Parking on campus not as spotty as students may think

Fewer permits were sold in all four quarters over the past three years

Donovan Aird
SENIOR DAILY

Parking at Cal Poly causes headaches for growing students and staff alike, but the situation isn’t as bad as it may seem, University Police Department officials say.

“It’s all in perspective,” UPD business services coordinator Marlene Cramer said.

“The parking situation is better today than when I started in 2000. Parking is available — the issue is that it’s just not always close and convenient.”

A total of 4,253 permits had been sold this quarter as of Tuesday, according to UPD. While the data is still in flux, making it difficult for conclusions to be drawn, Cramer said it seems as if the sales total will fall well below the amounts from winter quarters in 2005 and 2006, when more than 4,800 permits were sold each term.

Cal Poly sold 9,458 total parking permits during the fall 2004 quarter, when there were 6,857 total parking spots on campus, according to UPD statistics. That ratio of 1.4 permits for every spot is greater than the same ratio from the fall 2007 quarter, when 1.2 total permits were sold for every spot.

Fewer quarterly permits were sold in all four quarters from 2005 to 2007, with the smallest difference being a three-percent decrease in the spring quarters, the largest being a 14.4-percent drop in the summer quarters.

“There has been a decline in sales overall,” Cramer said. “We push alternative transportation although Cal Poly overfills non-resident permits, its overall rate pales in comparison to many other schools, Cramer said. Exemplifying a more “horrendous” outlook, she said, are UCLA, where freshmen aren’t even allowed to park, and several prominent East Coast schools that have made “very common” use of the freshmen-prohibiting practice.

“We have considered it and almost implemented it several years ago,” Cramer said.

San Jose State, Cramer added, provides about 3,000 spots for roughly 30,000 students.

The school has to oversell permits to make the most of its resources, Cramer explained.

“A general student is not going to be in a space all day long,” she said. “They may come in at noon and be here until 5 (p.m.), or may come in for a 7 (a.m.) class and leave at 9 (a.m.). To make the most use of our space we have to oversell. It’s very common.”

In spite of how much more crammed other campuses may be, it seems most Cal Poly parkers are frustrated with the availability of spots.

“It’s bad,” said mechanical engineering sophomore Tyler Sears, who’s been parking on campus for two quarters. “If you come at noon, it’s pretty much impossible.”

Mathematics sophomore Josh Politz said the congestion even made him 15 minutes late to a class in the second week of the quarter.

“I’d say so far (this quarter) it’s a little worse,”

see Parking, page 2

Students get the juice from Perez Hilton

Approximately 725 students, consisting mostly of women, packed Chumash Auditorium Thursday night to see celebrity blogger Perez Hilton speak about his life and profession. The self-proclaimed “media whore” dished the dirt on everything from MTV’s “The Hills” to Jessica Simpson’s drinking habits.

Kucinich drops out of the race

Joe Milicia
HOME

CLEVELAND — Democrat Dennis Kucinich is abandoning his second, long-shot bid for the White House as he faces a tough fight to hold onto his other job—U.S. congressman.

In an interview with Cleveland’s Plain Dealer, the six-term House member said he was quitting the race and would make a formal announcement Friday.

“I will be announcing that I’m transitioning out of the presidential campaign,” Kucinich said. “I’m making that announcement tomorrow about a new direction.”

Kucinich has received little support in his presidential bid; he got 1 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary and was shut out in the Iowa caucuses. He did have a devoted following.

Kucinich, 61, is facing four challengers in the Democratic congressional primary March 4, and earlier this week he made an urgent appeal on his Web site for funds for his re-election. Rival Joe Cimperman has been critical of Kucinich for focusing too much time outside of his district while campaigning for president.

His decision comes a month after the death of his youngest brother, Perry Kucinich.

Kucinich said he will not endorse another Democrat in the primary.

Kucinich brought the same sense of idealism to his second run for president as he did in his first bid. He said he was entering the race again because the Democratic Party wasn’t pushing hard enough to end the Iraq war.

Once dubbed the “boy mayor” of Cleveland, he made an unpopular decision to resee Kucinich, page 2
In Cleveland on Jan. 9.

Throughout his career, Kucinich has been one of the most outspoken liberals, opposing international trade agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement and marching with protesters in Seattle during a meeting of the World Trade Organization.

As a presidential candidate, he has proposed a Department of Peace, backed universal health care and supported gay marriage. He also pushed for impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney.

At a debate last October, Kucinich delivered one of the night’s lighter moments when he compared an unidentified flying object at the Washington state home of actress Shirley MacLaine. With a smile, he said he would open a campaign office in Rowell, N.M., home to many alleged UFO sightings.

Kucinich married British citizen Elizabeth Harper in 2005, ensuring his 2008 campaign would have one dramatic difference from his first campaign. Kucinich told New Hampshire audiences during the 2004 race that he was seeking a mate. This time, he’s running for a position arranged by a New Hampshire political Web site, but nothing romantic evolved from Kucinich’s breakfast with the winner.

