As winter approaches, the West is preparing for the ski season. Here's a summary of some of the key ski resorts:

- ** Heavenly, California**: Heavenly is the region's largest mountain resort, with the largest vertical drop and highest elevation. It has an average of 325 inches of annual snowfall and 655 acres of skiable terrain as well as six lifts. Thirty-six percent of the runs are for experts, 40 percent are intermediate, 20 percent are for beginners, and 10 percent are advanced. A one-day lift ticket costs $87.

- **Bear Mountain, California**: Bear Mountain Resort is known for its night skiing and snowboarding. It has an average of 250 inches of annual snowfall and 498 skiable acres. Twenty percent of the runs are for experts, 40 percent are intermediate, and 20 percent are beginner runs. A one-day lift ticket costs $55.

- **Mammoth Mountain, California**: Mammoth Mountain is known for its terrain parks and half-pipe for snowboarders. It has an average of 385 inches of annual snowfall and 3,300 skiable acres. Twenty-five percent of the runs are for experts, 40 percent are intermediate, and 25 percent for beginners. A one-day lift ticket costs $55.

- **Aspen Snowmass, Colorado**: Aspen Snowmass is the world's largest ski resort with 5,200 acres of skiable terrain and 30 lifts. It has an average of 336 inches of annual snowfall and 550 skiable acres. Twenty percent of the runs are for experts, 40 percent are intermediate, and 20 percent are beginner runs. A one-day lift ticket costs $87.

- **Diamond Peak, Nevada**: Diamond Peak Resort in Incline Village, Nevada, is just under a seven-hour drive from California. It has an average of 325 inches of annual snowfall and 655 acres of skiable terrain as well as six lifts. Thirty-six percent of the runs are advanced, 40 percent are intermediate, and 10 percent are beginner runs. A one-day lift ticket costs $87.

- **Alpine Meadows, Oregon**: Alpine Meadows is a challenging terrain for all ability levels. It has an average of 360 inches of annual snowfall and 4,800 skiable acres. Twenty-five percent of the runs are for experts, 40 percent are intermediate, and 20 percent are beginner runs. A one-day lift ticket costs $87.

- **Mammoth Lakes, California**: Mammoth Lakes is a seven-hour drive from Los Angeles and has accommodations for all ability levels. The general price of a one-day adult lift ticket is $55, but can be more costly depending on what point in the season the ticket is purchased.

These resorts offer a variety of services and amenities to cater to different tastes and needs, making the skiing experience enjoyable for all.
The gift that keeps on giving

Mollie Helmut

As the days count down to (enter respective holiday here), it seems everyone is preparing for the impending month of festivities. Downtown has created a vertebrate winter wonderland, with The Network laced in snowflakes, Bath and Body Works flashing upside-down with cinnamon trees and sparkling holiday dresses in the Express display windows. The commercialized holiday traditions effectively create intense pressure on shoppers to find gifts for everyone on their list.

"It's hard to know what people like, so you end up getting them something for the sake of getting them something," said microbiology freshman Brooke Cates.

Is this really what the holiday season is all about? It could be. However, with organizations that offer alternative ways to gift-give this season, anyone can support communities that are able to feed a child for a year on the money spent for that Express holiday dress.

Life water International is a nonprofit humanitarian effort with a local branch in San Luis Obispo. For almost three decades, they have focused on creating sustainable water systems in Third World communities.

"We call it W.A.S.H. (water and sanitation hygiene)," said Sada Andrews, Lifewater community relations manager. "Basically, we focus on developing sustainable development processes." The organization resists sending volunteers to simply drill wells and fix hand pumps. They work instead with national organizations in that particular country to create a lasting, community-driven solution to unhealthy water systems.

"We're working right now with two Ugandan organizations and training them in various W.A.S.H. activities," Andrews said.

Lifewater is one of many humanitarian programs offering opportunities for alternative giving, explained Jenny Howell, a Lifewater intern and psychology senior. "A lot of people wish they could do something more," Howell said. "But you don't have to go to Africa and you don't have to give all your money. You can give something small that is actually reaching people who need it."

Lifewater has several Christmas gift packages, including a latrine for $25, a Biosand filter for $50 or a village-leader hygiene workshop for $100.

Instead of buying presents this year, my roommates and I are buying a (Lifewater) gift together," Howell said. "If it's not affordable, it's easy to share the investment with other people."

Lifewater sends a card to anyone who buys a gift, which states their mission and how the gift will be used. In the case of buying a gift in someone's name, they will send the card to the recipient if requested. The organization will also be represented at the Global Villages Bazaar, which features fair-trade merchants and will give further opportunity for sustainable gift-giving. The bazaar will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 8 and 9.

"I think everyone is sick of getting and giving things," Andrews said. "Alternative gift giving allows you to honor someone you love and want to honor for Christmas, but it gives the gift to someone who really needs it."
MCAT
Review Course
The tools you need to succeed!

