous topics you can explore yourself.

“What comedy,” Bleiweiss said, “there’s an unclear line between what’s appropriate and what’s not.”

One of the purposes of the site is to create a forum for exploring comedic “gray areas,” to receive feedback and build an intelligent medium for comedy. The point is not to shock or offend, “unless, of course, it’s really, really funny,” Bleiweiss admitted.

The future of TSYP is bright; with steady participation and talented writers the site is pursuing a merchandise section and more high-profile ads for the future. “Ultimately we are trying to make something that people will enjoy, and hopefully someone will want to pay us millions of dollars for it one day,” Bleiweiss said.

If you are interested in posting something witty on TSYP, e-mails can be sent to info@thesevenyearplan.com. “As long as it’s funny and (mostly) tasteful, we always welcome new contributors,” Bleiweiss said.

Moving on to the newer, video-based Funnyology, TSYP’s “sister site” is the brainchild of journalism senior Sean Michetti and marketing senior Jose Molina. It features comedy shorts that are inspired, filmed, edited, acted in and posted by the two creators, who are also members of the on-campus improv comedy group, “Smile and Nod.”

“It started this summer with me and Sean filming every once in a while,” Molina said. “We just needed a creative outlet.” The guys began editing, using the broadcast equipment in the Arts Graphics building studio and creating shorts from the lengthy footage they filmed.

After Molina and Michetti bought the name “fun­nyology” they spoke to software engineering senior Chris Smeder, who is offering his talents in its design, and the site quickly developed. The logo is a cartoon depiction of Mi­chetti punching Molina in the face, indicative of the com­monly featured wrestling scenes in many of the videos.

Mostly improvised, a lot of their movie ideas come from real-life events. “We’re out there. We’re not just L.A., New York and Miami,” Bleiweiss explained. “We help them with comedy writing not only by getting my name out there but just by the practice of writing something, getting feedback and finding out what works in comedy,” said Barats, who is a co-director for Smile and Nod this year.

Although a job writing for Saturday Night Live would be the ultimate achievement, the sites are mainly about doing what the creators love to do. “It feels really good to make people laugh,” Molina explained. “If we can get a job doing what we love, that’s a dream come true.”

Eva Mendes talks fashion, sex symbols, Latina women

Nick Maslow
THE MUSTANG DAILY (U. MUSTANG)

Gossip blogs may be abuzz with chatter that Eva Mendes is pregnant, but the actress left no room for a baby bump on Oct. 8. Dressed in a chic, form-fitting and floral-patterned dress, Mendes not only dispelled rumors, but also lived up to her repu­

What I do want to do is get more serious roles, get meatier roles in Hollywood and really push myself as an actress.”

Indeed, Mendes picks her battles. At the top of her list: the lack of roles available to Latinas in Hollywood.

“I don’t find that offensive.”

“Say I read a script and I love this char­acter,” she said. “I call my agent and I say I have got to get in and see this director. I love this part. And then they’ll make the call. This is what I hear all the time.” The di­

The timing could not be better for Men­

We're out there. We’re no longer just L.A., New York and Miami.”

The timing could not be better for Men­

The brochure of a Latin actress such as America Ferrera on ABC’s “Ugly Betty,” but she said she is determined to make Hollywood more representative of the population.

“I am Cuban and I embrace that 100 percent, but I was born in the States, so I’m American,” she said. “As we’re growing as a culture, more people look like me. I’m not saying there has to be Latin movies out there, but just barely represent us. You know, we’re out there. We’re no longer just L.A., New York and Miami.”

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“I think there [are] enough celebrities with their own fashion lines,” she said. “I don’t want to just put my name everywhere.”

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The timing could not be better for Men­
Wes Anderson speaks

Devin Taylor

"Let where do you go to my lovely? When you're alone in your bed? Tell me the thoughts that surrounded you? I want to look inside your head."

