Shift in strategy will send more Marines to Afghanistan

Lolita C. Baldor

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is preparing to send at least 3,000 Marines to Afghanistan in April to bolster efforts to hold off another expected Taliban offensive in the spring, military officials said Wednesday.

The move represents a shift in Pentagon thinking that has been slowly developing after months of repeated insistence that the U.S. was not inclined to fill the need for as many as 7,500 more troops that commanders have asked for there.

Instead, Defense Secretary Robert Gates pressed NATO allies to contribute the extra forces.

Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell said Wednesday that a proposal will go before Gates on Friday that would send a ground and air Marine contingent as well as a Marine battalion — together totaling more than 3,000 forces — to southern Afghanistan for a “one-time, seven-month deployment.”

Gates, he said, will want to review the request, and is not likely to make a final decision on Friday.

“He will take it and consider it thoroughly before approving it,” said Morrell. “I just want to get people away from the idea that this is going to be immmediately approved by the secretary.”

He said Gates “has some more thinking to do on this matter because its a serious allocation of forces.”

Morrell added that Gates’ thinking on the issue has “progressed a bit” over time, as it became clear that it was politically untenable for many of the NATO nations to contribute more combat troops to the fight.

“The commanders need more forces there. Our allies are not in the position to provide them. So we are now looking at perhaps carrying a bit of that additional load,” the spokesman said.

Morrell said the move, first reported Wednesday by ABC News, was aimed at beating back “another Taliban offensive” that is expected this spring — as has occurred in previous years.

When Gates was in Afghanistan last month, commanders made it clear they needed the additional forces.

Last year was the most violent since the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

see Marines, page 2

UU draws crowds

The Cal Poly campus was packed full of people on Wednesday as students geared up for winter quarter. The University Union bustled with activity as students turned out in force to buy school supplies at the bookstore (top) and posters near The Avenue (right).

Ryan Polei

Bush watching economy closely to see if short-term boost needed

Jennifer Loven

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Tuesday that he is watching the economy very carefully to see if the struggling U.S. economy needs a short-term boost from the federal government.

“We’re listening to different ideas about what may or may not need to happen,” he said. “We’ll work through this. We’ll work through this period of time.”

He wouldn’t comment on any specific ideas he is considering, such as tax cuts aimed at lessening the chance of a recession. “We’ll look at all different options.”

On Monday, Bush talked about recent indicators that have been “increasingly mixed,” a new recognition of the challenges now facing the economy, primarily resulting from a severe housing crisis. Previous Bush statements have paid attention to the financial fears of many American families and the effects of the housing slump, but focused on what he calls the strong fundamentals underpinning the economy.

“It’s going to take awhile to work through the downturn,” he said Tuesday of the housing crisis. He spoke in response to a question, during a Rose Garden event on Iraq.

Bush regards his State of the Union address to Congress at the end of the month and the release of his new budget proposal shortly after as a sort of deadline for making the call about whether to propose a stimulus package. Aides say he wants to analyze more economic data before making a final decision.

On Friday, the government reported that hiring practically stalled in December, driving the nation’s unemployment rate up to a two-year high of 5 percent. With such reports damping fears of a recession and more Americans growing anxious, Bush has taken to talking about the economy often.

As before, he spoke on Tuesday of his confidence in the American economic system and the ability of it — and his administration — to weather the storm, see Economy, page 2
Economy
continued from page 1

At the time, Democrats were more enthusiastic about the idea than many Republicans. Earlier Tuesday, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said the administration was exploring what would be a significant expansion of the program to help at-risk mortgage holders.

In an interview on CNBC, Paulson said the administration was involved in discussions with the mortgage industry to expand a current program to freeze adjustable rate mortgages for five years to include borrowers of loans at prime rates. Currently, the rate freeze only covers a much smaller segment of adjustable rate loans made to sub-prime borrowers. Those are borrowers with weak credit histories.

Currentl}' there are about 27,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, including 14,000 with the NATO-led coalition. The other 13,000 U.S. troops are training the Afghan forces and hunting al-Qaeda terrorists.

Morrell said that while the Marine ground and air contingent would be put in place to prevent a spring Taliban offensive, the Marine battalion likely would be used to train Afghan forces.

The shift in U.S. thinking on Afghanistan has appeared inevitable and necessary to many allied governments whose citizens may see less reason to intervene in Afghanistan. The Bush administration has launched a wide-ranging review of its policy in Afghanistan to ensure that gains made under the radical Islamist Taliban regime were not lost and to bolster Afghan President Hamid Karzai's nascent government.

Nipomo stabbing
under investigation

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department deputies and Gang Task Force officers are still investigating a beating and stabbing that occurred the morning of Jan. 5 in Nipomo.

Deputies responded to a private birthday party on the 200 block of Pospessa Street after uninvited guests arrived and a fight ensued outside the house. 19-year-old Jacob Long of Arroyo Grande was beaten and stabbed but the suspects apparently fled the party before deputies arrived. Long was taken to Arroyo Grande Community Hospital with multiple lacerations and stab wounds to the back.

