Mothers create SLO babysitters club

Brittney Clyde

What happens when two local moms bond in frustration over a lack of legitimate available childcare resources? They take matters into their own hands and join forces to create a solution to not only their problems, but the problems of many parents who have been thwarted by the search to find a sitter.

A little over a year ago, Tina Porter and Anthea Mouw decided to start a full-service nanny and babysitting agency.

When explaining how SLO County Sitters differs from all the other childcare agencies Porter said, "We both have two kids. We know and understand what moms look for, want and need."

Each woman brought some degree of business savvy to the table: Porter and her husband own a local business and Mouw graduated from Cal Poly with a business degree. After Porter and Mouw took additional business classes, SLO County Sitters finally came to fruition.

SLO County Sitters not only provides the normal babysitter and nanny services, but also wants to provide childcare for tourists coming to San Luis Obispo County.

"If a couple with a child came here on vacation, but just wanted to go on a romantic date night themselves, they can call us and we will send a sitter over to the hotel with things like games and toys to keep the child entertained while his or her parents are spending some time together," Mouw said.

They'll also offer on-call services for parents who can't miss a day of work to stay home and take care of a sick child. Porter said one of the main reasons people miss work is provide childcare for tourists coming to San Luis Obispo County.

SLO County Sitters founders Tina Porter (left) and Anthea Mouw oversee an outing to the playground.

Gov. proposes budget cuts to entire CSU system

Cassandra Carlson and Kristen Marschall

Last week, after recognizing the $14 billion dollar deficit in California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed a $12.5 million cut to the California State University system for the 2008-09 year, leaving 450,000 CSU students and 23,000 CSU faculty questioning the future fiscal changes that they and their colleges will face.

In terms of Cal Poly, a strong impact will be seen in the number of students accepted. Cal Poly President Warren Baker said in a media conference Tuesday that the university expects to cut enrollment by 500 students.

The number of new freshmen for the 2007-08 school year was about 4,100, he said, so only about 3,600 will be accepted this spring. And although the CSU receives money from student fees, the state is responsible to fund the growth and enrollment of the system, said Larry Kelley, the vice president for administration and finance.

Baker warned that enrollment cuts have a significant effect on the future economy, which is strongly dependent on college graduates and preventing such access to prospective college students will negatively affect the state of California in years ahead.

In addition to the proposed $12.5 million cut, the CSU Trustees have also requested that the state fund what would be the equivalent of a 10 percent student fee increase. Kelley said, bringing the total up to $386 million.

Cal Poly's share of the budget stands at approximately 6 percent based on enrollment. Kelley said that about 70 percent of the university's money comes from the state, while the remaining 30 percent comes from other sources, such as tuition and donations.

But exact figures for how the budget will affect the university will not be known until the summer. This makes it "extremely difficult to plan" when prospective students receive acceptance letters in February and March, Kelley said.

The university will also be forced to look for ways of accommodating con-
Sitters
continued from page 1

because no one but the parent is available to take care of the child who can't go to school because of an illness.

As of right now, the objective for SLO County Sitters is to hire around 50 people of all ages by March or April, and eventually do business countywide. Porter said San Luis Obispo offers a great amount of diversity employment-wise because there are college students in addition to community members who may apply for a job.

To work for SLO County Sitters, Porter and Mosow said they implement extensive background checks as well as drug and tuberculosis testing on every possible employee. Applicants must also be CPR certified and have at least one year of childcare experience.

Porter said the background check "take the awkwardness out of the hiring situations that parents would normally have to go through by themselves."

To be a member of the service costs $16 a month, not including an hourly rate which is dependent on how many children are being watched and can range from $15 to $13 per hour.

The fact that such women is a mother gives Porter and Mosow an edge over the other sitting agencies and one stand-out aspect of their business is commitment to clients.

Their clients proclaim in bold type, "The goal at SLO County Sitters is simple: to exceed the expectations of our customers."

Hiring
continued from page 1

and the most important of them all. Miller is not shy about the right to vote our representatives in and out of office, we are not a free people, and can make no progress on any front."

However, Miller is quick to dismiss his reputation as being vehemently anti-Bush. "I'm not 'anti-Bush,'" he said. "I am a firm believer in the institutions of American democracy: a free press, checks and balances, republican self-government, habeas corpus, the right to free assembly, religious freedom, and the right not to be subject to unreasonable searches and seizures."

Miller is not shy about giving his true opinion and pointing out who he feels is to blame for the state of the nation.

If we don't have the right to vote our representatives in and out of office, we are not a free people and can make no progress on any front."

—Mark Miller
Author, speaker and professor

Budget
continued from page 1

tracks with unions such as the California Faculty Association, which carry over into this year. Kelley estimated that approximately 80 percent of costs go toward compensation for union employees and said that despite the proposed budget, all current faculty and staff members will be able to go forward as planned.

Also related to the budget issue is the matter of the proposed science building project in Poly. Kelley estimated that it "can no longer support the pedagogy of advancement in science."

Hackborn said Cal Poly requires approximately $100 million in order to complete the project and is now dependent on how many children are being watched and can range from $15 to $13 per hour.

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It's not just this administration that has trashed all those ideals, but the media propogates both Democrats and moderate Republicans who have let Bush and Cheney get away with it in the works to replace the Science building, otherwise known as "the spider building," due to the fact that it "can no longer support the pedagogy of advancement in science."

Cal Poly history professor George Corkin, who helped organize the free event, believes Cal Poly students would benefit immensely by hearing what Miller has to say.

"I think that any opportunity to hear a significant offer arguments that touch on the most important elements of our democracy is invaluable," Corkin said.

"He is an engaging lecturer who has appeared on a number of television shows. This is a rare opportunity for Cal Poly students and faculty to engage with controversial ideas and come to their own conclusions. That is, after all, what a university is about."

If we don't have the right to vote our representatives in and out of office, we are not a free people and can make no progress on any front."

—Mark Miller
Author, speaker and professor

Budget cutbacks across the state

Associated Press

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal emergency in California and released a state budget proposal that would close an estimated $14.5 billion shortfall over the next 18 months, largely with across-the-board, 10-percent cuts.

That emergency declaration forces lawmakers to begin addressing the deficit within 45 days, instead of waiting until the new budget year begins July 1. Among the governor's proposals:

HEALTH SERVICES:

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal emergency in California and released a state budget proposal that would close an estimated $14.5 billion shortfall over the next 18 months, largely with across-the-board, 10-percent cuts.