Getting ready for the Relay

Cassandra Carlson

The San Luis Obispo chapter of the American Cancer Society is getting ready for its 10th anniversary Relay For Life with a kickoff party at Dolphin Bay Hotel tonight from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Organizers encourage students and community members to get informed about this event.

Liz Grajewski, the American Cancer Society’s patient service programs, cancer research, advocacy and community education manager, says, "We have at least 300 parking spaces available on campus.

There are many ways for students to improve their moods and beat seasonal depression without the use of phototherapy and medications. "Exercise is extremely helpful," Histand said. "Getting out with your friends and family and getting into a good sleep pattern also help in the fight against seasonal depression."
Suicide bomber kills provincial police chief in Mosul

Kim Gansel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A suicide bomber killed an Iraqi police chief and two other officers Thursday as they surveyed the site of the wreckage of a blast a day earlier that devastated a predominantly Sunni neighborhood in the volatile northern city of Mosul.

The casualty toll from Wednesday’s explosion rose to at least 34 dead and 224 injured, said Hisham al-Hamdani, the head of the Ninevah provincial council. The blast obliterated a three-story apartment building and ravaged adjacent houses just minutes after the Iraqi army arrived to investigate tips about a weapons cache.

Brig. Gen. Salah Mohammed al-Jubouri, the police chief for surrounding Ninevah province, was killed as he left the blast site after being confronted by an angry crowd shouting “Alah is Great” while he inspected damage near the crater.

Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad, has become one of the latest fronts in U.S.-led efforts to rid the country of al-Qaida-linked militants who fled crackdowns in the capital and surrounding areas.

While the levels of violence have fallen in much of the country, attacks have persisted north of Baghdad.

In Thursday’s attack, a bomber disguised as a policeman blew himself up as the entourage was just yards away from their vehicle, said police spokesman Saeed al-Jubouri. Al-Jubouri is a tribal name common in Mosul.

The police chief was killed, along with two other officers, and five people were wounded, including three Iraqi police, an Iraqi soldier and a U.S. soldier, the U.S. military said.

The military said initial reports indicated al-Qaida in Iraq was behind Thursday’s attack, but Wednesday’s explosion remained under investigation.

Ahmed Ibrahim, a 4U-year-old tailor, said he went to the area early Thursday to check on his shop and found the building intact.

But others were not so fortunate, finding entire blocks reduced to rubble and a massive crater at least 30 feet deep where the apartment building used to stand.

“The building that exploded has disappeared while the houses next to it were leveled. Other houses farther away were damaged,” Ibrahim said.

“When I stood near the leveled houses, I heard the voices of people calling for help from under the debris. I went to the firefighters and told them about the voices,” he said. “Some relatives were searching among the debris for their missing relatives. The whole thing is a disaster.”

On Sunday, U.S. military spokesman Rear Adm. Gregory Smith said the military had largely chased al-Qaida in Iraq out of all major urban centers except Mosul, the country’s third largest city and a major transportation hub with highways leading west to Syria and south to Baghdad.

“Mosul will continue to be a center of influence for a center of gravity for al-Qaida because of its key network of facilitators — both financing and foreign fighters,” he said. “The flow to Mosul is critical for al-Qaida in Iraq.”

Provincial Gov. Duraid Kashmola imposed an indefinite curfew starting at noon Thursday in the city following the attack.

He said a preliminary investigation showed al-Qaida in Iraq was behind Wednesday’s explosion in a bid “to terrorize Mosul residents.”

Wednesday’s explosion came after the Iraqi army received calls that insurgents were using the vacant building as a shelter and a bomb-making factory, police said.

A bulldozer worked through the night to clear the debris, with vehicles providing light as dozens of people watched on the rim of the water-filled crater, footage from the local TV station showed.

The TV footage showed one woman looking stunned as she held a bandage to her face in an emergency room and doctors rushed to treat a man whose face was bloodied.

The blast in Mosul was the latest in a series of bombings across Iraq, including in some areas that have seen a relative calm recently with the security gains from U.S.-Iraqi operations and a Sunni revolt against al-Qaida in Iraq.

Al-Hamdani, the provincial council chief, said rescue operations continued despite the attack on the police chief and he expected the death toll to rise as more bodies were pulled from huge piles of concrete rubble.

Many of the recent attacks have been against Sunni tribal leaders and officials who have joined forces with the Americans against al-Qaida in Iraq.

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"What's your favorite thing to do on a rainy day?"

Compiled and photographed by Britteny Clyde

"I like to drink hot cocoa and sit by a window."
— Katherine Januszewicz, biology junior

"I like to splash in puddles."
— David Bydakke, mechanical engineering junior

"We like to do rain dances."
— Kortney Larson, graphic communication sophomore and Whitney Moran, graphic communication senior

Bosss can fire workers for using medical marijuana

Paul Elias
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Employers can fire workers found to have used medical marijuana even if it was legally prescribed, the Califor­ nia Supreme Court ruled Thursday in another setback for Cali­ fornia in its increasingly rancorous clash with federal law over medical pot use.

