Drinking costlier than you think

Coral Snyder
MUSTANG DAILY

Imagine the end of a long school week after a couple of midterms. You may figure, “Hey, I’m gonna release some stress.” Maybe you’ll celebrate the weekend by keeping it classy and taking Patron shots with your friends, or maybe you’ll want to keep it cheap and shotgun some Natural Ice.

Either way, imagine you end up being “that person” who was so wasted and everyone wondered the next morning, “What happened to sound-so?”

Whether you’re of age or a minor, the consequences of a night of heavy drinking can be costly both legally and financially.

Any person found driving with a blood alcohol level of more than 0.08 may be charged with a DUI. The consequences of a DUI can be anywhere from 48 hours to six months in jail, a fine of up to $1,000, driver’s license suspension for six months or until a DUI program is completed, and vehicle impoundment for up to six months.

According to a 2005 survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 39 percent of car crashes that ended in fatalities in all age groups involved alcohol.

Many students know they could get a DUI if arrested while driving under the influence, but many don’t fully understand all of the legalities involved in being charged with a DUI.

“I only know that I might get taken to the police station and may be questioned or get put in jail for a few hours,” said architecture sophomore Gabby Robinson.

Campus police mainly deal with students who are drunk in public, meaning they can’t care for themselves or others (minors in possession), said University Police Department Chief Bill Watton.

He said students involved in these types of criminal activities are arrested and potentially have to deal with the legal consequences, including going to court and paying fines if they are charged.

“First and foremost we look at safety in these situations and providing the necessary care, if needed, until an ambulance arrives,” Watton said.

The financial cost of being transported to the emergency room because of alcohol poisoning is costly as well. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that college students between the ages of 18 and 22 who are fully enrolled in college are more likely than peers in the same age demographic to have used alcohol, to binge drink and to drink heavily in the past month.

According to Chris Javine, general manager of San Luis Ambulance, the base rate for being transported to the hospital in an ambulance is $1,505.85 and $19.85 is charged for each mile driven in the ambulance.

Other fees may be charged for services required to care for the patient in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. These fees include...

Fees could rise 10 percent

Giana Magnalli
MUSTANG DAILY

The California State University Board of Trustees voted Wednesday to approve a 2008-09 budget that could increase student fees by 10 percent.

This is an ongoing trend that has resulted in student fees almost doubling in the past five years.

The fee increase is written into the budget to take place if the state does not provide the funds needed. The total budget request was $4.8 billion, which assumes a $322.7 million increase over last year’s budget.

“Too a lesser extent (the budget) said, ‘Either give us $70 million or we’re going to have to raise student fees.’” Lt. Gov. John Garamendi said in a teleconference Wednesday.

Garamendi, who is an ex-officio member of the CSU Board of Trustees, voted against the budget proposal and is working on a proposal that would freeze student fees.

He has recently been working to bring this issue to the attention of students and others, and views the UC Regents (who will vote today) and CSU Board of Trustees as giving up on getting public funds.

“If I knew the outcome of this year’s budget?” he said. “No, but I do know that if you throw in the towel before you even get in the ring, you’re going to lose.”

Garamendi is supported by many organizations, including the California Faculty Association.

CFA president Lillian Taiz contrasted the rising student fees to the rising cost of gas; while a gallon of gas costs more, you still get the same amount. However, students are paying more for their education but are not getting more in return, she said.

“Both UC and CSU systems have been spending a fair amount of money on executive salary and executive perks … not the hiring of tenure-track faculty” she said.

The main concern behind the fee increase was the effect on current and potential students.

Garamendi and Taiz spoke about the privatization of the UC and CSU systems, mainly the trend going toward private funding benefitting private individuals, as opposed to public funds benefitting the public.

“I don’t think it takes rocket science to figure out that every time you increase fees, you discourage people from coming,” Taiz said.

She listed high tuition, textbook and housing prices as some of the issues students are facing.

As a result of underfunding, “moral and environment... fees, page 2

Student who sent threats now in court

Ryan Chartrand
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly computer engineering freshman Francisco Diaz appeared in court Wednesday and pleaded not guilty to felony charges of making criminal threats and computer access and fraud on Oct. 30 when police said he sent out more than 50 threatening e-mails to Cal Poly students and faculty.

Dressed in a suit and tie while sitting with his family, Diaz, 18, was arraigned on three felony counts of criminal threats and two felony counts of computer access and fraud.

Judge Dodie Harman issued a court order stating that Diaz cannot come within 100 yards of the three victims charging him with criminal threats.

Cornel Morton, Vice President for Student Affairs, said that Cal Poly has yet to imitate action regarding the defendant’s status as a student until his court proceedings are finished.

Police arrested Diaz Oct. 30 on campus. Diaz pleaded not guilty to felony charges of making criminal threats and computer access and fraud on Oct. 30 when police said he sent out more than 50 threatening e-mails to Cal Poly students and faculty.

“Do I know the outcome of this year’s budget?” he said. “No, but I do know that if you throw in the towel before you even get in the ring, you’re going to lose.”

Students are just over the curb of what is considered financial aid-worthy, said Judge Harman.

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As a result of underfunding, “moral and environment... fees, page 2
San Francisco to issue identification cards to undocumented residents

Linda Lee
Associated Press

Illegal immigrants, transgender people and other residents who may be unable or unwilling to secure state-issued driver's licenses will be allowed to apply for municipal identification cards under a law tentatively approved by city lawmakers.

Modelled after a program launched this summer in New Haven, Conn., the move is designed to help residents without IDs access services and to feel safe dealing with local law enforcement. Similar proposals are under consideration in New York and Miami, but so far San Francisco is the biggest city to adopt one.