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HEALTH SERVICES:

Cut nearly $3 billion from health and human services programs, including about $1 billion from Medi-Cal, partly by eliminating dental coverage for about 1.3 million adults.

EDUCATION:

Proposition 49, the after-school grant program championed by Schwarzenegger before he was governor, would continue with a 10 percent cut.

NEW REVENUES:

Assess a surcharge of 1.25 percent on all residential and commercial electricity and homeowners insurance statewide to fund improvements to state firefighting efforts. According to the governor, the surcharge would cost homeowners about $11.25 annually if they pay $900 in homeowners insurance. The fee would raise $165 million in the budget year beginning in July. The state would use the money to staff hundred of fire engines during peak fire season, buy 11 state-of-the-art firefighting helicopters and keep two National Guard helicopters on standby year-round, rather than on the current 24-hour notice for call-up. The fees by $11 to raise $385 million for increased costs for the California Highway Patrol, including hiring new officers and upgrading the department's radio system.

For budget cuts in detail and more information, visit http://www.skydive.com

WwW.mustangdaily.net
It's not as hard as you think

Agnus-Dei Farrant
Daily Mustang

Walking by University Union room 220 on a Thursday night might confuse you. There may be a large bag overflowing with toys or students juggling various items, and if you're lucky you'll see a man riding a unicycle.

The Cal Poly Juggling Club welcomes you.

"We're focused on giving anyone who wants to work on juggling or unicycling the chance and opportunity to learn," juggling club president Jesse Kond said.

Club leaders emphasize that students of any skill level are encouraged to attend the meetings.

"We are happy to teach people to juggle; it's not as hard as you think," said Bill Robinson, a Cal Poly alumnus. "I participated in the club a little bit and that's when I really started juggling on a regular basis. The club has run continuously since then but right now they have a pretty enthusiastic group. It's been running well for about the past eight years."

Kond urges people not to feel intimidated.

"You don't have to know a lot about juggling to join," he said. "We leave our doors open so if anyone walks by and is interested then they are very welcome to come in and play around. It's a very open club."

The juggling club meets from 5 to 8 p.m. every Thursday in UC 220. To contact the club, e-mail cpjuggle@gmail.com.

State Briefs

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rock n' roll pioneer Ike Turner's death last month at age 76 was caused by a cocaine overdose, the San Diego County Medical Examiner's office said Wednesday.

"We are listing that he abused cocaine, and that's what resulted in the cocaine toxicity," said Paul Parker, chief investigator at the medical examiner's office.

The medical examiner's office also listed hypertension cardiovascular disease and pulmonary emphysema as "significant and contributing factors" to Turner's death, Parker said.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sure he could be nerdy, even a bit of a wimp out of his Spider-Man suit. But one thing Peter Parker always had going for him was a rock-solid marriage to beautiful Mary Jane.

Until now.

Which has Spider-Man fans everywhere climbing the walls this week (and not in emulation of their hero either) at the news that Spider-Man and Mary Jane are kaput.

Travel more.
Spend less

Agriculture Career Fair
sponsored by ABM/NAMA
Chumash Auditorium
Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008
8:45 am - 2:30 pm
Remember to Bring your Resumes
Open to all majors

Email cpagshowcase@yahoo.com for more information
Politcal Blotter
Jan. 14, 08:16 - Officers located a transient camp in the area off the Highland Drive turn-out. The subjects were advised to clear their site and move on.

Jan. 13, 21:56 - Officer assisted with the arrest of an intoxicated motorist at a fuel station off Madonna Road.

Jan. 13, 13:12 - Officers observed a person driving at excessive speeds and performing reckless maneuvers on Stenner Creek Road. The subject was arrested for possession of narcotics and unsafe driving.

Jan. 12, 21:07 - Officers contacted several subjects at the water tower. A search of the area nearby resulted in the discovery of narcotics and contraband.

Jan. 12, 12:40 - A subject was found fishing from a boat in the Cheda Ranch reservoir. He was instructed to discontinue fishing and pull the boat from the water.

Jan. 11, 21:17 - Officer responded to a complaint in Yosemite Hall. While the complaint was determined to be unfounded, the officer observed numerous housing contract violations involving alcohol.

Jan. 11, 09:14 - Officers discovered a Stenner Creek-based transient camp near the Highland Drive tunnel.

National Briefs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high school track star has been disqualified from a meet because officials said the custom-made outfit she wears to conform to her Muslim faith violated competition rules.

Juashaunna Kelly, a senior at the District of Columbia's Theodore Roosevelt High School, has the fastest mile and 2-mile times of any girl runner in the city this winter. She was disqualified from Saturday's Montgomery Invitational indoor track and field meet.

Kelly was wearing the same uniform she has worn for three seasons while running for Theodore Roosevelt's cross-country and track teams. The custom-made, one-piece blue and orange unitard covers her head, arms, torso and legs. Over the unitard, she wears the same orange and blue T-shirt and shorts as her teammates.

BELLEVUE, Neb. (AP) — Brian and Ross DeVol are a perfect match, genetically and academically. The identical twins earned perfect hotel room terms in a robbery case.

"I don't know, Mr. Simpson, what the heck you were thinking, or maybe that's the problem — you weren't," Clark County District Judge Jackie Glass lectured as she doubled his bail to $250,000.

Simpson had been ordered to have no contact with co-defendants or witnesses after he was freed on bail in September on charges of orchestrating the armed robbery of two sports memorabilia dealers at a hotel room.

* * *

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Hands cuffed at his waist and a defeated expression on his face, O.J. Simpson listened to a judge blister him in the first of his earlier tries netted

over the unitard, she wears the custom-made, one-piece, blue and orange outfit she has worn for three seasons while running for Theodore Roosevelt High School.

"I am excited beyond belief," Lynch said. "This is truly a blessing..."

To be eligible, members of the campus community needed only to add value to their Campus Express Club membership. The first person to add one of 10 random times was awarded $50, added to their Campus Express Club membership.

Win $50 scholarships with Campus Express Club

Campus Dining awarded 10 scholarships worth $50 each to Campus Express Club members last quarter. The scholarship winners were Shelly Berger, Gemma Aguiar, Yvonne Lynch, Andrew Tsui, Garrett Crocker, Adelaida Pitts, Peter Thai, Amanda Sarley, Justin Gragg and Laura Moniz.

"I didn't really care because I didn't know what was going on."

— Stacey Sherman, History freshman

Feeling like crap?

Get the day's top stories and more (from home) at

www.mustangdaily.net

WORL D ON THE STREET

"How do you feel about the 2000 and 2004 elections?"

