SLO County snow

Ron Paul pulls from grassroots, aims for main stage in upcoming election

Dean Treffz

In a presidential campaign where even the front-runners break convention, Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, and his supporters are deep in uncharted territory.

Paul’s independent streak has helped garner him exceptionally strong support among young voters who have been largely responsible for boosting him out of obscurity and onto the heels of the mainstream Republican contenders.

He recently came in second in Nevada’s caucuses — albeit in a highly-contested and watched race — and nearly earned a second-place finish among voters younger than 30 in Iowa, according to CNN exit polls.

“It’s always the young people who come up and are so enthusiastic,” Paul said.

Paul is a 1991 graduate of Cal Poly who operated his own design firm, and his emphasis on non-talking point issues like reducing the Federal Reserve and returning to the gold standard shows that he determines his own political priorities.

Paul is one of few Republicans against the Iraq war, he doesn’t support a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage and sides firmly with advocates of civil liberties.

“History tells us that there’s a segment of the youth population that’s attracted to more independent-minded political figures,” said Jane Eisner, author of “Taking Back the Vote: Getting American Youth Involved in our Democracy.”

Younger voters are better able to find out about Paul’s less-than-mainstream views thanks to “the ability to bypass the party by speaking on TV or online,” Eisner said.

In fact, his strong youth support can most easily be witnessed on the Internet, where Paul’s supporters far outpace his rivals in presence, organization and fundraising. Matching the other candidates at the polls is another matter. The next major battle for Paul and the remaining candidates is Super Tuesday on Feb. 5.

“Central economic planning doesn’t work and I think that’s an analogy for central Internet planning,” Paul said.

Impassioned pitches for Paul are being so active on the social media sites have been headlines in themselves,” said Julie Germany, the deputy director of George Washington University’s Institute for Politics, Democracy and the Internet.

Germany said most of the presidential traffic is completely independent of his official campaign and reflects the Texas congressman’s grassroots, bottom-up support.

That is by design — the campaign informs, but does not command, said spokesman Jesse Benton.

“Don’t try to organize (online supporters), and that’s very consistent with Dr. Paul’s message of individual freedom,” he said. “Central economic planning doesn’t work and I think that’s an analogy for central Internet planning.”

Impassioned pitches for Paul are see Paul, page 2
Paul
continued from page 1

a common sight in the comments of online campaign-oriented news stories. Paul supporters are very effective in fundraising and organizing online for their candidate, German said, but so far they lack the political organizing experience necessary to effectively convert that into votes.

"The Internet can get out votes if it can effectively organize voters," she added. "But organizing get-out-the-vote activities is more than just pinging one site at the same time."

Online supporters for Paul have sometimes gained a reputation for being over-eager, even rabid online. Some places, like the conservative online news site Red State and left-leaning Washington gossip blog Wonkette, have even restricted Paul pitches because they became too numerous and sometimes too inflammatory.

Paul insists he has always tried to avoid appearing polarized himself.

"Some people might not understand that completely," he said. "Once [supporters] discover the principles of liberty and what our Constitution says and what the traditions of America say... they really get excited."

Paul said he will climb in polls when he's able to present himself to more analog audiences.

"The next step is for us to make sure that our message gets spread more broadly," he said. "Believing that once our message gets out and they know what I stand for, we have a very, very strong percentage that will support me."

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WASHINGTON — The United States expressed concern Wednesday about tens of thousands of Palestinians pouring into Egypt from the Gaza Strip across a broken security barrier at the border of the small territory run by Hamas militants.

"We are concerned about that situation and frankly I know the Egyptians are as well," State Department deputy spokesman Tony Casey said.

Drew Welch, the assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, and American diplomats in Cairo have talked to Egyptian authorities about the situation, Casey said, but he didn't offer details. He said the Egyptians take border security seriously and that he has no indication the situation has affected Israel-Palestinian relations for now.

"I'm not going to try and speak for Egypt, give public recommendations to the Egyptian government on how to control their sovereign border," Casey said, adding that the United States is available to offer advice or support.

The Palestinian exodus was a protest against the closure of the impoverished Palestinian territory imposed last week by Israel; Israel controls most of Gaza's land borders, while Egypt shares a smaller border with the territory around the market town of Rafah, Egypt generally keeps its border with Gaza under tight control, although Israel accuses Egypt of looking the other way when it comes to smuggling operations.

The border crossings put Israel and the United States in an awkward spot as President Bush pushes only two Arab states to make peace with Israel, and holds a historic role as Arab host and broker for peace talks.

Israel has come under international criticism for sealing off Gaza as a pressure tactic against Hamas militants who took over the strip in June, but is reluctant to criticize Egypt for allowing Palestinians free passage.

The United States does not want to publicly criticize either Israel or Egypt. It aimed instead at Hamas, the militant political and military organization pledged to Israel's destruction. Israel and the United States are backing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, of the rival Fatah Party, in a bitter fight between the Palestinian factions.

"The Palestinian living in Gaza are living under chaos because of Hamas. The blame has to be placed at their feet."

— Dana Perino
White House press secretary

Jubilant men and women crossed unharmed over the toppled corrugated metal along sections of the barrier in Rafah, carrying goats, chickens and crates of Coca-Cola. Some brought back television sets, car tires and cigarettes and one man even bought a motorcycle. Vendors sold soft drinks and baked goods to the crowds.