The Board of Supervisors, San Francisco's version of a city council, voted 10-1 late Tuesday to direct the city clerk to start issuing the ID cards within nine months, pending a final vote next week by the board that considers a formality. The one supervisor who opposed the measure said he was worried about how much it would cost to implement, but Mayor Gavin Newsom has said he intends to sign it.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano introduced the ID card concept after Congress failed to adopt immigration reform legislation this summer and in the wake of a series of federal immigration raids in the San Francisco Bay area.

"Our city just can't stand by while our federal government takes no action to address the safety needs of our community," Ammiano said. "If our friends and neighbors are not fully able to participate with us in civic life, we all lose in the end."

The program is scheduled to go into effect next August, will charge adults $15 for each card and $5 for children to defray costs, which are expected to run between $423,000 and $1.1 million during the first year.

The city government plans to do a survey to see how they are being used, but anecdotal evidence suggests they are popular, according to Matos. One immigrant told a city worker that he never used the public library before, but now goes there all the time to send e-mail to his wife in another country, she said.

"I had never been downtown, he had never been to a library and he felt a certain level of security with the card," Matos said.

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Lisa Lee
Associated Press

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Poly gift drive to benefit underprivileged community children

Jennifer Ingan
MUSTANG DAILY

To the season to be jolly, Cal Poly’s Student Community Services (SCS) is diving into the spirit of giving for the upcoming holidays by hosting its 10th annual Holiday Gift Drive for underprivileged children and teenagers in San Luis Obispo County.

Students, faculty, staff and community members can participate by visiting the SCS office at University Union room 201 to pick up a gift tag, which includes the age of a child and his or her gift wish, and bring the gift back to the SCS office by Nov. 26.

“Agencies that we work with tell us that the gifts from Cal Poly are the only gifts their clients receive,” said Leah Meeke, internatrice and cultural engineering senior and SCS member. “When we call agencies to ask if they need help, they keep at the opportunity and are extremely thankful for the support from the Cal Poly community,” Meeks said. “It is also important that people get involved with their community and help those in need and making a little help.”

SCS holiday gift drive has significantly grown from providing only 100 gifts to supplying more than 400 in the past five years, Meeks said. This year SCS is providing 450 gifts for the San Luis Obispo community. They take gift requests for unborn children up to 17-year-olds.

Gifts range from $15 to $20, which can include items such as a basketball, baby clothing, gift cards, a CD player, toy trucks, shoes and stuffed animals. Participants can also donate money for SCS to do the shopping.

“Big Brothers Big Sisters would not be able to afford to supply each of the children in our program who attend our holiday party with a gift,” said Anna Boyd-Bucy, associate executive director at Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Luis Obispo County.

“SCS generously supplies these gifts for us,” Boyd-Bucy said. “The vast majority of our children come from low-income, single-parent homes. The gifts they receive at our holiday party are sometimes the only and/or best gifts they get for the holidays.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters has participated in the holiday gift drive at least since 1998, Boyd-Bucy said.

“(SCS) supplied $20 gifts for each of the 80 children at our holiday party last year.” Boyd-Bucy said. “They were kind enough to take gift requests, wrap the gifts and distribute them as Santa’s elves last year.”

Other local participating agencies include the Department of Social Services, Economic Opportunity Commission — Tener Academic Parenting Program, Family Care Network, Housing Authority, Santa Cruz Unified School District, South County S.A.E.E., Family Resources Center, and Transitions Mental Health Agency Foster Care Program.

SCS will distribute received gifts at the Big Brothers Big Sisters holiday party, they will play games and pass out the gifts, Meeks said. All of the other agencies will pick up the gifts from SCS during final week, and distribute them to the underprivileged children and make their Christmas wishes come true.

State Briefs

Laura Kasavan
MUSTANG DAILY

The cell phone was first developed at the Motorola plant in Israel and 24 percent of Israel's workforce holds university degrees, ranking it third in the industrialized world.

Four Israelis developed ICQ, the program that was the basis for AOL Instant Messenger, and the literacy rate is at 97.1 percent.

Israel Awareness Week, ending Friday, was created by political science senior Jonathan Creme and was designed to familiarize the campus community with Israel as a modern state.

The only information ever provided has to do with religion and conflict," Creme said. "I'm here to showcase all the positive contributions Israel makes to the world."

An informational booth set up in the University Union provides materials from two different campaigns.
Scientists grow stem cells from cloned monkey embryos

Malcom Ritter
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaining stem cells from cloned monkey embryos, as a team of Oregon researchers has done, is an impressive step. But it probably won't lead to medical treatments any time soon.

One hurdle is ethical and political. Human embryos have to be destroyed to produce stem cells. That has aroused opposition to human stem cell research, and it led the Bush administration to restrict federal funding for it. Scientists say that has slowed science in this effort.

Another hurdle is the inefficiency of the process. Even if the method described by scientists Wednesday works in humans, it would demand too much of a precious resource — women's unfertilized eggs.

The promise of producing stem cells by cloning is that they can be genetically matched to a particular patient. So theoretically, doctors should be able to transplant tissue created from them into that person without tissue rejection. And presumably, such transplants could help treat such conditions as diabetes and spinal cord injury.

The process used in the new experiment is "quite inefficient," said Shoukry Mitalipov of the Oregon National Primate Research Center in Portland told reporters Wednesday.

He and his colleagues reported getting two batches of stem cells that required using about 150 monkey eggs apiece. That's far too many if one hopes to use human unfertilized eggs, which are cumbersome to obtain from women.

If further work can get that down to maybe five to 10 eggs per stem cell batch, "we will be closer to clinical applications," Mitalipov said.

"I am quite sure it will work in humans," he added.

But then there's another issue — showing that such stem cells really can be used to treat diseases safely. Mitalipov said he plans to do diabetes studies in monkeys.

For now, he and other scientists said, the new work is valuable for showing that stem cells can be produced through cloning in monkeys. It's been done in mice, but scientists had long been frustrated in their attempts in primates, where the取回search would be more relevant to humans.

