The senior project of dreams

Jessica Ford
MUSTANG DAILY

Nine Beirut tables, countless amounts of white cups and flowing beer wouldn't remind most people of a senior project.

However, every Wednesday night Downtown Brewing Co. hosts the Downtown Beirut League (DTBL), a former senior project. Cal Poly graduates Tyson Briner and Hayes Metzger worked with current business administration senior Steven Larsen last year to create the DTBL.

The league is made up of 72 two-player teams and is comprised mostly of Cal Poly students. "The main objective of the Downtown Beirut League is to be able to provide an environment for students, really all people of legal drinking age, to come together and play the game of Beirut," Larsen said.

The teams play two games of Beirut at 9 p.m. every Wednesday on the upstairs level of Downtown Brewing Co., which started as a senior project.

"It's fun playing Beirut, anyway, so a bar with good beer makes it that much better," said Chris Tennant, a DTBL participant and construction management senior.

The regular season ended last week and all 72 teams began competing in double-elimination playoffs last night. A first loss in the playoffs sends a team down to the losers' bracket and a second loss leads to elimination.

Playoffs will continue on Nov. 26, 28, 29 and Dec. 1. The top three teams going into playoffs are The Brick House, Local Privilege and The Sharks.

The winning team will become "Lifetime Downtown Brew" members and only pay $1 a pint for any Downtown Brewing Co. beer for the rest of their lives.

The league has multiple female teams competing this season. "None of the guys take us seriously because we are an all-girl team," said Jamie Antonioli, a DTBL participant and business administration senior. "Of course there are always a few drunk assholes, but for the most part it has been really fun. Some of the teams get too intense, but we are just there to have a good time."

The cost of joining the league is $25 per player per season and each season runs for eight weeks. The cost includes a T-shirt, registration fees and all supplies needed for the Beirut games. All profits from the league go to Downtown Brew, see Beirut, page 2.

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When on campus, Cal Poly faculty and students never hear the familiar "Always Coca-Cola" jingle. And they won't, at least not until the year 2009.

The university has a contract with PepsiCo Inc. to only sell their products until June 30, 2009. Before the agreement, which began in 2004, Cal Poly carried Coca-Cola, Pepsi and other products on campus.

Now, Cal Poly only sells brands owned by PepsiCo Inc., including Mountain Dew, Tropicana, Gatorade and Aquafina drinking water. Starbuck products, which are purchased through PepsiCo Inc., are also available on campus.

"Pepsi provides about $180,000 per year and this money is used for scholarships, support of student programs, summer internships, marketing and capital needs on campus," said Bonnie Murphy, executive director of the Cal Poly Corporation.

Cal Poly goes through a three-step process to determine which products will be available on campus. First, the university develops a set of specifications, then advertises for companies to bid on the contract, and makes a choice after evaluating the bids, Murphy said.

Before the Pepsi contract expires in 2009, Coca-Cola and other companies will have the chance to re-bid on the contract.

The current Pepsi supremacy at Cal Poly even runs into on-campus events. When the student-run marketing firm New Wave Promotions held an event Nov. 6 to introduce the 2008 Honda Accord Coupe, the group was only allowed to pass out Aquafina water bottles to students, said Lauren Elliott, a member of the firm's events team. The firm is made up of 22 Cal Poly business seniors.

"We were initially planning on purchasing Costco water bottles. However, when we learned of this restriction, we were in a time crunch and had to buy Aquafina products directly from campus, rather than trying to get them donated. It ended up being one of our biggest expenses," Elliott said.

According to the Cal Poly campus food services policy (dated March 23, 2005), "The University recognizes the role of food in the activities of campus departments and students organizations. In an effort to support campus department and student organizations and to ensure the safety of food provided on campus, campus organizations shall adhere to 'Event Restrictions.'"

One rule includes that food and drinks provided at on-campus events must be purchased from Campus Dining or Campus Catering, and in the event of Cal Poly's exclusive contract with PepsiCo Inc., all drinks provided at these events must be Pepsi products.