The high court upheld a Sacra­ mento telecommunications company's firing of a man who thanked a company-ordered drug test. Gary Ross held a medical marijuana card authorizing him to legally use mari­juana to treat a back injury sustained in a work-related fall. Federal law bars such use.

Los Angeles AP — An asterisk last 300 feet long will make a rare close pass by Earth next week, but there is no chance of an impact, scientists reported Thursday.

The object, known as 2007 FLU6, is expected to zoom by Earth on Tuesday with its closest approach at 340,000 miles, or about 1/2 times the distance of Earth to the moon.

The nighttime encounter should be bright enough for medium-sized telescopes to get a glimpse, said Don Yeomans, director of the Near-Earth Object Program Office at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which tracks potentially dangerous space rocks.

LOS ANGELES AP — Hordes of big-rigs were stranded as a snow-covered mountain pass north of Los Angeles Thurs­day after a frigid storm that also prompted flood watches in fire­-scarred areas.

One driver told Fox 11 news that he had been stuck for 24 hours, unable to move through Tujon Pass because California Highways Patrol officers had blocked the Grapevine section of Interstate 5, a main artery between northern and southern California. The pass rises above 4,000 feet and frequently is closed by win­ ter storms. There was no indica­tion when it would reopen. More snow and sleet was expected to fall on the area throughout the day.

"There are abandoned cars every­where," said Wendy Gardner, a manager at Madd Bailey’s Pub in Pine Mountain Club, where up to 10 inches of snow fell. "We got hit around 3:30 in the morning and it hasn’t stopped.”

Further, the state Supreme Court said the so-called Compassionate Use Act passed by California voters in 1996 had nothing to do with em­ ployment laws.

"Nothing in the text or history of the Compassionate Use Act sugg­ests the voters intended the measure to address the respective rights and duties of employers and employees," Werdnig wrote. "Under California law, an employer may require preem­ployment drug tests and take illegal drug use into considera­tion in mak­ing employment decisions."

A 2005 U.S. Supreme Court de­cision declared that state medical marijuana laws don’t protect users from prosecution. The Drug En­forcement Agency and other federal agencies have been actively shutting down major medical marijuana dis­pensaries throughout the state over the last two years and changing their operations with serious felony distri­bution charges.

The Santa Clara Valley Transpor­tation Authority and the Western Electrical Contractors Association Inc. had joined Ragingwire’s case, arguing that companies could lose federal contracts and grants if they allowed employers to smoke pot.

The conservative nonprofit Pacif­ic Legal Foundation said in a friend­of-the-court filing that employers with valid medical-marijuana users should receive the same workplace protection from discipline that employers with valid prescription drugs do.

Ross had argued that medical marijuana users should receive the same workplace protection from discipline that employers with valid prescription drugs do.

The nonprofit marijuana advok­acy group Americans for Safe Ac­cess, which represents Ross, estimates that 300,000 Americans use medical marijuana. The Oakland-based group said it has received hundreds of em­ployee discrimination complaints in California since it began tracking the issue in 2005.

Justice Kennard dissented attacking the majority’s ruling in the dissent as “completely lacking in con­viction.” Kennard stated the ruling “disappoints” the California medical marijuana law, and said employees should be barred from firing workers who use medical marijuana as long as they continue to perform their jobs adequately.
The Bucket List (PG-13)
97 min.
Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman, Sean Hayes, Beverly Todd, Rob Morrow, Alfonso Freeman, Rownea King; directed by Rob Reiner
Summary: Reiner ("This Is Spinal Tap," "The Princess Bride") presents yet another comedy, this time about two terminally ill women who break out of a hospital and go on the ultimate road trip before they die. While it's hard to miss out on Freeman and Nicholson onscreen together, critics say the film's script is a disaster that won't last.

Cassandra's Dream (R)
108 min.
Ewan McGregor, Colin Farrell, Tom Wilkinson, Sally Hawkins, Hayley Atwell; directed by Woody Allen
Summary: Although it's hard to tell from the trailer, "Cassandra's Dream," a film about sex, crime and guilt (minus any comedy), is indeed a Woody Allen film. It tells the story of two brothers in London who have to deal with committing a crime and the irony between them that then emerges. Critics say it has a smaller darkness as his 2006 film "Match Point" and that Allen is officially losing his touch.

The Great Debaters (PG-13)
127 min.
Denzel Washington, Forest Whitaker, Nate Parker, Jumee Smollett, Denzel Whitaker, Jermaine Williams; directed by Joe Wright
Summary: Depicting a racially segregated South and the small victories won by the Wiley college debate team. Great directing and truthful portrayal of '30s deep South connect issues to modern times. Though inspirational, the film still follows the "based on a true story," "underdog" formulas.