The new work was published online Wednesday by the scientific journal Nature. The success was reported earlier this year at a research meeting in Australia, where it received limited media coverage. The results were given new attention Tuesday by a London newspaper, The Independent.

Dr. George Daley of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, who was familiar with the work, told The Associated Press in an e-mail that it was "a very important demonstration" that the process is feasible in primates.

Mitalipov's team merged skin cells of a 9-year-old rhesus macaque male with unfertilized monkey eggs that had the DNA removed. The eggs, now operating with DNA from the skin cells, grew into early embryos in the laboratory. Stem cells were recovered from these embryos.

The researchers have applied for a patent on their procedure.

The stem cells were genetic matches to the females that produced the eggs, he said, and early experiments suggest stem cells derived this way may someday prove useful for treating disease in women.

Circuit City, 6PM, 5:30 PM, 4:30 PM 4PM
What is suitable punishment for Francisco Diaz?"
Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman

"It's kinda' hard to pass judgment on something you don't know a lot about."
— Evan LeBlanc, civil engineering senior

"I think it should be equal to the punishment of those who joke about bombs on an airplane."
— Tram Nguyen, psychology sophomore

"I think he should be expelled and some legal action should follow."
— Mike Williams, industrial engineering senior

"I guess he should at least get kicked out of school and serve some kind of sentence and the sentence should depend on how serious he was about following through with the threats."
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GENEVA (AP) — An 84.37-carat white diamond touted by Sotheby's for its size and beauty sold at auction Wednesday to Greek clothing company founder Georges Marciano for just under $16.2 million.

The jewel — the largest top-quality, brilliant-cut white diamond ever to appear at auction — had been valued by Sotheby's at between $13.3 million and $17.8 million.

Marciano's winning bid, made by telephone, came to $16,189,769 including the buyer's premium. It was just short of the all-time auction record for a stone or piece of jewelry, a record held by the same Sotheby's branch in Geneva for a 109.3-carat diamond that fetched $16.5 million in 1998.

TRUJILLO ALTO, Puerto Rico (AP) — Back roads, gorges and garbage dumps on this tropical island are littered with the decaying carcasses of dogs and cats. An Associated Press investigation reveals why: possibly thousands of unwanted animals have been tossed off bridges, buried alive and otherwise inhumanely disposed of by taxpayer-funded animal control programs.

Witnesses who spoke with the AP said that, despite pledges to deliver adoptable strays to shelters and humanely euthanize the rest, animal control programs generally don't.

News that live animals had been thrown to their deaths from a bridge reached the public last month when Animal Control Solutions, a government contractor, was accused of inhumanely killing some 80 dogs and cats seized from three housing projects in the town of Barceloneta.

A half dozen survived the fall of at least 80 feet.

A police investigation into the Barceloneta killings has not led to charges, but police Sgt. Wilbert Miranda, who heads the probe, said the information gathered so far indicates Animal Control Solutions was responsible. He declined to give details.

Admission is FREE for all Cal Poly Students.
GREEK NIGHT - The Greek Organization with the most representation and spirit will receive FREE customized Maniac T-shirts and 30 FREE Pizza Coupons courtesy of Dominos!
Swing life away

Laura Kasavan

For students who love to dance, the Cal Poly Swing Club offers weekly lessons and dance venues that are all opportunities for dancers to improve their skills, have fun and bond with other participants.

Swing Club president Mary Freitag, a political science and speech communication senior, said club members stress to be friendly and approachable.

"We want to build a community through dance and inspire our dancers to have fun and build friendships," Freitag said.

Business administration senior Jenna Laverty is in her fourth year as a member of the Swing Club. She said the club has made it easy for her to meet people.

"The club isn't competitive at all," Laverty said. "The people who are involved are the people who show up all the time. It's really good exercise and a great way to hang out with people.

Since its creation in 2000, more than 60 students and community members attend the weekly events put on by the club.

Lessons are offered on Sunday afternoons in room 225 of the Architecture building and are taught by several different teachers, including club officers.

"We mainly teach what is called Lindy hop," Freitag said. "It's an eight-count dance that originated in the early 1920s and through the big band era. Lindy hop is set apart as a dance because it looks circular and very classic; it is a very athletic dance because the music is upbeat and lively.

Other dances taught are the Balboa and Charleston, which are both eight-count dances. Balboa is danced primarily in a close embrace. Charleston was named for Charleston, S.C., and is a style associated with white flappers and the speakeasy.

Intermediate lessons are from 1 to 2 p.m., and beginning lessons are from 2 to 3 p.m. Participants can move to intermediate lessons after completing beginning levels one and two, which each last for three weeks.

Following lessons is an open dance session with DJ music from 3 to 4 p.m. The cost for an afternoon of dance is $3.

Fretting said that after lessons many of the instructors take dancers to Mother's Tavern to dance for free to a live band that plays from 3 to 6 p.m.

The Swing Club switches gears into Blues dancing in the same classroom. Open dancing from 9:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. follows the free lessons from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Kimberly Davis, a horticulture senior, was president of the club last year. She said that the Swing Club is an option for everyone from beginning dancers to the most experienced.

"It's a group of friends that loves to have fun," Davis said. "We put on awesome events, have fun dancing, and go to work and school all at the same time. We can be friends dancing as well as dance partners.

On Saturday, the Swing Club will host the "Thanks for Giving" dance in Chumash Auditorium. A beginning lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. will be followed by the dance at 9 p.m.

The event is a food drive, and entry is free for anyone who brings five cans of food. All food collected will be donated to the Prado Day Center.

Christine Moser and Mark Carpenter (top) and Kim Daum and Ryan Carlysse (above) dance at a Swing Club event at the Madonna Inn. The popular club event takes place every Monday night from 8 to 11 p.m. and is free and open to the public. The event is one of several weekly events the club partakes in.
Bob Hamilton, the Bangin' SS's pedal steel guitarist, plays at Mother's Tavern, where the band performs most Thursday nights. The Bangin' SS's will play tonight at Farmers' Market.