The campus food policy directly states that under the Pepsi contract, "non-Pepsi products are generally not authorized to be given away or sold on campus. This exclusivity includes sampling, promotions for, and distribution of non-Pepsi soft drinks, sport drinks, juice or juice-based products, ready-to-drink coffee, see Pepsi, page 2.
UC to separate Asian ethnicities in applications

Christina Brown

LOS ANGELES — At the “Out of the Margins” conference on Friday, speakers described the story of a California student who was pulled out of her classes and placed in English as a second language, even though she had the highest grade in her honors English class.

The panelists also discussed legislative staff in Sacramento who did not have data on teen pregnancy rates among Asian Americans because they “didn’t think Asian kids got pregnant.”

Stories of misconceptions and many more like these were discussed at the conference.

Professors, graduate students and student leaders spoke about the problems Asians and Pacific Islanders face in the educational system and the misconception that all Asians are performing well.

Professors from throughout the University of California system were present, along with Chancellor Gene Block and professors from other universities.

Judy Sakai, UC vice president of student affairs, also announced at the conference that, starting in 2008, the UC system will begin disaggregating the data for Asian and Pacific Islander applicants, so students can choose a more specific category for their ethnicity.

The new application will include 23 questions, two of which are the options available now — and will split Pacific Islander completely from Asian American.

This change is a direct result of the Count Me In! campaign created by UCLA’s Asian Pacific Coalition, Sakai said.

Started last spring and spreading to other UC campuses over the summer, the campaign aimed to disaggregate the data collected for Asians and Pacific Islanders because, though Asians are performing similar to whites in terms of higher education, many subgroups, such as Hmong and Khmer, are performing much lower.

Cambridge, director of the Asian Pacific Coalition and a speaker at the conference, said she was thrilled the gathering of Asian and Pacific Islander leaders was present, along with Chancellor Mike Geoffrey Smith.

After the conference, several speakers said they hoped progress could come out of having this dialogue.

“We want to learn,” Eng said. “I need more information, so I can be a more effective legislator.”

Many speakers also discussed how Americans tend to think of Asians as an academically homogenous group, when actually they have the widest distribution of SAT scores of any minority group.

Participants that take the league very seriously and consider Beirut a professional sport.

There is a myth that all (Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders) are doing well, said. Without official information from the UC, it is hard to get funding,” Shikai said.

“The Asian Pacific Coalition, 21 different Asian and Pacific Islander student organizations at UC LA, worked to collect 4,000 postcards from people supporting disaggregation of Asian and Pacific Islander data, which will show how certain ethnic groups fall and don’t fall for it all much better, according to the Asian Pacific Legal Center.

Native Guamanian Christine Santos, a co-chairwoman of the Pacific Islands Student Association, said she was upset when applying to the UC system because Pacific Islander was listed under “other Asian.”

“But we aren’t even Asian,” she said. “We are not being heard in the higher education system. They don’t even know our identity.”

Santos helped found Count Me In! and said she was thrilled that some of its goals were met so quickly.

“People think students don’t have power, but we do,” she said. “We can affect policy.”

There were also community members and policy-makers at the conference, including state Assemblyman Mike Eng, D-San Gabriel, who spoke about the ignorance in Sacramento on Asian and Pacific Islander issues.

Eng said the data simply has not been collected for Asian and Pacific Islanders regarding imprisonment, gang, and pregnancy, and he asked that the faculty present at the conference do research in these areas.

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Students who want some privacy restrictions block Cal Poly from verifying any data without the signature of the Student.

These rules and regulations for food service "in order to ensure the safety and consistency of the products provided and service of those products," according to Cal Poly food service policy.

Cal Poly can only sell Pepsi-brand beverages under its current contract until June 30, 2009.

Beirut continued

Larsen said.

When the league was created two years ago, there were only 32 teams and four Beirut tables. This fall, more than 80 teams signed up within 18 hours of the start of online registration, Larsen said.

The DTBL has official rules and regulations that players must follow. Some of the rules include specifics on air balls, bounces, re-racks and rebuys.

Referees keep score and have the final say in any disputes teams may have.