The suspects allegedly identified themselves as members of the Nipomo 13 street gang and "jumped" Long after an argument inside the house.

William Travis Kearny was taken into custody around 8 p.m. on Jan. 5 and was booked into the San Luis Obispo County jail with bail set for $500,000.

Nipped in the bud

Mayor Chris Plante has ordered the city to purchase new street signs for all its streets to replace the old signs that were an eyesore. The new signs will be part of a $1.2 million project to replace all existing street signs in the city. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
For those who have ever stared inquisitively into the frothy bottoms of a polished-off glass of beer and pondered, "How exactly do you make a fine tasting brew," the Cal Poly Brew Crew may have all the answers you seek and so much more.

More than a club for power drinkers (in fact, not even close), the Cal Poly Brew Crew is tailored to students who are interested in learning about home brewing, the culture and history of brewing and the infinite varieties for making beer. And throw away any idea of fraud, the members of the Brew Crew have," Doc's CT*1-

"Cal Poly allowed us, as a sort of experiment, to create a course called 'Brewing 101' which the Brew Crew hosted all of last year," Hooper said. "We had many faculty and professional brewers lecture for the course and overall had a hugely positive student response, so we hope that the administration will eventually make it a permanent course."

Aside from weekly meetings and the Foly 'up (which Hooper suspects will be held in May), the Brew Crew is also hoping to convince the administration to host courses on brewing.

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A fitting proposal considering Cal Poly's biggest rival, UC Davis, offers similar and extensive courses in brewing. The Brew Crew is also hoping to convince the administration to host courses on brewing.

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International Briefs

BEIJING (AP) --- Declaring his nation's role "crucial" to the new era of "green" diplomacy, Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao on Wednesday loved on year-old corn in plastic boxes at a big box to cut waste and conserve resources.

Beijing residents appeared to be the fun in stride, reflecting rising environmental consciousness and concern over skyrocketing oil prices.

"How can reduce waste and save resources, then it's good both for us and the whole world," said college student Xu Xuan, who was buying tangerines out of cardboard boxes at a sidewalk stall.

JERUSALEM (AP) --- President Bush said he came to the Middle East to nudge the stalled peace process — not to "burn in and actually dictate the end result of the agreement." But that sure didn't stop him from telling people what he did.

He told Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to stop unauthorized settlement activity.

He told Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to halt rocket attacks on Israel from Islamic militants in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, even though Abbas doesn't control the tiny coastal territory.

He told Iran that "serious consequences" will follow if it meddles again with U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf.

The glowing piglets born proves transgenic pigs are fertile and able to join on their engineered traits to their offspring, according to Liu Zhiqin, a professor overseeing the breeding program at Northeast Agricultural University.

"Continued development of this technology can be applied to ... the production of special pigs for the production of human organs for transplant," Liu said in a news release posted Tuesday on the university's Web site.

MEXICO CITY (AP) --- A 35-year-old Mexican boy feared returning to school after Christmas break so much that he glued his hand to his bed.

Sandra Palacios spent nearly two hours Monday morning trying to free her son Diego's hand with water, oil and nail polish remover before calling authorities, police chief Jorge Canacho told The Associated Press.

"I didn't want to go to school because it was so much fun," Reforma newspaper quoted the boy as saying.

Palacios said Diego sneaked into the kitchen in the early morning to get the industrial glue, which he then slathered on his right hand.

"I don't know why he did it," she told Reforma. "He's a good boy, but mischievous like all kids."
band of
musical
likeness

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Cristina Albers
MUSTANG DAILY

Ever seen fishermen take out instruments and just start rocking out? Well, fishing for long periods in places like Alaska is just one of the many things Port O'Brien, a four-piece band from the Bay Area, takes part in — that and touring the country.

Port O'Brien first started playing together in 2005. Initially the band consisted of just Cambria Goodwin (vocals and banjo) and Cambria native Van Pierszalowski (vocals and guitar) doing a type of folk duo. During their first year, they would have others join them and play different instruments, depending on who was around.

A year and a half ago the pair decided to team up with Caleb Nichols (bass) and Josh Barnhart (drums), and the duo became a four-piece band.

Their sound is a little tired and a little rough but brings a feeling of home and the promise of a new day. All of this is relaxed in shout-sung choruses. But in the end the songs seem just to be about the desire to return to sleep, or even if tomorrow is full of waiting promises.

The band has several inspirations — not to mention faraway seas — that help them write their music, but ultimately who is their biggest musical inspiration?

"Neil Young, just because we all love him and a lot of our songs are similar to his style," Pierszalowski said. "He would be our idol if we had to pick one."

If the band could choose anyone to tour with, they would love to join the Rolling Stones.

But the band may have to just be happy with the great talents they do have to create some of their best music is created.

All four of their personalities seem quite similar. The are constantly bouncing jokes around and always laughing, Pierszalowski says. There's no real leader or serious one to the group because as the guitarist-singer said, "they're all too silly and sometimes even have too much fun."

"We know absolutely everything about each other," Pierszalowski said.