The Bangin' SS's typically play at 9 p.m. Thursday evenings at Mother's Tavern and from 3 to 6 p.m. during months with a fifth Sunday. They will also be playing at various venues throughout California, including some in Santa Ynez and Santa Maria.

"This stuff is cool, and I think there's a real market out there for it and people appreciate it," Brown said.

The beat of their music is conducive to dancing, and couples gravitated toward the middle of the bar at Mother's Tavern and danced a mix between a swing and country line dance.

Coral Snyder

From two blocks away, music could be heard loud and clear coming from within Mother's Tavern. It wasn't the sound of a DJ or the sound of a rock band, but the sounds of the Bangin' SS's.

The self-proclaimed "hillbilly swing" band started by Mother's Tavern owner Paul Brown will be playing on the main stage at Farmers' Market at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the intersection of Nipomo and Higuera streets.

"We play a lot of upbeat music that makes you feel happy and have a good time," Brown said.

The Bangin' SS's are a six-person band, with Brown as their organizer and singer. He is supported by guitarist Greg Tummon, fiddler Allan Dick, drummer Matt Gittleson, bassist Michael Dias and Bob Hamilton on pedal steel.

The band began practicing last summer and has been playing since August. Its music is influenced by musicians such as Bob Wills, Johnny Cash and Wayne Hancock.

They typically perform music written by other artists but have been working on original pieces and are planning to release a CD next year.

Cassandra Carlson

"PMC IV: Pacific Horizons" artists and translators pose in front of their exhibit, above. That artist Sone Simatrang works on his piece "Tsunami," right.

Over the past 10 years, members of the Cal Poly art and design department have collaborated in an artist exchange every other year. This year the department has teamed up with Silpakorn University Art Centre of Bangkok, one of the oldest art schools in Thailand.

Cal Poly has a long-standing relationship with Silpakorn University, as it raises Thai tradition with Western practice. Earlier this year Cal Poly artists worked in Thailand for two weeks and displayed their work for a month.

Another work inspired by nature takes elements of mother nature.

The Warlocks — "Heavy Dravy Skull Lover" (Tee Pee)
Now with only four members, The Warlocks' new album is fuzzy, dark, poignant and gritty.

German experimental pop collective presents a less accessible album by combining minimal electronics with instrumental improvisation.

Someone Else — "Pen Caps and Colored Pencils" (foundsound)
Brings technically brilliant electronic music via field recordings and samples (think Matmos) and makes it viable for a club setting.

Chica and the Folder — "Under the Balcony" (Monika)
Pop music can range from obtuse to acute, and this duo brings technically brilliant electronic music via field recordings and samples (think Matmos) and makes it viable for a club setting.

KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM. These are their favorite new albums of the week.

Brown said the band also makes a point to celebrate birthdays while they are performing by singing "Happy Birthday" and recognizing people individually.

"When people come out to listen, it's all about people drinking beer and just having a good time," Brown said.

It took Brown a while to settle on the name the Bangin' SS's, as he had previous ideas that didn't stick or fit with what he felt was the theme of the band.

He decided on "SS's" because the type of music the band plays reminded him of music that came on random radio stations while he was driving along Highway 58 in what seemed like the middle of nowhere.

Brown picked the word "bangin'" because he felt that it sounded right for the band.

"This band was built to party," he said.

The Bangin' SS's can be visited online at www.Bangin58.com.

Bob Hamilton and Brian Cassidy are music directors at KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM. These are their favorite new albums of the week.
In truth, the filmmaker bought the rodent-like animals from four children and then ran them off the cliff. Galanti tells this story in her art and reflects on perceptions of the animal world.

"Most of her work is about creatures that cannot speak for themselves," Miller said while looking at her piece. Miller created a politically inspired piece for the exhibit, depicting a young George W. Bush with his father by his side. The use of pencil, color and ink on duranline creates a tactile appearance.

"I wanted it to feel like you could go up and touch it," Miller said. "I was trying to imagine the conversation between the two and what it would be about. The dark line in between the two is almost like a blind spot they have."

This blind spot is a reference to blood and oil, while their faces are made up of a green palette, resembling money. Miller was originally asked to create a piece in response to Thailand.

"In Thailand they have a king, but I was thinking about how we have this lineage of people we have in our own country and don't question it, even though they are democratically elected," Miller said. From politically charged statements of the earth to humanity's destruction of it, this exhibit sends powerful messages to onlookers.

Artist Thamrin Ko-Udomvat created "Hosser in Global Warming," using mixed media to depict a compartmentalization of nature and how nature will be controlled in the future.

Artists Maggie Lowe Tennesse, Surasak Rodprodthong, Panyu James and Tim Andersons also addded to the exhibit.

San Jose State is currently holding a similar exhibit with Thai artists-in-residence, and exhibition is planned at the Natalie and James Thompson Gallery on the San Jose campus.

Work featured from "PAC IV Pacific Horizons" will also be on display at Works Gallery in San Jose in December. This exhibition will feature work from all the artists who participated in the San Luis Obispo, Bangkok and San Jose State exhibits.
Thanks to cast, ‘Samantha Who?’ worth figuring out

Caillte Ferraro
THEO CHURCH, DAILY ARTS

The highest rated new comedy of the season, “Samantha Who?” centers on a woman who suffers from retrograde amnesia. The show is definitely worth remembering.

The premise is simple yet unoriginal: A girl named Samantha (Christina Applegate) wakes up after an eight-day coma with amnesia, only to discover she was a horrible person.

The comedy had its own identity issues from its beginning, when, due to copyright concerns (from Dr. Seuss’ estate), it had to change its name from “Sam Am” to “Samantha Neely,” before finally settling on “Samantha Who?”

The Emmy-winning Applegate masterfully portrays the titular character, Samantha Neely. Applegate has not been this good since her 10-year embodiment of trashy Kelly Bundy on “Married ... with children.” This show is her comeback as she shines as a funny, charming and chic leading lady.