They were stocking up on goods made scarce by Israel's blockade and within hours, shops on the Egyptian side of Rafah had run out of stock.

Earlier Wednesday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice offered a muted response, saying in Switzerland that the U.S. wants to see stability in the region, but that "most importantly both the security concerns of Israel and the humanitarian concerns of Gazans be met."
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Though the club is small, the hearts are big

Marlize van Romburgh

While their peers are gathering on coconut oil and soaking up the sun, some Cal Poly students would rather be laying on the elbow grease and rolling up their sleeves come spring break.

Sixteen members of PolyHabitat — the campus chapter of the international organization Habitat for Humanity — will be traveling to Tacoma, Wash, this spring break to get down and dirty as they help build homes for households in need of decent shelter.

Operating under the umbrella of Habitat for Humanity International and the supervision of the San Luis Obispo affiliate, PolyHabitat volunteers are Cal Poly students who choose to donate their time and manpower at Habitat build sites.

Volunteers spend most of their time in San Luis Obispo Counties, where they work alongside a local family and contractors to build a house for that particular family. PolyHabitat currently has about 25 active members, with about half going out at any given time to swing hammers and flick paintbrushes.

"I guess you could say we provide the labor pool for SLO Habitat for Humanity," explained Amy Lake, architectural engineering senior, and PolyHabitat treasurer. "They rely on us to provide an army of volunteers."

Since the club's beginnings in 2004, PolyHabitat has worked with the county Habitat organization to build three houses in Paso Robles and one in Cambria.

"PolyHabitat is just about making the community a better place," said Ashley Russell, club president and biomedical engineering senior. Lake said she started volunteering with PolyHabitat because she was interested in helping people who wanted to help themselves.

"Part of the draw to Habitat for Humanity is that you're right alongside the people whose on their level of need, ability to repay the loan, and their desire to work with Habitat to build their own home."

"These are not just people on the street, they're also people just having a hard time getting a decent roof to put over their families' heads," Russell said. "I think Habitat for Humanity gives people something to hold on to and something to work for."

San Luis Obispo currently has no active build sites, but Habitat is in the planning stages for a four-unit complex in Atascadero, with hopes to begin construction in November.

Come spring break, some students choose to travel and build as part of Habitat's Collegiate Challenge, which is marketed as a positive alternative to the stereotypical diversions of a college spring break trip. Last year more than 9,000 students from across the nation spent their spring break putting up siding, laying bricks, sawing and hammering.

While past trips have taken students to Oregon, Hawaii, Colorado and Montana, this year's trip will be to Washington state, where PolyHabitat volunteers will spend four days building alongside local families and students from other universities.

"The fact that you can stand back at the end of the week and see what you've accomplished opens your eyes to the possibilities of hope," Russell said.

"It's a chance to travel and to meet new people and at the same time get to do something worthwhile with your time," Lake agreed.

The chapter minimizes trip costs by staying inside a local church during the break, and hopes to raise about $8,000 to cover the other travel expenses for the 16 volunteers going on this year's trip.

Throughout the year, volunteers also help out at the organization's ReStore locations in San Luis Obispo and Templeton, dubbed as "urban recycling centers," the ReStores are second-hand and surplus building collection centers that Habitat operates as fundraising tools. Building materials, including cabinets, hardware and doors, are donated to the centers and then sold for profit or kept for use in Habitat homes.

"PolyHabitat is for down-to-earth students who like to have a good time and build something worthwhile with their bare hands," Russell said. "The fact that they're willing to give up their spring break to help build communities says something about their character."

PolyHabitat meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month in building room 201.

State Briefs

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. (AP) — The shooting death of a Marine found over the weekend in his barracks room appears to have been an accident, officials said.

Military police found Lance Cpl. Cameron M. Babcock, 19, of Plymouth, Ind., with a gunshot wound to his chest late Sunday at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center after receiving a call for help, Marine officials said Tuesday.

Investigators said the shooting appeared to have been the result of "negligent handling of a privately owned gun." It did not appear to be intentional or self-inflicted, they said.

Babcock, who had just returned from duty in Iraq, was pronounced dead at the base hospital early Monday.

VICTORVILLE (AP) — A mother and her boyfriend are in jail for allegedly torturing her 23-month-old daughter, who is hospitalized with cigarette, cutting iron and scalding burns.

The toddler, who weighs just 10 pounds, is in critical condition at Loma Linda University Medi-

cal Center with burns to her feet, arms, chest and genitals. The toddler also has a lacerated liver and a distended stomach due to blunt force trauma.

LONG BEACH (AP) — A Long Beach transient has been sentenced to life in prison for killing a homeless woman whose body was stuffed into a shopping cart and burned.

Steven Casneros was convicted Monday of sodomy, attempted rape and first-degree murder for the strangling of 39-year-old Deanne Earle in September 2008.

Prosecutors say the 42-year-old Casneros lured the woman to a converted garage apartment where she was raped and sodomized before being strangled with a necktie.

SANTA CRUZ (AP) — Strykerom coffee cups, food containers and other polystyrene packaging has been banned in Santa Cruz.

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night on a new exception law that requires restaur-

ants serve food in environmentally friendly materials.