NCB 0354
WINTER, 01/08/2008 - 04/30/2008
Tues., Thurs., 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Cal Poly campus, 24 meetings
Online registration fee:
On or before 12/22: $249.00
After 12/22: $299.00
By phone, fax or in person:
On or before 12/22: $265.00
After 12/22: $305.00

CAL POLY CONTINUING EDUCATION
AND UNIVERSITY OUTREACH
(805) 756-2053
www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu

Drawn to design: Club goes beyond Poly for ideas and inspiration

Laura Kasavan
MUSTANG DAILY

Rubber, spray paint and glue guns may not sound like a trio with a lot in common, but for Cal Poly’s floral design club, they are all standard components in the arrangement process.

Members use those tools along with glitter, plastic foam, wire and other elements to construct such creations as wreaths, centerpieces and other home decorative items. The club also accepts special orders with two weeks notice.

Inspiration for designs is drawn from trade shows and magazines. The group is resourceful and recycles all supplies into fresh, new pieces.

Shannon Carlisle, horticulture junior and club president, said she has gained many useful skills from her involvement and is more prepared for a future career. “I want to have my own business and do weddings,” Carlisle said.

Nicolete Lynch, journalism senior and club vice president, said the group of 10 women is small but effective. The club began at Cal Poly in 1996 under the leadership of Bob Gordon, a former instructor in the floral design department. After Gordon retired in 1991, the club took a hiatus until 1996, when current floral design instructor, Melissa Lynch, reinitiated the group.

“It’s exciting,” Lynch said. “I have a lot of students who have their own floral shops and two students have been inducted into the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD), which is the highest honor as a floral designer.”

She was inducted into AIFD in 2002 and has run her own design studio, Festive Designs, for 19 years.

Floral design club meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month in their workroom in Agricultural Sciences room 103.

Over the weekend, the club hosted floral design presentations and sold decorations at the Poly Plant Shop Holiday Open House.

Money raised at such events helps the group travel to design shows all over the state. In addition, a few members are part of a national floral design team that competes in an annual student competition sponsored by AIFD.

At the competition, students participate in five categories: bridal bouquet, flowers to wear (corsages and boutonnieres), sympathy (casket pieces and easels), dry arrangement and a holiday arrangement.

In July, the symposium was held in Palm Desert and of the six Cal Poly students who competed, five placed at least once, if not more times, in the top 10.

Next year the symposium will be held in Chicago, and team members are already preparing. “It’s a lot of fun and a really good experience,” Carlisle said. “You meet so many people.”

Melinda Lynch agreed that the event is an optimal opportunity to network.

“After students graduate, they can work in the industry,” she said. “There is a new product every day at the symposium and students can get jobs with those companies. The exposure to the floral industry is fabulous.”

Avoid Burnout

www.mustangdaily.net

We’ve got plenty of distractions.

MUSTANG DAILY NEWS
Monday, December 3, 2007
"How do you plan to spend your winter break?"
Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellinan

"I'm going to get a motorcycle and I'm going to go up the coast to British Columbia."
— Nick Utschig, computer engineering junior

"Going back to L.A. and spending time with my wife and maybe going to Disneyland."
— Norio Kobayashi, architecture junior

"I'm going to Cancun with my family and then going to L.A. for New Year's."
— Mahisha Patel, biology senior

"I'm going to Mexico with my church to hang out with kids."
— Christine Dewart, child development junior

**State**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The federal government on Friday accused a ship pilot and the owners of the container ship Cosco Busan of breaking environmental laws when the ship struck a bridge support in San Francisco Bay, spilling 88,000 gallons of toxic oil.

The Justice Department filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court here, alleging that the National Marine Sanctuary Act, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Park System Resource Protection Act were violated when the vessel struck a bridge support Nov. 7.

**National**

ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — A distraught man wearing what appeared to be a bomb walked into a Hillary Rodham Clinton campaign office Friday and demanded to speak to the candidate during a hostage drama that dragged on for nearly six hours before he peacefully surrendered.

Shortly after releasing the last of at least four hostages, Leeland Eisenberg walked out of the storefront office, put down a homemade bomb-like package and was immediately surrounded by SWAT team with guns drawn.

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Evel Knievel, the red-white-and-blue-spangled motorcycle daredevil whose jumps over crazy obstacles such as Greyhound buses, live sharks and Idaho's Snake River Canyon made him an international icon in the 1970s, died Friday. He was 69.

Knievel's death was confirmed by his granddaughter, Kristen Knievel. The had been in failing health for years, suffering from diabetes and pulmonary fibrosis, an incurable condition that scarred his lungs.

Knievel had undergone a liver transplant in 1999 after nearly dying of hepatitis C. Likely contracted through a blood transfusion after one of his bone-shattering spills.

**International**

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Thousands of Sudanese, many armed with clubs and swords and beating drums, burned pictures of a British teacher Friday and demanded her execution for insulting Islam by letting her students name a teddy bear Muhammad.