Players are not required to play Beirut with beer; they always have the option of playing with non-alcoholic beverages.

“You don’t have to use beer, you can really use anything,” Larsen said. “We have had girl’s use soda before. They didn’t want to drink that night.”

Briner, Metzger and Larsen were able to use the Beirut from a senior project by creating a detailed business plan and through the use of the Software as a Service (SaaS) business model. The league follows the Sure’s model by running itself from the Web site socalbeirut.com.

Larsen said there were many participants that take the league very seriously and consider Beirut a professional sport.

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Wait, Director of the Office of Academic Records. "And vendors that Cal Poly contracts out with are required to sign a confidentiality agreement."

Wait said the agreement includes a statement that vendors must sign that says they will not sell the student information or use it for any other purpose than originally intended.

According to the Office of Academic Records there are two different restrictions that students can plan on their personal information.

Directory information restriction in which the student is known by name, local address, telephone number and e-mail address. The default setting for Cal Poly students is unrestricted. Students who wish to restrict their privacy, are responsible for changing the setting on their personal information tab at http://my.calpoly.edu.

"I think it should be the other way around where you have to box it if you want to release your information," said biology freshman Katherine White.

There are disadvantages to students who choose the privacy restrictions on their personal information; students will not be included in the Cal Poly on-line directory or the ASI student directory, and will not receive mailings from clubs or the Alumni Association.

Additionally, students with directory information restrictions block Cal Poly from verifying any data without the signature of the Student.

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FRESNO (AP) — The nation's largest car companies on Monday sought to persuade a federal judge to toss out California's strict tailpipe emissions standards, which they say could wreck the domestic auto market and prompt job losses at auto plants nationwide.

The standards, which were passed into law in 2002, force automakers to build new cars and trucks that pump out 30 percent less greenhouse gases by 2016 or take other alternative steps to lower their pollution.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco shoppers will have one less choice in the checkout line as the city prepares to put its plastic bag ban into effect.

The ban also requires pharmacy chains to eliminate similar plastic bags, typically degradable plastic bags, typically made from corn byproducts.

Official say the estimated 180 million plastic bags handed out in the city each year cause litter, hurt wildlife and often end up in the middle of the Pacific.

A city ordinance passed in March and set to go into effect Tuesday forbids the use of traditional plastic bags by large grocery stores.

The stores can still use biodegradable plastic bags, typically made from corn byproducts.

Officials say the estimated 180 million plastic bags handed out in the city each year cause litter, hurt wildlife and often end up in a massive patch of swirling plastic junk in the middle of the Pacific.

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Bush gives thanks at first Thanksgiving site

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi soldiers detained two American security guards along with several other foreigners traveling in a private security convoy after they opened fire Monday in Baghdad, wounding one man, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

U.S. military and embassy officials had no immediate information about the report, which follows a series of recent shootings in which foreign security guards have allegedly killed Iraqis.

Last month, the Iraqi Cabinet sent parliament a bill to lift immunity for foreign private security companies that has been in effect since the U.S. occupation began in 2003.

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The presidents of Venezuela and Iran boasted Monday that they will defeat U.S. imperialism together, saying the fall of the dollar is a prelude to the end of Washington's global dominance.

Hugo Chavez's visit to Mah­mod Ahmadinejad in Tehran fol­lowed a failed weekend attempt by the firebrand duo to push the Or­ganization of Petroleum Export­ing States away from trading in the slumping greenback.

Their proposal at an OPEC summit was overruled by other cartel members led by Saudi Ara­bia, a strong U.S. ally.

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What law school ought to be.
FBI reports hate crimes were up nearly 8 percent in 2006

Michael J. Sniffen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hate crime incidents rose nearly 8 percent last year — more than half motivated by racial prejudice, the FBI reported Monday, as civil rights advocates increasingly take to the streets to protest what they call official indifference to intimidation and attacks against blacks and other minorities.

Police across the nation reported 7,722 criminal incidents in 2006 targeting victims or property as a result of bias against a race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or national origin or physical or mental disability. That was up 7.8 percent from 7,163 incidents reported in 2005.

