Freshman: ‘Scary’ Virginia Tech threats were a Halloween prank

Poly professors receive NASA funding for future aircraft design

Freshman Francisco Diaz was arrested Tuesday for allegedly sending out threatening e-mails to members of the campus community.

TV braces for impact of possible writers strike

The first casualties of a possible Hollywood writers strike could be late-night laughs. "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and "The Colbert Report" will almost certainly be forced into reruns by a lack of fresh skits and monologues if writers walk off the job after their current contract expires. "If the strike happens, we are very likely looking at repeats for both shows," said Tony Fox, a spokesman for Comedy Central, which airs the shows starring Stewart and Stephen Colbert that launched a political ding of the day. "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" could follow. NBC declined to comment on what would be in store for the show. But a person with the network, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment, said "Tonight" and other NBC late-night shows likely would have to resort to repeats with no writers to generate new material. Contract talks between the Writers see Strike, page 3

Poly professors receive NASA funding for future aircraft design

Marlize van Romburgh

Two Cal Poly aerospace engineering professors have each been awarded million dollar contracts with NASA for research related to future-generation aircraft. David Marshall and Rob McDonald submitted separate winning proposals to NASA that, if received well by the agency, will be implemented into the design and engineering of commercial aircraft.

"NASA has had a transformation in their philosophy of how they want to do research," McDonald said.

"They're getting more and more ambitious and giving out larger awards,"

McDonald will work on developing optimization and design software, while Marshall's project will develop prediction methods and test hardware for short-distance takeoff and landing airplanes.

Although their contracts are officially unrelated and separately funded, the two professors said the research has a symbiotic relationship.

"When the two proposals are put together, Professor Marshall's is a complement to mine, and mine a complement to his," McDonald said.

McDonald was awarded a three-year contract worth nearly $1 million to develop software that will facilitate the conceptual design of complex generation-after-next aircraft.

The term generation-after-next refers to aircraft technology two generations into the future.

"NASA is trying to scale up their projects to meet the growing need for air transport in the next ten to fifteen years," McDonald said.

His optimization software framework will allow designers to test variable effects such as aerodynamics, structure and controls on the movements of the plane.

"We're primarily looking at the way all the many disciplines interact to make the aircraft behave the way it does," McDonald said.

The scope of McDonald's project, along with the significant funding allocated by NASA, will allow him to spearhead a comprehensive team of experts and students.

"These are very big projects," McDonald said. "Such that one person can't possibly do all of it. It forces you to create teams."

He will team up with Phoenix Integration, the aerospace industry leader in design exploration software as well as renowned independent software developer J.R. Glesedom, who already has a history of working with NASA.

McDonald will be looking for four Cal Poly aerospace engineering students to work with him.

"I'm looking for students who like to take initiative and work well on their own," he said.

"Creativity is essential too. I want students who aren't afraid to come up with crazy ideas."

"One of the really attractive parts of this project is that it gets students at the undergraduate and graduate level involved in major research," agreed Marshall, who will work with about 10 Cal Poly students on his team.

Several researchers, including Robert Englar of Georgia Tech Research Institute, will be heavily involved with the design portion of Marshall's research, which will work to predict the performance of low-noise short-takeoff aircraft.

Marshall has been awarded a $870,000 budget for one year, with the possibility of an additional $3 million for another two years of research.

NASA funded the research in order to gain a better understanding of aerodynamic effects on an aircraft's movement, propulsion and engine systems.

"We don't understand the physics of it all that well yet," Marshall said. see NASA, page 3

TV braces for impact of possible writers strike

Lynn Elber

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Amy Lorentzen  
ASSOCIATED PRESS  

Democrat Barack Obama said Wednesday that rival Hillary Rodham Clinton's less-than-straightforward answers in a Democratic debate raise questions about her ability to assume the presidency.

"This may be smart politics by Washington's standards, but it's not what America needs right now," the first-term Illinois senator told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Chicago. "Turning the page means offering the American people a clear sense of your principles and where you'd lead."

Obama complained that during Tuesday night's debate Clinton didn't provide clear answers on a number of occasions.

"After the most secretive administration in memory, an administration that consistently misled the American people, we need a president who is going to be open and forthright," Obama said. "I think last night's debate really exposed this fault line. Senator Clinton left us wondering where she stood on every single hard question from Iran to Social Security to drivers' licenses for undocumented workers."

Obama said he was especially concerned by Clinton's response when asked if she would release her papers from her years as first lady.

"Her big answer on whether she would release the papers from her White House years was particularly troubling because she is running on her record as a senator," he said. "How can people fully judge that record if the documents from those years remain locked away?"

Tuesday's debate was the first in a month, and during that time Clinton has gained in the polls and firmly established herself as the front-runner. The debate also came soon after Obama said he would step up his criticism of the New York senator to make clear their differences.

"With each attack, Senator Clinton undermines the central premise of his candidacy. The politics of hope that once characterized his remarks has now been replaced by the kinds of jabs one typically sees from candidates desperate to gain traction in the polls," said Mark Daley, a Clinton spokesman.

The Clinton campaign also posted a Web video arguing that her rivals had been piling on.

"The politics of hope does not mean hoping that your opponents aren't going to point out the differences between you and them," Obama said.

He pledged to continue to draw clear differences between himself and Clinton.

"And frankly, Senator Clinton did it for us yesterday with some of her answers," he said.

Clinton's campaign responded Monday that Obama has abandoned his pledge to run a positive campaign, or as he described it, the politics of hope.

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Obama said he is based his campaign on transparency with voters. While in the Illinois Legislature, he said he pushed for ethics reform. In Washington, he said he has released his congressional earmark requests and worked to ensure that lobbyists disclose bundling practices used in fundraising.