The cast of actors surrounding Applegate is superb as well. After waking up, Sam discovers she has unstable relationships with all those around her. Seasoned comedic actors Jean Smart and Kevin Dunn, who form a dynamic duo, play the parents to whom Sam has not spoken to in two years. When Samantha first wakes up, her mother (Smart) is disappointed because it interrupts her video entry for “Extreme Home Makeover.” The only other two people who go to the hospital are Sam’s boyfriend, Todd (the adorable Barry Watson), and Sam’s quirky junior high best friend, Dena (Melissa McCarthy of “Gilmore Girls” fame). It turns out Sam is cheating on Todd and ditched Dena in high school to be popular. All the while Sam’s supposed best friend, raging alcoholic Andrea (Jennifer Esposito), could not be happier that Sam has forgotten she was a recovering alcoholic herself. Suffice it to say hijinks ensue.

Everything about this show is so very wrong, yet the train wreck of insane events feel real and are laugh-out-loud hilarious thanks to the talented cast. Esposito could teach Paris Hilton the meaning of narcissism as she tempts Samantha to rejoin her on the dark side.

Potential quibbles with the show are few and far between. From time to time, Samantha has flashes of her former horrible self, and she endeavors to make changes in her life. Sometimes these glimpses of Sam’s past are not particularly comical or necessary. While directors depict evil Sam incurring wrath upon those around her (and often Applegate with a different hairstyle), they do not always directly contribute to the show.

Following in the thematic pursuit of “My Name is Earl,” Samantha aims to turn over a new leaf and be a better person. But “Samantha Who?” has yet to perfect the format. The episodes sometimes seem a bit frantic and can jump around at times.

Some of Sam’s deep philosophical conversations with Todd’s apartment doorman Frank (Tim Russ) border on ridiculous, but most are great fun. In the episode entitled “The Job,” Sam consults Frank on her outfit. He responds: “Coco Chanel said that, to avoid over-accessorizing, women should look in the mirror and remove one thing. With you, it was often your dignity.” Ouch.

The other episodes thus far include Sam pretending she was away in rehab instead of in a coma, crashing a wedding in which she had encouraged the bride to have an affair and stressing over forgetting her past sexual experiences. Future episodes promise similar insanity as Sam tries to regain her memory by visiting a hypnotist, and she pretends to be an avid hockey fan to impress a date.

While the show may still be working out a few kinks, Applegate is charmingly endearing and Smart constantly finds laughs. In the end, if you are not watching this fall’s new No. 1 comedy, you must be having a memory lapse.

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We’ve got plenty to distract you from your homework.
Call it devilishly di­
viant. A business plan
you're a wee bit envious
you didn't postulate
yourself. Avent-garde,
or just plain crass. Bot­
tom line remains this:
Online blogger Perez
Hilton has built a gilded
empire—trash-blogging
celebrities. I might add
that if I use the word bag­
ing here very lightly,
like Perez Hilton, not to
be confused with the
equally pink, push and
ready Paris Hilton ... 
actually, just scrap that
last "do not be confu­
sed" bit and let the brain think what it will. Snap,
crackle, pop.
Perez Hilton, tightly put, rips a new one in the
press. And the press — how can I say this without
sounding overly mental — laps it up like a dog
consuming its own vomitus mass. A public slightly
amused, completely entrallled yet also completely
unaware as to the questionable content of the actual
posted material, but then again, who's checking, and
who cares?

But who is this enigmatic character? Who is the
seemingly disturbed man, a one Mario Armando
Lavandera who since has become the terribly ubiq­
uous Perez Hilton we've all loved to hate? Um,
he does anyone care at this point? Talk about a big,
huge, no we don't.
I'll just be the voice of reason when I remind
the American public, and my Cal Poly brothers and
sisters that Lavandera makes a living, and by living
I mean primary income, making fun of people and
seeing them squirm in
the little pathetic ce­
lebrity traps he sets.
Hello, his one purpose
in life is to make other
people feel small. May­
be he missed the point
of what real fulfill­
ment, achievement and
success is in life, partly
because I was under
the impression that de­
valuing others was not,
or at least not on any
socio-religious level.

But I'm not here to
take the self-righteous,
deprecatory high road
because — let's be serious — we all know this
America, and in America there are certain un­
deniable truths. For example, celebrities are absolutely ridicu­
ulous. They are, it's true. We all see it spooned on Entertain­
ment Television, we read all about them in People
magazine. They are, indeed, basically hack jobs. Now
the question is, do we condemn one man for calling
them all out on it, especially when there's no one out
there really doing it quite the Perez Hilton way?

I leave it to you, the affected reader, because ulti­
mately, that's where all things are left. You, the read­
er, will decide his fate. Can't a man just say what he
wants to say around here anymore? Well, evidently
he can and he is. Now I will say just this. If you don't
like pink, you're out of luck, and fate's decided for
you. There, I said it. Lavandera posts at PerezHilton.
com. No mea culpas to be found.
Alexandra Bezdikian is a journalism senior with a
knack for critiquing pop culture trends.
The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 1004

No one ever took Tony Soprano to the Olive Garden for lunch again.

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.
write a letter

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar proficiency and length. Letters, comments and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number and major. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail: mustangdailyopinion@gmail.com
By mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 26, Room 226, Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407

The price for their deception was high, but not as high as the cover charge.

Leet: I agree. Article over. So what you're saying is that writers shouldn't get paid at all? If they don't get paid how are they supposed to live in New York or Los Angeles or anywhere else? Being a comedy writer has taken its toll on my health. Did you know that every night I come home and drink a six-pack of Smirnoff Ice just so I can feel funny? I've put on 30 pounds and I'm empty inside. Pass the toilet paper.