How She Move (PG-13)
98 min.
Rutina Wesley, Brennon Gademans, Cle Bennett, Tre Armstrong, Kevin Duhaney, Shaw Desman, Oswin Murphy; directed by Ian jalpash Rashid
Summary: A dancing film in the same vein as "Stomp The Yard," "How She Move" follows a high school student who is forced to leave her private school and return to her old neighborhood where she gets her back love for competitive step dancing. The film features an appearance by R&B singer Keyshia Cole.

Meet the Spartans (PG-13)
84 min.
Sean Maguire, Carmen Electra; directed by Jason Friedman
Summary: From the people who brought you "Epic Movie," "Meet The Spartans" is another satire movie that borrows its basic plot from "300" and parodies the likes of "Rambo," "Spiderman," "You Got Served" and Brittany Spears.

No Country For Old Men (R)
122 min.
Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Woody Harrelson, Keely Macdonald; directed by Ethan and Joel Coen
Summary: Twenty years after the last film ended, John Rambo (Stallone, of course) is in northern Thailand, where he works as a river guide and lives a relatively quiet life. However, when a group of human rights missionaries entreat him to take them by river to a small Karen tribe entrenched in the 60-plus-years Burmese-Karen conflict, and then never return, he's forced back into action.

The Savages (R)
113 min.
Laura Linney, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Philip Bosco, Peter Friedman, Georgina Ak기는 who; directed by Tamara Jenkins
Summary: "Tell" tells a bloody tale of revenge done the old-fashioned way: sitting people's throats out, cutting off their hair and then grinding their bodies into meat pies. A delicious tale, indeed.

Sweeney Todd (R)
117 min.
Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Sacha Baron Cohen; directed by Tim Burton
Summary: Special Agent Jennifer Marsh (Laini) investigates a tech-sawy Internet predator who displays his murders on his own Web site, where the number of hits the site gets determines the speed in which his victims die. The stakes become higher as the "untraceable" killer makes off with $300 and parodies the likes of "Rambo," "Spiderman," "You Got Served" and Brittany Spears.

Untraceable (R)
110 min.
Diane Lane, Billy Burke, Colin Hanks, Joseph Cross; directed by Gregory Hoblit
Summary: Produced, directed and written by Francis Ford Coppola. "Youth Without Youth" follows 70-year-old professor Dominic Maita as he is struck by lightning and transformed into his once-youngself on the eve of World War II. This strange occurrence affords Maita the chance to find his lost love and finish his life's work.

Youth Without Youth (R)
125 min.
Tim Roth, Alexandra Maria Lara, Bruno Ganz, Andre Hennicke, Marcel Lures; directed by Francis Ford Coppola
Summary: Jane (Katherine Heigl) is a seasoned bridesmaid who has appeared in (you guessed it) 27 of her friends' weddings. But when her younger sister Tess (Malin Akerman) falls in love with her boss, whom Jane is secretly in love with, Jane has a hard time wanting to stand by her side and re-evaluates her "always a bridesmaid, never a bride" status.

27 Dresses (PG-13)
107 min.
Katherine Heigl, James Marsden, Malin Akerman, Edward Burns, Melora Hardin, Judy Greer; directed by Anne Fletcher
Summary: Jane (Katherine Heigl) is a seasoned bridesmaid who has appeared in (you guessed it) 27 of her friends' weddings. But when her younger sister Tess (Malin Akerman) falls in love with her boss, whom Jane is secretly in love with, Jane has a hard time wanting to stand by her side and re-evaluates her "always a bridesmaid, never a bride" status.
Rev. Peyton’s Big Damn Band is Big Damn-Tastic!

Aaron Gaudette

A guitar, a washboard, a small two-piece guitar kit with a five-gallon bucket, and the occasional harmonica — these are the instruments used by Rev. Peyton’s Big Damn Band to produce their grassroots and wholly unique throwback sound.

Rev. Peyton’s Big Damn Band, originally consisting of only three people, defines itself as a raw, rural country blues — the kind of blues that is more about rawness than anything else. Hard blues has less form and fewer rules, whereas city blues usually follows a 12-bar format and has a more electric, jazzy component.

The band’s appropriately self-defined “preswar” style couldn’t be more appropriate given the instruments that they use to chum out their rhythms, and they find solace in the fact that they’ve achieved such success using the means they’ve chosen to make their music with.

“Our style stems from the days when people couldn’t afford any other instruments,” said the Rev. Peyton after their show at Downtown Brew Co. Wednesday night. “The small five-gallon bucket is from street-performing tradition, when people used what they did out of necessity.”

The band, which is made up of the Rev. Peyton on guitar, his wife Breezy on the washboard (as in a board that’s used to wash clothes), and his brother Jayme on the drums, originally hails from Nashville, Ind.

The band’s style involves the Rev. Peyton playing guitar and bass on the same instrument, using the higher chords for the guitar riffs and the lower chords for the bass. Breezy on the washboard gives the music a scratchy, beat-like quality that seamlessly integrates itself and is complemented by the lack of a bass player.

The Rev. Peyton, who is a legally ordained minister, downplays his name as more of an inherited nickname but later explained that it does have an influence on the band’s music.