Sudan's Islamic government, which has long whipped up anti-Western, Muslim hard-line sentiment at home, was balancing between fueling outrage over the case of Gillian Gibbons and containing it.

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — A southern African radio correspondent has been receiving a flood of text messages and cell phone calls — some from offended listeners and readers, all because Kennedy Gondwe chose to get circumcised to protect himself from AIDS, and took the British Broadcasting Corp.'s radio and Web audience through the procedure with him Friday.

A study published in the Lancet medical journal in February concluded that the findings of three major trials show that circumcision can significantly decrease men's chances of contracting the virus that causes AIDS.
The San Luis Obispo Art Center is holding its annual Craft Art Market, which sells jewelry, ceramics, wall clocks and other goods from local artists. The event will be open through Dec. 31.

**Fandango Bistro**  
"Basque tapas, Fennel onion soup, Fresh seafood, Steaks, Pasta and more..."

Happy Hour Daily 4:00-6:00 PM  
Dinner served nightly at 5 PM  (Good Sunday)

Happy Holidays from Fandango Bistro  
805.544.5515  717 Higuera St., Downtown SLO

---

**Holiday films**

**The blockbusters:**  
"I Am Legend" is sure to be a hit this holiday season, although it isn’t a holiday movie. In theaters Dec. 14, "I Am Legend" is based on a novel of the same name by Richard Matheson about a brilliant scientist who could not contain a man-made virus that affected the human race. Robert Nevelle (Will Smith) is somehow immune as the last human survivor in New York City, but he is not alone. Directed by Francis Lawrence ("Constantine"), the film looks dark and compelling. To view the trailer, visit www.iamlegend.warnerbros.com.

"The Great Debaters," "Sweeney Todd" and "Charlie Wilson’s War" will be in theaters Christmas Day.

**Romance films:**  
"I Am Legend" is sure to be a hit this holiday season, although it isn’t a holiday movie. In theaters Dec. 14, "I Am Legend" is based on a novel of the same name by Richard Matheson about a brilliant scientist who could not contain a man-made virus that affected the human race. Robert Nevelle (Will Smith) is somehow immune as the last human survivor in New York City, but he is not alone. Directed by Francis Lawrence ("Constantine"), the film looks dark and compelling. To view the trailer, visit www.iamlegend.warnerbros.com.

"PS, I Love You," in theaters Dec. 21, is a film about a grieving widow whose late husband leaves messages that are intended to ease her grief. Based on the bestselling novel by Cecelia Ahern, the film features Academy Award winner Hilary Swank ("Million Dollar Baby") and Gerard Butler ("The Phantom of the Opera"). To view the trailer, visit www.psalovenmovie.warnerbros.com.

**Other films:**  
"Charlie Wilson’s War," in theaters Christmas Day and starring Academy Award winners Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts and Philip Seymour Hoffman, is the true story of how a Connor, a renegade CIA agent and a beautiful Houston socialite joined forces to lead the largest and most successful covert operation in history, contributing to the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. Directed by Mike Nichols ("Closer"), the film is sure to be inspirational at the very least.

"The Great Debaters," in theaters Christmas Day, is a film starring and directed by Academy Award winner Denzel Washington ("American Gangster: "Training Day"). Inspired by the true story of Melvin B. Tolson, a professor at Wiley College in Texas in the 1930s, this film is about the school’s first debate team, which went on to challenge Harvard in the national championship in 1935. Starring Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker and produced by Oprah Winfrey, this film is about struggle and triumph that the whole family will enjoy. To view the trailer, visit www.thegreatdebaters.warnerbros.com.

"The Golden Compass" is sure to be an epic fantasy that spans generations. While the film looks funny, it might just be silly. Most likely, all of the best scenes are featured in the trailer, but this will still be a light-hearted movie. To view the trailer, visit www.goldencampassmovie.com.

"Alvin and the Chipmunks" is a live-action, CGI movie for kids, starring Jonathan Lee ("My Name Is Earl") as songwriter Dave Seville. In theaters Dec. 14, the film is based on the cartoon that span generations. While the film looks funny, it might just be silly. Most likely, all of the best scenes are featured in the trailer, but this will still be a light-hearted movie. To view the trailer, visit www.alvinandthechipmunksmovie.com.

"The Ghost Is Gone" is an independent film about a man grieving the death of his soldier wife and facing the fact that he now has to raise his two daughters alone. This charming film has already won numerous awards, including the Audience Award for Drama at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival. In theaters Dec. 7, the film stars John Cusack ("Identity," "Serendipity") as a father who doesn’t know how to tell his children that their mother is dead. It sounds like a depressing film, and it probably is, but this tearjerker is bound to be inspirational at the very least.