Leet: We're out; here's a hand towel. You may feel empty inside, but you're stuffing others full of humor. That realization should fill you with enough pride to get you through the long, cold day. How about sending his last bedtime story? Or the people at the old folks home who beg for money? I was only there doing community service for that DUI I got with enough pride to get you through the long, cold day. How about sending his last bedtime story? Or the people at the old folks home who beg for money? I was only there doing community service for that DUI I got

Lee: You don't make any sense, Sean. I only wrote that story for the dying kid because the Make-A-Wish Foundation paid off me. The old folks home! I was only there doing community service for that DUI I got... damn Smirnoff Ice. But the bottom line is this, Sean: I refuse to write the article as long as the writers are on strike. It may take weeks, months, or even days, but I don't care. End of discussion. Pass me a new towel.

Lee: Oh, but Lee, you have written an article this week. I've kept a tape recorder in my jacket pocket this entire time. I got you, Lee Barats, and I will now write this article, word for dirty word.

Lee: You daredly rogue!

Lee Barats is a mechanical engineering senior and Sean Michetti is a journalism senior. Barats and Michetti are the Mustang Daily's humor columnists and can be contacted at TinFiferTits@gmail.com.
Perplexities of parenting

While I was growing up, my parents were so involved in their work most of the time so my sisters and I were left in the hands of older cousins and relatives. I don't blame my parents so much for always working for making a "better life" for the family, but looking back I wish that they were more involved in our life, either through my school or just one-on-one quality time.

I think of things that I feel like my parents should and should not be involved in as a child. I don't blame my parents or child-rearing and reevaluating my relationship with my own parents.

As I rapidly approach my expected due date of Dec. 10, my thoughts are filled with the concepts of motherhood, child rearing and reevaluating my relationship with my own parents.

First, I will try not to be too critical of my child, encouraging and praising his natural talents, and not choosing work over family. Communication is key so I will talk to him openly about anything and of course be actively involved in his life. And I can't wait to take him to museums and parks and dive into family activities.

Second, Every parent has his or her own style of disciplining and raising children, and get very offended and defensive when told to do otherwise from outside observers. They always have been a thorn in my side, like, "What do you know about raising a child?"

I was walking in downtown San Luis Obispo with a 4-year-old boy who is the son of an ex-boyfriend of mine and an ex-girlfriend of mine who is my 1-year-old son. He was tired of walking and wanted his mother to carry him—he weighs at least 30 pounds and is too big to carry from the car. She said no and told him to walk.

He then went into a blind tantrum and screamed for his mother to carry him, refusing to walk any farther. She easily gave in and carried him as the all the way back to the car.

That I have the most when children—I have seen this many, many times—completely take advantage of their parents and talk back to them ... ooh, that really pushes my buttons!

But I think that the child is at fault for this unfavorable behavior. Discipline should begin early to prevent and deal with unfavorable behavior.

I have seen super-strict parents who rule with an iron fist, and others with a passive attitude who pretty much let their children do whatever they want. And sometimes, one parent will do the disciplining, while the other does nothing—which is one of the hardest camps I hear concerning discipline.

From what I have seen, in my mind there are none of those discipline techniques, or lack thereof, work. I believe being in between authoritarian and lenient, somewhere alongside behavioral conditioning and positive reinforcement works best.

It is important that parents talk to each other and get on the same level as to how they will discipline their child before the baby is born to prevent discipline inconsistencies and a rift in the relationship.

Some of my relatives who have children try to provide me with advice regarding how to raise a child. I look at how and ungrateful their kids are and completely shut out what they tell me.

There is so much parents need to be concerned about. Child predators to massive too recalls, being vulnerable to illnesses and following a child's overall well-being and social development. It has the list doesn't end.

I fear that I won't be a good mother and that I might unintentionally traumatize my child in some way. I feel like I need to be extra careful when raising a child, because unconscious actions can lead to some kind of mental or behavioral problem, there is always an argument tracing it back to his or her mom or dad, or both, saying it's the other's fault and blaming them for the abnormal dysfunction.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the political columnists

As of late I've grown tired of the Mustang Daily political columnists.

First, Patrick Molnar, a fraud and a hypocrite. You might be worse than the Cal Poly College Republicans. At least we know that they've gone and taken the time to express their ridiculous views in the American political system; you have just preached.

Now on to the Republicans, Taylor Scott's recent article is a disgrace to this newspaper and the students he represents. Taylor, there is no doubt that some readers of this newspaper consider you an arrogant, ignorant racist, but only because that is how you portray yourself.

Your claim of Britain's rule being "the best thing" for India is insulting. It's sad to see some one or two strange and possibly brutal cultural rituals be compared to 17th century British rule against the will of an entire people! I think Gandhi would share this sentiment.

People do leave their countries to flee its culture, they leave to find greater opportunity for themselves and their children, something I'm sure you don't understand. America is a land of millions of many and ANY culture and calling your water "sin" doesn't make us better than anyone else. Finally, keep thinking you can "literally say anything you want." If that were the case, tens of thousands of war opponents (Patrick Molnar not included, he would just write about it) would have threatened President Bush, and I would have threatened you for being so ignorant, arrogant and racist.

Justin Joseph
Civil engineering sophomore

America: The Arrogant Culture

In response to "America: The Superior Culture," multiculturalism is not wrong, and it is the American view of multiculturalism that has earned America its enemies. I think the article very clearly mirrors America's misunderstanding of other cultures and its title mirrors the American feeling toward other cultures. Even if that is not the intent, this arrogance is what other cultures perceive, which is what matters most at the end.

Imposing one culture onto another is not justifying even if they claim it was done for their benefits. The British establishment of the Indian system, legal system and military system was not done with the goal of helping the Indian population, but with the goal of maintaining control over them.

To understand the reasons immigrants leave their home countries you need to be an immigrant, or at least talk to immigrants who better represent the generalizations being made. First of all, we don't turn our backs on our countries, because that would imply that we are not proud of our origins. Second, not all the immigrants in the world come to the U.S. as the article seems to imply, but many have come to this country because there are plenty of jobs that are too low for the "superior Americans."