“Being a legally ordained minister isn’t really a big deal. I mean, anyone can do it. What I’m most proud of is being given the title of Kentucky Colonel, which is the highest honor that can be conferred upon a civilian by the Governor of Kentucky. It’s a long story on how I got that title, but it essentially is from my contributions in music and the service guard.”

The band finds inspiration for its music in everyday occurrences and the people that are a part of this; this is easily discerned by the band having song titles such as “Pa’s Drunk Again,” “The Creeks Have Gone Bad,” “Your Cousin’s On Coke,” and more religious tunes such as “Glory, Glory Hallelujah.”

The band decided to give up their jobs and tour full-time a little less than two years ago, and they’ve enjoyed quite a bit of success since then, touring across Europe, Canada and 47 states.

“I never thought that people would be as into us and as receptive to our style of music as they’ve been,” said the Rev. Peyton. “It’s really an amazing feeling.”

The concert was a great success, with the band selling immense amounts of merchandise after the show and receiving praise from every patron who passed by on their way out of the venue.

Moreover, the concert was additionally valuable due to the exposure it gave grassroots, blues and country music enthusiasts to a wholly different kind of blues music — a style that the Rev. Peyton affectionately refers to as “Mississippi Delta Blues.”

Rev. Peyton involved the crowd with sing-alongs and danced all over stage while wailing on his guitar. The Rev. Peyton even went so far as to kick one of his brother’s cymbals during a few of his more animated guitar riffs, which only helped to animate the crowd.

“Yeah, I can kind of go nuts on stage, but I like to kick Jayme’s cymbals and use my guitar as percussion by slapping it because not only does it get the crowd into the show, but it’s also reflective of our preswar style.”

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Rev. Peyton’s Big Damn Band is perpetually on tour and has toured with groups such as Flagging Molly, Derek Trucks’ Band and Hot Buttered Rum. Additional information on the Big Damn Band can be found at bigdamnband.com.
Woody
continued from page 5

Woody Allen's latest film to follow director Woody Allen's tragic thriller formula.

In his comedies, the best of which is "Annie Hall," all of this philosophical seriousness is laced with an addictive, lighthearted perspective. Even though Johansson seems dispensable, the truth is she's Woody Allen's MasterCard. She's priceless, as are all of Woody Allen's women, both in the thrillers and in the comedies.

Bad things happen to women in Woody Allen's films. In "Match Point," Scarlett Johansson is murdered, and in "Annie Hall" Diane Keaton is romantically unfulfilled (granted, these aren't weighty issues). The difference between the comedies and the thrillers is elementary: he (and we) genuinely care about the women in the former; he (and we) kill them in the latter.

A subject to contemplate on the one hand, object to kill on the other. "But no woman dies in 'Cassandra's Dream,'" says the hypothetical anyone arguing in favor of the thrillers.

Maybe so. But "Cassandra's Dream" is the name of a dog that Colin Firth makes a winning bet on at the racetracks and that defies the inspiration for naming the boat the brothers buy in the film. The name is a metaphor for luck (or fortune, or chance), both bad and good, and by the end of "Cassandra's Dream," the boat is neglected to the point of being forgotten.

Thus another woman is given a serious treatment as a (nostalgical) object, and all you want to do is scoff: "Woody, you can't be serious."
It seems like only a short time ago that political news cov­
erage was dominated by tales of the pivotal 2006 mid­
term elections. Nancy Pelosi was presum­
ptuously measuring drapes in Washington and many Americans were just getting to
know Barack Obama. I may be dat­
ing myself a bit, but I am astonished to think that primary season is already well
underway.

As Californians across the state thought­
fully consider their Super Tuesday selec­
tions, there is an important thing to bear
in mind. Tossing your hat into the ring
with a presidential hopeful is not the only
way to participate in national politics.

It is nearly impossible to avoid the posters, staks, flyers and conver­
sations around our campus about next week’s event, “Focus
the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for America.” The national
event will include several activities on campus, but Focus the Na­
tion organizers have also coordinated a special online voting tool
to put participants across the country directly in touch with their
representatives.

“Choose Your Future” is a Web site designed by Focus the Na­
tion organizers that allows visitors to vote for five priorities for
legislative action on global warming from a list of 10. Each of
the 10 choices is described in detail on the Web site and users are able
to discuss the options on a message board. The site opened for
voting on Jan. 21 and requires an e-mail address, state of residence
and zip code to cast a vote. On Feb. 12, voting will end and the re­sults
will be broken down into congressional districts. The top five
choices of students and citizens from each congressional district will be
delivered to their representative’s office Feb. 18.

Creators of the Web site hope garnering several legislative strate­
gies for minimizing climate change that I enthusiastically support.
I am for an expansion of the annual federal investment in clean
energy technology research. The United States Department of
Energy has an annual budget of approximately $23.5 billion,
according to data published on their Web site, which is a very
small investment in energy technology research and implementa­
tion. Energy issues are a deciding factor in the future of American
economics, national security and lifestyles. Increased government
spending on the emerging technologies of today will pay off in
the not-so-distant future as they blossom into workable solutions with
environmental and economic benefits.