He boasted that he has "put forward probably the toughest set of ethics rules for how an Obama administration would operate compared to any other candidate."
We're not here to deal with vicious threats. You can't just turn around afterward and say, "Oh, just kidding!"

-Brady Scoggan

Such an email could have led to a walkout, perhaps by five days, because it was in the union's interest to get it recently voted, with 90 percent in favor, to extend the current pact that was set to expire at midnight Friday.

A strike by writers would not impact the writing of episodic TV shows, that weapon away without using it, said Amy Poehler, "SNL" star. "The writers strike was the best thing that ever happened to the network. It encouraged people to fill the prime-time airwaves."

"I'm not quite the visionary that Bob McDonald is," Marshall said. "I'm really more into the physics of the research. But we both understand the need to find new ways of thinking about aircraft design that will meet the growing needs of the commercial aircraft industry."

"We're excited to be able to work with NASA in testing their rockets," McDonald said. "The aviation industry is ready for a renaissance."
State Briefs

BAKERSFIELD (AP) — Federal engineers say an auxiliary dam at Isabella Lake is among the most at-risk in the nation.

If the dam were to collapse when full, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it could cover downtown Bakersfield in as much as 20 feet of water.

The dam sits on top of an active earthquake fault and water is seeping through it at a higher-than-normal rate.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department fears the county is becoming a dumping ground for the homeless.

The department later ferried tourists as the "Spirit of Sacramento." But now it thanks to $3.4 million in new state bond money.

"We got the most out of life is strong."

Sleep-deprived risk emotional problems

Christine Chen

Researchers from University of California at Berkeley and Harvard Medical School concluded in a recent study that sleep deprivation can cause a person to have increased emotional responses to negative images.

Matthew Walker, assistant professor of psychology at UC Berkeley, along with research assistants at Harvard Medical School, looked at what sleep deprivation can do to a person's emotional state and noted that sleep-deprived subjects had brain activity like that of some patients with psychiatric disorders.

"We can take young, healthy people who don't have psychiatric disorders and we see that the pattern of brain activity is not dissimilar to those we see in psychiatric patients with post-traumatic stress disorder or depression," Walker said.

For the study, 24 college undergraduates at the UC Berkeley Sleep and Neuroimaging Lab were divided into two groups. The first group slept for approximately eight hours, while the second group was deprived of sleep for about 35 hours. Then, the subjects were put inside an MRI scanner and shown 100 picture slides, which ranged from neutral to negative.

"(We) found that the amygdala, an emotional sensor in the brain, over-activated for people that didn't sleep and was more reactive to negative pictures," said Seung-Shik Yoo, associate professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School.

In the sleep-deprived group, there was a 65-percent increase in the brain activity of the amygdala when viewing negative images compared to the group that received a normal night's sleep.

The prefrontal cortex sends chemicals to inhibit the activity in the amygdala. It serves as the volume control to the emotional brain, said Walker.

"(We) could hypothesize that sleep deprivation can reduce levels of activity in the prefrontal cortex. Therefore, the amygdala will increase in activity," Yoo said.

This connected circuit between the prefrontal cortex and amygdala was intact in those that had slept well, said Walker, but not in people deprived of sleep. Because there were lower levels of chemical inhibitors, sleep-deprived subjects had heightened reactions to negative images.

Walker said that though scientists can't confirm it yet, one of the hypotheses they can now entertain is that sleep deprivation may not just occur simultaneously with, but actually contribute to, psychiatric disorders.

"We have known for a long time that people with psychiatric disorders exhibit lack of sleep," said Walker.

One of the next experiments will be to see if the same abnormality occurs in people who sleep only five hours per day for a week, Walker said.

WORD ON THE STREET

"Which of your teachers has inspired you most in your life?"

Compiled and photographed by Whitney Diaz

"I'd have to say Kurt Mannen (Cal Poly computer science professor), because he's 'kick you in the ass when you're down.'"

— Nikul Patel, computer engineering sophomore

"I actually studied abroad in Spain last year, and one of the language teachers inspired me. She was probably the most generous person I have ever met in my life."

— Mary Morley, history senior

"I would have to say my accounting teacher, Mr. Sweeney, because he is a very moral person with a good sense of humor."

— Anthony Fossi, architecture freshman

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Thursday, November 1, 2007
Calif. sex offenders declare themselves homeless

Don Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of California sex offenders who face tough new restrictions on where they can live are declaring themselves homeless - truthfully or not - and that's making it difficult for the state to track them.

Jessica L. Ann, approved by 70 percent of California voters a year ago, bars registered sex offenders from living within 2,500 feet of a school or park where children gather. That leaves few places where offenders can live legally.

Some who have had trouble finding a place to live are avoiding arrest by reporting - falsely, in some cases - that they are homeless.

Experts say it is hard to monitor sex offenders when they live in secret. The difficulty increases as time passes, they say, because the offenders may move repeatedly to avoid police.

While the law provides for exceptions if there is no viable alternative, there are few guarantees that offenders will make it difficult for law enforcement to keep track of them.

There is no registry of offenders who claim to be homeless, said Florida Corrections Department spokeswoman Gail Plessinger. Sixteen homeless offenders have been living underground or on the streets.

They drop off the registry because they don't want to admit living in a prohibited zone, said Corwin Ritchie, executive director of the association of Iowa prosecutors.

The organization tried unsuccessfully in the past two years to persuade lawmakers to repeal the state's 2,500-foot residency restriction.

"Most legislators know in their hearts that the law is no good and a waste of time, but they're afraid of the politics of it," Ritchie said.