The law is designed to reduce landfill waste as well as the envi-

ronmental impact of litter.
POLICE BLOTTER

Jan. 20, 01:15 - Officers provided first-responder medical aid to a victim of alcohol overdose at a North Mountain Hall. Fire and paramedics responded, taking the victim to the hospital for treatment.

Jan. 19, 16:54 - Officers assisted San Luis Obispo Police Department with a disturbance party call at the Delta Chi fraternity house off Foothill Blvd.

Jan. 19, 10:14 - Officers investigated a report of a missing person. The subject was located in good health approximately 15 minutes later.

Jan. 18, 22:32 - Officer contacted several subjects on investigating a complaint of possible narcotics use at Sierra Madre. One subject was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Jan. 16, 11:36 - Officers investigated complaints of bias-motivated messages left on a resident's door in one of the Sierra Madre towers.

Jan. 16, 06:49 - Officers investigated reports of a subject removing campaign signs in the Inner Perimeter area.

Jan. 16, 06:00 - Officers investigated an incident involving the streetsweeper causing damage to traffic survey instruments in use on campus.

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National Briefs

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — A house fire killed four children, their mother and grandmother early Wednesday, officials said, and authorities arrested a 19-year-old man in the blue hours later.

Michael Davis, of Youngstown, was charged with six counts of aggravated murder and six counts of aggravated arson, city police said. It wasn't immediately clear whether Davis had an attorney or whether he knew the victims.

The fire killed 46-year-old Carol Crawford, her 23-year-old daughter, Jennifer and Jennifer Crawford's daughters Raevija, 8; Jeanette, 5; Aleisha, 3; and 2-year-old son Brandon, said Rick Jamronik, an investigator with the Mahoning County Coroner's office.

The blaze started near the front of the house, either on the porch or just inside the front door, and quickly consumed the home. Fire Chief John O'Neill said...

LAKE NORMAN, N.C. (AP) — Nuclear reactors across the Southeast could be forced to throttle back or temporarily shut down later this year because drought is drying up the rivers and lakes that supply power plants with the awesome amounts of cooling water they need to operate.

Utility officials say such shutdowns probably wouldn't result in blackouts. But they could lead to shockingly higher electric bills for millions of Southerners, because the region's utilities may be forced to buy expensive replacement power from other energy companies.

Already there has been one brief, drought-related shutdown, at a reactor in Alabama over the summer.

AKRON, Mich. (AP) — Kristen DeCiroat just wanted to sell her horse to another animal lover, but her ad ended up under "Good Things to Eat" in the classified sections of two newspapers.

About a third of the 60 or so calls she received were from people interested in buying horse meat.

"It's been enough to turn your stomach," said DeCiroat, who eventually sold her 3-year-old mare, Foxy, to a man who wanted a live horse for his grandchildren.

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WORD ON THE STREET
“What do you do to volunteer within your community?”
Compiled and photographed by Brittney Clyde

“I help out with my biomedical engineering department.”
— Aubrey Smith, biomedical engineering sophomore

“I donate canned goods and give blood.”
— Kurtis Mundell, mechanical engineering sophomore

“I’ve been volunteering with WOW for three years.”
— Megan Mallonee, biology senior

“I try to give blood as much as possible and I used to tutor kids.”
— Reed Zelezny, business junior

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — A former member of a fictional vampire clan has been sentenced to 30 years in prison without parole for killing two people in hotel bombings, the government news agency and an attorney who attended the sentencing said Wednesday.

Tristen Jay Amero, 26, was convicted Tuesday of killing two people by setting off dynamite in two low-rent hotels in the Bolivian capital in 2006, according to the state’s All news agency and Javier Albaracin, an attorney for the victim and owner of one of the bombed hotels.

Also convicted was Amero’s former girlfriend, Ala Ribeiro, 47, of Uruguay.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The number of students and teachers killed in Taliban attacks has tripled in the past year in a campaign to close schools and force teenage boys to join the Islamic militia, Afghanistan’s education minister says.

While the overall state of Afghan education shows improvement, Education Ministry numbers point to a sharp decline in security for students, teachers and schools in the south, where the Taliban thrive.

The number of students out of classes because of security concerns has hit 300,000 since March 2007, compared with 200,000 in the previous 12 months, while the number of schools closing has risen from 250 to 500.

The Taliban strategy is deliberate: “To close these schools down so that the children and particularly the teenagers that are going to the schools — the boys — have no other option but to join the Taliban,” Education Minister Mohammad Naif Atmar told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday.

PARIS (AP) — Celebrities, socialites and fashion editors prepared to bid adieu to Italian designer Valentino, the king of the red carpet, who will show his final collection Wednesday after 45 years in business.

Hollywood stars including Uma Thurman and Gwyneth Paltrow were expected to attend the display, being held in a tent at the Rodin Museum at the close of the Paris spring-summer haute couture shows.

“I don’t want to be ridiculous, and I don’t want to be emotional,” he told the International Herald Tribune in an interview this week. “I must be happy. I have had a fantastic career, and I don’t regret one moment of it.”

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Hu Jintao has told officials to breathe new life into propaganda efforts, putting renewed emphasis on a key pillar of Communist rule ahead of this summer’s Beijing Olympic Games.