One idea that has received a particularly large amount of
attention in recent press is the creation of a carbon di­
oxide emissions cap and trade system. Such a system
would set a limit on the total emissions
allowable in America.

Commercial carbon emitters would be per­
mitted to discharge only a fixed volume of greenhouse gas. Those emit­
ting carbon dioxide in excess of their
allowable amount would have to buy “carbon cred­
in” at auctions from other organizations emit­
ing less than their allotment. I am behind such
a system because it would effectively place a tax on greenhouse
gas emissions. The cap and trade system would provide a mar­
ket-based incentive for organizations to find new ways of limiting their emissions.

I also support the avoidance of new coal power infrastructure in the
United States. Coal plants supply over 50 percent of the power in
our country and, by many estimates, account for more than one-third of the carbon dioxide emissions. An increased use of coal is
touted by many to be the solution to American dependence on
foreign sources of energy. Coal is plentiful in our country and ex­
isting infrastructure would make increased coal use relatively easy;
however, the resulting additional carbon dioxide emissions would be extremely harmful to the earth.

By reducing our reliance on coal power and shifting Ameri­
can power infrastructure to eco-friendly wind and solar systems, the
potentially disastrous effects of continued high rates of carbon
dioxide emission can be averted. Additionally, a move away from
coal power will help us dodge the harmful environmental effects of
coal mining.

These topics are just a few of the many covered on the Choose
Your Future Web site. This is a unique opportunity to voice your
opinion on these important issues to your congressional repre­
sentative. A table will be set up with laptops to receive your vote
in the University Union on Jan. 31, the day of Focus the Nation.
If you cannot make it to the event at Cal Poly, I encourage you to
visit Choose Your Future online at http://focusthenation.org/
chooseyoureyeinge.php.

Matt Hutten is an environmental engineering senior, Focus the Nation
organizer and Mustang Daily columnist.

LETTERS

To THE EDITOR

Don’t forget about the track team!

Is anyone going to write a story about the week’s indoor track
meet next month in Fresno?

Whitney DeWeese
Psychology senior

Cartoon insensitive to recent celebrity death

I, like many others, was incred­
bly shocked and saddened to
hear of the untimely death of ac­
tor Heath Ledger on Tuesday. It
saddens me to think of how such
a wonderful actor’s life was cut so short.

After thinking of the ac­
tor’s death for the last two days, I
found it incredibly offensive
to see the cartoon entitled “Pop
Culture Shock Therapy” in
Thursday’s Mustang Daily in
which the cartoon depicts a very
similar scene to what reports are
saying of the location of the ac­
tor’s death (person dead on the
bed, pills scattered about, etc).

Whichever the Mustang Daily
printed this cartoon to shed light
on the issue or whether the cartoon
was to be a depiction of the actor’s death at all, it was
extremely offensive to print the

cartoon at this point in time. It’s
disrespectful to Heath Ledger’s
memory, his family, his friends,
and to his fans who mourn his
death all over the world.

Jordan Sauvain
Wine and viticulture sophomore

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* Editions reserve the right to edit

correspondence for spelling, grammar, style, length and proficiency.
Dincu continued from page 12

building them up, physically and mentally. We'd do anything for him."

Dincu entered the world of sports early as a professional soccer player in Romania, and later as a graduate sports therapist from the University of Bucharest.

At age 28, while serving as trainer for the Star Bucharest soccer team during the 1977 European Cup in Barcelona, Dincu defected to Spain, leaving behind what he felt was an oppressive social and political climate in Romania, which he retrospectively calls an "army state."

"I'm a guy who doesn't need a speech to get motivated or get things done," Dincu said. "There's no substitute for hard work. I believe given a chance anyone can succeed as long as they do their best."

Not satisfied with the prospects Spain had to offer, Dincu came to Canada in 1979. and then to America. Arriving with virtually no money, no contacts and unable to speak English, the stocky, powerfully built Romanian relied on his hands to speak a language all their own.

"I had strong hands. My massage was my passport," Dincu says. "America is truly the land of opportunity. You can really speak a language all their own."

According to Dincu, the body's muscle tissues shorten and become the best at what you do through hard work.

"Athletes don't care how much you know; they care about how much you care," Dincu says. "Talking to the athletes is important. They are their own best doctors."

In November, Dincu's talents caught the attention of Chuck "The Iceman" Liddell when Liddell came to campus and noticed him working with athletes. The very next day Dincu was hired by Liddell to start working with him on a daily basis up until his fight in December.

"If the sport is taken seriously, then there is a place for massage," Dincu says. "Helping the body recover is just as important as the workout."

How did "Super Mike" get his nickname? Apparently during the 1984 Olympics, Dincu worked tirelessly to relieve Canada's track and field team. Astonishing people with his level of energy and expertise, athletes started referring to him as "The Machine" and "Super Mike." The latter moniker stuck and remains to this day, just as applicable now as it was back then.