Compiled and photographed by Cary Conradi

"I feel that they didn't turn out the way I wanted and I was disappointed by how the Florida situation was handled..."

— David Luke, graphic communication senior

"We got robbed."

— James Nicolich, mechanical engineering junior

"I think the 2000 election was B.S. The whole Florida thing and Bush's brother being the governor was sketch. It was a bad showing for the Democratic Party and I just don't know how Bush won."

— Chris Jagger, Journalism junior

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The scholarship winners for winter quarter will be chosen from among those adding value to their membership during January, so add value before the end of the month for a chance to win.

Campus Express Club is Cal Poly's premier value club and can be used through a Polycard at any campus restaurant, ECloradal Bookstore, Pony Prints, Health Services and computer labs. Members of the Campus Express Club also have access to special benefits other than scholarships, such as monthly Hot Deals and free stuff.

Money can be added to a Campus Express Club membership at the Web site below or by calling Customer Service at (805) 756-5939; mailing a check to Cal Poly Campus Dining, Campus Express Club, San Luis Obispo, Calif. 93407; or by visiting Customer Service in building 19, the Cal Poly Cashier Corporation in building 15 or at Express Stations in the library and restaurants on campus.

E-mail Campus Dining with questions or suggestions at campusdining@calpoly.edu.

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Fidel Castro said Wednesday he is not yet healthy enough to address Cuba's people in person and can't campaign for Sunday's parliamentary elections.

"I am not physically able to speak directly to the citizens of the municipality where I was nominated for our elections," the ailing 81-year-old wrote in an essay published by state news media.

Hours later, government television broadcast images of a frail but onr elections," the ailing SI-year-old

Silva oiriliesd,iy.

and speaking, waving a finger for

upbsMt C  bistro meeting Orazil' s vis­

and speaking, waving a finger tor

months showed him sitting and lis­

emphasis.

er groups were having more babies, too.

globalized world, in humanity," Silva

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ing a baby boomlet, reporting the

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l u n c h

1  lours later, government televi­

"I have felt very good, very good," Silva, a leftist admirer of the C'u-

he first video of Ckistro in three

I  iJd t said W s' diicsdas lie

w ealthy industrialized nations, the

birth numbers dating to 1909 found

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1 1 000 H iguera St •  541-4420

"We have to wait and see. For now, I would call it a noticeable blip," said Granina on Wednesday. "Taking into

account his long illness, I think he

the United States has a higher fertility rate than

perity by saying, 'Let's have another

practically 0 percent of the candidates nomi­

nated earlier by municipal councils.

In the video, Castro is seen wear­

ing a track suit and tennis shoes —

Not one of those running for office —

top just before leading the island,

Silva said Castro appeared healthy

enough to return to politics.

"I think Fidel is ready to take over

his historic political role in this

worldwide battle, in humanity," Silva

said. He did not suggest what that

role might be.

Castro has not been seen in pub­

lic since July 2006, when emergency

intestinal surgery forced him to cede

power to a provisional government

headed by his brother Raul, five years

junior. Despite stepping aside, the

elder Castro has retained his position

as head of the Council of State, Cu­

ba's supreme governing body.

In Wednesday's essay, he expressed

frustration with the fact that he can

no longer give the kind of hours-long

speeches for which he was noted.

"I don't want to have in my lifetime —

as a doctor — to reproduce enough to take care of

my aging elders.

But the higher fertility rate isn't all

good. Last month, the CDC reported that America's teen birth rate rose for

the first time in 15 years.

The same report also showed births becoming more common in

nearly every age and racial or ethnic
group. Birth rates increased for wom­

en in their 20s, 30s and early 40s, not

just teens. They rose for whites, blacks,

Hispanics, American Indians and Alas­

tia Natives. The rate for Asian women stayed at the same.

For those afraid of modern, for­

get hopping on a chart. In huge

dollars, more than 20 million,

suggested a beat more than eight

feet long and weighting between

1,700 and 3,000 pounds.

Although British newspapers

variously described it as a mouse or a rat, researchers say the animal,

named Josephina, is actually just

a guinea pig or rat with a

terrestrial,清单 for emerging.

They are the only people who respond to pros­

perty by saying, 'Let's have another kid,'" said Nan Marie Anton, associ­

ate professor of population, family, and reproductive health at Johns Hopkins University.

Demographers say it is too soon to

know if the sudden increase in births is the start of a trend.

"We have to wait and see," said Dr. Brady Hamilton, a statistician with the

Centers for Disease Control and Pre­

vention.

Demographers often use the word

boomer for a small and brief baby

boom.

To many economists and policy­

makers, the increase in births is good

news for the U.S. because the —

the number of children a woman is ex­

pected to have in her lifetime —

reached 2.1. That's the "magic num­

ber" required for a population to

replicate itself.

Countries with much lower rates —

such as Japan and Italy, both with a

rate of 1.3 — face future labor short­

ages and eroding tax bases as they fail to

reproduce enough to take care of

their aging elders.

More U.S. babies born, defying Europe's low-birth trend

More U.S. babies born, defying Europe's low-birth trend

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The premise of "Jackass the Game" for PlayStation 2 is simple: "Jackass" director Jeff Tremaine is in the hospital for a stunt-related accident. While he's out of commission you have to help the "Jackass" boys complete their stunts so the show will get another season on MTV.

The game is divided into mini-games, or stunts, that comprise the seven episodes. Within each stunt there are additional goals to complete. The more goals you complete in each stunt, the better the ratings are, the more money you make and the quicker you can move on to the next episode.

As for the stunts, they're pretty much the same stunts you've seen on the show, though altered slightly — to make them physically impossible (well, unless you think dying for MTV to get good ratings is OK). A lot of the show's signature antics are now on the tops of roofs with open ledges or have morphed into simply dragging Johnny Knoxville's lump body down a cactus-covered precipice.

When you first play, it's easy to get lost and have no idea what you're doing; don't expect to completely ace all the stunts your first time around. For most of the mini-games you have to look interest because most of the mini-games tend to resemble each other. In one, you're made yourself into a snowball and are sent down a ski slope to create destruction. In another, you're in a big plastic bubble sent down a San Francisco-looking street to — you guessed it — create destruction.

As for the graphics, I fail to see how this game excited people at E3 in 2006. The models and the skins are bad, and everything looks smeared or pixelated. The main draw of the show — watching the boys ensure their infertility — is gone because the characters hardly look like they even hit one another. On the PSP, these flaws are less noticeable.