"PS, I Love You," in theaters Dec. 21, is a film about a grieving widow whose late husband leaves messages that are intended to ease her grief. Based on the bestselling novel by Cecelia Ahern, the film features Academy Award winner Hilary Swank ("Million Dollar Baby") and Gerard Butler ("The Phantom of the Opera"). To view the trailer, visit www.psalovenmovie.warnerbros.com.

"I Am Legend" is sure to be a hit this holiday season, although it isn’t a holiday movie. In theaters Dec. 14, "I Am Legend" is based on a novel of the same name by Richard Matheson about a brilliant scientist who could not contain a man-made virus that affected the human race. Robert Nevelle (Will Smith) is somehow immune as the last human survivor in New York City, but he is not alone. Directed by Francis Lawrence ("Constantine"), the film looks dark and compelling. To view the trailer, visit www.iamlegend.warnerbros.com.

Happy Holidays from Fandango Bistro  
805.544.5515  717 Higuera St., Downtown SLO
Winter is upon us and holiday music and lights fill our surroundings. Vacations are being booked and time off is finally coming for some, but maybe some are still wondering what to do this season. Several holiday events are currently taking place around San Luis Obispo County, which are great ways to get into the Christmas spirit.

At 6 p.m. Dec. 14, there will be a winter wonderland and street t'aire in downtown Atascadero Sunken Gardens. Enjoy the tree-lighting ceremony, holiday refreshments, gift booths, carriage rides, live music, a bounce house, games and tons of snow. Exciting features include a dramatic entrance by Santa himself, an ice sculpting show and possibly even a blizzard! Streets are filling up at night as families drive around town to look at Christmas lights. Starting at 6 p.m. Dec. 5 on Vine Street in Paso Robles, 14 blocks of decorated Victorian homes will be on display for the holidays. Santa, Scrooge, storytellers, carolers and dancers will be present at this neighborhood celebration. Hot cider and cocoa will be available, and trolley rides and music round out the event.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy a tour of the historic Jack House in downtown San Luis Obispo from Dec. 7 to 9. This Victorian treasure is decorated for the holidays, and hot cider and cookies will be served following the tour. The house is open from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Candlelit tours are offered Friday and Saturday as well. Know any children who want to shop for mom and dad’s presents alone? From Dec. 1 to 24 is the Children’s Holiday Boutique at the Charles Paddock Zoo in Atascadero, a special place within the gift shop at the zoo for children to do their own holiday shopping. No adults are allowed inside and it’s a wonderful place to buy that special gift for family or friends.
You might have seen it on the curb. "No publication without representation" the chalk-scrubbed writing read in front of the Mustang Daily newspaper vendor at the intersection of Viva Gata and South Poly View Drive. Another similar message was seen in the entrance to the University Union in front of a row of newspapers.

You might have seen the stacks of newspapers, so kindly returned to us by angry readers. After clearing out at least two nearby newstands and placing the contents in front of the newspaper door, the protesters wrote the editors two notes describing their displeasure. "We protest the Mustang Daily's continued publication of racist articles and cartoons against students of color without balanced and equal representation," read the first note. On the second note was written: "If these kinds of publications continue without equal representation, more peaceful protests will follow."

And you might have seen the cartoons and columns that started it all. A couple of readers wrote to tell us their disgust at seeing the Nov. 8 cartoons in the editorial section that featured two American Indians and focused on UGG footgear. A few others replied to a Republican columnist speaking against multiculturalism, too.

Now there are negative publicity around the campus and groups organizing against the Mustang Daily. While readers aren't expected to agree with what runs on this page, we do hope our readers will understand the message that has the same right to contribute. The opinion section is what you, the reader, makes of it. If you think the opinion section does not show equal representation, it's because no one has stepped up and written an opposing view. If readers want to protest the Mustang Daily on campus, they have that right, but before protesting, submit the text in the body of the letter to edit letters for grammar, profanity and usurping the content may be, this page ensures people the right to speak their mind in a public forum. The only representation of the Mustang Daily on this page comes from editorials like this.

Look up in the top left corner – it reads "The voice of Cal Poly since 1916". If the voices on this page appear to be shunning diversity, that says something about the University Union in front of a row of newspapers.

That said, these events are being discussed with the campus community so they can keep their audience in mind when writing or drawing. Also bear in mind that these people are representing an opinion, but not the opinion of the Mustang Daily staff.

There is a fine line between what is controversial and what is offensive. Every day, the editorial staff is faced with decisions regarding how a particular topic will impact a story whether to risk approval or another column speaking against multiculturalism to the campus community.

Don't let us hear about your discontent through the grapevine. Write a letter or come by the newsroom and talk to us about it. But if you think your voice isn't being heard, maybe it's time for you to give this publication some representation.

Jesus wouldn’t wear an ugly sweater

Ryan Shuttuck

There’s just something about December time that makes me want to eat crackers with tiny pieces of salami with tiny jar of mustard and a mint. Not too much! Don’t make it too big! I don’t want to spoil the spirit of Christmas by having crackers too big with too much salami and a normal-sized jar of mustard.