With these lyrics, the short film "Hotel Chevalier" was considered by Martin Scorsese to be one of the ten best films of the 1990s. Anderson launched the careers of Jason Schwartzman and Owen Wilson. He is a filmmaker who created a humorous perspective on dysfunctional families and a poignant depiction of heartbreak. And he conceptualized the whimsical dream "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou." For the "Darjeeling Limited," Anderson teamed up with cohorts Jason Schwartzman and Roman Coppola to write the screenplay. "With this new movie, along with Roman Coppola and Jason Schwartzman, we made a particular effort to try to use our personal experiences in the story," Anderson said. "So this one more than any of them I think is very close to home." He mentioned, each of the three main characters in the film reflected different aspects of the writer's experiences. However, they each connected with specific characters more than others. "We went to India together to write and while we were there we would act out the story together," Anderson said. "When we did that, Jason would play his character Jack, Roman would play Peter and I was Francis." Anderson, along with Owen Wilson, who plays Francis, the insecure older brother who instigates the brothers' neck through India. The deeply developed characters may have reflected Wilson himself, who recently had a stint in the hospital. "(The Darjeeling Limited) has things from all our lives and the lives of people close to us and we used that as the raw material for our movie," Anderson said. Anderson said his hands are in every aspect of the film from set design to wardrobe to the casting. This is a much easier process for a reper- tome of talented stars who have previously worked with him.

Adam Brody, who plays Peter in the film, was the only lead actor who hadn't previously worked with Anderson. Also lending their talents were Bill Murray, Adriana Hosten and Jason Schwartzman, who collaborated with Anderson for the script. Similar to his previous film, Anderson said the soundtrack adds new dimensions to the story. "When I wrote 'Hotel Cheva­lier,' I wrote it with that song (Peter Sande's "Where Do You Go to My Lovely") in mind. The song plays sever­al times in it and the scene was sort of written to that music," he said. Anderson has built quite the catalog of artists featured in his movies including The Kinks, The Rolling Stones, Iggy and the Stooges, Dea Jorge and John Lennon. "Sometimes I have the music that is really a part of the film, re­al for a part of it's conceived and sometimes I'll find the music later," Anderson said. "Sometimes I might have a song that I want to use in a music that I have set aside, then I'll find the place to use it — I just try and use what works for the movie, what's suited for the scene." The next project for Anderson is an animated adaptation of the Roald Dahl classic, "The Fantastic Mr. Fox." This will be Anderson's first animated feature. However, he will use the same stop motion animation technique as he used for the underrase animal in "The Life Aquatic." "This will also be Anderson's first film without using his own original screenplay. It's fun because Noah (Baume­bach) and I were able to invent a lot of the story," Anderson said. "We wanted to try to write something that we thought Roald Dahl would like. But at the same time we were able to use his story — and it's a very strong story — so it is an advan­tage for us to work with. George Clooney has already signed on to play the role of Mr. Fox, while several other anonymous actors are in talks to fill in the other roles. "The design of the different characters, the design of the sets and everything is something we can't be made from scratch because you can't re­ally use a location since the film is animated," Anderson said. Anderson said he does have some other projects in the works, but "they're top secret." Wes Anderson

Ornate 'Sunset'

Wolf Parade, Foe Eyes, Magic Weapon, Swans Lake and Pony Up! are all acts Sunset Rubdown, a four­

some from Montreal fronted by Spencer Krug, are as­

sociated with. Not only does that list illustrate these musicians' extensive output, but the names themselves cast a close mold as to predicting the content of their music. Following last year's excellent album "Shut Up I Am Dreaming," Krug and company live up to all expectations with "Random Spirit Lover." The album itself picks up literally where "Shut Up" left off as the last track on that album, titled "Dreaming of Place While I'm in Where Lovers Have Wings," becomes the setting for "Random Spirit Lover." Two lovers, a "stallion" and a "virgin" named Sam and Meg, ride leopards, throw themselves in the air and experience the passionate jab­ lance and inherent pitfalls of love in a land of myth­ icism and betrayal. As we, the audience, listen to this opera via the Peabody Award winner, Mr. Spencer Krug, who takes a cue from Virginia Woolf and returns our society to the role of one song to Meg, the next to Sam, and occasionally to an omni­scent narrator. The symbolisms, allusions to Greek mythology, met­ aphors and overall ambiguousity of this album create a quality that invites the audience to return to it over and over until they come to terms with it. The im­ agery is as absurd and poignant as an Alejandro Jon­ dolesky film from the '70s. Perhaps the more culturally challenged would better relate to a reference to "The Chronicles of Narnia," but this would completely re­ duce this album's adherence to hipster bullshit. Fund­ mental imagery, such as snow, oceans and diamonds, pervades the album while characters take the form of spirits embodying birds, people, Pavilion and stallions. Krug invites the audience into this fantasy world just like Mr. Rogers invites us into his Neighborhood of Make­Believe. The only difference is that listening to "Random Spirit Lover" is like being thrown into the Neighborhood of Make-Believe in the middle of a puppet act while unsure of the plot and struggling to grasp anything our narrators give us.