It's also disappointing that the whole "Jackass" crew lent their voices to the game — what won't these guys do for money? — and you can hardly hear what they're saying over the blaring punk soundtrack. To top it off, what you do hear is usually an excessive amount of "damnit" from Steve-O or FCC beeps. In combination with the punk music, you'll have to turn the sound off to avoid driving yourself and your roommates insane.

In the end, it's not the type of game you sit down and play on the big screen with your friends. In fact, that would be embarrassing. Yet the game is kind of fun — sometimes, when you're playing it on the PSP and you're on the go. But I'm holding out for the Nintendo DS version that promises an open environment where players interact to pull off stunts.

Players get the opportunity to peg a digital Johnny Knoxville with a paint gun in "Jackass the Game," the disappointing videogame adaptation of the TV show.

**Thursday SHOWTIMES**

**Fremont Theatre**

National Treasure: Book of Secrets 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30

The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A Veggie Tales Movie 3:15, 5:20, 7:25

First Sunday 5:15, 7:35, 9:30

Nothing Like Old Men 7:30, 10:15

Alvin & The Chipmunks 3:20, 5:25

PS I Love You 9:45

**Downtown Centre Cinema**

The Bucket List 1:15, 3:45, 7:00, 9:45

Atonement 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10

Charlie Wilson's War 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05

The Water Horse 1:30, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

Sweeney Todd 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15

The Kite Runner 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

I Am Legend 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15

**Palm Theatre**

The Diving Bell and Butterfly 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

June 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

The Orphanage 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

**KCPR SOUND CHECK**

Wooy — "Tout Seul dans la Forêt en Plein Jour, Avez-Vous Peur?" (X)

Geneviève Castrée's outfit rambles off some French Canadian-darkened pop gems.

Ghislain Poirier — "No Ground Under" (Ninja Tune)

More from French-Canadian musicians. Poirier is a dub electronic producer for hip hop groups all over the world.

**Rings** — "Black Habit" (Pano Tracks)

Formerly named First Nation, these freak-folkies are being dubbed the female Animal Collective.

**White Blue Yellow & Clouds** — "Introducing" (6/ and Ear)

Taking it back to some 1960s woo-wop and rock 'n' roll tastefully done with impeccable vocal harmonies.

**Weasel Walter Quartet and Double Trio** — "Firestorm" (UG Explode)

Featuring Marshall Allen and Marco Eneidi from Sun Ra Arkestra and Cecil Taylor fame respectively, this is the real deal.

Paul Cano and Brian Carlyle are music directors at KCPR.

San Luis Obispo 91.1 FM. These are their favorite new albums of the week.
Rachel Gellman
MUSTANG DAILY

"Suppose Iraq invaded America. An Iraqi soldier was on a tank passing through an American street, waving his gun at people, threatening them, raiding and looting houses. Would you accept that?" asks an Iraqi imam in Steve Connors and Molly Bingham's unprecedented documentary, "Meeting Resistance." The controversial film will be showing at 7 p.m. tonight at the San Luis Obispo City/County Library.

Connors and Bingham were freelance photojournalists in Baghdad after Sept. 11, 2001, when the country fell to U.S. occupation in April 2003. While working for various newspapers and magazines, the two became curious as to who was behind the insurgencies aimed at U.S. soldiers.

"Most Americans aren't going to go to Iraq and (interview) Iraqis attacking American troops, so we did that for them," Bingham said.

Connors and Bingham were freelance photojournalists in Baghdad after Sept. 11, 2001, when the country fell to U.S. occupation in April 2003. While working for various newspapers and magazines, the two became curious as to who was behind the insurgencies aimed at U.S. soldiers.

During a six-week hiatus in which they were tracking progressions in Iraq, the tandem agreed the Iraqi insurgency was an aspect of the war that was not being sufficiently publicized. They returned to Baghdad in August 2003 and began their 10-month project in the neighborhood of Adhamiya to produce "Meeting Resistance."

Prior to the project, Bingham, a Harvard graduate, began her photojournalism career covering the genocide in Rwanda from 1994 to 1998. She then worked on two special projects for Human Rights Watch in Burundi and Central Africa. She was appointed as Official Photographer to the office of the vice president of the United States from 1998 through 2001. On Sept. 11, 2001, she took some of the only close-up photographs of the Pentagon. She then moved her work to the Middle East in 2002 and spent time in Afghanistan, the Gaza Strip and Iran before making her way to Iraq prior to U.S. occupation in 2003.

Connors, born in England, was a British soldier for nine years in Northern Ireland in the 1980s. During his service, as his own teacher, he began to photograph the conflicts he fought in. He worked as a photojournalist for London newspapers after leaving the military and later began to look elsewhere. While serving for highly regarded world newspapers — such as The New York Times, The Guardian in London and Paris Match in France — he covered the fall of the communist government in Czechoslovakia, the fall of Yugoslavia and the war that ensued thereafter, and the economic strife in Russia and the former Soviet Union. After spending 15 months in Afghanistan beginning in November 2001, he stationed himself in Iraq for 14 months, 10 of which were spent working on "Meeting Resistance."

The film is 84 minutes in length and the directors will stay for a question-and-answer forum after the screening.

A translator essential to the project assisted the directors in interviewing 45 active members of the Iraqi insurgent movement. Twelve of these people were interviewed extensively, sometimes for four or five hours, and six of the 12 participants were interviewed multiple times. Eight insurgents actively involved in fighting are chronicled in "Meeting Resistance," along with a political science professor and the aforementioned imam from the mosque.

All participants in the film are given simplistic titles like "The Teacher" and "The Wife" while their identities are blurred or obscured to maintain anonymity. "Most of these had the cautious nature — the physical and emotional bearing — of people who knew what they were doing was dangerous to them and could get them killed," Bingham writes of the characters on the film's Web site.

Through these interviews, Connors and Bingham said they learned about Islamic practices and beliefs, who exactly is behind the resistance movement and why such a move...
Documentary
continued from page 8
ment is happening.
"We don't want to tell people what to think, but the film gives people a lot to think about," Bingham said. She added that the film doesn't preach, but she assured that it was well-researched and well-reported.

"Meeting Resistance" exposes several myths that mainstream U.S. media has led American citizens to believe, Connor said. He added that the most prominent false belief many have is the U.S. military is stationed in Iraq in order to stop the fighting in Iraq from killing each other. He explained that 74 percent of significant violence in Iraq is directed at the U.S. by insurgents — a startling statistic that shatters the misconception that the majority of violence in Iraq is genocidal. Connor and Bingham state affirmatively that a main cause of violence in the country is the fact that it's occupied by an outsider.