Although the touring has been a great way to get to know each other, it's been tiring and stressful on the band as well. There are a lot of intense ups and downs, but it can also be really addicting.

"When we're not touring, the little gaps in-between just make you itch to get back to it," Pierszalowski said.

They will definitely be coming back to California soon as the state is one of their favorites places to perform. San Francisco has always proved to be a good crowd and San Luis Obispo is also near the top of the list.

In every tour there's always that one song that is fun to perform no matter what, and each band member may have a different one. For Nichols, it has been "Close the Lid."

"We haven't been playing it much lately, but I get to rock out the most to it. It's really fun to play (the song) as the bassist," Nichols said.

Each member seems to already live two lives and work two jobs. If they hadn't succeeded in music, Pierszalowski said he would probably still be fishing in Alaska and focusing on that.

The others seem to feel the same. The band often goes on excursions together and for the eight months that they're out on the sea, it's hard for them to think of anything but fishing. And it's out on the boat where some of their best music is created.

For a band like this, there really isn't much downtime between all the touring and the fishing. But everyone has to have hobbies, right? Goodwin loves to collect things from garage sales, and baking is always a favorite.

Barnhart lives in Santa Cruz, so the beach is a common hang out for him. But if they had some time to go on a real vacation?

"It would be great to go somewhere hot; we get enough cold weather, or maybe some place tropical, like Fiji. Or Disneyland," Pierszalowski said.

As far as any upcoming musical changes for Port O'Brien, it doesn't seem likely that much will be different in the next year or two. The band is focused on their current work and would love to add some piano to the mix.

"We think we're going to stay in this area, getting more and more into acoustic things and back to the roots of the band," Pierszalowski said.

Port O'Brien is growing, one song at a time, that they are more than just a fisherman and his mates.
YOU MAY KNOW HIM AS MF Grimm, the limit-pushing MC who raps about gingerbread men and movie monsters, recorded a critically acclaimed album in 24 hours, released the first-ever triple-disc hip-hop album, "American Hunger," and feud with former ally MF Doom. You may also know him as Percy Carey, a former "Sesame Street" star who later turned to drug dealing and was shot 10 times over the course of two murder attempts, overcame serious sensory damage but remains confined to a wheelchair, studied law to get himself out of a life imprisonment, and now works as the successful CEO behind his own company Day By Day Entertainment.

Most recently, he used life's incredible twists and turns to pen a DC Comics graphic novel called "Sentences: The Life of MF Grimm." The Grimm Reaper himself phoned in with The Tech to talk about his music, his writing, his plans for the future, and what he really wants to be known for: his creativity.

The Tech: You've done a lot of really fantastic and imaginative concept albums, such as "Monster Island Czars" and "The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man." What childhood influences inspire you to create?

Percy Carey: I guess I have to say "Sesame Street" first and foremost. Aside from that, The Hulk, Batman, Superman, Spider-Man, "Tom & Jerry," "Gilligan's Island"... the usual suspects.

For some reason, believe it or not, I always wanted to be a television programmer after "Sesame Street." So Channel 7 (New York's ABC) inspired me a lot. Watching the news, wondering how they clipped the stories together. I was obviously into television, but I was more interested in how they put the shows together than the shows themselves, like what made them put it on at a certain time, why they picked certain commercials to put between, I was always amazed by that. But outside of that, mostly reading.

TT: Especially in "Gingerbread Man," you create exceptional fictional settings that allow for a discussion of real subjects. How do you balance fantasy with reality?

PC: It's just about imagination. I've always had a vivid imagination. When I did that album, I was in the realm of DC Comics, around all those great writers, people who show you structure and how to capitalize off your ingenuity. I created that album when I first got with DC Comics in 2005. I wasn't really able to put, as far as I'm concerned, my full potential into it. I've got some music I'm working on now, and I really want to reach my goals from last time with this.

TT: Do you have plans for that new material?

PC: I'm always working on stuff, I can't stop. I'm not ever gonna stop working on stuff, that's just how it is. I have a problem: I'm always working on at least two albums; I never just work on one at a time. I made "The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man" and "American Hunger" at the same time. So I'm working on two albums right now, and I have a side project that involves a children's album.

I'm taking my time. People are like, "Oh, it shoulda been out already," but you know, I don't believe in that shit. Hip-hop didn't start that way. Now, you create your material and you put it out there to try to make as much money as you can. I'm trying to get away from that and it's hard. But I'm taking my time. I'm just finishing up one of the three albums I'm talking about, and it should be out by the first or second quarter of next year.

TT: How did your lyrical background contribute to writing Sentences, and how did the experience of writing a graphic novel compare to writing an album?

see Grimm, page 9
PC: The biggest difference to me is that for an album, you’re working on music, you really, really lose, writing lyrics to it and, if you have to tell about yourself, so be it, but you’re doing it in a real lyrical way, using different rhythms and putting different styles in it. Sittin’ down and writing a graphic novel seem to me like it was the most boring thing in the world. I was like, “Oh God, I gotta sit here and write about myself, I really wanna work on a story for Superman, use my imagination. But I had to bring a lot of things from my past and start writing it out.