Welcome to the beginning of December. In case the spirit of Christmas wasn’t visible the day after Halloween, we’re now fully into full-fledged December and the only place the spirit of Christmas isn’t visible is in hell. And even the devil puns up Christmasy-light.

I find it appropriate that Christmas is in the last week of the year. It’s such an emotional, polarizing holiday — bringing out the truly best and the truly worst in people — that it could only be at the end of the year. Those wacky ass-worshipping pagans in the fourth century knew what they were doing when they picked Dec. 25, and then later, when the Catholic Church decided to capitalize on those wacky pagan rituals — dear, dear, dear. Even though people attend more social events, give more to charity and spend more time with family during the month of December, levels of stress, depression and crime also rise. It’s as if the age-old battle of good vs. evil plays out at the end of every year, with the two polar extremes of human nature.

And yon might have seen the cartoons and columns that started it all. A couple of readers wrote to tell us their disgust at seeing the Nov. 8 cartoons in the editorial section that featured two American Indians and focused on UGG footgear. A few others replied to a Republican columnist speaking against multiculturalism, too.

Now there are negative publicity around the campus and groups organizing against the Mustang Daily. While readers aren't expected to agree with what runs on this page, we do hope our readers will understand the message that has the same right to contribute. The opinion section is what you, the reader, makes of it. If you think the opinion section does not show equal representation, it's because no one has stepped up and written an opposing view. If readers want to protest the Mustang Daily on campus, they have that right, but before protesting, submit the text in the body of the letter to edit letters for grammar, profanity and usurping the content may be, this page ensures people the right to speak their mind in a public forum. The only representation of the Mustang Daily on this page comes from editorials like this.

Look up in the top left corner – it reads "The voice of Cal Poly since 1916". If the voices on this page appear to be shunning diversity, that says something about the University Union in front of a row of newspapers.

That said, these events are being discussed with the campus community so they can keep their audience in mind when writing or drawing. Also bear in mind that these people are representing an opinion, but not the opinion of the Mustang Daily staff.

There is a fine line between what is controversial and what is offensive. Every day, the editorial staff is faced with decisions regarding how a particular topic will impact a story whether to risk approval or another column speaking against multiculturalism to the campus community.

Don't let us hear about your discontent through the grapevine. Write a letter or come by the newsroom and talk to us about it. But if you think your voice isn't being heard, maybe it's time for you to give this publication some representation.

Jesus wouldn’t wear an ugly sweater

Ryan Shuttuck

There’s just something about December time that makes me want to eat crackers with tiny pieces of salami with tiny jar of mustard and a mint. Not too much! Don’t make it too big! I don’t want to spoil the spirit of Christmas by having crackers too big with too much salami and a normal-sized jar of mustard.

Welcome to the beginning of December. In case the spirit of Christmas wasn’t visible the day after Halloween, we’re now fully into full-fledged December and the only place the spirit of Christmas isn’t visible is in hell. And even the devil puns up Christmasy-light.

I find it appropriate that Christmas is in the last week of the year. It’s such an emotional, polarizing holiday — bringing out the truly best and the truly worst in people — that it could only be at the end of the year. Those wacky ass-worshipping pagans in the fourth century knew what they were doing when they picked Dec. 25, and then later, when the Catholic Church decided to capitalize on those wacky pagan rituals — dear, dear, dear. Even though people attend more social events, give more to charity and spend more time with family during the month of December, levels of stress, depression and crime also rise. It’s as if the age-old battle of good vs. evil plays out at the end of every year, with the two polar extremes of human nature.

And yon might have seen the cartoons and columns that started it all. A couple of readers wrote to tell us their disgust at seeing the Nov. 8 cartoons in the editorial section that featured two American Indians and focused on UGG footgear. A few others replied to a Republican columnist speaking against multiculturalism, too.

Now there are negative publicity around the campus and groups organizing against the Mustang Daily. While readers aren't expected to agree with what runs on this page, we do hope our readers will understand the message that has the same right to contribute. The opinion section is what you, the reader, makes of it. If you think the opinion section does not show equal representation, it's because no one has stepped up and written an opposing view. If readers want to protest the Mustang Daily on campus, they have that right, but before protesting, submit the text in the body of the letter to edit letters for grammar, profanity and usurping the content may be, this page ensures people the right to speak their mind in a public forum. The only representation of the Mustang Daily on this page comes from editorials like this.

Look up in the top left corner – it reads "The voice of Cal Poly since 1916". If the voices on this page appear to be shunning diversity, that says something about the University Union in front of a row of newspapers.

That said, these events are being discussed with the campus community so they can keep their audience in mind when writing or drawing. Also bear in mind that these people are representing an opinion, but not the opinion of the Mustang Daily staff.

There is a fine line between what is controversial and what is offensive. Every day, the editorial staff is faced with decisions regarding how a particular topic will impact a story whether to risk approval or another column speaking against multiculturalism to the campus community.

