A recent lull in violence in Iraq was interrupted by one of the worst bombings this year.

Cal Poly has a new tradition, one that dwarfs the now-dying Mardi Gras celebrations and also contributes to a cause: And while it does not entail the same riotous behavior of Fat Tuesday, it still encourages the display of the student body.

Roughly a thousand people lined Hathaway Avenue on Friday night — from Campus Bottle to where Carpenter Street joins Hathaway — to witness the sophomore outing for the Streak Hathway event. And this time, it wasn’t just about naked people; it was also about raising money for breast cancer research.

The street was relatively quiet before 11 p.m., when the streak was scheduled to begin. Business senior Matt Johnson said he arrived at 10:40 p.m. and “there was no one.” He then added that at 11 p.m., “They all came out like the munchkins in ‘The Wizard of Oz.’”

Those waiting to streak donned barnottes, tear-away pants and other easily-removable clothing. Also among the popular fashion choices was the official “Streak Hathway 2008” T-shirt, which was sold to raise money for breast cancer research.

“I just love being naked,” wine and viticulture freshman Taylor Tabusa said. “To be honest, secondly it’s for the cause. My mom had breast cancer and she got over it.”

Wearing said T-shirt and tear-away pants, forestry and natural resources freshman Sean Martin said he was bar­ ing it all because “it’s the best reason for streaking I’ve ever had.”

One of the few women participating in the run, philosophy freshman Alison Bode said she was streak­ing because, “my mom has never done anything crazy in her life, so I don’t want to grow old and have no crazy stories.”

The naked festivities got off to a staggered start as four students ran naked down the street and one on the side. Shortly after, a larger crowd of about 50 students began their bare-bodied jog. Some wore just hats and shoes, some just shoes, others underwear and shoes. One played a trombone while he ran.

The crowd lined both sides of the street to watch the nude joggers, hooting and hollering and standing shoulder-to-shoulder, three and sometimes eight people deep. Another large group of students stripped and started running shortly after.

The streakers followed Hathway toward campus, and some began ducking into bushes and behind parked cars toredux when they reached Kentucky Street. The others ran until Hathway Avenue turns into Longview Lane, then turned around and began walking back the way they came, still streaked.

Biomedical engineering freshman Brian Wong observed the streak and said, “It was funny as f—k. They should have this every year.”

After the streakers ended their jog, mechanical engineering senior Kevin Walsh ran the street wearing only shoes, a backpack and a biking helmet — complete with flashing safety light. He said he arrived 15 minutes before 11 p.m. but “I guess they left without me.”

Things died down shortly after midnight and motorcycle police drove up and down the street to move the crowd from the road to the sidewalk. Spectators dispersed soon after.

How it all began

Streak Hathway is the brainchild of economics ju­ nior David Lindstrom and business junior Bryan Col­ lings.

“We thought that we would bring a new tradition to Cal Poly,” Lindstrom said.

Over the summer, Lindstroms and Collings noted the large turnout for the first naked run and realized that the event could have an impact beyond Hathaway Avenue. “We were like, ‘We could probably sell them and make some money’ and then I thought, ‘Well, we could probably just donate it.’”

The duo decided to give the proceeds from their T-shirt sales to the National Breast Cancer Foun­ dation because, as Lindstrom put it, “We’re streak­ing. It was either that or testicular cancer and...”

“That’s a little too blatant, you know?” Collings added, finishing the thought.

Most people in poll believe country is now in the grips of a recession

Jeanne Aversa
ASSOCIATE PRESS

Empty homes and fore-sale signs clutter neighborhoods. You’ve lost your job or know someone who has. Your paycheck and nest egg are tak­ ing a hit.

Could the country be in recession? Sixty-one percent of the public believes the economy is now suffer­ing through its first recession since 2001, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll.

The latest from a depressed housing market and a credit crunch nearly caused the economy to stall in the past three months of last year. Some experts, like the majority of people questioned in the poll, say the economy actually may be shrinking now. The worry is that consumers and businesses will hunker down fur­ ther and pull back spending, sending the economy into a tailspin.

“Anilly, we’re in a recession,” said Hilda Sanchez, 44, of Waterford, Calif.

“Squeezed by high energy and food bills,‘we can’t afford the things that we normally buy,” she said. “We are cutting corners in our spending. For our groceries, we are buying a lot of generic and we are eating out less.”