Although the noose incidents and beatings among students at the Jena, La., high school occurred in the last half of 2005, they were not included in the report. Only 12,600 of the nation's more than 17,000 local, county, state and federal police agencies participated in the hate crime reporting program in 2006 and neither Jena nor LaSalle Parish, in which the town is located, were among the agencies reporting.

Nevertheless, the Jena incidents, and a subsequent rash of noose and other racial incidents around the country, have spawned civil rights demonstrations that culminated last week at Justice Department headquarters. The department said it investigated the Jena incident but decided not to prosecute because the federal government does not typically bring hate crime charges against juveniles.

Organizers said 100 bales of protesters joined Friday's march here. In September, an estimated 20,000 protesters marched through Jena, La. On Nov. 3, hundreds of protesters marched downtown Charleston, W.Va., to urge prosecutors to add hate crime charges against six white people charged in the beating, torture and sexual assault of a 28-year-old black woman who was discovered Sept. 8 after several days of alleged captivity in a rural trailer.

The Jena case began in August 2006 after a black student sat under a tree known as a gathering spot for white students. Three white students were arrested by LaSalle Parish, in which the town is located, were among the agencies reporting.

“...the FBI report confirms what we have been saying for many months about the severe increase in hate crimes,” said the Rev. Al Sharpton, who organized Friday's march. “What is not reported, however, is the lack of prosecution and serious investigation by the Justice Department to counter this increase in hate crimes.”

The FBI report does not break out the number of noose incidents but the two most frequent hate crimes in 2006 were property damage or vandalism, at 2,911 offenses, and intimidation, at 2,046 offenses. There were 3 murders, 6 rapes, 860 aggravated assaults, 1,447 simple assaults and 41 arson.

Thousands of people march around the Justice Department during the "March Against Hate Crimes" to protest hate crime issues.

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'Evita' comes to SLO

Cristina Albers

Cal Poly will serve as a national tour stop for the dramatic Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Evita" on Oct. 20 and 21 in the Performing Arts Center.

The winner of seven Tony awards, "Evita" brings to campus the ability to see Broadway's most dynamic anthems, "Don't Cry For Me, Argentina." This epic story is told in the style of a pop opera, with a rich influence of Latin and jazz music in the score, and it features one of Broadway's most dynamic vocalists, Luciana Dotti. Tony awards, "Evita" brings the audience the ability to see Broadway's most dynamic anthems, "Don't Cry For Me, Argentina." This epic story is told in the style of a pop opera, with a rich influence of Latin and jazz music in the score, and it features one of Broadway's most dynamic vocalists, Luciana Dotti.
Looking for happiness?

Daniel Gilbert’s ‘Stumbling on Happiness’ explores our elusive pursuit of contentment

If I were to tell you a psychologist had written a best-seller called “Stumbling on Happiness,” you might think it’s a “how-to” book of sorts, a guide offering anecdotes and advice on the whys and ways of happiness. You would, however, be wrong. And that, in a way, is precisely the point of Daniel Gilbert’s book, as well as an illustration of just how it is otherwise bright and capable people who often reach for happiness only to have it elude them.

But if the book is not about finding happiness, what is it about?

Before answering, let’s take a look at some of the questions posed on the dust jacket to get an idea of what the book will explore as it confronts the existential problem of stumbling on happiness: “Why are lovers quicker to forgive their partners for infidelity than for dirty dishes in the sink? Why will sighted people pay more to avoid going blind than for different meals instead of getting what they really want?”

As he impishly notes early on, “No one can answer these questions. That’s why I wrote the book.”

In addition to being a Harvard psychologist, Gilbert is a journalist and short story writer, whose last two occupations are not incidental to the book’s appeal. Although the book contains a fair amount of empirical research, his prose is consistently fluid, witty and lively.

Cases in point: “My friends tell me that I am an incredibly optimistic person. They say how you will feel when you get to the end of this book, and that includes the you who is about to start it. But if your future self is not satisfied when it arrives at the last page, it will at least understand why you mistakenly thought it would be.”