Don't let us hear about your discontent through the grapevine. Write a letter or come by the newsroom and talk to us about it. But if you think your voice isn't being heard, maybe it's time for you to give this publication some representation.

Jesus wouldn’t wear an ugly sweater

Ryan Shuttuck

There’s just something about December time that makes me want to eat crackers with tiny pieces of salami with tiny jar of mustard and a mint. Not too much! Don’t make it too big! I don’t want to spoil the spirit of Christmas by having crackers too big with too much salami and a normal-sized jar of mustard.

Welcome to the beginning of December. In case the spirit of Christmas wasn’t visible the day after Halloween, we’re now fully into full-fledged December and the only place the spirit of Christmas isn’t visible is in hell. And even the devil puns up Christmasy-light.

I find it appropriate that Christmas is in the last week of the year. It’s such an emotional, polarizing holiday — bringing out the truly best and the truly worst in people — that it could only be at the end of the year. Those wacky ass-worshipping pagans in the fourth century knew what they were doing when they picked Dec. 25, and then later, when the Catholic Church decided to capitalize on those wacky pagan rituals — dear, dear, dear. Even though people attend more social events, give more to charity and spend more time with family during the month of December, levels of stress, depression and crime also rise. It’s as if the age-old battle of good vs. evil plays out at the end of every year, with the two polar extremes of human nature.

And yon might have seen the cartoons and columns that started it all. A couple of readers wrote to tell us their disgust at seeing the Nov. 8 cartoons in the editorial section that featured two American Indians and focused on UGG footgear. A few others replied to a Republican columnist speaking against multiculturalism, too.

Now there are negative publicity around the campus and groups organizing against the Mustang Daily. While readers aren't expected to agree with what runs on this page, we do hope our readers will understand the message that has the same right to contribute. The opinion section is what you, the reader, makes of it. If you think the opinion section does not show equal representation, it's because no one has stepped up and written an opposing view. If readers want to protest the Mustang Daily on campus, they have that right, but before protesting, submit the text in the body of the letter to edit letters for grammar, profanity and usurping the content may be, this page ensures people the right to speak their mind in a public forum. The only representation of the Mustang Daily on this page comes from editorials like this.

Look up in the top left corner – it reads "The voice of Cal Poly since 1916". If the voices on this page appear to be shunning diversity, that says something about the University Union in front of a row of newspapers.

That said, these events are being discussed with the campus community so they can keep their audience in mind when writing or drawing. Also bear in mind that these people are representing an opinion, but not the opinion of the Mustang Daily staff.

There is a fine line between what is controversial and what is offensive. Every day, the editorial staff is faced with decisions regarding how a particular topic will impact a story whether to risk approval or another column speaking against multiculturalism to the campus community.

Don't let us hear about your discontent through the grapevine. Write a letter or come by the newsroom and talk to us about it. But if you think your voice isn't being heard, maybe it's time for you to give this publication some representation.
Across
1. Small suit
7. Cheese with a 
greenish tint
14. "The Outsiders" 
author
15. Band seen at 
concerts
16. Most used if 
needed
17. Aircraft for the 
Red Baron
18. Without 
reservation
19. "The Blessed 
Damned" poet
20. "Mr. ___1983" 
comedy
21. Military 
classification
22. Result of a day 
at the beach?
23. "Infidel" author
24. "In ___" author
25. _____1
26. Object of Oliver 
Twist's request

27. Semimonthly 
occurrence
29. Somewhat
31. LinguiSte Damned 
who created the 
Klingon language
32. It's "sharper 
height for the 
sharper than it is 
for the 
sharper"
33. Poem whose 
first, third and 
seventh lines are 
identical
34. Ready to 
eclipse
35. Garçon's 
counterpart
36. Application file
38. It's "heavier 
and Janis"
39. Ready to 
explode
40. garçon's 
counterpart
41. Palace of Versailles
42. Big seller of 
Garçon's 
counterpart
45. Goshen
46. Big step
47. It's cleared for a 
landing
48. Breaks down
49. In a despicable 
way
50. Play a flute
51. Linguist Okrand
52. Book before Job
53. Future hunters
54. Does a 
landscaper's job

Down
1. Trupe leader
2. Camera obscura 
feature
3. Laudations
4. Bibliographical 
abb. 
10. Figure seen in a 
store window
11. Pan American 
Games participant
12. Refined
13. Author of the 
2006 best seller 
"Culture Warrior"
14. "The Outsiders"