A second myth is the insurgents are extremists and members of al-Qaida. In a trailer for the film, a man says, "The insurgency is mainly composed of ordinary Iraqis, not al-Qaida operatives or former regime members." He then lists those involved: engineers, officers, teachers, normal cultural people. He stresses that the insurgents are committed Muslims who share one common belief — a nationalistic opposition to Iraq's occupation and an extreme sense of honor.

Bingham called the film a "contemporary study on the human condition of occupation."

Connor added that people must remember the Iraqis have been governing themselves for 7,000 years. "I think they can manage themselves," he said.

Bingham added, "Don't forget the Iraqis are the descendents of the people who wrote the first legal codes in human history."

Connors explained there have been disputes in the U.S. Army over strategy.

"Some think bombing cities in Iraq is the way to win the war," he said, while Bingham mentioned the U.S. is "violently trying to make a country peaceful, which is sort of an oxymoron."

After the film was presented at the Al-Jazeera Film Festival in April 2006, Colonel Jeff Ragland, the leader of the U.S. Army's Resolute, a sanction of the military that studies the opposition and introduces alternative strategies, asked the two directors to show "Meeting Resistance" to troops in Baghdad and other military stations. Ragland believed the film explained why the insurgent violence was occurring better than he could himself.

On the film's Web site, Bingham writes, "more than a few times we have been approached by individuals who work in Iraq, speak Arabic, speak and listen to Iraqis every day — they tell us that the film is still a very accurate portrayal of what they encounter." (Although Connor and Bingham filmed in 2003-2004, they say their story is still relevant to the insurgent movement.) One military member said recently, "This is the most accurate depiction I've seen anywhere of what is happening in Iraq."

"Meeting Resistance" was first screened in a preview showing in London in August 2007. Since then, the directors have screened their film in locations all over the country. They have shown it at numerous film festivals, where it has been named an official selection or the winner on many oc-
casions.

Bingham said each individual brings their own preconceptions about the Iraq conflict with them before they view the film but stated that people "will come away from it with an understanding of who is fighting the Americans and why." From there, she said, "those who watch the film can decide what the consequences of that knowledge should be."

Joe Gansho, a staff writer for the San Francisco Chronicle, wrote in a recent review, "Meeting Resistance" should be required viewing for anyone who thinks pouring more troops into Iraq will stamp down the insurgency — or the spirit that ignited it."

A donation of $12 is suggested at the showing.
Celebs battling drug and alcohol addiction?

Love it!

Baldwin (Daniel, though Stephen came in at a close second), Kenickie from Grease (Jeff Conaway), or more recently, the crazy guy from "Celebrity Fit Club ", and Mary Carey (though, really, you would only know who she is if you watch lots of porn),

This time, celebrity breakdowns will serve a purpose other than to meet the five food or fist fights required for every hour of airtime (actual regulation of VH1). In this show, no one is exempt from dealing with the consequences of their addictions, and Dr. Drew won't let them off as easy as they are used to.

If anything, you should watch this show to learn something about human nature — or maybe even yourself. Chances are you have been or will be directly affected by substance abuse. Trust me, one minute of watching Ozzy Jr. (Jeff Conaway) attempt to function even once he's off the drugs will have you seriously considering deleting your dealer's number from your phone (who am I kidding, you probably have it memorized). If celebrities aren't immune from the psychological and physical effects of chronic drug or alcohol abuse, we sure aren't either (and we don't even get them for free).

So if you aren't too busy throwing back doubles, you might consider turning your TV to VH1 at 10 p.m., because this week I love "Celebrity Rehab."

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

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Jay-Z gets cozy with Apple

Rory Geraghty

The Internet is simultaneously amazingly useful and utterly ridiculous for a variety of reasons. In the sometimes skewed metadata of Internet rumors, a recent example may change the way we consume popular music.

According to a multitude of insider Web sites, and most notably, CNBC — computer company turned music distributor — Apple Inc. allegedly has struck a deal with hip-hop megastar Jay-Z to create a new record label.

Some may see this rumor and not even bat an eye — and perhaps rightfully so. Apple has sold literally billions of songs through iTunes and has sold more than 100 million iPhones. To the eyes of many people, this already makes it a music company.

Not so fast.

In terms of the music industry, (and the media, for that matter) content and distribution are the two main factors in being commercially successful. If Jay-Z and Apple actually do have aspirations to launch a new record label, they would effectively be attempting to control both the content and distribution channel for their artists.

After stepping down as president and CEO of Def Jam records at the end of 2007, Jay-Z, whose birth name is Shawn Carter, ended a very successful three-year run at the top of a bona fide name-brand label.

The main reason cited for his departure?

He wants to explore the possibilities in the new business model for the music industry. If the rumored deal with Apple is legitimate, Carter will have a tremendous opportunity to literally "change the game."

While Apple certainly has the financial might and customer base to take on such an endeavor, several hurdles exist.

Other major record labels undoubtedly will feel if their territory is being compromised. Traditionalists in the industry will scoff at the idea of Apple attempting to control such a huge portion of the business. Big-name artists that are only seeking improved distribution may view the Apple/Jay-Z project as an opportunity to take their careers to the next level — further hurting the already tenuous relationship many artists already have with their labels.

Aside from the labels and artists, it is also important to examine what this potential project could mean to us, the consumers.

Will Apple-signed artists allow their music to be sold at a lower price on iTunes, since the middleman has been eliminated? It would make a lot of sense, but it is unlikely. With Apple-signed artists' music be free of all Digital Rights Management restrictions that currently plague many of the online distribution outlets, such as limiting the amount of CD copies users can make from the songs downloaded for purchase. Most likely, if recent history can be trusted, Apple CEO Steve Jobs has been a lot more bark than bite.

Regardless of how you feel about Apple computers, iPods, iTunes, or even the iPhone, such a move would likely be good for consumers. Even if the rumored Apple/Jay-Z collaboration is more bark than bite, it still will have a positive effect — it will shake up the music industry.

Regardless of what old-school record label execs may think, the industry is changing. Who would have thought it would take a reinvented computer company and a 36-year-old, once-rejected rapper to spark the ultimate change?

As a hip-hop fan and an iPod owner, consider me shocked. But after rereading some of the things Jay-Z and Steve Jobs have been saying for years, I'm not entirely surprised.

Jay-Z gets cozy with Apple

Rory Geraghty

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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

AN ALIEN COMES TO TOWN TO STUDY FEMALE EARTHLINGS.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

YOU USE SPORTS-RELATED CODE IN FRONT OF GIRLS SO THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

LET'S DITCH THESE FRAUDS AND FIND OURSELVES TWO TOP BOYS.

Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

A WILD CRICKETER ISN'T BAD, ANYWAY, YOU MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO CATCH HIM.

'IT'S TIME TO BRING MARLON BRANDO OUT OF THE BULLPEN AND CLOSE THE DEAL.'

MARIANO RIVERA OUT OF THE BULLPEN AND CLOSE THIS DEAL.

"SO USE SPORTS-SPEAK AS CODE IN FRONT OF GIRLS SO THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING."

LET'S DITCH THESE FRAUDS AND FIND OURSELVES TWO TOP BOYS.

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

HEY BATMAN, I WAS THINKING, LOOKING UP THE SINNER IN ARRAH ASYLUM ISN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA SINCE HE'S ESCAPED A MILLION TIMES, MAYBE THE NEXT TIME WE CATCH HIM, WE SHOULD JUST KILL HIM.

Robin's Epiphany

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Hazing. Sexual assault. Substance abuse. Underage drinking. Partying. Low grade point averages. I'm sure if you Google any of these phrases, the Greek community will somehow pop up.

As the Interfraternity Council President, I am very biased. As much as those buzzwords pop up, I believe in the benefits of a fraternal organization. What students who are non-greek don't see is that there is a huge movement within the greek community to live up to the values we say we have.

Fraternity and sorority founders started their chapters for many different reasons. Tau Kappa Epsilon was one of the first fraternities started just for wealth, rank or honor, but for personal worth and character.” The founding fathers of TKE were law students, and they couldn't afford the admission into the already-established fraternities. The “Miami Triad” is a term referred to Miami University in Ohio, because those fraternities were established there, all at different times. They were Beta Theta Pi, Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Chi.

Sororities are even more dynamic. Kappa Alpha Theta is referred to as the first women's fraternity. Their primary founder, Bertie Locke, wanted to be a full-fledged member of a fraternity. Instead of granting her membership, they gave her a fraternity badge and asked her to be the “masoc.” She went on and started her own.

Don't forget, there are culturally-based fra­ ternities and sororities. In fact, three of the lead­ing culturally-based greek organizations were founded on this campus: Nu Alpha Kappa, a Latina-interest fraternity; Sigma Omicron Nu, a Latina-interest sorority; and Omega Xi Delta, the first Asian-interest fraternity at Cal Poly.

The common misconception is that these organizations are limited to an ethnic background. In fact, membership is open to anyone of that gender.

The biggest thing I hear from potential new members is: “I'm interested, but I don't think I fit.” So I like to use this as a metaphor for every individual citizen, they'd have no more time left over to make passes at interns and stuff. Don't be a congressional cock-block.

Lee! You just used a specific example to prove a point! And I completely agree with you. Now, if you continue to avoid generalizations, no one will be offended with what you say. People won't feel like their wasted their time listening to you, and you won't be viewed by most of your readership and are therefore very time-efficient. If Congress didn't generalize and grant freedom of speech to every American citizen in the Bill of Rights and instead had to pass a measure for every individual citizen, they'd have no more time left over to make passes at interns and stuff. Don't be a congressional cock-block.

Lee: Ahh! You just used a specific example to prove a point! And I completely agree with you. Now, if you continue to avoid generalizations, no one will be offended with what you say. People won't feel like their wasted their time listening to you, and you won't be viewed by most of your readership and are therefore very time-efficient. If Congress didn't generalize and grant freedom of speech to every American citizen in the Bill of Rights and instead had to pass a measure for every individual citizen, they'd have no more time left over to make passes at interns and stuff. Don't be a congressional cock-block.

Lee: Hmmm. I see how good my argument was by specific. I do believe you've swayed me over to your side! Generalizations are just abstract bullshit that fools use to try to feel clever.

Lee: You've just generalized generalizations.

Lee: Oh dear, you've gotten the Gunness all bloody.

Lee: But I am a mechanical engineering sophomore and Sean Michetti is a journalism student. Barats and Michetti are the Mustang Daily's humor columnists and can be contacted at TittsforTats@gmail.com.

Lee: Please keep in mind that this is not the type of jokes people will laugh at. For the record, I am a Filipino, low-income, gay student. How much of a fraternity image do I fit? I'm not white, my parents don't pay for my school, and I'm of a sexual orientation that doesn't quite fit the stereotypical fraternity world. But if you read the values that my fraternity envisioned their members to have, I fit the mold of someone whom they would accept.

There are fraternities and sororities, as well as their members, that fit the stereotype. Alas, readers, there is hope! The movement I speak about is commonly referred to as the "Fraternal Values Movement." It's simple. Go to any fraternity or sorority's Web site, and click on the history. Read their creed. Read any of the archaic language on the Web site. Here is Lambda Chi Alpha's creed, as taken from their Web site:

"We believe in Lambda Chi Alpha, and in traditions, principles and ideals. The crescent is our symbol, pure, high, ever growing, the cross is our guide, denoting service, sacrifice and even suffering and humiliation before the world, bravely endured if need be, in following that ideal!"

As we speak, the values established, the Greek community could really make some changes. As idealistic as those sounds, there are countless brothers and sisters nationally doing so. I strive to embody the values of my fraternity every day. I am part of the "Fraternal Values Movement." Many of these Greek members are attending a values-based institute called the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute, which sparks conversation and serious discussion on the path that the Greek life is heading down based on our values.

So the next time you see a Greek member doing something idiotic, call them out. Hold them accountable. Because they owe an oath in their secret ritual to be a better person. Those secret rituals aren't even secret anyway. They should be personified by each member every day. Ask them, if their founders were alive today, would they be proud of the things they associated with the name of their fraternity or sorority? Or would they be embarrassed that Greek life has been labeled with just buzzwords?

GUEST COMMENTARY

The fraternal movement: discovering the hidden values

Within the heart of Cal Poly campus lies a small group of students, some of whom you may have never met, but know they exist. They are the Greek community, a social organization that has been in existence since the founding of Cal Poly. The Greek community, which includes fraternities, sororities, and social clubs, is a unique and integral part of the Cal Poly campus.

The Greek community has a long history at Cal Poly. The first Greek organization on campus was established in 1920, and since then, the Greek community has grown and flourished. Today, there are more than 50 Greek organizations on campus, including 15 fraternities, 10 sororities, and several social clubs.

However, the Greek community is not without its challenges. In recent years, the Greek community has been under scrutiny due to various incidents, including hazing, alcohol abuse, and poor academic performance. These issues have raised concerns about the role of the Greek community in the overall campus culture.