As far as musical writing, the structure is just totally different, and I guess that’s what makes my book different. My wording and my bad grammar is what makes me, and it came out in my book. Right now I have a chance to work on both of these mediums. I can make an album that’s a comic book and a comic book that’s musical or music-related. I learned how to apply both of those and I think that the music I come out with will have more, entertainment-wise, than me just rhymin’.

On “The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man,” certain people were upset about that album, they were like, “Oh, man, he ain’t kicked his old street stuff.” You know, I’m an old man now, I have family that relies on me, children that rely on me, and my mentality is just elevated. I think there’s more than just streets and guns and selling drugs. Not everybody likes “The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man” and they wanna see me get back to my old stuff. But you know, you’re living in the past, man, I don’t wanna do that no more. I want to show my creativity. “The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man,” that’s got a whole animal thing, that’s what I’m working on right now. And I just want the opportunity to go I want my supporters to allow me to move out of a box where I’m just supposed to be tough and talking about violent situations.

TT: What will the new albums explore, lyrically? Will they handle the same sort of violence as “The Hunt for the Gingerbread Man”?

PC: They’ll be imaginative. As violent as that album was, or however much it talked about drugs, it’s also about sugar, it’s about cake, and it is what it is. But what I wanna talk about is that today you can walk to work and find somebody put a noose on your door. That’s real topics that I can pick up and a lot of people probably don’t wanna hear, but it affects me because I’m a black man in America, so I’m there for that. And like I said, I would like to show my creativity. Creating characters, whether they’re violent characters or not... I’d rather do that than write about my personal life. Everybody wants to know about my personal life and sometimes that’s not for everybody to hear. The things that I would prefer to do are create. But people say, “Oh, man, you’re supposed to hear that. We wanna hear about you in this situation, or what you gonna do next.” Sometimes it’s not about that. Now I’m happy with what I’m doing. And I think that’s important. I’m a black man writing comics. And I’m a hip-hop artist writing comics. That’s historical.
Confessions of a pop culture junkie

A whole new year, a totally loathsome column.

Like most of you, I have a love/hate relationship with movies. Yes, the pop culture scene is alive and well,"I love funky—are you kidding."

As it turns out, Cal Poly really (and thankfully) is relevant to pop culture because of the creative, intelligent and diverse students attending it. You're welcome.

Just from the almost eerie amount of unso­

I didn't always appreciate the anti-corporate America and small-town sentiments that San Luis Obispo pride itself on. Then there's a Nordanstrom within 50 miles made me feel like I was stuck in some kind of Gothacalch pasts. My motherfly led me to shop with Dennis, Lon­

doesn't take hours to travel a few blocks' distance. What I used to view at an inconvenience, I now strongly defend as sacred ground not to be tainted by drive-thrus or even Nordstrom. I think I'm growing.

Anyway, keep up the good work and don't go changing, because Cal Poly, I still love you (at least for this week).

Lovingly and Loathingly Yours,

Allison Baker

60's It Girl recalls adventures in 'Spirit'

Lara Streyle

Indian Daily Student (India) L)

A runaway at age 14, Catherine James experienced a life not even the toughest of souls could imagine. She was not raised with a silver spoon in her mouth, nor with the loving family of a Nor­
man Rockwell painting. Catherine James was a girl of the '60s whose complex and emotional past would only make her intriguing future more), but it's my job to make sure you are at least aware (or wary, as the case may be) of them. Plus, "El, "What the Heck does Stgars seem to be a very catchy name for a column.

So I have deemed myself to find something every week that I either love or loathe that is rel­

tant to our ever-cultivated college minds. In us­

ing this format, I have also cleverly given myself an out, but I really don't want to end up writing this idea entirely, I can just decide to loathe the format of my own col­

umn. It's a genius plan, but I digress.

This week, just because it's a new year, and what the heck, I'm new at the whole "come up with something significant and not someone else's blog" thing. I am going to start out with something that hopefully the readers and I might agree upon. I love Cal Poly.

I didn't always appreciate the anti-corporate America and small-town sentiments that San Luis Obispo pride itself on. Then there's a Nordstrom within 50 miles made me feel like I was stuck in some kind of Gothacalch pasts. My motherfly led me to shop with Dennis, London and subsequently a quarter in Los Angeles, only to come back to Cal Poly with an empty sp­

urt's private jet for the fact that I actually breathe, and it doesn't take hours to travel a few blocks' distance. What I used to view at an inconvenience, I now strongly defend as sacred ground not to be tainted by drive-thrus or even Nordstrom. I think I'm growing.

Anyway, keep up the good work and don't go changing, because Cal Poly, I still love you (at least for this week).

Lovingly and Loathingly Yours,

Allison Baker is an English senior, Mustang Daily columnist and pop-culture enthusiast.

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Thursday, January 10, 2008

Mustang Daily

Shorter Globes puts focus back on films

COURTESY PHOTO

The revolution will not be televised — and it seems neither will the Golden Globes ceremony this year.