He does, however, have one idea on what would help people increase their happiness, and it is a unique one. As for what it is, though, I will allow you to discover that for yourself.

Quentin Dunne is a psychology graduate student and Mustang Daily book reviewer.

I should do about it?” Or, “Like most people, you don’t want to know you’re like most people.”

Gilbert writes with an engaging voice that made me wish other writers of psychology books shared his gift for being simultaneously insightful, informative and playful.

Oh yes, back to the beginning. While this is not a book on how to be happy, I have seen it lazily shelved in the “Self-Improvement” section of a number of bookstores. (To be fair, there aren’t many “Self Understanding” sections, where it would be more appropriately located.) So if a reader picked it up looking for simple answers on how to achieve happiness, he would, of course, be disappointed. Because, as Gilbert expertly illustrates time and again, it is the gap between what we anticipate and what reality presents us with that leads us to stumble on happiness.

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As he impishly notes early on, “No one can say how you will feel when you get to the end of this book, and that includes the you who is about to start it. But if your future self is not satisfied when it arrives at the last page, it will at least understand why you mistakenly thought it would be.”

He does, however, have one idea on what would help people increase their happiness, and it is a unique one. As for what it is, though, I will allow you to discover that for yourself.

Quentin Dunne is a psychology graduate student and Mustang Daily book reviewer.
Local artists showcase various pieces, including a collage, ribbon cane-glass canoes and "recycled junk" jewelry. The exhibit, "Designed to be Different," is showing until Jan. 13, 2008.

Sara Wright
MUSTANG DAILY

A diverse selection of artwork, from porcelain and ceramic sculptures to drawings to glass pieces by talented local artists is now on display at the San Luis Obispo Art Center and will be there until Jan. 13, 2008.

"We're delighted to have these 14 artists represent the art of fine crafts," said Karen Kyle, the center's executive director.

The featured artists are all local, and some are nationally or internationally regarded.

At the entrance of the exhibit is a breathtaking ceramic piece by Guyla Amyx. The work, titled "Does Balance Bring Wisdom?" includes a raven perched on the head of a figure amidst dull orange flames.

Also near the front of the exhibit is Marcia Kocka's featured work, which includes an abstract sculpture of busy black and white zigzag patterns titled "Caffeine High."

Hung on the wall are three brightly colored pieces of mosaic tile — one with a mirror in the center and two expressing religious meaning through crosses — by Susanne Baca, who has worked with Santo for years.

Donald Frith created two medium-size glass pieces of deep purples and blues that resemble teapots, titled "Teapot #706" and "Teapot #709." The dainty crafts have solid glass handles and well-blended colors that indicate their high quality.

Next to the teapots is an elaborate and impressive piece by Xandra Shaw called "Horns of Asia," which includes beautiful and colorful flowers, and shapes made of fiber, paper and beads that stretch several feet down the wall.

Two ceramic wavelike sculptures, titled "Overture" and "XTRx3," are displayed in the center of the room on stands. The creator of the ridged works is William Shum, an internationally recognized artist.

In his San Francisco studio, Alexander Abajian made small ribbon cane-glass canoes and emphasized that art takes them "where the currents may take them."

Priscilla Beadle fashioned three fantastic pieces of jewelry hung side by side that were made from a variety of materials, including turquoise and silver, clay and "recycled junk."

In glass cases are two delicate paper bowl-shaped creations by Beryl Reichenberg that impart a peaceful, natural air with their woven detail.

"Delphiniums and Daisies" by Jackie Bradley is hung in the far corner attracting attention with its subtle color and great detail in the flowers.

Sandra Key Johnson has two of her pieces featured in the exhibit, including "Reflections," a framed work of dyes on a silk collage, and "Home Sweet Home Trombone," a whimsical structure including a potted plant with the branches woven about a trombone.

"It's great to have her work here; it's been so long," Kyle said about Johnson's work. "Her pieces are so whimsical and yet so fine."

The San Luis Obispo Art Center is located at 1010 Broad St.