Despite these challenges, the Greek community remains an important part of the Cal Poly campus. The Greek community provides a unique social experience for students, offering opportunities for leadership, personal growth, and community involvement. Additionally, the Greek community provides a support system for students, offering a sense of community and belonging.

As a member of the Greek community, I believe that we have the responsibility to work towards a better future for the Greek community. This includes taking an active role in shaping the Greek community, addressing concerns, and striving to improve the overall experience for all Greek community members.

In conclusion, the Greek community is an integral part of the Cal Poly campus. While it is not without its challenges, the Greek community remains a valuable and important part of the Cal Poly community. As we move forward, it is important that we continue to work towards a better future for the Greek community, one that is inclusive, supportive, and fostered by a sense of community and belonging.
MLK still needs our help

After big wins, victories often tell spokespersons that the fruits of their labor were the result of a "team effort." ‘Uh-huh,’ the journalist usually thinks, shutting the response into the school textbook narration used to distract would-be progressive thinkers from his contributions — and how the powers that were in this country wanted to surround his ideals — to focus on him, neither begin nor end there.

Because the other omitted portions of the story of King, who was actually born and may have officially died Michael King, are incomparably worse on the side of this country’s own government, which repeatedly tried to stop him — and kill him.

Capitulation on childhood suicide attempts King made, for example, J. Edgar Hoover, as the iron-fisted ruler of the FBI, endorsed letters sent to King urging him to take his own life.

Yet such a sinister piece of history would never weave its way into what has become the result of a transmutation of the man’s vision and the man. If the story of the man is deliberately incomplete and skewed from every angle, anyway, that story shouldn’t be the focus.

But this happens because it’s easier to frame his life in a safe, calming, un- fairly pedes- talized and impeccably pristine context. That way, what most resoundingly gleaned from his legacy — true equality for all subjugated and persecuted — becomes secondary to images of a tangible person, a person who ceased to exist decades ago.

What could be a heightened focus on the 9,080 hate-crime offenses reported in this country in 2006 (on bases of race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity and national origin and disability) is supplanted by a familiar, un-changing, annual belief that’s remembrance of one person.

This stagnant, it-was-all-about-him fixation impedes what could be even more progress for minorities of all kinds.

Ultimately, the simplified, black-and-white, he-just-talked-about-race-and-nothing-more version of events imparted from childhood in this country leaves out some of the other beautiful parts of King’s legacy — ones that we still can learn from.

Even though his legacy is still broadly invoked by politicians who engage in questionable marriage — and people who support that position — King was against injustice everywhere, and was married to a woman who said, “I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream to make room at the table of brother and sisterhood for lesbians and gay people.”

An even more valuable day could be spent seeing through the myth-building and the simplified individualizing that has obfuscated him, and so much more importantly, his legacy.

Because civil rights always has been — and always will be — a team effort.

Countless unknowns have done their part, and continue to do so, on behalf of every imaginable oppressed group.

Be one of them, at least in thought.

Don’t focus solely on one realized man who really wasn’t so much different from our own human, fallible, yet socially maturing selves with potential to enact positive change.

He wouldn’t have wanted this.

This day and age presents new obstacles for different minorities in ways that may not have been fully realized in King’s day.

Today, remember more what he stood for, and how he stood it — for everyone — not just those facing the same particular discrimination he did.

Donovan is a Mustang Daily reporter and journalism junior.

What is really amusing are all the comments that prove James is correct — white people who are actually White (as older students and professors do to compare him to Hitler) and believing they have the moral high ground. People act so solemnly, as if the issue were too serious; do us all a favor and pick up some trash off the streets.

That action will actually do some good, while over-reacting to the work of a college newspaper humor columnist is a waste of time and space.

— Ms. White

Response to “Why I hate white people”

The ignorance of your article is disturbing, and your racist remarks show no class. Imagine if a “white” person wrote an article title ‘Why I hate brown people” or “Why I hate blacks.” The Mustang Daily should be disappointed that they let such a blatantly hate-filled and ignorant article appear in their paper.

Kyle, take a look at the racist cartoons and articles printed last quarter in the Mustang Daily. They were targeted at people of color, so one does not need to imagine a “white” person writing those types of articles because they already have and continue to do so.

— Gabriela Garcia

Response to “Why I hate white people”

This is all ridiculous... JAMES KOMAN FOR PRESIDENT!

— Stefani

Response to “Why I hate white people”

I was offended because the column was not funny and it was supposed to be humorous. It is after all, the humor column. I think the writer is about what Koman wrote and more about his lack of humor as the humor columnist. I recommend getting back "Mike’s Guide to Life" from last year. It was a humor column that was funny on a regular basis.

Maybe Koman should read a few of the archives.

— Janine Name

Response to “I, for one, support Koman”

I found James Koman’s (obviously tongue-in-cheek) article quite amusing. Perhaps before carrying out threats and administering violence to the author, editor and university, one should wait a few decades to develop a sense of your own history and the irony of our cultural biases, thereby developing a sense of humor and an ability to laugh at ourselves and our shortcomings.

Koman’s only crime was misjudging the intelligence of his audience. In my opinion, the Mustang Daily should be disappointed that they let such a ignorant, censor the responses of those who failed basic English comprehension!

— Babs

Response to “Why I hate white people”
Rivers continued from page 16

"When it stops being fun, that's when I'll stop playing," said Rivers, who compared his taking to ribbing as Buddy while playing in the backyard.

"That's all it is. If we can't do that, I don't know. I really don't. Anybody can be critical and criticize, but nobody knows what's being said. Other than what's caught on camera, and as far as I know, everything else is a rumor. Everything else I've been told is just a rumor. That's all that I'll ever be."

Some callers have even compared Rivers to Ryan Leaf, the bad-boy quarterback who had a turbulent run with the Chargers from 1998-2000.

"Again, it's kind of unbelievable, to be honest with you," Rivers said. "I'm not going to sit here and turn and put down Ryan Leaf. But sometimes you wonder what goes on behind the scenes."

Since the Denver Week, when things, to me, got blown out of proportion, I haven't changed since then. If you followed me around since I was 5 years old, you'd see the same thing every Saturday afternoon in the backyard, you saw it for 51 games at NC State and you'll probably catch something this weekend. Do I mean any harm about it? No. Again, I'm just going to have fun."

Rivers expressed surprise that questions were about him, not the team.

Later, though, he had some fun when he was asked the differences between his personality and that of backup Billy Volek, who capped the game-winning drive Sunday with a 1-yard sneak.