"Mike's very caring and always willing to help," said junior Cal Poly wrestler Chase Parni. "Whether it's with an injury or a sore muscle, he goes above and beyond what you need. That's just who he is."

Even now at 58, Dincu maintains a passion for sports and athletes. These days his favorite sport is wrestling.

"In a past life I was a wrestler," he says. "Wrestling was one of the first Olympic sports, and I'm very impressed with its athletes. I love how a wrestler can keep going even after they've reached a point when you think they can't go any further."

After living in so many places, Dincu admires San Luis Obispo's attractive scenery, mild climate and strong sense of community.

"San Luis Obispo is like a forgotten place," he says. "It's the diamond in the crown of California. I congratulate the city hull on a job well done."

Ask anyone who has experienced the rehabilitation of Dincu's massages, and they'll tell you it's a much-needed part of their workout.

"It's an excellent massage. He's careful and aware of what he's doing," says Trevor Dardik, a sprinter and Cal Poly graduate. "I look forward to my time with him after training."

It would appear the feeling is mutual and that the selfless Dincu benefits from his therapy as much as his athletes.

"Helping others is my passion," Dincu says. "My biggest need is to be needed."
Belichick keeps Brady, booted or not, veiled in Patriots-style secrecy

Howard Ulman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — For once, not even the photographers could find Tom Brady.

Or his boot.

They took stock of the Patriots' quarterback's locker for 45 minutes before the media access period ended Thursday. They focused on the 15 minutes they were allowed into practice and found two quarterbacks, Matt Cassel and Matt Gutierrez.

That was quite a change from early in the week when Brady walked through a bunch of video cameras and photographers near the New York home of his girlfriend, supermodel Gisele Bundchen.

On Monday, they took pictures of him wearing a protective boot on his right foot. Later in the day, he walked without the boot into a nighttime with Bundchen. Video on Tuesday also captured him without the boot as he headed for and entered a car.

"I'm going to put on a boot and see if you all follow me around," New England halftime Heave Evans joked before practice.

Brady, the NFL MVP reportedly has a minor ankle sprain that shouldn't keep him out of the Super Bowl on Feb. 3 against the New York Giants.

Coach Bill Belichick and several players treated the Brady- boot saga as a mixture of stonewalling and smiles.

"I don't have any comment on it," Belichick said in a news conference before the Patriots held their first practice for the Super Bowl. "I think everyone is waiting for the results of the MRI report will be out next Wednesday and we're excited to give you that. That form will be filled out completely and I can't wait to give that to everybody.

"I know you're anxious for it, so when it's due on Wednesday, we'll have it for you. Don't worry about that.

"While Patriots' fans were concerned about the boot on Brady's foot, defensive end Richard Seymour was more taken with the bouquet in Brady's hand.

"To me, the good part was the flowers. I wasn't in Brady's hand. "You'll have to ask Tom about anything pertaining to him and his ankle," Belichick said.

None of the players expressed any concern that Brady wouldn't play in the Super Bowl, still more than a week away. He may even have practiced after reporters and photographers were ushered out, but the team provided no information.

The first practice participation report is due out after next Wednesday's workout in Arizona.

Brady has started 126 consecutive games, the third longest current streak among quarterbacks in the NFL.

While I occasionally flip to the El Channel to watch "Cheeba Lately" (I'm intrigued by her personality moody), there is absolutely no room for celebrity news — the bane of the journalism industry — on ESPN.

Besides, in the immortal words of the "Tall-dega Nights" character Cal Naughton, Jr. "I like to party, I like my athlete to party." I fear to think what the public opinion would be of players like Babe Ruth or Mickey Mantle if they played today.

And while we're on the subject of athletes, no matter how great they were, aka Emmitt Smith, or not so great, in my book, "Round Mound of Rebound" and "Shoesoe" Joe for the best nickname in sports.

While I occasionally flip to the El Channel to watch "Cheeba Lately" (I'm intrigued by her personality moody), there is absolutely no room for

Round-up
continued from page 12
McCready crossed the finish line well ahead of her fellow runners in 10 minutes, 21 seconds.

Eggleston was the lone jumper with a 17-foot, 3.5-inch bound and made her mark in the triple jump with a best of 38-11 1/2, just edging out teammates Jordan Pickert (17-2 7/8) in the long jump and Caitlin Shields (38-11) in the triple.

This is Eggleston's first time competing in the winter track season after playing for Cal Poly's women's basketball team for the past four years.

In the 55-meter dash, Ernice Benny came in second after clocking a 7.38-second time in her preliminary heat and a 7.37 in the finals.

The Mustangs also ran well in the half-mile, where Kristen Sanzari came through the line in second place at 2:21.37, followed closely by Cassy Atkinson, who finished in third, at 2:22.40.

After nearly two weeks of practice time, the Mustangs will compete at 5 p.m. Feb. 2 at the University of Washington All-Comers meet.