The problem is worsening in Florida as about 100 local ordinances add restrictions to the state's 1,000-foot rule, said Florida Corrections Department spokeswoman Gail Plessinger. Sixteen homeless offenders are now living under a Miami bridge, while another took to sleeping on a bench outside a probation office.

"As society has imposed restrictions, it becomes almost impossible for them to find places to live," Plessinger said.

Twenty-two states have distance restrictions varying from 500 feet to 2,000 feet, according to California researchers. But most impose the offender-free zones only around schools, and several apply only to child molesters, not all sex offenders.

California's law requires parolees to live in the county of their last legal residence. But in San Francisco, for example, all homes are within 2,000 feet of a school or park.

"The state is requiring parolees to find eligible housing in San Francisco, knowing full well there isn't any," said Mike Jimenez, president of the California parole officers union. "It will be impossible for parole agents to enforce Jessica's Law in certain areas, and encouraging 'transient' living arrangements just allows sex offenders to avoid it altogether."
Pomona and SLO stay connected through the 60th annual Rose Float

This year, we're going toward more of a majestic, beautiful theme; we're going for a naturalistic feel.

—Shawnta Swanson
Rose Float design chair

The technical inspection is conducted by the Tournament of Roses and official float mechanics. Four similar inspections take place before the parade, and Cal Poly's float already underwent one such inspection this summer.

The float is the only entry in the parade that is designed, constructed and decorated solely by students and volunteers. Both universities must build portions of the float on different campuses, joining them together in Pasadena, nearly 22.5 miles away, two months before the parade.

"The float is one of the last things that links the two campuses," said art and design senior Shawnta Swanson, the program's design chair. "We take the chosen concept, and render and configure it into a float."

The design concept contest last spring prompted the start of the float's production. For months, Cal Poly and Cal Poly Pomona have been working on their respective halves.

"We split the two halves, and everything has to be connected to the float now," Swanson said.

Rose Float leaders will be welding, shaping and machining Friday to prepare the float for the inspection's 7 a.m. call time on Saturday, Swanson said.

Last year's float was more of a fun theme, featuring cartoon-ish polar bears and penguins celebrating the New Year with a festival hat.

"This year, we're sort of waking away from the comedic, cuteness factor that we usually do," Swanson said. "This year, we're going toward more of a majestic, beautiful theme; we're going for a naturalistic feel."

This year's float will eventually move to Pasadena about 10 days prior to the start of the parade. Floral decorations constitute the final stage of the building process, when Cal Poly students, parents, alumni, faculty and community members apply fresh flowers to complete the float.
International Briefs

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Spain’s National Court convicted the three main suspects in the Madrilen commuter train bombings of mass murder Wednesday and sentenced them to tens of thousands of years in prison for Europe’s worst Islamic terrorist attack.

But the verdict was a mixed bag for prosecutors, who saw four other key defendants convicted of lesser offenses and an accused ringleader acquitted altogether.

With much of the case resting on circumstantial evidence, the three judges may have been wary after a number of high-profile Spanish terror cases were overturned on appeal.

PIEDRA BLANCA, Dominican Republic (AP) — Tropical Storm Noel triggered mudslides and flooding in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, pushing the death toll to 32 on Wednesday.

Noel weakened to a tropical depression in the Bahamas, the U.S. and was projected to skirt Florida away from the north coast of Cuba.

Police in the Volga River city of Togliatti was a terrorist attack, one official speculated the blast was triggered by a passenger, officials said.

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Mustang Daily

Officers

continued from page 5

Pamela officers said some offenders are registering as homeless, then sneaking back to homes that violate the law. That’s easy to do because fewer than 30 percent of transient offenders currently wear the Global Positioning System tracking devices required by Jessica’s Law.

“If they tell you that they were under the American River bridge, we’re going to take that as face value,” said Corrections Department spokesman Bill Sessa, referring to a homeless sống in Sacramento.

During a recent sweep in the Oakland area, parole officers discovered that two of the five offenders they checked weren’t living in the temporary shelters they had reported as their new homes. Neither had been issued a GPS device.

R.L., a 42-year-old sex offender who lives near Disneyland in Southern California, said he registered as homeless after his parole agent told him two potential homes were too close to schools or parks.

“I finally asked, ‘Where do you want me to live?’ He said, ‘You have a car, don’t you?’” said R.L., who asked that his full not be used because of the stigma surrounding sex offenders.

The law was named for 9-year-old Jessica Luftford, who was kidnapped, raped and buried alive by a convicted sex offender near her Florida home in 2005.

The author of Jessica’s Law, state Sen. George Runner, said “90 percent” of it is working well. But he conceded that some portions need to be fixed.

“‘When the voters voted for this, they decided that they didn’t want a child molester to live across the street from a school,” said Runner, a Republican from Lancaster in Los Angeles County’s high desert. “It that means that in some areas that needs to be 1,000 feet or 1,500 feet, then I think that we still accomplish what it is the voters wanted.”
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have we got a guy for you
Birbiglia's not-so-secret return to San Luis Obispo

Mollie Helmuth

The speakerphone rang twice below a casual "hello," came through. "Is this Mike?" I asked redundantly, knowing that one of the top comedians in the nation, Mike Birbiglia, was indeed on the other end of the phone.

It turns out, interviewing Birbiglia felt like catching up with an old friend. "I'm just walking around New York City having a cup of coffee," he said amiably. Birbiglia, 29, will be performing at the Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. tonight on his tour, "Comedy Central Live: Mike Birbiglia's Secret Public Tour." Tickets for the show are $27 and still available.

With appearances on "The Late Show with David Letterman" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," Birbiglia is at the pinnacle of today's comedy scene. Last year Birbiglia performed at Cal Poly with the "Friends of the Bob and Tom Comedy Tour," along with several other comedians. The tour is solo and performing material inspired by his popular comedy blog, "Secret Public Journal," a syndicated radio segment entitled to thousands of readers.