15. "The Outsiders"
16. "The Outsiders"
17. "The Outsiders"
18. "The Outsiders"
19. "The Outsiders"
20. "The Outsiders"
21. "The Outsiders"
22. "The Outsiders"
23. "The Outsiders"
24. "The Outsiders"
25. "The Outsiders"
26. "The Outsiders"
27. "The Outsiders"
28. "The Outsiders"
29. "The Outsiders"
30. "The Outsiders"
31. "The Outsiders"
32. "The Outsiders"
33. "The Outsiders"
34. "The Outsiders"
35. "The Outsiders"
36. "The Outsiders"
37. "The Outsiders"
38. "The Outsiders"
39. "The Outsiders"
40. "The Outsiders"
41. "The Outsiders"
42. "The Outsiders"
43. "The Outsiders"
44. "The Outsiders"
45. "The Outsiders"
46. "The Outsiders"
47. "The Outsiders"
48. "The Outsiders"
49. "The Outsiders"
50. "The Outsiders"
51. "The Outsiders"
52. "The Outsiders"
53. "The Outsiders"
54. "The Outsiders"

Mufasa had a dilemma: while he enjoyed throwing 
down beats and rhymes, his hip hop moniker 
"Mo Fo" was not befitting of a king.
Swimming
fares well at invitational

Daniel Seguin
mustangdaily
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007

As the swimmers took to the wa­
ter on the first day of competition,
their somber moods were almost palpable, reflected in the atmosphere of the surrounding day.

Freshman Kyle Smith related how the gloomy weather affected the morale of not only himself but his teammates as well.

"It was just dark, gloomy clouds
and really cold and windy," Smith said.

Despite the conditions, the wom­
en's division ranked victorious with a
day's total of 304 points while CSU
Bakersfield finished in second with
164.

Standout performances came from freshman Gloria Benefield, who placed first in both the 100 butterfly at 1:00.31 and the 200 freestyle, with a just a shade-off-the-record time of 1:55.66.

Freshman Melody White placed first in the 100 backstroke at 1:01.05 and second, just behind Benefield, at 1:57.09 in the 200 freestyle.

The women dominated the top four spots in the 500 freestyle, led by freshman Caitlin Lee's time of 5:22.00. They took the top four spots in the 100 breaststroke, spearheaded by freshman Danielle Covell's time of 1:08.72 and also the top three spots in the 50 yard freestyle, with sophomore Erin Mangrave leading the way with a 25.55.

On the flipside, the men's divi­sion racked up 206 points, coming in fourth in the 100 backstroke.

Junior Chase Corcorran (above) placed first in the three meter dive event with a final score of 216.60 on Friday at the Mustang Invitational.

Freshman Peter Kline placed first in the 200 individual medley and broke the meet record at 1:56.94 and second in the 100 breaststroke as he clocked a time of 53.98.

Senior and second, just behind Benefield, at 1:57.09 in the 200 freestyle.

The women dominated the top four spots in the 500 freestyle, led by freshman Caitlin Lee's time of 5:22.00. They took the top four spots in the 100 breaststroke, spearheaded by freshman Danielle Covell's time of 1:08.72 and also the top three spots in the 50 yard freestyle, with sophomore Erin Mangrave leading the way with a 25.55.

On the flipside, the men's divi­sion racked up 206 points, coming in fourth in the 100 backstroke.

Junior Chase Corcorran (above) placed first in the three meter dive event with a final score of 216.60 on Friday at the Mustang Invitational.

Freshman Peter Kline placed first in the 200 individual medley and broke the meet record at 1:56.94 and second in the 100 breaststroke as he clocked a time of 53.98.

Other standouts included Kyle see Swimming, page 11

and second, just behind Benefield, at 1:57.09 in the 200 freestyle.

The women dominated the top four spots in the 500 freestyle, led by freshman Caitlin Lee's time of 5:22.00. They took the top four spots in the 100 breaststroke, spearheaded by freshman Danielle Covell's time of 1:08.72 and also the top three spots in the 50 yard freestyle, with sophomore Erin Mangrave leading the way with a 25.55.

On the flipside, the men's divi­sion racked up 206 points, coming in fourth in the 100 backstroke.

Junior Chase Corcorran (above) placed first in the three meter dive event with a final score of 216.60 on Friday at the Mustang Invitational.

Freshman Peter Kline placed first in the 200 individual medley and broke the meet record at 1:56.94 and second in the 100 breaststroke as he clocked a time of 53.98.

Other standouts included Kyle see Swimming, page 11

and second, just behind Benefield, at 1:57.09 in the 200 freestyle.

The women dominated the top four spots in the 500 freestyle, led by freshman Caitlin Lee's time of 5:22.00. They took the top four spots in the 100 breaststroke, spearheaded by freshman Danielle Covell's time of 1:08.72 and also the top three spots in the 50 yard freestyle, with sophomore Erin Mangrave leading the way with a 25.55.

On the flipside, the men's divi­sion racked up 206 points, coming in fourth in the 100 backstroke.

Junior Chase Corcorran (above) placed first in the three meter dive event with a final score of 216.60 on Friday at the Mustang Invitational.

Freshman Peter Kline placed first in the 200 individual medley and broke the meet record at 1:56.94 and second in the 100 breaststroke as he clocked a time of 53.98.