In light of the ongoing Writers Guild of America strike, it was announced Monday that the highly anticipated Golden Globes award dinner and ceremony (as well as the many after-parties) have been canceled and will be replaced with a one-hour tele­

ved press conference announcing this year's winners. What's an industry to do when they are forced to cancel one of the things (it seems) they make movies for: self-congratulating award shows?

In recent years, Hollywood and the rest of the entertainment industry have gotten a lot of flak for the number of award cer­

emonies held every year. From the Critics' Choice Awards to the People's Choice Awards, from the Emmys to the Oscars, it seems there is an awards show for every season and every whim. Why these award ceremonies also seem to get bogged down by the all-consuming "who wins, who loses," but instead by who wears what, who flirts with whom and who falls flat as host. (Chris Rock, I'm talking to you.)

While I am one of those students that I have attended my fair share of Oscar viewing parties with nomination scored in hand and am genuinely proud to admit I even attended the Golden Globes after-parties my senior year of high school, maybe Hollywood could learn a thing or two by ditching the pomp and circumstance. Sure, I would love to see what first-time nominee Ellen Page of "Juno" would wear to the event and what outlandish costume John C. Reilly would sport in light of his best actor in a comedy nomination for the "Walk the Line" spoof "Walk Hard." But these ceremonies could use a bit of a diet and get back to what really counts: the past year's top achievements in cinema and television.

It's not about Cameron Diaz fighting with Justin Timberlake at an after-party or Isaiah Washington putting his foot in his mouth once again backstage. It's about "There Will Be Blood" vs. "No Country For Old Men" and whether "Atonement," the leading contender with seven nominations, will really take home the most gold even after raised reactions from some influential critics. There are other benefits with this press conference scenario if you look close enough. With the ceremony just going an hour rather than the normal three, there is more time to get a head

start on reading for the quarter or grab a beer at O'Hara's if you feel so inclined.

Also there will be no actors attending the event per the Screen Actors Guild support of the WGA strike, so this is one year where viewers won't have to be reminded of the disconnect between themselves and the actors paid ridiculous amounts of money to act like the average Joe. I don't know about anyone else, but sometimes it's a little hard to relate to Teri Hatcher's latest plight as her character on "Desperate Housewives" after egomaniacal star Chris Rock. I'm talking to you.)

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But if the strike continues into the next month and the Academy Awards show becomes the next victim, it will be a true shame for those winners who slaved through minimum wage jobs, film school and their share of disastrous direct-to-DVD gigs to not be able to give the Oscar acceptance speech they always dreamed of.

But for the future of film, would these actors rather the general public know what film they garnered the little gold man for or what designer they took Oscar home in?

The question really is: Without the flair and flash, will the public still be clapping for the results? Only time and ratings will tell.

1960s It Girl recalls adventures in 'Spirit'

Lara Streyle

Indian Daily Student (India) L)

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man Rockwell painting. Catherine James was a girl of the '60s whose complex and emotional past would only make her intriguing future more
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

HARRIS, THE KEY TO MEETING GIRLS AT YOGA IS MAKING GOOD EYE CONTACT.

I'M GETTING GREAT EYE CONTACT. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I HAVE AN OBSTRUCTED VIEW.

Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

It appears he choked to death on a chicken bone, but mark my words, this was no accident.**

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Through the Key to pop culture shock therapy, Doug Bratton guides you through the key to pop culture shock therapy.

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I HAVE AN OBSTRUCTED VIEW.
Dear Editor:

My hatred for whites comes from direct exposure with their people, like attending rodeos or waiting in line at Starbuck's.

The white person will be disappointed that Tommy Lee Jones' character failed to fight any aliens in the film.

Unfortunately, these white people have their priorities completely mixed. Take, for example, the recent Burger King campaign that features hidden cameras taping white people going nuts over the Whopper burger not being available on the menu. One white man in a welder's gear goes nuts and actually shoots one of the cashiers dead with a BB gun he carries with him at all times to shoot squirrels. OK, so that doesn't happen, but you believed me for a second, right? This breed of white people is unfortunate, because they equate McDonald's with a second, right? This breed of white people is unfortunately, because they equate McDonald's with its good of stars' strips, rather than that creepy robotic scorpius that buries itself in the sand.

Let's say you were to attend a screening of the film "No Country for Old Men" with a white person with a background in corn, just for one second, right? This breed of white people is unfortunate, because they equate McDonald's with its good of stars' strips, rather than that creepy robotic scorpius that buries itself in the sand.

Best regards,

[Signature]

Letter to the Editor

Bigotry: beliefs that are impossible to regulate

Patrick Molnar's "Think­ ing Cap" column on Wednesday takes issue with the statement on Ron Paul's Web site (www.ron­ paul2008.com) that "Government as an institution is particularly suited to combat bigotry" and notes several federal acts that have "lessened the amount of discrimination that minority groups face today.

To quote Ron Paul again, "Bigotry at its essence is a problem of the heart." Discrimination is an act based often on bigotry, but bigotry is a belief, an attitude, and cannot be magically removed.