"I keep a secret public journal so I remember what happens in my life," Birbiglia said. He will also be releasing his newest CD, "My Secret Public Journal LIVE," on Comedy Central Records. He hopes inspiration from comedians such as Bill Cosby and Woody Allen, "be like, to embarrassing stories basically, and there are jokes within those stories," explained Birbiglia of the tour. "These are some real-life stories of how I made awkward situations even more awkward."

He doesn't traditionally walk away from any topics, including politics. "It's like if you're a comedian you have to at least question the status quo," Birbiglia said. "Part of the job is questioning things that people accept as true."

His other name — pronounced Bir-big-lia — has been a challenge to his career that has turned into a blessing of sorts. "When I first moved to New York I was talking to Jim Gaffigan ... one of the first things he said was, 'You got to change that name,'" Birbiglia said. "It was a negative until it was a positive."

As a student at Georgetown University, Birbiglia worked the door at DC Improv, a comedy club in Washington, D.C. "It was kind of like going to comedy college," he said. "I recommend it to anyone who wants to be a comedian."

It was this experience that brought Birbiglia to admit (and open for) top comedians such as Brian Regan and to choose to make a career professionally at comedy. For the past seven years, he has been touring the country, gathering followers who love his down-to-earth, blunt, honest approach to comedy.

Performing again in San Luis Obispo was a personal request from Birbiglia, who hadn't heard of the town until last year's show, when he found himself wondering why he had never visited. "The town is incredible," Birbiglia said. "I just remember having such a great time."

MORNING RECORDINGS — "THE WELCOME KINETIC"

Ritch blends of organ fuzz and noise provide the backdrop to this slow waltz daydream.

Black Dice — "Load Blown" (Post Tracks)

Rich in texture are the highly organized collages of lo-fi, garage sounds. Straitjacket, a collaboration between lead guitarist Chris "Hustler" Armstrong in 2002 while they were in the Sierra Madre dorms at Cal Poly. "I met Hustler in 2003 when I was drumming on my knee outside a building on campus when Hustler walked up to me and invited me to play with them," drummer and Cal Poly mechanical engineering senior John Vucinich said.

Still Time is a new band led by guitarist and singer/songwriter Nick Bilich joined the band after a girl he was dating introduced him to Cuervo. The chemistry was developed once they jammed together and wrote, rerecording songs the second time they met.

"It was a unique sound that has resonated statewide," said Paul Casseo and Brian Casseo are music directors at KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM. These are their favorite new albums of the week.

Cassandra Carlson

Morning Recording — "The Welcome Kinetic"

It's called "Goo. Rock. Ever heard of it? The authenticity of this genre equates the authenticity of the new album by Still Time.

"We all listen to different musical influences but also old stuff like any good grind; you have to keep it fresh by putting the pin in, then you blend new stuff," bassist Paul Stewart-Smith said.

Formerly known as The New Longview and Longview, Still Time is releasing its new album, "Stream Of Consciousness," at Boot Records, where they will also be performing at 5:30 p.m. today.

Still Time started in San Luis Obispo in 2004 and has since been gaining fans across the state. Lead singer Dan期间 has lead guitarists Chris "Hustler" Armstrong in 2002 while they were in the Sierra Madre dorms at Cal Poly.

"I met Hustler in 2003 when I was drumming on my knee outside a building on campus when Hustler walked up to me and invited me to play with them," drummer and Cal Poly mechanical engineering senior John Vucinich said.

Still Time's music has made it to radio stations along the Central Coast and Northern California. "High Tide" has been heard on New Rock 107.3's regular rotation for more than a year, along with holding a top-10 spot at the station for more than four months. The band has been on San Luis Obispo's 106.3 and also Santa Cruz's KGKP 107.5.

The band will play at Downtown Brew Saturday for a 21 and over concert and on Nov. 12 for an 18-and-over concert. Tickets are $18 in advance and $10 at the door, and are available at the DTB Brew office, Boot Records or online at ticketweb.com.
English professor Todd Pierce swat with a hand to his face. "I can't see the words."

"I was sitting in the audience and I couldn't even see the words," said one student. "It was like a dream world."}

"But I still felt like I was there," said another. "It was a really intense experience."}

"I think it was a really powerful moment," said one professor. "It was like a journey into another world."}

"It was a really moving experience," said another. "I felt like I was transported to another time and place."}

"I didn't actually see the words, but I could hear them," said another student. "It was like a really beautiful piece of music."}

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Vampires:
Perverts or Italians?