As previously mentioned, the overly sexual content of the album somehow avoids creepy undertones as it falls into a crafted and androgynously innocent sexuality. It has something to do with the fact the Krug brings a lamp with tassels hanging from it on his key­ board as he performs live. It could be the presence of Camilla Wynn Ingr of Pony Up!, who delicately ham­ mer the vibraphones, fingers the synthesizer and lead her voice to echoes, responses and backing vocals. May­ be it is the music itself, intrillating and convoluing, upbeat and syncopated. Perhaps pop collectives from Canada can't help but be sexy, trendy and mesmerizing even as the whole concept of Cana­ dian music collectives has become narcissistically redundant. Above everything else, a singer of jazzy stall­ ions and virgins or captors and lovers without walking the fine line between being masochistic or sexy.

Finally, hopefully, you are at the end of this col­ umn thinking, "Fantastic, but what the fuck does it sound like?" The whole album is ornately molded pop music. The music takes the elements of popular song structure, throws them into a blender, rebuilds the pieces into a paper mache castle and reproduces it with extraordinary ease and fluid creativity. All the pieces of a pop song are present, including choruses, verses and bridges; you just need to pay a little bit more attention in order to appreciate them. As the group will hardly perform a song the same way twice, they are able to convey the same message, concept and palpable feelings one takes away from the record in a live concert. The album plays as a whole work, each song connecting seamlessly to the next and creating a disorientated aura that takes a few listens to make order of. Just like the first time you listened to all those "weird" Mod­ est Mouse songs that didn't sound as straightforward as "Float On," multiple listeners will reveal inaccuracies and novelties that passed you by in the overwhelm­ ing parade of dissonance, consonance, culinary sounds and pagentry.

Brian Cassidy is an English senior and a music director for KCRW. See Lux Oleans, 91.3 FM. He's also completely full of it.

Sunset Rubdown's newest release, "Random Spirit Love," boasts ornate pop songs with a live feel. "Spirit Love" (pictured above), released on Jagjaguwar records, is just the album in that each song flows into the next. Let's Sunset Rubdown is, clockwise from bottom, Spencer Krug, Jordan Raskin-Cramer, Camilla Wynn Igor and Mike Doerkson.
"Across the Universe," which premiered in San Luis Obispo on Friday, Oct. 12, is a visually and musically mind-blowing film. It depicts the '60s, specifically the Vietnam War, through Beatles music. From left to right, Jim Sturgess as Jude, Eddie Izzard as Mr. Kite and Dana Fuchs as Sadie.

All you need is love

Rachel Gellman
MUSTANG DAILY

Not just waves but tsunamis of joy were drifting through my open mind as I finally got to see the movie that had been inciting and inviting me all summer long. My cheeks hurt as I left the theater due to two hours and 11 minutes of straight smiling. I was speechless the entire walk back to the car. I felt like the creators of "Across the Universe" had tapped into my psyche and manufactured a movie that catered to my every interest. At the time I was too content to talk about it.

"Across the Universe" is a film about the '60s — Vietnam, counterculture, tuning in, turning on and dropping out — with the Beatles as the narrator. The Beatles' career evolved as the '60s did. Their early, elementary yet catchy songs such as "I Want To Hold Your Hand," contained '60s ideals while their later songs such as "Revolution" showcased the radicalism of the '60s, thus their songs serve as a perfect backdrop for a film about the era.

The film's plot is a mixture of dialogue and Beatles songs sung by the cast. The lyrics tell most of the story; it's a Beatles fan's dream — we get to see the lyrics we all know and love come to life on screen in an aesthetically pleasing way. Along with the songs, the screenwriters included many Beatles allusions. For example, one character, Prudence (allusion No.1) enters the scene "through the bathroom window" (allusion No.2).

The plot: A young man from Liverpool, Jude (Jim Sturgess), leaves England in search of his father in America. He meets Max (Joe Anderson), a radical student at Princeton University who eventually drops out and invites Jude to go to Cireenwich Village in New York with him. Their landlord, Sadie, is a Janis Joplin-esque singer who plays with a Hendrix-like guitar player. Jude falls in love with Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood), Max's sister. She follows the duo to New York and becomes very involved in the anti-war protests while Jude throws himself into art.