The passage of law and the intervention of government affect discrimination? It can — for good or ill, as an examination of history will discover. But is it therefore the government's responsibility? I must say "no," it is not. The responsibility is ours; ours as individuals and as societies.

Sometimes the government must step in to protect peace and to preserve justice, but this is a condemnation of the sins we have failed. Such intervention may at times be good, but it is not always proper. The government may be the most expedient means to an end, but peace is at stake than excellence.

We cannot afford to dismiss our private responsibilities by relying on government in this manner.

Eric Baldwin
Electrical engineering senior

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

while working over winter break, I started my morning off on a negative note when I ar­ rived at the strip mall one morning to find my self-talking a Hammer with a Jesus fish glued to the bumper of its oversized gas-guzzling tank station. After parking on top of a few stray baby penguins and various other infantile and en­ dangered animals, a white man emerged (or as I call them, "whities") parting the crowds with a stomach that seemed the perfect phen­ omenal plastication of his ego. It took an im­ possible amount of restrain the rest of the day to conceal my ever-growing hatred of the white man after that incident.

Now, I don't want you to think that I hated for white people is something I picked up second-hand from listening to Kanye West albums, feel-good films about racially diverse sports teams trying to triumph over racist all-white teams during the Civil Rights Move­ ment, or exposure to the horrendous acting of Colin Farrell.

No, my hatred for whites comes from direct exposure with their people, like attending rodeos or waiting in line at Starbuck's. To explain my hatred, I will use this column to prove that white people are a drain upon our society and the source of all of America's ills.

There are three types of white people: country folk, white suburbanites, and (insert third kind of white people here).

Country folk are a simple-minded white population whose primary interests include gardening, religion, patriotism, and patriotic music. While good-natured, many aspects of post-modern American culture fly over their heads.

Let's say you were to attend a screening of the film "No Country for Old Men" with a white person with a background in corn, just for one second, right? This breed of white people is unfortunate, because they equate McDonald's with a second, right? This breed of white people is unfortunately, because they equate McDonald's with its good of stars' strips, rather than that creepy robotic scorpius that buries itself in the sand.
Technology that makes animal testing obsolete is good for everyone

Staff Editorial

Puppies. Cute, fuzzy puppies. Why would anyone — anyone with a soul, that is — ever want to hurt them?

Although the primary cause for it has never been pure malice, animals have long been used in medical teaching laboratories to give students a hands-on opportunity to learn the ins and outs of mammalian anatomy without having to reach their non-consenting hearts. The norm at most medical schools used to be that canines were operated on to help students understand the cardiac system, and after students had examined the dogs’ hearts, they would dispose of their subjects. Because this time-honored tradition has been so widely used in the past, it is OK to use animals as test subjects and then dispose of them afterward! Does the potential of saving human lives justify turning dogs into guinea pigs, so to speak?

As much as we hate to think that anyone has to be used and, as in the case of the canine cardiac subjects, be discarded in order to train future medical practitioners, if animal experimentation can further medical practices and no alternative technology is available, it might have the potential to end the suffering of innumerable humans. While we by no means condone animal cruelty, if small-scale, scientifically based testing has the potential to prevent the deaths of someone’s grandparents, parents or siblings, it is very difficult to argue against it.

Animal experimentation has, in the past, been used to develop such crucial medical breakthroughs as the polio vaccine. When the polio epidemic was at its worst in 1952, nearly 60,000 Americans were infected and 3,000 people died, but when the vaccine had been widely distributed, polio was virtually eradicated from the United States.

Think about the rampant mistreatment of animals in today’s world. Puppy farms and shelters continue to provide squalid living conditions for them, and everyone from pet owners who fail to adequately care for their animals or NFL stars (cough, hack) who exploit them for their own entertainment and financial gain are guilty of turning dogs into guinea pigs, so to speak.

Of course, if alternatives like this are available, we’ll certainly throw our puppy-loving hearts and souls into them. As technology improves on a daily basis, we’re confident that researchers will be able to develop other reliable, innovative options. So relax, Fluffy, the overall trend seems to imply that you’ll be all right as we strive to make animal rights and scientific progress go hand-in-hand.

Avoid Burnout

What’s the worst that could happen? It’s not like a bad day will break much better than mine. I’ve had to work so I could lounge by the pool with you two. No thanks. I’m warm here in the sun. How was your vacation?

Sean: Outlandish! A judge declared me clinically insane, so I spent two nights in a padded room before breaking loose and escaping to Reno, which was a big letdown, until I met transients and rode in a boxcar train to Tijuana! Could you even handle something so wild?

Lee: I’d wish I could. I could until two days before Christmas, when I was watching “It’s a Wonderful Life,” and I just got this craving for soda. So, I went upstairs and ate NINE Oreos in two minutes! I got so thirsty, I had to drink a whole Tab. I put on two pounds that day! Plus, I missed the part where Jimmy Stewart gets married. Come on out of the water and soak up some of this sun.