Hu’s remarks at a major party gathering reflected the government’s traditional focus on controlling information and guiding public opinion, yet also indicated concern that those efforts were losing their edge in the face of the Internet and other independent sources of information and entertainment.

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Many would never expect a documentary about the Holocaust to embody any sort of positive feeling, but "As Seen Through These Eyes" is an exception.

Sandra Brown and Diana Heller, members of the congregation at Congregation Beth David who are helping with the event, believe in the film and the need for all to see it.

"As Seen Through These Eyes" is different, (because) most Holocaust movies are dark movies," Brown said. "But this movie isn't dark; it's very uplifting."

Brown thinks showing the film is important because, "believe it or not, there are a lot of people who still believe the Holocaust never existed," she said. "I was actually sitting in a church in the Midwest when the preacher told his congregation that the Holocaust never happened, and that if it did, then we deserved it."

The documentary, which took writer-director Hilary Hebert a decade to accumulate all of the interviews, tells the stories of 12 Holocaust survivors who used art to help themselves get through the terrors that they saw and experienced.

"There is an outpouring of the stories of what really went on within the camps' walls. Some of the Jews and non-Jews who were placed inside the camps tell powerful stories of how playing music, painting and drawing helped save their lives."

"Many of these artists have become extremely respected in the art world," Brown said. "The artwork has been put together in a traveling art show and has been shown all over the world."

Among the interviewees is Simon Wiesenthal, who became a famous Nazi war-criminal hunter in Los Angeles before his death in 2005. Wiesenthal spoke about the awful events that occurred to him and his family, who unfortunately did not survive the Holocaust.

Another survivor profiled in the film is a gypsy who tells his tale about being a young child in the camps and seeing his family killed.

So far the film has been shown in film festivals all over the world, including those in South America, Europe, Israel and Los Angeles. The film recently won second place in the short documentary category at the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

The Sundance Channel will be airing the film later this year.

Central Coast Hadassah will present the San Luis Obispo County premiere of the film at 7 p.m. at Congregation Beth David, located at 10180 Los Osos Valley Rd. Tickets to the viewing require a $5 donation from community members. Following the film will be a discussion with producer Michael Rosendale and writer-director Hilary Hebert.
Moon
continued from page 7

named "some of the catchiest, most compelling (ones) of the year."

The band just signed with the independent music label The Militia Group and will be releasing their debut LP, "Fear and Love," in spring 2008.

Microbiology junior Julie Anderson said, "I'll go check them out (Thursday). I really like Sherwood, so the fact that some of the guys from that band helped to create We Shot The Moon's music makes me curious as to what their sound will be like."

We Shot The Moon will also be playing at Downtown Brewing Co. Feb. 1 with Sherwood and The Matches.

Blogger Perez Hilton, known for his unremitting criticism of celebrity news, will give a pop culture talk at 8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium.

COURTESY PHOTO

Have you ever wanted to hear personally from one of those celebrity bloggers whose Web sites many of us often spend countless hours browsing to catch up on the most current gossip? Well, tonight is your chance.

Associated Students Inc. will be hosting celebrity blogger Perez Hilton at 8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium.

"Perez is a great opportunity to bring something fun for students that will be purely for entertainment," said Kristin Savage, ASI's events outreach student supervisor and an art and design junior.

Hilton will be presenting comedy-themed commentary on pop culture. Savage said he will also present a slide show, discuss celebrities and be available to meet students and give autographs after the presentation.

"I think it's going to be fun because college students like that kind of thing because it's a good way to relax," Savage said. "These events are cool because students can see this person came to my school."

Hilton has become famous because of his Web site, www.perez Hilton.com, which receives millions of hits per day. He has made appearances on television networks such as VH1 and E!

He also recently appeared on a television program called "What Perez Sez." The program's genre is classified as reality television, and it gave Hilton an opportunity to discuss up-to-date celebrity gossip.

Perez's Web site uses the slogan "Celebrity Juice, Not from Concentrate." It features several blogs focusing on events celebrities are involved in, such as updates on the untimely death of Heath Ledger. The Heath Ledger blog contains information that has been published by news sources as well as speculation about the circumstances surrounding the actor's death.

Perez also provided video clips of Ledger speaking to various organizations.

Students with a Cal Poly ID will be admitted to the event for free, and the general public can attend for $10. People are encouraged to arrive early because seating is limited and entry into the auditorium will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"Heck yes, I'm going," general engineering senior Garrett Parks said. "I think it's going to be funny and entertaining, and he's a celebrity. Also, it's the cum and coke."
This column is so cool!

(I know, right?)

After reading all 60 responses to James Komansky's "Who I Hate/White People" column from a while back (only one person still talking about it), it occurred to me that I might be in danger of the very same scrutiny if I proceed to print my column as planned. This week, I do feel an acute Justice for something and I would hate to be admonished for expressing my opinion. At least that's what I thought before realizing the following:

A) I would be lucky to have 60 readers at all, let alone 60 people who took enough space to respond to it (which is a big deal since we're a poly-technical school).

B) Most of my readers probably don't look at my column into the abyss of Oy Ed (my "readers" being my parents, who read online anytime).

C) I'm not idiotic enough to insult a particular majority, although I could (rather, I insist immediately).