Forget drugs; drop some "Universe" to get your psychedelic fix. The film is cinematically beautiful and serves as an overload to all your senses. There is definitely something in the way it moves. As the scenes and songs change, the times change, the settings transform and the characters evolve.

The Beatles' songs are re-created on screen in ways that many would not think of by just listening to the lyrics. The song "I Want You (She's So Heavy)" was the most innovative segment of the film. A poster of Uncle Sam sings "I Want You" to Max as he enters the building in which he is tested for the draft and, once in uniform, he and fellow soldiers sing "She's So Heavy" while carrying the Statue of Liberty on their backs.

I did not merely enjoy this movie; I felt it throughout my whole body. I basically was in a happy coma. I fell in love. When Evan Rachel Wood sang "It Won't Be Long" early on in the film, I knew it wouldn't be until I had to see the movie again and again and again.

Some people may think the film is cheesy and the plot is too simple, but I disagree. The film not only tells the story of two lovers through song, it speaks of an entire generation. In those whimsical scenes that some deem "cheesy" like when Jude sings "All You Need Is Love" from a rooftop, I believe the creators of this film completely captured the intent of the Fabulous Four. The Beatles wrote these songs in times of turmoil in hopes of promoting love and peace through their music. So what other way to show their intent than an over-the-top notion for love?

Bottom line: if you're a fan of musicals, The Beatles, the '60s, hippies, countercultures or just beautiful films, you have to see "Across the Universe." It's innovative, fresh, exciting and you'll leave the theater feeling fuzzy inside.
Letters to the Editor

The newly signed bill, SB777, will leave its mark on aspects of education such as instruction, school-sponsored activities, textbooks and school facilities such as locker rooms and restrooms. So basically the bill imposes upon every major portion of public school education. Moreover, it actually redelineates "sex" and "gender." The old definition of "sex" is that "sex" means the biological condition or quality of being a male or female human being. As these terms are newly defined, "gender" and "sex" are one in the same. "Gender" means "sex" and includes a person's personal identity and gender expression and behavior, whether or not these match what are stereotypically associated with the person's assigned sex at birth. Now I know I'm going to be treading on the sensitive leg of this discussion. So please bear with me as I understand sex/gender based on what I learned from the excellent professors here at Poly, if you have two X chromosomes (XX), you are female; if you have one X and one Y (XY), you are male.

Many schools are expected to take this definition to the next level when it comes to social issues on campus. For example, students, male or female, may be allowed to use the restrooms or locker rooms corresponding to the gender by which they "identify" rather than what their sex actually is. However, as we established just a moment ago, XX=female, XY=male. You may have a different personal identity and gender expression and behavior, but that does not change your actual gender. So if everyone could do me a favor and look at your chromosomes — once you've established what they look like — recognize what locker room and bathroom you belong in and go there.

When it comes to the education portion of this subject, public schools already aren't using textbooks that disparage homosexuality, transsexuality, or bisexuality, so what would this bill already accomplish? The accomplishment is that any text, reference or teaching aid that portrays marriage as only between a man and woman, women that fail to include a variety of transsexual, bisexual and homosexual historical figures, and sex education materials that fail to offer the option of becoming a parent — California is often the largest purchaser and is doubtless that publishers will go through the expense of having a separate edition for other states. Another bill (AB14) was also recently signed and would require all biology and social studies classes to provide an objective and balanced appearance and a clause that is new defines "sex" and "gender" opens the door to a completely confused legal system where any individuals' interpretation of a statement in a textbook can make way for a multimillion-dollar lawsuit. It should also be noted there is no provision or mention in these laws for students, teachers, or parents with lifestyle choices that include traditional lifestyle choices or sincerely held religious convictions. Students, teachers and parents alike should be outraged over these new laws and should demand that the state legislature focus on education, not social agendas.

Christina Chappe is a social sciences senior, a member of the Cal Poly Collegians, a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

Legislators flush the toilet on traditional values

The conclusion of season 1 of the TV show "Heroes" was accompanied by the launch of the toilet digital control system. After finally getting around to flushing the toilet, my favorite character was killed off in the finale. I'm really excited about this brand new toilet technology. I'm sure this is the way the future is going to be. I'm going to be the first to own one of these. I'm going to be the first to own one of these.