Sean: Alright, time, you’ve convinced me. I am getting a little prune-y. So Tijuana, right? When I tried to cross back into the U.S., I encountered several, angry rednecks with shotguns. After multiple failed attempts at communication, I just ended up joining them, and spent one week walking the border fence, smoking pot. I saw Jesus and Buddha playing chess, passively. Hand me a towel, will you?

Lee: Nah, just lay down right here and air-dry. That’s an interesting story, but nothing like this: I had grass seats at the John Mayer concert and he definitely made eye contact with me. I swooned. Sunscreen?

Sean: Oh, smart move. Just squat a glob on my back and rub it in, will you? John Mayer? You are such a hoot! Back from Arizona, I spent New Years in Laguna Beach! The Real O.C., posing as a valet employee and made it with two Ferraris and a Dodge Neon. I’ve parked it in the driveway for you buddy, Merry Christmas. Your shoulders are covered, thanks. Why don’t you get your lower back?

Lee: Excuse me, bro. I’m trying to locate the cable box, but just can’t seem to find it. Could you point me in the right direction?

Sean: Sure, it’s over there on the side of the house, by the daffodils. It’s pretty low to the ground, so you may need to crawl in there to get to it.

Lee: Where’s that music? Coming from?!

Cable guy: Thanks fellas, boy it sure is a beautiful day. I wish I didn’t have to work so I could lounge by the pool with you two.

Lee: Well, I wish I could grow a mustache that thick. Tell you what: after you fix our cable, I’ll make you a momosa.

Sean: So tell me, cable man, how was your winter break?

Cable guy: Great, I spent all of Christmas day with my wife and kids, playing touch football, eating steak and putting up drywall. Well, your cable’s all fixed. I think I’ll pass on that momosa. I’m a beer man. See you guys later!

Lee: Goodbye! I love the daffodils! So anyway, Sean, I have to say my break was a bit better than yours. illegally crossing borders and stealing cars sounds dangerous. I had a moment to myself with John Mayer. Who’s the dreamiest person you made eye contact with?

Sean: Well and briefly chatted with Halle Berry at a club in Los Angeles.

Lee: Oh, she’s such a fox. I’d hit that any time. That makes your break much better than mine, bro. Have you seen Monster’s Ball? DAMN.

Lee: Brian is a mechanical engineering senior and Sean Michetti is a journalism senior. Brian and Sean are the Mustang Daily’s humor columnists and can be contacted at firsttime@tatt.com.
Falcons want another old college try, this time with Carroll

Charles Odum

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons are interested in Southern California coach Pete Carroll for their head coaching job.

A person familiar with the team's coaching situation told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the Falcons want to speak with Carroll, who is on vacation in Hawaii.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Falcons have not officially met with Carroll.

Carroll spoke with USC sports information director Tim Treslawe on Wednesday and told Treslawe there were no developments worthy of comment.

"He reiterated that to me this morning on the phone," Treslawe said.

Last week, Carroll told reporters his name would be mentioned in speculation for NFL jobs. Carroll said he wouldn't fuel speculation by making comments.

"There's nothing going on, no reason to even talk about it," Carroll said last week.

Carroll did not return a message left on his cell phone Wednesday.

The Falcons finished 4-12, including a 1-2 mark with interim coach Emmett Thomas, in a season overshadowed by quarterback Michael Vick's indictment, guilty plea and sentencing to 23 months in federal prison for his role in an interstate dogfighting conspiracy.

Atlanta, also currently looking for a general manager, might be willing to offer Carroll control of player personnel decisions.

That could be enough enticement for Carroll to talk with Blank or other team officials.

Former general manager Rich McKay was offered a two-year extension to remain as president through 2010.

Philadelphia general manager Tom Heckert interviewed with team officials Monday.

The Falcons have interviewed at least three coaching candidates: Dallas offensive coordinator Jason Garrett and two assistant head coaches, Jim Caldwell of Indianapolis and Tony Sparano of the Cowboys.

The Falcons plan to interview Jaguars defensive coordinator Mike Smith and Tennessee defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz.

Carroll has experience in the NFL as a head coach and as an assistant in addition to his tremendous success at USC.

Carroll, 56, was 6-11 as coach of the New York Jets in 1994. He was New England Patriots from 1997-99.

Carroll has experience in the NFL as a head coach and as an assistant in addition to his tremendous success at USC.

Carroll, 36, was 6-10 as coach of the New York Jets in 1994. He was 26-23 with a division title and two playoff appearances as coach of the New England Patriots from 1997-99.

He is 76-14 with two national championships in seven seasons at USC following an 11-2 record and No. 3 ranking this season. The Trojans capped their season with a 49-17 rout of Illinois in the Rose Bowl.
Thursday, January 10, 2008

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**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**Women’s basketball takes on another one-two punch**

Cal Poly can win its third straight conference game tonight in Mott Gym

**Donovan Aird**

For each of the season, the Cal Poly women's basketball team has relied most heavily on a pair of junior forwards for its offense.

But Megan Harrison and Liu McBride, who have led the Mustangs in scoring in 11 of their 14 games this season, won't be the only tandem relied on tonight at Mott Gym when they host Cal State Fullerton at 7 p.m.