So, Cal Poly, I unapologetically bring you the very first "feudie" of the year, trendy catchphrase. I know it may be a bit antithetical to all of that "free speech" hubbub, but I hope someone will hear me for once. I know, right? one more time, I might "accidentally" forget where the trash can is when I decide, I'm done with my hot drink.

There are hundreds of equal or irritating views. I could pick on, so why this particular expression? Well, tell me why. It's because it's a non-seqentia piling up of a coherent response to a statement I've made. As such, it's a classic problem. It would be intolerable to the guilty parties were strawed keeping their contiguous collateralizations to themselves. But not the most convert everyone with their own insomniac chirps, bugs.

You know how it goes. You can't watch something, maybe from a movie, or maybe from a roommate from on your suffering, and upon hearing it, you know that's the dumbest thing you've ever heard since Alice Silverstone articulated "Whatever!" in 1995 (which we still can't remember the end of). But somehow, in a moment of weakness, your tongue betrays you and you hear the words rebelliously leave your lips. "I know, right?" Oh, the horror!

Here's how it is often used in everyday conversation:

Person A: Allison Baker is the best columnist in the Mustang Daily. It's my example, is it not?
Person B: I know, right? (Now it might help if you visualize Person B changing his face of gains between words while simultaneously staring at his/her watch.)
Person A: I'm pleased that we agree on this, but if you wouldn't concord with me in the form of a question. It's confusing. Also your apparent response doesn't allow the concomitant to move forward and makes you a selfish communicator.
Person B: I know, right?
Person A: (defiant smile)

Though not entirely realistic (substitute "Mustang Daily" with "the whole world"!), I hope this sample dialogue illustrates the importance of being aware of what messages we send people through our spoken and written words.

I use a petty (but still vexing) example, but I think we could all use a little reminder that the things we say resonate with the people around us (and fortunately, for most of you, your mental meanderings won't be immortalized by a weakish, column). Whether it's a dumb expression or a facetious statement directed toward a group of people, what we say tells others about who we are and what we believe. In both cases, it makes you look like a moron.

Maybe you don't agree with me. Maybe you think I'm an arrogant jerk who's singling out a group of people to hate on (you know who you are), and maybe I am. But it's my freaking column, isn't it? (For now anyway.) Make my day and send me some hate mail. it would be an absolute honor to claim any sort of response, albeit negative (I'm not picky). Perhaps I might stop down from my ill-made soapbox, and follow my own advice. After all, if you can't make fun of yourself, what business do others have taking you seriously?

("I know, right?")

Allison Baker is an English senior Mustang Daily columnist and pop-culture enthusiast.
Student art exhibit ‘focuses the nation’

For those who constantly wonder how they can do more for the environment and the global warming crisis, one exhibit has the answer.

The Sustainability Art Exhibit, put on by the environmentally-conscious Focus the Nation (FTN) event, allows artists and FTN members to show off how they help the environment. The exhibit, on display in the University Union until Jan. 31, presents work by four students who drew inspiration from different aspects of the theme in order to promote sustainability.

"Sustainability encompasses a variety of different issues," said industrial engineering senior Erica Janoff, whose sunflower painting reflects the need to return to nature.

Business junior Ben Eckold, who contributed a painting of the FTN logo, said his work shows that people have a choice.

"Our generation — we’re at a crucial crossroads. We can choose to do the status quo, or we can choose to make an impact," he said.

Graphic design senior Sara LeGrady explained that doing little things like recycling and carpooling add up.

"I just wanted to represent the fact that I practice environment sustainability anyway," she said. The Wheelchair Foundation asked LeGrady to donate artwork to the exhibit. She drew her own interpretation of Mother Nature, the second in a series of three.

"The way I define sustainability is being able to meet the needs of today without compromising the needs of the future," said industrial engineering senior Chad Worth, chair of the FTN organization committee and president of Empower Poly Coalition, which sponsors FTN events.

On Jan. 31, Cal Poly (and over 1,400 other colleges and universities) will participate in FTN: Global Warming Solutions for America, a day-long event that aims to make climate change a “make or break issue” for presidential candidates in the 2008 election, Worth explained.

The exhibit opened Jan. 9, and artists and FTN members handed out organic cotton T-shirts with FTN logos to students in an attempt to launch the national organization at the Cal Poly level.

“We ended up having a lot of people come,” LeGrady said. “We ran out of shirts, we ran out of food.”

The artists like Eckold hope students learn more about the environment from the art exhibit and ask questions.

“I think that’s a very important thing to do, to question society and their own mindsets,” he said.

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The Sustainability Art Exhibit, on display in the UU until Jan. 31, highlights work by four Cal Poly students.

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Of Course, Guys Can Be Possessive, Too.


Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

To Think You Know How You Love Me, What Is My Favorite Time of the Year?

Mighty Muse Comes to Tell Me My Valentine's Day.

Oh, Absolutely! flower Bed Of Roses. Great Day to Sing a Song of February 14th.

Do the Best You Can, But Valentine's Day Is on the Way.

Real And the Day After—They're Out Before You Wake Up.