Michelle Norgan

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Mustang Daily is a "designated public forum." Student editors have full authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval. The Mustang Daily is a free newspaper; however, the removal of one copy of the paper per day is subject to a cost of 50 cents per issue.

Michelle Norgan is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily reporter.

What about the real superheroes?

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Michelle Norgan
USE FACTS
Not f*king talking points when discussing Iraq

Thomas Jefferson once said that “a nation’s best defense is an educated citizen,” a belief that has served the United States well throughout its brief but illustrious history. Unfortunately, over the past few years we have seen this Republican administration and its apostles (Fox News) do its best to “dumb down” the level of public debate in this country by saturating us with meaningless political talking points and slogans. This sloganeering is especially common in describing the ongoing War on Terror where I am sure we all remember phrases like “Stay the Course,” “Mission Accomplished,” “Cut and Run” and many others.

However, no matter how ridiculous these talking points may sound, this president and his delusional followers continue to use what amounts to propaganda in public discussions with complete disregard for facts and statistics. That is why I will dedicate the remainder of my column to debunking two of the most commonly spewed Republican talking points when it comes to the current war.

1. “We are making progress in Iraq.”
This is the most frustrating talking point because it shows a complete and total ignorance about how bad the situation is in Iraq for both our soldiers and Iraqis.

The U.N. estimates that since the war began, more than two million people (approximately 8 percent of the population) have fled the country and another 1.8 million people are internally displaced from their homes (domestic refugees).

This year CNN stated that 70 percent of Iraqis lack access to adequate water supplies and that 28 percent of Iraqi children suffer from malnutrition, even though the United Nations Office (CfA(C)) estimated insurgent attacks against civilians around the world (which is not resulting in any “progress”) only leaves us more vulnerable and unprepared for other attacks. Of course, I am sure Republicans will just call me a “naive liberal” and that’ll be the end of the discussion.

2. “We are fighting the terrorists over there so we don’t have to fight them over here.” President Bush and other Republicans have often invoked this month-to-month blame as justification for staying in Iraq.

However, Bush’s own intelligence agencies contradict this belief. In 2006, a National Intelligence Estimates (NIE) report referred to Iraq as “the cause celebre” for the jihadist movement…which is shaping a new generation of terrorist leaders and operatives.” Republicans will point to that same NIE study and say al-Qaeda is “damaged” because of the Iraq War, but that is a narrow-minded view since the NIE also states “the global jihadist movement is decentralized…and is becoming more diffuse and more difficult to undermine.”

Another counterpart to Bush’s talking point is a study done by Peter Bergen, a senior fellow at the New America Foundation, which found that since the Iraq War started there has been a 35 percent rise in the number of attacks worldwide with a 12 percent rise in fatalities. Furthermore, the rate of attacks on Western interests and citizens around the world has risen by almost 25 percent.

This study illustrates what Bergen calls the “Iraq effect,” that the Iraq conflict has actually increased the spread of the al-Qaeda ideological virus as shown by the numbers and the tragic bombings around the world, including London, Madrid and Kabul.

Given this information, it’s clear we are already fighting serious terrorist elements elsewhere besides Iraq and to continually focus all of our attention on one spot of the world (which is not resulting in any “progress”) only leaves us more vulnerable and unprepared for other attacks. Of course, I am sure Republicans will just call me a “naive liberal” and that’ll be the end of the discussion. Thomas Jefferson be damned.

Patrick Molnar is a business junior and a Mustang Daily liberal columnist.

GUEST COMMENTARY
British high court defers manmade global warming

Here is a story that you won’t hear from me. It begins when the Ministry of Education for sending “An Inconvenient Truth” to 3,300 secondary schools is required viewing with no counter-argument. A recent ruling by the High Court has determined that there are nine factual inaccuracies in the film and those teachers who present the film must show the other side of the debate and draw attention to the factual inaccuracies. They are required to do this because of a law in England which requires teachers “shall forbid… the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject”.

Wish we had a law like that in our schools. Now here is the interesting part, the factual inaccuracies:

1. The snows melting on Mount Kilimanjaro are a result of global warming. The government expert conceded this isn’t true.