Lee: Hey Sean, what do you want to write about this week?
Sean: Ooh, I’ve been thinking about this one all morning. What’s a better breakfast: cereal or capuccino with a shot of Jäger and a side of cigarette?
Lee: Stupid. Let’s just keep it topical. Halloween’s this week. Let’s do something about that.
Sean: Boo-yah. What’s a better treat to receive: good ol’ candy corn, or a nickel?
Lee: Obviously a nickel is better. There’s no debate there. I’d pay someone a nickel to not have to eat candy corn. Here’s a classic. Halloween debate: Vampires: perverts or Italians?
Sean: I’m 25 percent offended at that joke. You know my grandfather’s a pervert. In the news! Oh, here we go. Now that North Korea’s drained its nuclear weapons, who’s gonna be the new third member of the “Axis of Evil”?
Lee: Everyone knows it’s gonna be Hawaii. Just sitting out there, plotting, tanning, drinking blood. I don’t trust ‘em. Here’s something I’ve never considered before. How long will his new contract net him more money than his home country’s GDP?
Sean: He’s from America; you idiot! Here’s a gold mine. Which is more livable, Los Angeles or a snake pit?
Lee: Don’t be silly, Sean. That completely depends on what kind of snake. Check out this one. What’s more pointless: shoes or Bruce Willis, or The Wiggles?
Lee: Inhuman. Let’s just debate who’s more badass: Bruce Willis, or The Wiggles?
Sean: Come on, man. Hammerst or babies? I’m looking to get my cousin Lucas something for his fifth birthday. Plus, everyone knows Bruce Willis would use the corpses of The Wiggles to polish his bald, manly head. There’s no debate there.
Lee: I think there’s a pretty good debate to be had. How much guts does it take to be onstage making a fool out of yourself? The Wiggles are totally badass. But do you really think about that hamster thing? We can’t write about babies being pets without passing off all the child development majors at this school. Those chucks are hot. Sean: Isn’t having a child a prereqç- uiste for that major? Why would you date one of them? Would we be walking into a relationship with a permanent third wheel?
Lee: Child development majors: If Sean just offended you, we’ll send you an e-mail at TinsforTats@gmail.com. Seriously. We’ve had that address for more than a month now and we haven’t received a single e-mail yet. It’s starting to become expensive. Anyway, Sean ... I’d have to say that babies and hamsters both make pretty funny pets. I wouldn’t want to pick a side on that. That would be like debating who’s more popular: Ted Bundy or a computer science major.
Lee: Computer science majors: If Lee just offended you, please send me an e-mail at TitsforTats@gmail.com. We know you will.
Lee: Anyhow, I think the Willis-Wiggles debate could be one for the ages. Did you know the Wiggles do cocaine before each performance? Meanwhile, Bruce Willis owns a cat. There’s a lot to take into consideration, here. Do you think Willis could take all four Wiggles in a fight? I’m not sure, but the world will never know if we don’t argue about it.
Lee: All right, fine. Next week. Bruce Willis vs. The Wiggles. Tell Lucas he still owes me a beer.
Lee: Berats is a mechanical engineering senior and Sean Mitchett is a journalism senior. Berats and Mitchett are the Mustang Daily’s humor columnists and can be contacted at TitsforTats@gmail.com.

Babies scare me

Agnus-Dei Farrant
MUSTANG DAILY

So I figure babies are scarier now in college than they were in high school. By my senior year of high school I saw five friends learn that they were expecting. (Two girls simultaneously by the same guy. We’re taking weeks apart but that’s a whole different story.) I’m still not sure what made it relatively possible a I see many things amiss with “babies makein’ babies.” Perhaps it was the disadvantaged neighborhood, or for whatever reason it was acceptable for them to everyone responded similarly, regardless of how the fetuses inside these 16- and 17-year-old’s were “surprises.”

Concentrally, I’ve got a better handle on why babies scare me now. I’m presenting this for the majority of the Cal Poly “kids,” out of the 20 or so that have about 23 years old, singles and undergrads, looking out for themselves. The typical Western evolution of our life events is creeping into a new juncture that we more frequently. They’re some of the biggest decisions, and exciting grown-up things we can do. I know, ambiguous life-netomorphic statements are unnecessary. They’ve been considered by everybody and known as inevitable. If we don’t participate, we’re surrounded by friends and colleagues who do.

This exercising has already begun for me and may happen for you, too. I’ve only been to two weddings thus far. The first wedding I ever attended was for a co-worker who was 26. I was 20. Not so scary. The second wedding I ever attended, I was a bridesmaid in. I know the bride since the second grade and we’re the same age. The wedding was this past summer. I was 21.

Another bridesmaid was already married with a son; she’s younger than me. Another bridesmaid was engaged and we’re the same age. Scarier! A little bit.

Dating is still fun and playful thing for most who that I know, including myself. This progression is definitely something to consider. I suppose it’s just seeing where it all goes. All I’m saying is that I’m thrown off by the unfurling of a major change that comes with this stage, that feels as though it has snuck in when no one was looking and gawks at me as if to say “Well ... what did you expect?”

Don’t get me wrong, it works very well for some. Experience vary with each person. Who am I to say either group of people should or shouldn’t get married and have kids at? Your life is your own, as are your decisions.

I could see myself married someday. And yes, kids are possible. I’m not counting on any of it, however, and there is no deadline.

This is merely me saying that I personally am intimidated by this new maturation. It’s going to take a little getting used to.

Agnus-Dei Farrant is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily reporter.

STEVK KIRKOFF Mi'sIAN;
Pregnancy myths 101

There is no possible way for a pregnant woman to escape unsolicited advice — unless, that is, if I take off to a deserted island. Learning of my pregnancy, people constantly tell me what to do and what not to do, flooding me with old wives' tales to try to predict the gender of the baby — before finding out that it is a boy — determine how the baby will look and prevent complications.

There is something about a bulging belly that screams out the "expert" in everyone. For instance, my mom saw me reaching high up in my closet to grab something. She gasped in horror and told me to put my arms down because she said reaching above the head will cause the cord to wrap around the baby's neck, causing suffocation.

Another time, my cousin walked in my room and saw me napping with the karate monkey. I got at Build-A-Bear Workshop. She freaked out, grabbed the monkey and stuffed it in my hamper. She said that sleeping with a stuffed animal while pregnant will make the baby look like that animal!

"She said that sleeping with a stuffed animal while pregnant will make the baby look like that animal!"