The Banana Slugs finished the fall season ranked No. 1 in Division III.

Men's tennis team takes on some Waves

Going up against Fresno State this past Sunday with a 7-0 victory against Westmont under the belt, the Cal Poly men's tennis team faced losing 5-2 to the 69th-ranked Bulldogs to fall to 1-1 early in the spring season.

Junior Darian Young was picked as the Cal Poly Athlete of the Week after posting a 6-1, 6-2 victory in No. 4 singles, and the Mustangs' only doubles win of the day with partner Robert Few.

Freshman Drew Jacobs also scored a victory for Cal Poly, winning 6-2, 6-2 at No. 5 singles.

The Mustangs' comeback will end at tough, as they visit No. 17 Pepperdine at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

The Waves feature four players ranked in the top 100 in the nation by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

On Sunday, Cal Poly will host UC Santa Cruz at 1 p.m.
**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**Super masseur lends helpful hands to Poly athletes**

By Patrick Barbieri

You won't see him flying around campus in a red cape, but those who know Mihai "Mike" Dincu still call him "Super Mike." The Romaniam masseur has traveled far throughout his career, working with some of sports' biggest names, and is now using his magic hands and big heart to help Cal Poly athletes.

Since arriving in North America almost 30 years ago, Dincu has worked with many elite athletes including the 1984 Canadian and 1988 United States Olympic track and field teams and the NBA's San Antonio Spurs and Milwaukee Bucks. He also served as Canadian Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson's personal athletic therapist, and more recently, personal therapist to former UFC light heavyweight champion and Cal Poly alumna Chuck Liddell.

"I've been blessed with good eyes and strong hands," Dincu says. "I understand sports and athletes. People feel that."

As of 2006, Dincu dedicated himself to alleviating the stressed muscles of Cal Poly sprinters, wrestlers and soccer players. The secret lies not only in his therapeutic hands, but also his witty and charismatic personality. Dincu not only soothes athletes' aches and pains physically, but also seems to have an uncanny ability to relieve his own.

"Mike's a fantastic character. He's always smiling and has a good joke to tell," said Cal Poly men's soccer head coach Paul Holdoher. "We love having him around and feeling his sense of humor. He's a very special person."

Cal Poly head wrestling coach John Azevedo shares Holocher's opinion of Dincu.

"Mike is awesome, and not only for therapeutic reasons," Azevedo said. "When he works with athletes he's see Dincu, page 10

**MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT**

**Women's basketball team falls at Pacific in overtime**

Out of all of Jennifer Fields' 33 points Thursday night, her final two hurt the Cal Poly women's basketball team the most.

The freshman guard hit a game-winning jumper with eight seconds left in overtime to carry Pacific (9-11, 3-5 Big West) to an 89-88 Big West Conference victory in Stockton.

Senior guard Kyla Howell scored a game-high 23 points Thursday. She added that nine games have been officially contracted so far, in- including five at home.

**Heyward heads northward to alma mater**

Cal Poly inside linebackers coach Keith Heyward is returning to his alma mater, Oregon State, to become a cornerbacks coach, Beavers head assistant to be hired by a Football

Heyward, who spent just the 2007 season with the Mustangs after being a graduate assistant at Oregon State from 2005-06, is the second Cal Poly assistant to be hired by a Football

joining DuPax, who accepted in December a position coaching slot backs at Navy. The 28-year-old Heyward was a four-year letterman at corner for Oregon State before playing professionally in NFL Europe, the Canadian Football League and the Arena Foot-

The "couple of guys" are being considered as replacements, Ellerson said, although the hiring may take a little longer than usual because the coaching staff is focusing most heavily on recruiting.

Meanwhile, Cal Poly's schedule is still being finalized, athletics director Alison Cone said Thursday.

"We're still trying to identify the final games and are in a discussion with a number of folks," Cone said.

She added that nine games have been officially contracted so far, including five at home.

**Indoor track squad ready to head to Washington**

The Cal Poly indoor track team leapt to victory Monday with wins over Fresno State, Hawaii, and Cal State Stanislaus at the Second Annual Run for the Dreams at Fresno State's newly renovated track.

The Mustangs defeated Fresno State 71-62, Hawaii 68-64 and Cal State Stanislaus 87-40, led by 3,431-

The winner receives a $20 gift certificate to The Sports Forum. All participants must include name, year and major -- or staff title if a school employee.

**ESPN just isn't the same any more**

By NICK CAMACHO

"We love having him around and feeling his sense of humor. He's a very special person."

Heyward heads northward to alma mater

Cal Poly forward Dreshawn Vance scored a career-high 19 points on 8-of-9 shooting to lead the Mustangs to a 79-67 win over UC Davis on Thursday night at Mott Gym. For a complete recap of the game, go online at mustangdaily.net.

**SPORTS EDITOR: Donovon Andl
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR: Rachel Grilahman
mustangdaily@sports@gmail.com**

"When he works with athletes he's..."