Gold's Gym is Opening in San Luis Obispo

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Guilt-free Thanksgiving

When we think of Thanksgiving, it brings us a sense of comfort and happiness. We get a chance to escape our demanding lives as college students and come home for the holidays to good food, old friends, loving family, and did I mention good food? However, for some people the thought of Thanksgiving feasts brings us a little anxiety about over-indulging in high-calorie holiday foods. Did you know that the average Thanksgiving dinner has 2,000 to 3,000 calories? It seems contradictory to put the words “healthy” and “Thanksgiving” in the same sentence, but I swear it’s doable! I put together a few tips that will help Turkey Day go a little smoother for both your waistline and your conscience.

Don’t go hungry
Remember not to starve yourself beforehand, because you will most likely eat more and faster if you’re super-hungry. This means don’t skip breakfast and fill up with whole-grain crackers, fruit and raw vegetables if hunger pang strike before the big feast. Don’t skip any meals and have a light lunch on Thanksgiving. This will help to stop you from stuffing yourself on high-calorie foods when dinner is served.

White is light
Turkey has very little fat, is full of protein and is an important source of B vitamins. Your best bet is white meat, but be sure to remove the skin first. A three-ounce serving of skinless turkey breast has about 25 grams of protein, 120 calories and 1 gram of fat. Dark meat is higher in calories, fat and saturated fat.

Dressing, not stuffing
Do not cook stuffing inside the turkey, because it may not get cooked enough to avoid food-borne illnesses. Thanksgiving Day has the highest rate of food poisoning than any other day of the year. Also, stuffing draws moisture and fat from the turkey, making the meat drier and the stuffing higher in calories.

Baked is better
Sweet potatoes are a rich source of beta-carotene, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin E, potassium and fiber. Try to leave out the butter and excess sugar. Instead try orange juice and a sprinkling of cinnamon on mashed potatoes or candied yams. Baked sweet potatoes are lower in calories and fat than buttery mashed potatoes or candied yams.

Cold killer
Cranberries are a great source of vitamin C, and contain compounds that block certain bacteria that cause infections. Cranberries are packed with dozens of different antioxidants. If you make your own cranberry sauce from whole berries, you’ll get a tastier and less sugary sauce than you can get out of a can. Add oranges or make cranberry-orange sauce and you add even more vitamin C. Spoon cranberry sauce over turkey and stuffing instead of meat-based gravy to decrease calories and perhaps help fight that impending cold at the same time.

Drink plenty of water
Alcohol and coffee can dehydrate your body. Drink calorie-free water to help fill up your stomach. Drink plenty of water before and during the meal, instead of high-calorie, high-sugar beverages. This will help to keep you full without adding calories. And if you want beer, wine, soft drinks, or other beverages that can have high calorie counts, have just one and then switch to sparkling water with a dash of fruit juice.

Portion control
First of all, decide on the amount of food you’re going to eat. Fill your plate half with vegetables, one quarter with a lean meat and the rest with a grain or starch of your choice. You can eat everything offered at Thanksgiving, just try everything in small amounts. All the different flavors will actually trick your body into thinking it is more satisfying without feeling deprived.

Don’t feast too fast
Eat slowly and stop when you are full. Take the time to stop and enjoy your loved ones instead of stuffing your face with butter mashed potatoes. Remember the point of getting together with your family isn’t just all the yummy food. Focus on your family and friends and all of the other things you can be thankful for. Also, enjoy the flavors and textures of the food. It will really help you feel fuller faster because it takes time to stop and enjoy your loved ones instead of stuffing your face with butter mashed potatoes.

Check your PULSE
by Sarah Bailey

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Tuesday, November 20, 2007

www.mustangdailynet.com

Give thanks through food

In the era of skinny jeans and endless summer weather, being healthy seems to be the new norm. Everywhere I go people are lacing up their jogging shoes and laying off their junk food, touting the trendiest and most effective way to shed pounds. It seems to be such a coming fad that even magazines and television stations are changing their current lifestyles.

I was going about my bi-weekly shopping routine at the grocery store stopped by the magazine aisle — a habit I can’t resist — and I picked up the three that interested me the most.