2. The film suggests ice cores prove that rises in CO2 cause the temperature to rise. The court discovered that this is not the case; in fact, in CO2 lag behind temperature rises by 800-2000 years. Blaming Hurricane Katrina on global warming is a “mosquito on a fire truck,” stating that you can’t blame one-off events for global warming.

3. The government expert also conceded that the drying up of Lake Chad cannot be attributed to global warming.

4. The film attributes drowning polar bears to disappearing ice. It turns out Mr. Gore misunderstood the study he cited and that the polar bears drowned due to a storm.

5. Global warming could cause the Atlantic Gulf Stream to stop, plunging Europe into another ice age. The evidence showed this is a scientific impossibility.

6. The film attributes the bleaching of coral reefs to ocean warming. The court could not find any evidence that this was the case.

7. The film suggests sea level might rise by 7 meters (23 feet) but evidence shows that sea level will rise only by 40 cm (15 inches).

8. The claim that the evacuation of certain Pacific slums to New Zealand, blamed on global warming, is unsubstantiated and false.

In a related issue, a study done by Dennis Avery, an environmental economist, and Professor Fred Singer, a physicist, has shown that global warming “is good, and not our fault.” They looked at the work of over 500 scientists, most of whom do not describe themselves as skeptics, and found it is very doubtful man is the cause of global warming. They also cited warming periods of the past have been the times of greatest prosperity for mankind and cold spells kill far more than warm spells. As to the claim that weather gets worse with warming they concluded, “It was the harsh, unstable Dark Ages and the Little Ice Age that brought bigger storms, untimely frost, widespread famine, plagues and disease.”

There you go. Call me what you will; you don’t have to believe me this time, but you should probably believe the High Court of England and more than 500 scientists.

Taylor Scott is an international business senior and the author of last Wednesday’s conservative opinion.
Broncos sign Poly’s all-time leader in tackles, free agent Jordan Beck

Cal Poly 2004 Buck Buchanan Award winner gets another chance in the NFL.

CHULA VISTA, Calif. — The Denver Broncos on Tuesday signed free agent linebacker Jordan Beck, head coach Mike Shanahan announced. As per club policy, terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The club also on Tuesday released linebacker D.J. Lewis.

Beck (6-foot-2, 233 pounds) is a third-year player who joins the Broncos from Atlanta, which waived him Sept. 2 after he competed in the Falcons’ training camp. Beck entered the NFL with Atlanta as a third-round (90th overall) selection in the 2005 NFL Draft from Cal Poly.

Beck has played 15 career games, all of which occurred during the 2006 season with Atlanta. He ranked second on the Falcons that year with 13 special-teams tackles after spending his rookie campaign in 2005.

The 24-year-old finished his career at Cal Poly as its all-time leader with 449 stops to go along with 16.5 sacks. Beck was the recipient of the 2004 Buck Buchanan Award (Division I-AA’s top defensive player) and twice was named the Big West Football Conference’s Defensive Player of the Year.

A two-time honorable mention all-state selection on defense at San Lorenzo Valley High School in Mount Hermon, Calif., Beck also competed at wide receiver and punter during his prep career.

Broncos sign Poly’s all-time leader in tackles, free agent Jordan Beck

You’ve been poked by The Mustang Daily

Poke them back at www.mustangdaily.net

Hey, we’ve got a real news feed too.
Cal Poly junior wide receiver Ramses Barden has been added to the Walter Payton Award watch list announced Tuesday by the Sports Network.

Barden leads the nation in receiving yards per game (184.0) as well as yards per catch (27.2). He becomes the second Mustang to land on a Payton watch list, following running back James Noble in 2006.

Also added were Richmond running back Tim Hightower, Georgia Southern quarterback Jayson Foster, Southern Illinois quarterback Nick Hill, Hofstra running back Kareem Huggins, Citadel quarterback Duan Lawson, North Dakota running back Tylek Roehl and Colgate running back Jordan Scott.

Those players join eight other candidates on the revised list. The other Payton candidates include quarterback Liam Coen of Massachusetts, running back Omar Call of Delaware, running back Herb Donaldson of Western Illinois, quarterback Josh Johnson of San Diego, running back Mike McLeod of Yale, running back Kevin Rich­

terback of Appalachian State, quarterback Eric Sanders of Northern Arizona and receiver-returner Alex Watson of Northern Arizona and receiver-returner Steven Whitehead of Mc­

Neese State.