To Think My Name Wouldn't Be In the Newspaper Tomorrow.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

By Will Shortz

Sudoku

Edited by John Farmer

MEDIUM

su|do|ku

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

6 5 2 1
1 4 5 7
6 9 3 8
4 2 1 9
3 8 4 5
2 1 3 9
5 1 9 4
7 9 5 4
M E D I U M

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A guide to Cal Poly's architecture

Congratulations on your recent admission to the Cal Poly School of Architecture, and thereby the most grueling years of your life! Don't worry, many architecture students lead productive social lives within the heavily monitored cages of their workshops! But don't let fear of impending insomnia worry you out of dorm; keep in mind that you'll be learning the trade from some of the most structurally sound folks from the industry! Get it? I made an architecture pun! Ha ha ha!

Here at Cal Poly, our motto is "Learn By Reading Textbooks, dah, I mean, Doing!" and as any architecture student can see, simply walking through our lovely campus is an opportunity to expand the foundations of one's mind! OK, I'll begrudgingly dispose of the architecture pun. The incredible yet mind-boggling architecture of our university is a wonderland of conflicting ideas and limited funding, an inspiring mix if I may say so myself. Permit me to draw out a blueprint of some of Cal Poly's finest architecture marvels:

Bldg. 47 - Faculty Offices North
Called "The Maze" by the few who have survived its perils, this building serves as both offices for College of Liberal Arts faculty and a high security prison, for those who enter may simply never return.

According to the original building proposal, the original idea was "M. C. Escher On Slightly More Acid Than He Was Back In The 50's." The architecture certainly met this goal, with hallways that lead to dead ends and stairwells that lead to the level you were previously on, and I'm pretty sure there's a portal to Narnia tucked in a corner somewhere.

Some faculty members have the misfortune of occupying an office in "The Maze" and have resorted to frantically fumbling their MacBooks at their windows in a desperate attempt to create an exit. Others resort to a large bottle of scotch hidden behind their waste bins.

Ultimately the building defies all logic, which may explain why the College of Liberal Arts takes up shop there; for only they have minds creative enough to find pathways in and out of this black hole. Nevertheless, this building is a treasure to Cal Poly, in that it is a miracle that the tallest in San Luis Obispo, but most city representatives will tell you "don't bother going to see it, just enjoy that titblast of trivia."

The building is also ridiculously old, having been built by some people who erected Stonehenge. As a result, the building will be torn down to be replaced by a newer structure filled with all sorts of technological gizmos, labs and toilets with bidets.

Construction is estimated to be completed within the next 58 years.

Webster's Dictionary defines concrete as "the ugliest building material on the face of the planet." However, back in the '70s, drugs had been popularized by M. C. Escher, and people were too high to object to the concrete horrors being raised in place of, well, edifices that look nice.

The building has a claim to fame as being the tallest in San Luis Obispo, but most city representatives will tell you "don't bother going to see it, just enjoy that titblast of trivia."

The building does play the function of containing outdated books — very well, and in cold exterior and jagged edges promote a feeling of Renaissance intellectuals, just minus the Renaissance part.

Bldg. 52 - Science
Our third display is the "Spider Building," a sprawling web of interconnected corridors that plays host to many of the school's chemistry laboratories, lower-division physics laboratories, and whatever English class needed a lecture room.

While not quite the maze as "The Maze," the Spider Building is the bane to many a new student, as simply deciphering the location of the individual wings within the building will result in the student arriving several days late, emaciated, and hag-eyed to their first lecture.

The building is also ridiculously old, having been built by the same people who erected Stonehenge. As a result, the building will be torn down to be replaced by a newer structure filled with all sorts of technological gizmos, labs and toilets with bidets.

Construction is estimated to be completed within the next 58 years.

There are many more wonderfully mind-bending structures on the Cal Poly campus, but I encourage you, recently-admitted architecture student, to discover them yourself. One of the reasons Cal Poly is such a fantastic school is not because of our innovations in building design, but our numerous examples of what an architect should never even think of creating.

So when you're starving for inspiration, locked within your architecture workshop at the end of the quarter with only snaggly bread left to eat and an excrement bucket tucked in the corner of the room, don't count on getting any from this campus. I sincerely hope you enjoyed these schematics of Cal Poly's architecture! (Sorry, I just enjoy a good pun.)

James Koman is a biology junior and a Mustang Daily humor columnist.

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Will that cheeseburger cost society its soul?

Josh Grenzsund

We have taken a small step closer to "the future" and a giant leap away from a "natural" or traditional relationship with the animals that we feed upon. If you think that shrink-wrapped supermarket meat already separates you too much from the life, the animal and the death that created your juicy New York strip steak, you won't like this latest dish.

On Jan. 15 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced "meat and milk from clones of cattle, swine, and goats, and the offspring of clones from any species traditionally consumed as food, are as safe to eat as food from conventionally bred animals." Though it still encourages companies to keep the products that come directly from the body of a cloned animal, they are fully endorsing the sale of products from any "traditionally" conceived animals that the clone may have parented.

And the U.S. is not alone in this move. On Jan. 11 the European Food Safety Authority released a draft opinion on cloning that reads "food products obtained from healthy cattle and pig clones and their offspring are similar to products from conventionally bred animals" and can be marketed to consumers...