Then I went to my cousin's house for a small party wearing sweats with a sweater and my hair tied up. One of my cousins said I was having a boy because I looked like crap. "Yeah, that was nice." When I went out to lunch with a good friend. I wore a dress and curled my hair. She said I was having a girl because wear was pregnant, she always liked dressing up and she ended up having a girl. Here are more common old wives' tales that I hear all the time:

• If your face is round then you are having a girl; if you are carrying low, then it's a boy.
• If you eat a lot of spicy foods, your baby will be hairy.
• If you have a small party wearing sweats with a sweater and your hair tied up, you will have a girl. If you wear a dress and curl your hair, you will have a boy.
• If you have a lot of spicy foods, your baby will be hairy.

But my mother is a nutritionist. So what's an expectant mother supposed to do when given such unwarranted advice and inevitable predictions about the sex of the baby? I just keep in mind that most of what I hear is most likely nonsense, and keep my sense of humor close. And if I do have some nagging doubts, I consult with my trusted prenatal doctor for counsel.

Jennifer Ingan is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter. She will chronicle her experiences as a pregant Cal Poly student every Thursday until she gives birth.

LETTERS

To THE EDITOR

Al Gore: More threatening to America than Osama

With the recent fires in Southern California finally contained, global warming junkies are beginning to say "I told you so." I, for one, believe that this so-called "global warming" played no part in all these events. As a matter of fact, I believe that Al Gore himself — creator of the global warming fad — is either indirectly or directly responsible. Yes, I said it. With all the hype he's generated about global warming, he has in turn created a cult of followers who may or may not be familiar with science. Like any cult, they are likely to go to extremes to support a belief, which in this case means attempting to falsely persuade skeptics of global warming's existence by igniting an elaborate series of forest fires in conveniently windy conditions.

Also, although it is somewhat improbable, we must not eliminate the possibility that Al Gore may have hired individuals to start the fires, thus seizing an opportunity to generate more publicity for himself. As the strong winds caused by global warming unrelentingly fueled the destruction of our nation's forests and cities, we must now turn to the omniscient and omnipotent Al Gore to save us from the end of human civilization as we know it (gordon my sarcasm). With all of the money and publicity Al Gore is receiving lately, it is hard to believe that his incentives are genuinely good. Perhaps he believes he will someday have a second shot at being elected president of the United States, this time strictly by means of paths. In my eyes, this man is conniving and dangerous. He is perhaps a larger threat to America than Osama bin Laden. Deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize? I think not.

Michael Vollmer
Business administration junior
Despite accomplishments, Atherstone values teamwork

Sara Wright

For the record-tying fifth time this year, junior opposite Kylie Atherstone was named Big West Player of the Week. Having captured the honor Sept. 3, 10, 24 and now for the week ending Oct. 28, she's the only conference player to win back-to-back honors twice in one season. Just two players in the Big West's 24-year history have won nine times.

Atherstone has been awarded Player of the Week eight times in her career. "She's done really well this year in conference; she's turned up her game," head coach Jon Stevenson said. "She hit her stride at the right time.

Atherstone's continuously outstanding performances on the court have helped the team become No. 1 in conference and 23rd in the nation. After defeating Pacific 3-1 on Oct. 26 and UC Davis 3-1 Oct. 27, the Mustangs (16-7, 11-1 Big West Conference) have a seven-game winning streak.

Against Pacific, Atherstone had 26 kills against only four errors, 379 and 16 digs. She also recorded a team-record 12th double-double with a match-high 16 kills and 12 digs.

Unfortunately, Atherstone sprained her ankle in game three against Pacific. "We only check her out if it's occurred," Stevensons said. "We're in the driver's seat to win conference; the rest of the season matters more than individual awards.

Atherstone's career accomplishments are extraordinary and numerous. In only her second year of play at Cal Poly, Atherstone was one of 20 college athletes selected in March for the United States Women's National A2 Team (0-2), a training group under the women's national team. She earned All-Tournament honors at the 2007 USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships in May.

In Spring 2007, Atherstone and setter Chelsea Hayes reached the semifinals of the inaugural eight-team Powerade Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championships in San Diego. They were the lowest-seeded team.

Atherstone was the youngest in 10 seasons to be selected for Big West Conference Co-Player of the Year in 2006. In the 2005-06 season she was named an All-Big West Conference First Team pick. She was also named an All-America honorable mention selection by Volleyball Magazine and chosen as Cal Poly's initial AVCA/SPORTS Imports National Player of the Week after she hit 23 kills against zero errors and a season-high .590 to lead Cal Poly in its first Pacific victory in 21 years.

She ended the 2006 season as No. 38 among all Division I athletes. Despite her accomplishments, Atherstone remains completely grounded. "Obviously it feels good, but it's not really an individual sport," Atherstone said. "It's a team and without assistance from the back up or the bench, it's not the whole picture.

During her career with head coach Tom Melton at Pleasant Valley High in Chico, Atherstone was a three-year letterwinner and Most Valuable Player of the Eastern Atlantic League. She also competed for the Chico Volleyball Academy club program. Stevenson is pleased with Atherstone's accomplishments.

Junior opposite Kylie Atherstone had a match-high 19 kills in the series-opening sweep of Cal State Fullerton on Oct. 5 in front of 1,575 fans.

"I thought she should have won Player of the Year outright last year," he said. "She shared it with a Long Beach player. It's difficult to think of anyone but Kylie to win Player of the Year this year."

Atherstone, born Jan. 25, 1987 in Chico, is a speech communication major. "I didn't know what else I wanted to do," Atherstone said about her major. "I talked to the coach and since I want to go into coaching, communication skills are important.

Despite having many responsibilities, Atherstone remains cool about them. "It's not about prioritizing; it's just part of my daily schedule," she said. "You don't realize it. It's what you have to do.

Joanny continued from page 16
dollar to watch Mrs. Johnson, a third-grade teacher, shape our youth. He doesn't pay to watch the local firefighter save lives. We all would agree that these jobs are more vital to our society than professional athletes, yet they make significantly less. This is just a reality.