Despite seeing specialized coverage every game, Barden has grabbed 34 passes for 924 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior, leading the school to a 7-5 record and 11th place in the Big West. Barden now has career totals of 256 catches (No. 4), 2,404 yards (No. 4) and 11 touchdowns this season. He blocked two field goal attempts and set the school record with four touchdown catches (No. 2) at Cal Poly. He needs one touchdown reception to catch record-holder Kamal Loud (26 from 1994-97).

Nationally Barden is seventh in scoring (11.0) and 29th in receptions per game (5.67). In the Great West Football Conference, he is first in receiving yards per game and yards per catch and second in both scoring and receptions per game.

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Poly men’s soccer takes on UCSB

Cal Poly fights for sole possession of first place in the Big West tonight in Spanos Stadium.

Josh Ayers

In this year's Big West coaches pre-season poll, the Cal Poly men's soccer team was picked to finish fifth.

Tonight Cal Poly will square off against defending national champion and conference rival No. 15 UC Santa Barbara for sole possession of first place in the Big West.

"They're obviously a very experienced team," head coach Paul Holocher said. "They've just won the national championship. The players are full of confidence, they're used to winning."

The Gauchos are entering the game with a 6-2-3 overall record while the Mustangs boast an 8-1-1 overall record. Both teams sit atop the Big West standings with a 3-0-1 conference record.

Cal Poly is No. 1 in the nation in shutout percentage with seven in 10 games, something Holocher attributes to good team play in the backfield.

"Defending is a group effort," Holocher said. "We defend with 11 players. Our forwards work very hard to defend."

Specifically, Holocher pinpointed the team's four backs Brian Jones, Casey Condra, RJ Leman and Josh Didon as key components of the team's defense.

Cal Poly leads the Big West in goals allowed, giving up only eight all season. The statistic will be put to the test in the game as UC Santa Barbara leads the Big West with 20 goals on average, an 18.6 per game.

Goalkeeper Eric Branagán-Franco leads the conference with six shutouts and he has emerged as a vocal leader on the field.

"I told Eric that the worst stat you can have is 0 saves," says Holocher. "So he's got the most saves it means there's a lot of shots coming on you." Holocher said.

"The goal keeper's No. 1 job is to organize his defense in front of him and to order them in such a way that you're preventing shots from happening." Branagán-Franco's leadership was best displayed in Sunday's UC Davis game when Cal Poly allowed the Aggies an indirect kick — meaning UC Davis had to touch the ball once before scoring — from about 12 yards out.

The team organized a wall in front of Branagán-Franco about 10 yards from the ball to prevent the score.

"In the very last second, Branagán-Franco broke through the wall, he was on his goal line, and told them to get on the goal line...he was a one-person wall and as soon as they (Davis) touched it to the side he raced out and deflected the ball," Holocher said.

"It was a real-time decision and it was a good one."

Leading the offensive attack for the Gauchos will be Chris Pontius and mid-fielder Eric Avila. Pontius played at the right-back defender position last season but has adjusted to his new spot up field with eight goals, making him the top goal scorer in the Big West. He is tied for 13th in the NCAA in goals per game.

"He's physically fast, he's 6-1, strong and (has) explosive speed," Holocher said. "He's a handful...he's someone we definitely got to keep an eye on, he's very close to, have a close eye on, be very close to, have cover behind our defenders when he's around and basically you try and contain Chris."

Avila, who earned All-American honors in 2006, leads the conference in assists with four and assisted Pontius only once.

Cal Poly will be without its leading goal scorer Daniel Cuningham, who was found to have torn his anterior cruciate ligament after scoring his fifth goal of the season in the Mustangs' 3-0 win over the Aggies. He will be out for the season.

"What that means is that other players are going to have to step up," Holocher said.

"We do have players that can do that."

Of those players will be freshman David Zamora who is second in scoring on the team with Julian Alvarez. The two each have four goals.

Zamora has scored three goals in his past two games which earned him Big West Player of the Week and College Soccer News Team of the Week honors.

Another defensive threat has been Kyle Montgomery who has scored three goals this season and has also contributed in assists. Montgomery and Zamora have seven assists between the two of them.

Holocher insists that the home crowd be out for the season. "This is going to be fun," Holocher said. "This is going to be a really exciting game and win, lose or draw you know that the team is going to be fighting hard."