Livestock owners who applaud this move...recognize cloning to just a different sort of selective breeding. Instead of breeding an animal with desirable qualities and hoping you can keep the bloody going and thus grow flocks and herds of plump, fast-growing, disease-resistant flesh, you can simply make exact genetic copies of the best breeding stock, using somatic cell nuclei transfer, and be almost guaranteed copious high-quality results.

What this means for your shopping basket is that you will be able to buy cheese, milk, steaks and processed meaty treats that are of the highest quality and best value because the consumption-bound animals are the "natural" offspring of the multitude of blue-blood clone breeders who have passed on their tastiest traits.

But this FDA decision will also certainly re-invigorate conspiracy theorists' claims that it is unethical treatment of an animal — no brain, no pain! But if PETA would protect cloned parts, or cloning at all, as a cruel disruption of "natural" animal lives, then they may have an ally in environmental activists or local-fur-foods who advocate against genetic modification, cloning and other developments that may threaten more "natural" species or "traditional" relationships with food.

However, PETA President Ingrid Newkirk's plans, which, according to her will, include manipulating cells to "produce tissue-engineered cartilage in the shape of a human ear on the back of an immune-compromised mouse" so sure, terrible and horrific things are possible.

And if we have or do develop processes to the point that we can grow cloned parts without the help of the non-desirable exces — a whole animal — we'll have a new conundrum. On the one hand, there will logically no longer be the issue of animal cruelty in growing meat for food and skin as a piece of flesh with no central nervous system to process stimuli can't be considered a conscious being. But on the other hand, we will also have diminished the system of what we understand to be the "natural" order for living creatures, whether you keep chickens as pets or like to munch on their tender flesh.

However, cloned meat in any fashion should not be allowed into our marketplaces because it is a move that helps shift the center-mass of our social and consumer inhibitions further away from a world in which the realities of death as part of life and killing as part of eating are visible and understood. Not only does it disrupt the utopian idea of the "golden age" of how we imagine life used to be, it also sets the stage for some new socio-political crossbreeding that could produce some strange offspring. It just happens that also last week, here on campus, animal rights activist group PETA had some representatives go rear nailed as part of the EMU in protest of fur, and by extension, meat products and the supposed exploitation of animals. So, if we could grow just the finest cloned fur, would people still be able to protest that it is unethical treatment of an animal — no brain, no pain! That if PETA would protect cloned parts, or cloning at all, as a cruel disruption of "natural" animal lives, then they may have an ally in environmental activists or local-fur-foods who advocate against genetic modification, cloning and other developments that may threaten more "natural" species or "traditional" relationships with food.

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And if we have or do develop processes to the point that we can grow cloned parts without the help of the non-desirable exces — a whole animal — we'll have a new conundrum. On the one hand, there will probably have passed on their tastiest traits.

So while such a nexus may be unrealistic or unsustainable, other developments may create collaborations that are more long lasting. One of these, which have been gaining a lot of momentum in our area, is the work among forestry conservation advocates and climate change activists. As a product of the focus on climate issues, this cooperation seems to have staying power that a PETA/local food collaboration may not.

Trailer before Cloverfield the best part

The best part about "Cloverfield" was the trailer for the new "Star Trek" movie.

David C. Saechao

Architectural engineering senior

Matt Costa interview fit for a teen magazine

It's a shame Matt Costa does not fall far enough off the radar for the columns of Hopper Bullett to tackle, who realize their audience is not a crew of high school girls who enjoy their artist interviews to resemble those found in the pages of Seventeen or J-14.

Asking him about his "sacrosanct" with the ladies, if he "serenades" girls he is interested in, and if he considers himself "deep" and "good-looking" should, I hope, appeal to a small percentage of Cal Poly students. The credibility of this interview plummets further when terms like "amazingness" and "uber" are used to highlight questions.

I recommend when given the opportunity to an exclusive interview with a popular artist in the future, you will dig a little deeper for questions rather than reading a few paragraphs from and quoting Paste magazine.
Tough tests continue for Mustangs

Agnus-Dei Farrant

Last weekend was not favorable for the Cal Poly women's tennis team, putting it at 2-2 overall. The Mustangs suffered their first loss of the season on Sunday at No. 18 Pepperdine, 5-2. A day later, No. 3 UCLA defeated the Mustangs' lone doubles victory.

“Pepperdine was a very close match,” said Cal Poly head coach Hugh Bream. “They got the doubles point by winning two of the doubles games. In the singles we won tough matches in four and five.”

At those spots, Shannon Brady and Whitney Peterson won, while the tandems of Maria Malec and Diane Filip captured the Mustangs' lone doubles victory.

Malec and Filip topped Pepperdine's Jill Braverman and Alex Liles 8-2.

“(Malec and I) had great energy from the beginning,” Filip said. “We had great focus, we knew just what we wanted to do. We performed really well against Pepperdine. Against UCLA there were just a few points that made the difference.”

The Bruins, who boast four top-50 players nationally, swept the Mustangs despite some close calls in doubles action.

UCCLA's Yasmin Schmack and Riza Zalameda edged Brit-
Davis
continued from page 16

4.5 rebounds per game. “Our shot selection hasn’t been the best; we’ve been shooting with a hand in the face. Now we’ve been focusing on wearing down a defense, and waiting for the time to take the shot most likely to go in.”

If there were ever an more involved opponent that could lend itself toward a more involved performance by Cal Poly’s post players, it could be UC Davis.