"Since we've been on the field, I'm probably a little more vocal. I talk a little more than he does," Rivers said, noting that Volek is more even-keeled and doesn't get as animated and fired up.

"It's all it is. It's all it is. We can't do it. I don't know. I really don't. Anybody can be critical and criticize, but nobody knows what's being said. Other than what's caught on camera, and as far as I know, everything else is a rumor. Everything else I've been told is just a rumor. That's all that I'll ever be."

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Johnny
continued from page 16
er bought into what everyone else believed. He just con-
tinued to play, and America just continued to love him.

If the Dallas Cowboys are America's team, then Brett Favre is America's quarterback. At the ripe age of 38, Favre will lead the Packers into the NFC Championship this Sunday against the Giants, with hopes of continuing his fairytale season. Having won 19 of their past 21 games, this team has maintained momentum as any still playing. I was lucky enough to witness Favre play in person this season, and unless you have seen it too, it's nearly impossible to describe in words what the experience is.

I'm not trying to offend anyone, but Favre may be the closest thing to Jesus this earth has seen in many years. The cult following that surrounds him and his team is something that's not prevalent in our society — it's something that is of the divine. As I watched Favre play at Arrowhead Stadium, home of the Kansas City Chiefs, you would have thought it was a Packers home game. There was something in the air and an eruption when the man entered the field from the tunnel, and that was only in warm-ups. It wasn't until I focused in and really watched him play that I understood the love people have for this 38-year-old who plays more like a boy in the backyard.

In a time when professional sports are filled with greedy, spoiled egotists, Favre reminds us why we are so drawn to the great game of football. He just has it all — that's all I can say. So while you watch Favre on Sunday, feel blessed that you were alive when he played. Feel lucky you were able to watch this man compete on Sundays, because it's truly something of biblical proportions.

You may think I'm crazy, but once the game ends you'll realize where I'm coming from.

The Packers are a team of destiny.

Prediction: Green Bay 35, New York 17

John Middlekauf is an agribusiness senior and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.

If the Dallas Cowboys are America's team, then Brett Favre is America's quarterback.

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Poly students vandalize UCSB campus before games

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

With both the Cal Poly men's and women's basketball home games against rival UC Santa Barbara just days away, the UC Santa Barbara campus was vandalized Tuesday night by Cal Poly students, the Mustang Daily learned Wednesday.

The vandalism included several graffiti tags, the largest of which was called "Go Cal Poly Rules," painted in green and gold on a planter outside the Thunderdome, the Gauchos' basketball arena.

Other instances of the graffiti included "UCSTD" scrawled both in lime-green chalk on concrete and painted in green on a wall.

A handful of more playful tags such as simply "Poly," "CP," and "Go Poly" were also left in green paint, chalk and glitter around the Thunderdome and the University Center.

The tags, though, were apparently easily washed away or covered, as UCSB officials said Wednesday afternoon they weren't even aware of the vandalism.

Joe Ballesteros, the UCSC athletics facilities and operations manager, said at about 3 p.m. Wednesday that he was completely unaware of any such vandalism.

"This is college, not high school," Ballesteros said when asked of past occurrences of such vandalism on campus, which he couldn't recall.

Alison Cone, Cal Poly's athletics director, said that she, too, couldn't remember any such instances of seemingly sports-related vandalism.

"It's an absolute first," said Cone, who arrived at Cal Poly in 1994 as a senior associate athletics director and became the athletics director in 2005. "That's truly not what the rivalry is about. Rivalry is about respecting each other. (The games between the schools) are great opportunities to bring about the best performances. We certainly don't condone vandalism."

Cone, who said that she "loves (Cal Poly students') enthusiasm," added that the athletics department has to "help direct it in the most positive way."

No one from the UCSB Police Department was available for comment.

That the tags were able to be easily cleaned away seems to be supported through a note found early Wednesday morning at the Mustang Daily, apparently left by the perpetrators of the graffiti.

The one-page, typed note, which was taped to the Mustang Daily's primary entrance, read in large letters, "We want our rivalry back."

Cal Poly won't do anything, so we did. Cal Poly spirit is slipping down the drain. Everything used was water-soluble. We are spirited, not stupid."

Affixed to the unsigned note claimed by no one was a small, paper case holding a CD containing 11 photos depicting the vandalism.

Written upon the case was, "Front page news UCSB 1.15.08."

The rivalry is unique from others the school may have, Cone said before being informed of the vandalism.

"They're 90 miles away, our closest neighbor and are an academic school much the same way we are," she said. "They have very good students, and we compete for a lot of the same students. And we're two very good athletic programs."

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Philip Rivers' jawing as hot a topic as his injured right knee

Bernie Wilson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — Philip Rivers' mouth seems to be making as much news as his injured right knee.

San Diego's quarterback, caught on camera this year yapping at fans and opposing players, sat out practice Wednesday to rest his sprained right knee as the Chargers began preparing for the AFC championship game Sunday against undefeated New England.

"It's feeling pretty good. It's feeling better," Rivers said. "I'm treating it like crazy. Obviously the goal is to be ready to play on Sunday, and I'm optimistic I'll be able to do that."

Rivers sprained his medial collateral ligament when he landed awkwardly after throwing a 56-yard touchdown pass to Darren Sproles on the last play of the third quarter Sunday in a 28-24 victory over Indianapolis. He didn't return.

Questions at Rivers' post-practice news conference quickly shifted to the QB's jawing.

On Sunday, Rivers had two exchanges with fans. When he was walking to the locker room for treatment, he could be seen telling someone, "I'll be back." Then, when Peyton Manning's final pass of the game fell incomplete, Rivers turned and was talking to fans behind the bench.

During a Christmas Eve win over division rival Denver, cameras caught the QB and teammates Shaun Phillips and Matt Wilhelm having an animated conversation with Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler.

Rivers tried to downplay that exchange, but some Broncos were infuriated.

During a home victory over Baltimore on Nov. 25 — which started the Chargers' current eight-game winning streak — Rivers yelled "shut up" at fans who booed on two straight plays.

Rivers has become a flashpoint, particularly on talk radio.

"I'm aware of it," Rivers said. "I really don't get too caught up in it. It's kind of surprising, really, to be honest with you. But, again, I'm out there having a good time as I did in the backyard since I was 5 years old. I'm not saying anything out of line. There's no malice being used. I know what I'm about. My teammates know, my family knows, everything else, I can't worry about.

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San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers (17), shown here in a win last week, says he should be able to play Sunday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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