People are astounded that anyone could demand more than $250 million, but it's pretty simple — A-Rod thinks he's worth more.

Of course, the key word here is "thinks." Someone must agree to pay him. Athletes are employees, harm­pots to ownership. He can ask for a billion dollars, but that doesn't mean he is worth that much.

He may only receive $100 million. The market will determine what he's worth, not his own preconceived notion of his value.

Think about Peter who just graduated with an accounting degree from Poly. He's in negotiation with KPMG on what his compensation will be. Peter could ask for a three-year, $1 million deal. KPMG could laugh in his face, or pay the man. KPMG determines what Peter's worth is, not Peter.

A-Rod is taking a calculated risk by leaving money on the table, believing he can get more. He could ruin his knee tomorrow and never see that type of cash again. This is the risk he was willing to take, and I have to give him some credit for that.

Can you blame him for trying to maximize his "value"? The majority of us will do it one day while seeking our first "real job."

It's called life. This is a dog-eat-dog world — but you get paid while you can.

This principle behind capitalist actions is what makes our country special. A-Rod represents every college student who asks for more money, but his contract just has more zeroes.

So I applaud this man for trying to get more, and so should you. You'll probably be in a similar place one day. Remember that.

Good luck, A-Rod — I just pray my Giants don't waste money on you.
Jackson
continued from page 16

Now at age 22, Jackson is finishing her senior year at Cal Poly with a bang. So far this year, Jackson has already broken the record for all-time digs at Cal Poly as well as in the Big West Conference.

Jackson’s tally is 27, up from the NCAA record book of 24 players to reach 2,000 digs. She is currently a West and a 17-7 overall record.

Her teammate, Senior Outside hitter Sahle Schoenecke, said, “She is a perfect player on the court with a drive that makes all the difference.”

Jackson knows that as a hitter I have complete trust in her. She is consistent on the court and the hitter that I know I could have. I think the hitters get a swing,” said junior opposite hitter Sahle Schoenecke. “She is at practice every day with a great attitude, working 100 percent and that is the reason why she is so great and fun to watch.”

No matter how hard Jackson may work or how well she “spark” on the court, she never lets any of it get to her head.

“She brings this energy onto the court that is indescribable,” explained sophomore outside hitter Sahle Schoenecke. “She is at practice every day with a great attitude, working 100 percent and that is the reason why she is so great and fun to watch.”

Jackson said, “Whether it’s skill or motivation, Jackson does everything to the best of her ability and that is why I love her. She is one of the most amazing qualities in a teammate.”

Above all, Jackson values the team player in her consideration. She has played two full years on the court and she has learned how to work with her teammates to reach a common goal.

“I love my team and each and every goal on the team brings something different to the floor,” Jackson said. “Whether it’s skill or motivation, Jackson does everything to the best of her ability.”

As a hitter, Jackson is a West and a 17-7 overall record.

The Mustangs overcome a 2-0 deficit to win in straight sets with four shots. Northridge’s goalkeeper, Kevin C. Jones, had four saves. Both teams reached the state quarters. Two and yellow cards were awarded to junior midfielder Julian Alvarez and senior defender J.K. Lemuch. The Mustangs had 2-2 goals and four yellow cards handed out.

The Mustangs travel to UC Santa Barbara to play the Gauchos on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. Poly beat the defending national champions in a 2-1 thriller on Oct. 17.

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0920

ACROSS

1. Pass
2. Tense
3. Anthony of Massachusetts Plate
4. Longtime chief Lawrence Wilkerson
5. Burn slowly
6. One of the Murrays
7. Popular displayer
8. Walt
9. Baryshnikov’s birthplace
10. “ nicely good”
11. Place in I.Q. testing
12. Horizons
14. Tainted choice
16. Home of São Miguel island
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18. Scottish general in the American Revolution
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Whitney Dize
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly women's basketball team (4-0) trampled the amateur high school elite basketball team Melbourne Roos 96-0 Wednesday in the first exhibition game before the regular season in Mott Gym.

The Mustangs had a lead with more than 10 points for the majority of the game.

"I was very pleased with a lot of the things they did," said Cal Poly Head Coach Faith Mimnaugh. "We had great contributions from everyone on the team."

Nine Mustangs scored five in double digits. Mimnaugh replaced five starters in the beginning of the first half in an attempt to figure out which players worked best with each other.

"I'm still playing with some things to see what the best combinations are, but on our team it doesn't matter," she said.

"We're just trying to match the chemistry."

The Melbourne Roos from the Australian Institute of Sport displayed good ball movement and scored the first points of the night, sealing the ball from the Mustangs right away.

The only player for the Roos to score in double digits was guard Kelly Boswell, who scored a total 16 points with nine turnovers and three steals.

"They're a really good team," Bowen said of the Mustangs. "They're really tough. It's different. They're so much stronger and so much faster."

This was senior guard Sparkle Anderson's first game back after a knee injury took her off the court last year. She scored 10 points — her average last season was 8.3.

"I feel blessed to be back," Anderson said. "We have a lot of point guards on our team, and everyone works really well together."

Anderson did not start, but was brought in later. Although she first seemed a little rusty, she heated up near the end of the first half, and finished with four rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Freshman forward Nicole Anderson, a big recruit for Poly, had four assists, four steals and four rebounds.

Although the Mustangs defeated the Roos in a game where the scores were never even close and had possession of the ball for the majority of the game, they had trouble capitalizing on open opportunities.

In a beautiful steal with seven minutes left on the clock, Bowen raced down the court, but failed to score for her team.