When I got home I started my journey through the 143 pages of how-tos and the hottest trends; I noticed that every section focused on how to beat the holiday weight gain. It seems to be the newest trend.

The articles covered every topic between “How to Full Proof Your Thanksgiving Feast from Fat,” to “Heading the Holiday Weight Before It Begins.”

Now, it’s understandable that these are valuable tips for anyone looking to add a little bit of healthy flair to their lifestyle. Not to mention, we all know how much easier it is to pack on a few extra inches during the fall-off season.

But it goes even far as to tell you the perfect Thanksgiving Day workout and personal training plan for “Turkey Walks” you can follow once you finish your Thanksgiving turkey. It seems to be following you within your city.

All of this was recommended to take part during your actual feast so you wouldn’t consume as much. I decided to take these tips into consideration but not to count them out of my diet completely. I started following a new routine.

I am a 20 Cal Poly alumna in international business and still leg on to the Mustang Daily’s opinion section on occasion to see what is happening at my alma mater. This time I came across returns to a previous day’s column, “America: The Super Culture,” and was so intrigued I read the cited article.

At first I was astounded to read such a column coming from an international business senior, considering the major’s curriculum is intended to raise cultural issues and empathy, thereby allowing us to function productively and peacefully in foreign countries or at least with foreign partners and subsidiaries.

But then I returned this to 2002, when I was planning on finishing out my international business degree with choosing to go to India. I did all my research and read up on Indian politics and the various social trends the country had grown up on.

I was, like Mr. Taylor, high and mighty in my conviction that there were no foreign eyes to Indian politics and that I would use my fellow Americans to see through the Indian citizens’ thinking to lend whatever insights I could during my four-month stay.

What I realized within a week of arriving in India is that what I knew of the country was what I came across through the lenses of foreigners (i.e., Americans) in evaluating a culture such as India.

See, here’s the thing — what gets written about the highly salient features. They are salient because they are unusual (as is rare). The other 99 percent of cultural aspects, which are part of the everyday fabric of one billion people, get very little mention because from the outside, nobody wants to know that at lunchtime the entire office sits down with their meals, sets them out for everyone to partake, and dines a communal that I never thought possible in the workplace.

Or that when a foreigner gets on a packed rush hour train, he or she will get at least three offers of assistance in navigating the appropriate stop. These beautiful aspects don’t reach the outside rocker because they are so common that they cannot be debated or sensationalized.

It is five years later and I am writing this from India. I found the culture so beautiful and the people so often amusing, that I chose to live here rather than stay in America.

Yes, Mr. Taylor, Americans do emigrate out of the United States. And I have met several people from the “developed Western world” who have chosen to come here and live as long-term expatriates. I’m not saying that there aren’t several aspects of Indian culture that aren’t challenging at times, there are indeed many problems. But they are all well known and well publicized, and efforts are underway to effect change.

In fact, it is the publicity these issues of celebrating a food festival may respect the place even more — there is very little NIMBY-type (Not In My Back Yard) thinking.

I am, for sure, not upset with how Mr. Taylor characterized India, his mention of suttee which, incidentally, doesn’t happen on occasion and is violently opposed by the vast majority of Indians even in the absence of the British or what would term as narrow-mindedness.

Mr. Taylor is not to blame for having these “insights” into the non-American world. I was a liberal, politically correct and politically active student and I found I also had the same prejudices once I was in a position to truly face myself. What I am frustrated with is our inability to recognize that what we tend to form our opinions on is based on the outsider who does not hear about the commercial aspects of the country we visit or the forever-happening two/cheesefood drivenresidents and the belly, and the other things that do make America one of the exceptional places to live.

Valerie Tipp is a Cal Poly alumna in Mumbai, India and a Mustang Daily guest columnist.

Shame on you, Cal Poly

To the Editor

Thank you

Today I’d like to write in and thank the Mustang Daily. I complained earlier about the long lag time before letters to the editor would appear. This has since been fixed, and I notice that public discussion on these pages is flourishing.