Just as you are proud of being an American, we are proud of our own countries and we would never leave them. It's not our place to be where we are not welcomed if our survival didn't depend on it.

Jose Angel
Computer engineering senior

The month of mountain men

November is by far my favorite month of the year.

Thanksgiving has to be the greatest holiday: nonstop consumption of turkey, stuffing and mashed potatoes? Yes, please. But there is another tradition occurring during this glorious month that needs more attention: "No Shave November." It's a chance for guys to show off their manliness by not shaving for the entire month of November. (As much as I fight for equality between men and women ... ladies, let's leave this tradition to the men.)

Men get together on Halloween to shave and then harass each other on who has the better, fuller beard for the next 30 days.

It is about the midpoint of the month, which means you will be noticing a lot more scruffy-faced men walking on campus. Some of my guy friends already have a full beard going. (They must be extra manly.)

For the clean-shaven guys you see around: A. They are unaware of "No Shave November." (Sad!) B. They already gave in and shaved. (Wrong!) C. They have a certain "lady friend" who requested they not participate. (I don't even need to say it!) I have started to notice the varying patterns of facial hair some guys are rocking. The most amusing have to be the guys whose facial hair grows in patches or have scraggly beards by now. (Although you can't shave, you could still trim your beard ... Unless this breaks the rules?)

I wish I knew when "No Shave November" began. This is the fourth year I have seen people participating at Cal Poly. Has this always been a college tradition or is it something new? This may be one of life's greatest mysteries and I am determined to find out.

I'm also on a mission to figure out who started "No Shave November." I'm pretty sure it wasn't the creator of the Facebook group. I've come to the conclusion that it was Jack Bauer, Chuck Norris or Santa Claus who started this hardcore tradition, you decide. Jack Bauer can grow a full beard in 24 hours. Chuck Norris can, and will, kill you if your beard is fuller than his. And, well, Santa Claus has been participating for a very, very long time. (I'm thinking this could be the next Mustang Daily online poll. We could even start a competition at the end of the month for guys to send in pictures of their beards and have students vote for a winner.)

A friend of mine has decided to extend this tradition by creating a beard-of-the-month calendar. Each month will consist of a different design in his beard. I think he should shave his initials or maybe even go for a creepier mustache. (Calendars will be available come January.)

Many women do hate "No Shave November" because their boyfriends' beards scratch their faces. This tradition is too great to not let boyfriends participate.

For me, I say bring on the grizzly, mountain men. Let us embrace this tradition.

Jessica Ford is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter.
Mustangs make All-Conference squad

Sophomore Carrie Andrews earned All-Big West First-Team honors for a second straight year while seniors Sharon Day and Alii Tramel landed spots on the All-Big West Second Team. Junior Cara O'Hagan and senior Erica Zumbahlen received honorable mentions. Andrews was one of the anchors on a Cal Poly defense that recorded eight shutouts this season, six of which came against Big West opponents. Andrews also made her presence felt on the offensive half of the field this season with two goals and two assists for six points, second most on the team.

Day led Cal Poly with three goals and also had one assist for seven points, tops on the team. Day received first-team honors in 2004 and 2005 and was a second-team selection as a freshman in 2003.

Tramel had eight shutouts and 87 saves this season, including 11 saves in two games at the Big West Tournament. Tramel came up in the clutch for Cal Poly with two saves during a penalty kick shootout in the Big West Championship match. Tramel concludes her Cal Poly career with 15 shutouts, fourth on the Mustangs' all-time list.

O'Hagan started all 20 games this season and was a key piece for the Mustangs at fullback. Zumbahlen also started all 20 matches for the Mustangs and recorded one goal from the midfield.

Cal Poly finished 8-9-3 overall this season and ended its season in the Big West Championship game against Cal State Fullerton.

Johnny

continued from page 16

This guy is averaging 23 points and seven boards a game while receiving national accolades. He's an All-American candidate, a preseason pick to be the WAC Player of the Year and a likely first-round pick.

With 19 wins last season, Cal Poly's highest total since entering Division I-A, expectations are sky-high. This team played in the Big West Championship a year ago, until getting ran by in the second half against Long Beach State.

Trust me — my heart, and definitely my wallet, have not forgotten that dark night.

But I was able to move past that gloomy loss last year and become optimistic. I am trying to turn the corner and make myself into a glass-half-full type of guy.

Tonight is the night everything changes. Tonight is the night this school embraces this team and realizes what it has. I challenge the student body to support this team, pack Mott Gym and bring some passion as if this game matters, because it actually does.

Avoid Burnout

We've got plenty of distractions.
Mustangs top San Jose State, try to hand Houston the same fate

The Mustangs let their lead slip just once in the remainder of the game and with 53 seconds left owned a 71-63 lead.

The Spartans fought back in the final moments of the game: a Spartan lay-up closed the gap to 73-70 in the final seconds of play, but a Harrison free throw secured Poly's win.

Mustang junior forward Lisa McBride, who posted a career-high 23 points in the Mustangs' Nov. 10 season opener at Oregon State to earn Big West Conference Player of the Week honors, and sophomore forward Rebecca Trutter each contributed eight points on Tuesday.

Cal Poly, which has won its past five home openers, and eight of its past 10, greets Mott Gym's floor for the first time this season at 5 p.m. tonight against Houston (1-1).

Cal Poly's wear 9-3 at home last year, 5-2 in conference with an 11-4 points-per-victory average. The Mustangs home record trailed only that of UC Riverside (11-1, 7-0 Big West) and the Mustangs beat UC Riverside 64-56 on Feb. 22, 2007 at Mott Gym. Another impressive home victory was a 66-63 topping of Oregon State on Nov. 14, 2006 — the program's free Pac-10 victory since 1977-78.