Senior guard Toni Newman recorded a game-high six steals, while senior guard Shannon Gholer led all scores with 19.

"It feels so good because we just worked hard in the off-season," Gholer said. "I knew that if I put in the work, it would pay off."

Overall, the team shot 39.4 from the field and 36.7 from behind the arc.

Forward Megan Harrison led Cal Poly with nine rebounds, while Bowen led all players with 14.

The Mustangs play an exhibition game Saturday at 2 p.m. against CS Monterey Bay at Mott Gym.

The 'beach baby' digs volleyball

Megan Priley
MUSTANG DAILY

Growing up in Manhattan Beach — the "beach volleyball Mecca of the world" — Kristen Jackson is still a "beach baby" at heart who will always find a way to pursue her passion for sports and the great outdoors.

Ever since she was 5 years old, Jackson has been following in her competitive beach volleyball dad's footsteps.

"He taught me how to play on the sand when I was little and it was something we always played for fun, either on the beach or in my backyard," Jackson explained.

It wasn’t until 11th that Jackson started playing competitively on club teams in Orange County and Long Beach.

Jackson found that she enjoyed the sport so much that she chose to give up the other sports she was playing.

"I was playing softball, soccer and basketball as well as volleyball and chose to focus solely on volleyball and soccer," Jackson said.

Once she entered Mira Costa High, Jackson was balancing her passions for volleyball and soccer throughout the school year.

Jackson would play club soccer and high school volleyball in the fall and club volleyball and high school soccer in the winter and spring.

However, when it came time to pick between her two favorites, she knew exactly where her heart was.

"By my senior year I had to pick one sport and there was no question that my heart was set on volleyball," Jackson said.

She says this decision was easy to make considering her at Mira Costa high won three CIF championships.

"I also played a lot of beach volleyball in the AAVC tournaments as well as received my AA rating on the beach as a sophomore in high school," Jackson said.

After high school, Jackson moved to San Luis Obispo to start her freshman year at Cal Poly. She chose to major in recreation and began her first season with the Mustang women's volleyball team.

Senior point guard Kyla Howell makes her way to the basket against Melbourne Roos Wednesday night at Mott Gym.

The Melbourne Roos from the Australian Institute of Sport displayed good ball movement and scored the first points of the night, sealing the ball from the Mustangs right away.

The only player for the Roos to score in double digits was guard Kelly Boswell, who scored a total 16 points with nine turnovers and three steals.

"They're a really good team," Bowen said of the Mustangs. "They're really tough. It's different. They're so much stronger and so much faster."

This was senior guard Sparkle Anderson's first game back after a knee injury took her off the court last year. She scored 10 points — her average last season was 8.3.

"I feel blessed to be back," Anderson said. "We have a lot of point guards on our team, and everyone works really well together."

Anderson did not start, but was brought in later. Although she first seemed a little rusty, she heated up near the end of the first half, and finished with four rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Freshman forward Nicole Anderson, a big recruit for Poly, had four assists, four steals and four rebounds.

Although the Mustangs defeated the Roos in a game where the scores were never even close and had possession of the ball for the majority of the game, they had trouble capitalizing on open opportunities.

In a beautiful steal with seven minutes left on the clock, Bowen raced down the court, but failed to score for her team.

Senior guard Toni Newman recorded a game-high six steals, while senior guard Shannon Gholer led all scores with 19.

"It feels so good because we just worked hard in the off-season," Gholer said. "I knew that if I put in the work, it would pay off."

Overall, the team shot 39.4 from the field and 36.7 from behind the arc.

Forward Megan Harrison led Cal Poly with nine rebounds, while Bowen led all players with 14.

The Mustangs play an exhibition game Saturday at 2 p.m. against CS Monterey Bay at Mott Gym.

Murat Dail Daily

Women's basketball basketball tramples Melbourne Roos in exhibition

MUSTARD DAILY

Johnny in the Box
John Middelkauff

College is all about the green

Why do we attend college?

Well, I'm sure answers may vary, depending on the individual. Some may think it's for all the girls, and my roommates would say the Wednesday night beer pong league at Downtown Brew. But I'm here to tell you exactly why we continue our education. Taking nothing away from those two reasons above, we go to school for one reason...

MONEY!

Many of us desire the perfect job after four — scratch that — five years at Cal Poly. We have some idea of the specific industry that suits our fancy. Maybe we recently interned for a company or have been dreaming of a certain job for years. The world is our oyster.

The piece of paper you receive when graduation rolls around essentially ensures your employment somewhere. At least that's the sales pitch our university makes. A degree increases your demand in the job market — it's basic economics. That period while we all seek employment makes us feel like free agents in the job market. Though the term is commonly associated with professional sports, it is applicable to all industries.

With A-Rod opting out of a $250 million contract, this topic will be prevalent until he signs his next mega-deal. Money-hungry athletes are driven to get that green, but aren't we all?

To blame A-Rod, the employee, is just ludicrous. I'm here to have "ego-driven, self-centered, never-shows-up-in-the-big-game" A-Rod's back on this.

First off, we all need to throw this money thing out the window. Get over the fact that professional athletes make more money than just about anyone else.

If we all could hit 55 home runs a year and win MVP, like they were going out of style, no one would make that much money. The job demanded in this industry would be diminished — again, basic economics.

Since only one person on earth can perform this job, he's compensated accordingly.

I'll state a simple fact: If people pay a premium price to watch you perform, you will be highly compensated.

The average Joe is willing to pay top dollar to watch athletes like A-Rod perform. Consequently, he's highly paid for his services, just like when the average Joe pays top dollar to see The Rolling Stones perform. This is a perfectly logical concept that we tend to forget.

Average Joe does not pay top dollar to see Johnny, page 14