I’d also like to thank the Daily for providing these pages as an opportunity for students to express their views. This public forum is irreplaceable to the intellectual development of the student body.

So thank you to the Mustang Daily and those who keep it running. I appreciate the service you provide to the school.

Troy Kuersten

Antropology/Engineering/Physics senior

Life through a foreigner’s eyes

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Wrestlers win titles at Fullerton Open

Chad Mendes (141 pounds) and Chico Pani (157) won their respective brackets in the Cal State Fullerton Open Sunday in a very strong showing for Cal Poly wrestlers. Artemio Bandoni also took home a third-place medal for the Mustangs.

Mendes improved to 11-0 this season with a 6-0 shutout at Fullerton. Mendes won his first two matches by fall, one in 13 seconds and the next in 36 seconds. His next win came by technical fall; 17-2, over Ryan Stinn, a Cal Poly wrestler competing unattached. Mendes then defeated Juan Archuleta of Sacramento City College 7-5 before beating Teddy Astorga of Cal State Fullerton 7-3 to take the title.

Pani won his first match of the day by technical fall, 17-1, and went on to top Nick Antichnegai, a Stanford wrestler competing unattached 9-2. Pani then defeated Cal State Fullerton's Devin Ve- loquez 2-1 to reach the final and upset No. 6 Josh Zupanic of Stanford 3-2 to win the championship.

Bandoni fell 3-2 to Cal State Fullerton's John Drake in the semifinals, but went on to pin Wingco Grant of SFSU (2:23) and win a 5-1 decision over the Titans' Matt Methling to capture third.

Cal Poly will see its next action at 6 p.m. Nov. 28 as the Mustangs head back to Cal State Fullerton for a Pac-10 dual.

Conference
continued from page 12
ther details.
Mustang women's basketball, on the other hand, has started with a 2-1,.60 Big West record. The team sport you can imagine and individual sports as well. Our team knows all about that," head coach Curt Mummaghan said. Mummaghan expressed hope in disrupting the younger Brums in UCLA's backcourt with the more experienced Mustangs.

"They're very athletic, they're very good, and we've obviously got our hands full hitting them on the road."
The Cal Poly men's cross country team was 11th at the NCAA Championships this year, missing a chance to qualify for the College Cup. The Mustangs were 11th overall in 2006 en route to being the High-Competition West Region. It was just an outstanding race,” Cal Poly coach Mark Conover said. “We were probably the deepest field in the last 10 years. I told the team, if we can get five guys around 100th place, we can be in the top 15 and you don’t have to be a hero to do that.”

The Mustangs entered a similar pack running strategy at the NCAA Championships and finished within nine seconds of each other. Troy Swier, Evan Anderson, Matt Johndro and Jeff Leie ran in a tight pack and finished within nine seconds of each other. “I would say we moved from being somewhere around 15th to 20th all the way up to 11th in the last 2 kilometers,” Conover said. “Those five really had solid races. Troy, Evan, Matt and Jeff finishing within nine seconds of each other — that’s what got the job done.”

Cal Poly tallied 367 points to Cal Poly fell 2-1 over UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis.

The Mustangs have finished No. 31 in the latest RPI standings and third overall as the Big West Conference behind UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis.

“Would you want to be a hero to do that?” Conover said. “We aren’t going anywhere. Coach Holocher isn’t going to stop until he gets a national championship.”

Ellerson, 25, led the Mustangs to a 10-6-3-4 record in his second season at the helm. The Mustangs ended the season with a 2-1 victory over the University of Texas at Austin, 1-0 over Cal State Northridge, and 1-0 over (Cal State Northridge on Nov. 7, anchored the defense most of the year for the Mustangs, who finished in third place in the Big West Conference.

The Mustangs look forward to training during the off-season that will lead into next year’s season. Ellerson said they will have their future practices on what the players have learned from the 2007 season. “The hard work starts,” Ellerson said. “You still have to coach, still have to lift weights, still have to train, still have to practice, you have to be a little bit lucky and a little bit smart. Already you can start getting a little bit excited, as fast as that season was over you can start looking forward to playing the next one.”

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