Forward Toni Thomas and guard Lauren Chow have combined to score more than half of the Titans' points for the season.

"They're really tough," Cal Poly head coach Faith Mimnaugh said Monday, adding that Thomas, who enters the contest averaging 17.9 points and 6.8 rebounds per game, "is a really good basketball player. She's a big body," Bromley said.

"She's a heck of a player and right on track for being Freshman of the Year," she said. "(Thomas) has really good range. She's very quick, and..." Mimnaugh responded, "She's very quick. She can get to the hoop. But you have to respect what she's capable of doing. She just has to stay out of foul trouble, and then we're going to be very, very tough."

Mimnaugh shares her coach's respect for the duo, calling Thomas a "really strong post player" and emphasizing a need to stay in front of Chow as well.

"If you have three ball handlers up front," Harrison said. "We just need to play within ourselves. If we take care of (Thomas and Chow), the rest of the team shouldn't be that big of a problem."

The Mustangs (5-9, 2-0 BWC), who are averaging 78.4 points and 39.1 percent from 3-point range, want to stop the Mustangs' 62-53 loss to San Diego on Dec. 1.

Cal Poly sophomore guard Ashlee Stewart looks for an open player during the Mustangs' 62-53 loss to San Diego on Dec. 1.

"They'll have three ball handlers up front," Harrison said. "We just need to play within ourselves. If we take care of (Thomas and Chow), the rest of the team shouldn't be that big of a problem."

"It's nice to be home, especially during the first week of classes," Harrison said. "They really need to get it and go," Mustangs head coach Kevin Bromley said Monday.

"We've got some guards who can really shoot it," Bromley said. "They're going to be very tough to contain."

Best exemplifying that statement is junior Josh Ako-

Men's basketball tries to stop 3-point barrage

**Donovan Aird**

It's often said in basketball, "Live with the bomb, die with the bomb." But the Mustangs are still finding the density that warrants promising, Cal State Fullerton men's basketball team is living it up, and doing it quite well.

The Titans, who host Cal Poly at 7 p.m., are the only team in the Big West Conference to make more than 3-pointers per game than the Mustangs, and it's been to their advantage so far this season.

In taking 22.9 shots from deep per outing, Cal State Fullerton (9-4, 2-0 BWC), which is coming off a 77-47 rout of UC Riverside on Monday, has hit 43 percent to rack up 13.3 points per game while averaging 13.3 points, is short for his position but "a load in (the paint) because he's such a big body," Bromley said.

Last in the conference in overall defense, though, surrendering 73.8 points per contest, the Titans' style could open the door for the Mustangs (6-8, 1-1 BWC) to win their second Big West opportunity in as many tries after edging Long Beach State 76-59 Saturday.

Instrumental to Cal Poly's chances could be senior guard Dawnsee Fullerton, page 15

Cal Poly seniors forward Matt Hansson, shoots a team-high 39.1 percent from 3-point range, and leads the Mustangs with 5.6 rebounds per game.

"What jumps out in (Cal Poly's)spread," Jeremiah said. "They're really quick. (Cal Poly) is starting to get really old, really quick. Here's my advice to Coach (Cal Poly's) pretty quick, and he has the best team basketball in the conference."}

**Stay classy, San Diego**

**John Middelkauf**

The sports world is full of cliches, especially when it comes to football. Saying like, "this game is going to be won in the trenches," or "it's a game of field position," can be beaten to death while watching a football game.

But this upcoming month, which has included countless bowl and NFL games, announcers such as Joe Buck and Keith Jackson wear you out with cliches. But while I watched San Diego play on Sunday, I could only think about one cliché that went unsaid: "Act like you've been there before."

Now I made a pact with myself coming into my final two quarters of writing for this paper that I was only going to write positive articles. I wasn't going to degrade or rip into people. I just wanted to waste my time bringing people down — I might as well try to uplift and promote the good people. But after Sunday, I realized that I was going to have to be broken, so my positive campaign will have to wait a week, mainly because watching the San Diego Chargers is starting to make me sick.

While I watched the Chargers barely squeak by the mediocre-at-best Raiders and then barely hold their own against the Super Bowl. Let me restate that — how about the past five Super Bowls. In all my years of watching sports, especially the NFL, I have never seen a team show up its own oppo- nent more.

Defensively they dance and jump around after every routine tackle. It's starting to get really old, really quick. Here's my advice to the defensive: win a game that matters.

Their quarterback, Philip Rivers, reminds me of the little kid who never stops turning his mouth up. Finally, when someone snaps and attacks the kid, he gets his two big, tough older brothers.

For Rivers, they are Antonio Gates and LaDainian Tomlinson. Rivers is an average quarterback at best, but hides behind the talents of his great supporting cast. My advice to the Chargers: shut your mouth and just play.

We'll find out how tough you are when one of your brothers can't make the fight this weekend, and you have to fight for yourself.

Their coach, Norv Turner, looks like a deer in the headlights.

Don't get me wrong — there probably isn't a better offensive mind in the game. He may be one of the greatest offensive coordinators...