The Aggies (8-10, 2-3 Big West) set foot in San Luis Obispo last in the Big West in both offensive and defensive rebounding, and in rebounding differential, surrendering 6.0 more rebounds per contest than they pull down.

“Bromley expects us to dominate on the glass,” said the 6-foot-7, 220-pound Hanson. “That could get us points we haven’t been getting in the past couple games.”

On the perimeter for UC Davis will be 6-foot-3 guard Vince Oder, who leads the Aggies with 13.6 points per game.

“He has the potential to break away from the (set) offensively and get points,” Bromley said.

Three Aggies starters are at least 6-foot-7, including 230-pound forward Shane Hanson, but their unusual lineup doesn’t depend on conventional organizers and finishers, Matt Hanson said.

“They are an interesting team,” he said. “They don’t really have a true point guard or a true center. All of them can shoot — they don’t really specialize in one area; all of them can do good things so you can’t ignore any of them.”

UC Davis, which doesn’t have a senior on its entire roster and plays just one player off the bench for at least 13 minutes per game, forces defenders to be patient because of its intricate Princeton-style offense, Bromley emphasized.

“You can’t pressure them out of it — you’ve got to defend it and be disciplined,” he said. “Throughout the shot clock you can’t break down, and the later and later it gets you’ve got to tighten up.”

While the Mustangs are only a third into their conference schedule, they may need to right their ship in a hurry to come close to last year’s banner season, which they also began 1-3 in the Big West before ultimately coming within one win of the NCAA Tournament.

That squad, though, boasting then-senior Derek Stockton, who glued together Cal Poly’s offensive pieces by firing a blistering 49.6 percent from 3-point range.

“This team is growing and maturing,” Bromley said. “We’re not last year’s team, when we made it look simple.”

Hanson conceded that on their own merits this season, the Mustangs still have time to make amends to their early-season shortcomings.

“Last year we dug ourselves out of a hole,” he said. “(This year) we got off to a slow start, but you’ve got to keep your head up.”

Tennis
continued from page 14

said. “You’re talking about nine (Bruiins) that have played extensive professional tennis and have been ranked top-40 in the world for juniors. Getting to play against that level was the best. It allows our athletes to grow and improve consistently seeing top-level competition.”

The Mustangs will travel to Eugene, Ore., to take on Utah on Saturday and Oregon on Sunday.

“We worked on fitness with the rain coming down,” Bream said. “(Oregon’s) mainly an international team — they’re very solid. We’re really excited for the opportunity to play them and play other tough teams on the road.”

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Horseshoe rivalry hits hardwood

Cal Poly men's basketball team tweaks its offense midway through Big West Conference play to correct shooting struggles from perimeter

Patience may be a virtue, but it could also be the saving grace for the Cal Poly men's basketball team's floundering season. "This team has to grind it out a bit more on offense, and be a little more selective," Mustangs head coach Kevin Bromley says.

The Mustangs may have to be more offensively judicious in order to get back in the Big West Conference race, which they resume by hosting UC Davis at Mott Gym at 7 p.m. tonight.

In light of Cal Poly's sixth loss in seven games, a 75-60 defeat Saturday at the hands of UC Santa Barbara, in which the Mustangs made just 2 of 19 attempts from 3-point range, wiser shot selection was emphasized more than ever, Bromley explained.

"It's not necessarily how many 3s we take," he said. "It's more about when we take 3s."

While the Mustangs (6-11, 4-1 Big West) have vowed to find a better offensive balance, Bromley said, they still have to rely at times on their long-range game, which isn't as overseen as some observers may think, especially for a team that belongs to a conference in which eight of nine teams average at least 10 points per game.

Even in the trigger-happy conference, though, the Mustangs rank last in both field-goal percentage (39.8) and 3-point percentage (28.8).

"Without a doubt this team is struggling from 3-point range," Bromley said. "People know that and will pack it in inside so you still have to shoot a few 3s."

An attack that bides more of its time could cure much of the Mustangs recent shooting frustrations, Cal Poly forward Matt Hanson said.

"It's something we've been working on in practice," said the senior, who leads the Mustangs with both 8.9 points and 8.3 rebounds per game.

Asst. SPORTS

Respect has to be earned

John Middlekauff
ON THE CHARGERS

I'll make this very clear: I can't believe I'm about to go down this road again. After apologizing to San Diego Chargers fans last week, I wouldn't have imagined in a million years I would again write something critical of the Chargers like I had in the past.

But I like to think of myself as fair, and I'm sure the ability to admit when I make mistakes, I'm here to do.

After learning that Philip Rivers played the entire AFC Championship with a torn ACL, which was scoped earlier in the week, and kept as quiet as a mouse about it, I was utterly shocked.

Rivers played through an injury that put most NFL players on the shelf for weeks. He put it on the line in the biggest stage in more ways than one, and that's commendable.

I have done a complete 180 on the outspoken signal caller. Now, I have ripped Rivers whenever possible in the past several weeks, and at the time felt justified in doing so.

But I'll state here and now that I will never say a negative word about the man again. His performance Sunday against the Patriots deserved all the respect in the world.

I proved that he is a warrior. Having said that, this column would not be complete without admiration for Rivers.

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