Other standouts included Kyle see Swimming, page 11
Volleyball continued from page 10

the program's first venture into the third round of postseason play since 1985 — with a dominating 30-12, 30-14, 30-27 victory against the Bow-

lers卡mrad er Saturday evening.

A match-high 15 kills from Ackerstone, nine aces against zero for Punahu

and a 17-5 block differential ensured the Mustangs as one of the NCAA

Tournament's 16 remaining teams.

Cal Poly will attempt to take the next step against the top-seeded Stan-

ford Cardinal (20-2) when action at the Stanford Regional gets underway

Friday, Dec. 7 in Maples Pavilion. Stanford eliminated Sacramento State

Saturday evening.

"We're on cloud nine right now and happy to represent the Big West

Conference at the Stanford Regional," said Stevenson, who has taken two

and a 17-5 block differential ensured the Mustangs as one of the NCiAA

Tournament's 10 remaining teams.

"We're on cloud nine right now and happy to represent the Big West

Conference at the Stanford Regional," said Stevenson, who has taken two

and a 17-5 block differential ensured the Mustangs as one of the NCiAA

Tournament's 10 remaining teams.

"We're on cloud nine right now and happy to represent the Big West

Conference at the Stanford Regional," said Stevenson, who has taken two

and a 17-5 block differential ensured the Mustangs as one of the NCiAA

Tournament's 10 remaining teams.

"We're on cloud nine right now and happy to represent the Big West

Conference at the Stanford Regional," said Stevenson, who has taken two

and a 17-5 block differential ensured the Mustangs as one of the NCiAA

Tournament's 10 remaining teams.

"We're on cloud nine right now and happy to represent the Big West

Conference at the Stanford Regional," said Stevenson, who has taken two

and a 17-5 block differential ensured the Mustangs as one of the NCiAA

Tournament's 10 remaining teams.
Mustangs fall to Toreros, 62-53

Rachel Gellman  
MERICAN DAILY

Just how a window looks when you spray too much cleaner on it, the Cal Poly women’s basketball team (3-5, 0-0 Big West) is streaky. Saturday afternoon was a game of runs and droughts as the Mustangs fell 62-53 to the University of San Diego (4-3, 0-0 West Coast Conference).

Poly ran a press the majority of the game to make up for its size disadvantage and also to slow Torero senior point guard Amanda Kege, last year’s NCAA assist leader. A full court man press either really works and leads to easy baskets, or as with the Mustangs in the first half, it really doesn’t and leads to a 6-0 Torero advantage right off the bat.

“We were really trying to keep it out of the point guard’s hands ... Let someone else try and initiate their offense,” junior forward Megan Harrison said.

Although the Mustangs held Kege to six assists — zero in the second half — the Toreros had no problem scoring. Possession after possession, after breaking the press with ease. Toreros squeaked past Mustang defenders on the baselines en route to the basket. Poly’s press, a 1-1-2-1 set-up, was designed to lead players toward the sidelines in hopes of setting a trap, but San Diego’s guards were too quick.

After a 4 1/2 minute scoring drought, the Mustangs battled back in the first half, lessening a once 16-point deficit at 23-7 to just nine at the buzzer, as they finished out the half with an 11-point run.

At halftime, head coach Faith Mimnaugh made adjustments and decided that a player would face guard Kege at all times to deny her the ball, an effective alteration. Poly’s press seemed to be more effective in the second half as it forced turnovers with added defensive pressure (they had nine steals in the contest).

The Mustangs went on a 14-6 run to open the half, lessening San Diego’s lead to just one point — eight of Harrison’s 21 points were tailed in the run.

“We did a good job in the second half,” junior forward Lisa McBride said. “We just need to do it for the whole game.”

Although the start of the half seemed promising, after the run, the Mustangs went on a 5 1/2 minute scoring drought and soon found themselves down 42-33.

The Toreros were just too big and they kept hitting shots, grabbing offensive boards (they had 15 total) and overpowering the Mustangs the rest of the contest.

Cal Poly will continue non-conference play throughout the holiday break and begin Big West play on Jan. 3 against Cal State Northridge.

McBride, who had four points and nine rebounds on Saturday, said that before conference play begins, the Mustangs need to focus on playing team basketball, being more aggressive on defense and boxing out every possession because they usually play as a smaller team — San Diego out rebounded them 45-34.

Harrison said the upcoming game against No. 22 Pittsburg on Dec. 18 “is huge.”

“If we can go there and make it a game and actually pull out a win there, that’s just gonna’ turn our season around,” she said. “It’s gonna’ say something about our program and people are gonna’ have to look out for us.”

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Junior guard Trae Clark (above) recorded a game-high 17 points in a 66-44 win over Menlo College on Sunday in Mott Gym. Senior forward Dreshawn Vance tallied a double-double with 14 points and 11 boards. Sophomore guard Lorenzo Kenfor also scored 14 points.