SAN JOSE — Junior forward Morgan Harrison's 29-point, 13-rebound double-double and senior guard Sparkle Anderson's 15-point contribution helped the Mustangs conquer the San Jose State Spartans in a 74-70 comeback Tuesday.

The Cal Poly women's basketball team (1-1) led only once during the first half but they outscored the Spartans 13-36-33, when it counted in the last 20 minutes of the contest. Anderson, who came off the bench, fueled the Mustangs' turnaround shooting 5-for-7 and scoring 12 in the second half. Harrison reached double-digit scoring figures for the seventh time in a row, carrying over from last season.

A Harrison layup shortly after tip-off re-aided in Poly's only lead of the half at 6-4. An 11-2 Spartan run quickly ensued and with four-and-a-half minutes on the clock, San Jose State led 33-24.

The Mustangs held the Spartans to 10 points in the next 14 minutes and then took a 45-43 lead following a bucket by senior guard Kyle Howell.

The Mustangs' defense shut down San Jose State to an 18-point margin in the final half hour. Poly's defense held the Spartans to 39 percent shooting from the floor.

The Spartans (0-2) scored the first 10 points of the game as they took a 12-2 lead, but Poly stormed back in the second half. The Mustangs went into halftime with a 43-36 lead.

The Mustangs scored 12 of the first 13 points in the second half as they took an 83-73 lead with 1:50 on the clock. The Mustangs also out-rebounded San Jose State 44-32, including 15-7 on the offensive boards.

The Mustangs scored 14 straight points over the final 8:45 of the game, but the Spartans answered with a 12-0 run to make it 87-75 with 9:36 to play.

Junior guard Marisa Madore and sophomore guard Ashley Drabot each contributed eight points on Tuesday.

San José State Spartans in a 74-70 comeback Tues­ scored the Spartans (0-2) 42-35, when it count­ day.
Jessica Ford

MUSTANG DAILY

This past weekend was filled with multiple wins and honors for the Cal Poly men's water polo team.

The team won the 2007 Men's National Collegiate Club Championships hosted by the University of Arizona from Nov. 9 to Nov. 11.

After winning the 2007 Pacific Coast Championships, the team advanced to nationals, where it beat Michigan State, the 2006 titleholder, 7-6 to capture the crown.

The win marked Poly's fifth national title.

"This season our team came together and played as one. We struggled through injuries and tough losses during the season, but when it came time to put everything together we were unstoppable," said Josh Mix, team president and agribusiness senior. "All of the box scores proved our depth with all players scoring or contributing."

Head coach Matt Landre was named Coach of the Year for helping the Mustangs to the title, which Mix attributed to Harris' performance in the championship game, ending the Mustangs with the MVP, really," Harris said.

Senior Daniel Harris was named MVP of the tournament for leading the Mustangs to the title.

Brandon Ross and goalie Casey Ryan made Second Team.

The championship game against Michigan State was tight and lasted into overtime. Harris made two critical goals during the extra periods to secure the win.

Michigan State was able to make one goal during overtime but couldn't get another shot past Ryan.

Cal Poly took the lead early in the game with two goals, but Michigan State surprised Poly at the end of the second quarter (3-2). The score reached 4-4 by the fourth quarter. Both teams made a goal during the final quarter to tie 5-5, pushing the game into overtime.

Harris had a total of four goals during the game and Smilie had three. Ryan had a total of eight saves. The Mustangs ended up with six ejections compared to Michigan's eight.

Cal Poly played in its first game Friday against Georgia Tech and won 16-2. Eleven players on the team, including Mix, Erzen, Justin Lekos, Bryce Sigourney and Bryson Bailey, combined to score the 16 goals for Poly.

The Mustangs won their second game 15-4 against Middlebury College Saturday afternoon. Ross led the team with five goals and Erzen and Aaron Shirling followed with two goals each. Ryan made nine saves for the Mustangs.

Their third win was against Miami University by a score of 13-2 Saturday night in the semifinals. Ryan made 13 saves for Poly, earning himself Player of the Game honors. Erzen, with three goals and Ross with two, helped secure Cal Poly's spot in the finals.

The team will begin off-season practices in the spring and hopes to defend its title next season, Mix said.

"I know next season we will be coming with the same intensity as we did this season. Our team has a lot older guys, but it also has a lot of new talent waiting for their chance to step up," Harris said.

Senior Daniel Harris was named MVP of the national tournament for helping lead the Mustangs to the title.

Men's basketball reunites with a past conference foe

The Cal Poly men's basketball team doesn't begin Big West Conference play until January, but its home opener should have a vintage feel of that kind of rivalry when Utah State visits Mott Gym at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

In their last venture to Cal Poly, the Aggies (2-1) beat the Mustangs 81-57 in the teams' final conference meeting Feb. 3, 2009.

The Mustangs (1-2) defeated Northern Illinois 88-78 Sunday, led by junior guard Trac Clark's 22 points and seven assists, as well as senior forward Matt Hanson's 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Senior forward Dreshawn Vance added 14 points, six rebounds and a team-high two blocks in just 19 minutes in the victory.

Utah State, meanwhile, is led by senior guard Jaycee Carroll, who comes into tonight's contest averaging 22.7 points per game. Carroll, a 52-percent 3-point shooter, also leads the Aggies in rebounding by pulling down 7.3 boards per contest.

The Aggies — whose main inside presence is 6-foot-9, 240-pound junior forward Gary Wilkinson — are coming off a 77-58 victory over Montana-Western on Monday.

Wilkinson is averaging 14.3 points, 5.3 rebounds and two blocks per game this year.

Utah State enters tonight's game shooting more than five-percent better from the field than the Mustangs, nearly 10-percent better from 3-point range and more than 13-percent better from the free-throw line.

Cal Poly's first win came on the heels of the first two days of the BTI Tipoff Tournament in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where it fell to Massachusetts 90-64 Friday before being edged by Northern Iowa 62-55 Saturday.

'The Mustangs"