For many, the meltdown in the housing and mortgage markets has proved especially disturbing. Re­ cord numbers of people were forced from their homes, unable to afford the monthly loan payments. People watched their single biggest asset fall in value, a reason to tighten the belt.

“Obviously the housing market is creating deep concerns. And one of the real problems could be that if people, as a result of their value of their homes going down, kind of pull in their horns,” President Bush said in a television interview aired Sunday.

Credit has become harder to get, thwarting would-be home buyers, adding to the glut of unsold homes and aggravating the housing indus­ try’s woes.

“For-sale signs are everywhere. In my area, 35 to 40 homes are standing there and aren’t even complete. There aren’t any buyers,” said John Sims, 60, of Great, S.C.

Nanette Dahlin, 52, of St. Louis Park, Minn., called the situation “very scary.” She said friends in Madison, Minn., put their home up for sale re­ cently and reduced the asking price more than $100,000 in just a week.

“They are in bad shape,” Dahlin said.

For all of 2007, the economy grew by just 2.2 percent. That was the weakest performance since 2002, when the country was struggling to recover from the last recession. The housing collapse was the biggest cul­ prit in 2007. Builders lowered spend­ ing on housing projects by 16.9 per­ cent on an annualized basis, the most in 25 years.

The job market is faltering — a point driven home by a report show­ ing that employers cut jobs in Janu­ ary for the first time in more than four years.

“The way things are, people are afraid of losing their jobs,” Sanchez said.

Employment concerns are con­ tributing to darker feelings about the economy and people’s own financial well-being. Consumer confidence, as measured by the RBC Cash Index, dropped to a mark of 48.5 in early February. It was the worst reading since the index began in 2002.

A cooling job market along with high energy and food prices are tak­ ing a toll on paychecks. Workers’ av­ erage weekly earnings, adjusted for see Recession, page 2

BY THE NUMBERS

61 percent of the public that believes the economy is suffering a recession

2.2 percent the economy grew by in 2007

0.9 percent workers’ average weekly earnings fell by in 2007

16.9 percent builders lowered their spend­ ing on housing projects in 2007
Streak
continued from page 1

The T-shirts depict Will Ferrell’s “Tug the Tank,” character from the movie “Old School,” under a Hathway Avenue sign, with the line “We’re go­ing streaking” on the front. The back of the shirt showed Ferrell running naked and had the words “Streak Hathway 2008” as well as the pink breast cancer ribbon.

Lindstrom said the T-shirts sold for $10 and each sale resulted in a profit of $6.50, which was donated to the cause. He said 280 shirts had been sold as of Saturday, raising $1,890, but added that he still had 60 shirts to sell.

Collings cited Campus Bottle as a large contributor to the success of the fundraisers. He said the more sponsored their efforts in a way: “We gave them five shirts, and they sold them — they did all the legwork for us.”

Asked how they thought this year’s streak was, Lindstrom and Collings said the erratic beginning with some runners going too early was somewhat unfortunate.

“We had the beginning planned out,” Collings said. “We were going to go out there with a megaphone and say something right quick, and thank ev­erybody and lay the banner out, and it just didn’t happen.”

Though the start was not ideal, Lindstrom was happy with the way the event played out.

“It was perfect,” he said. “I’m happy that no incidents occurred and the cops didn’t really have to get involved.”

He is also looking ahead to next Streak Hathway. “We’re going to go at it again next year and try to keep it going and then figure out some way to keep it going after we graduate.”

Collings also hoped it would be around for years to come. “We want to come back when we’re 40 years old,” he said.

On next year’s agenda is a possible collaboration with law enforcement. Lindstrom might attempt to organize a closure of Hathway Avenue for the streak.

Collings joked that the collabora­tion may be unlikely because, “I don’t know if they’ll be down to sponsor a streak.”

Recession
continued from page 1

inflation. fell 0.9 percent last year. In 2006, earnings grew by a solid 2.1 percent.

In fact, that was the top eco­nomic worry in the Al­lis­ons poll. Fifty-nine percent said they were worried. Some or “some” about seeing the value of stocks and retire­ment investments drop.

The poll was based on the responses from 1,000 adults surveyed Monday through Wednesday about their attitudes on personal finance and the economy. Results of the survey had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Super Super Tuesday
What: The political science department presents a discussion about the Feb. 5 primaries and caucuses and predicts the party nominees.
When: Monday at 1 p.m.
Where: Alan A. Ehart Agriculture build­ing, room 220
Questions? Call Ronald Den Otter at 756-6147

Same-Gender Hand-Holding Day
What: The Pride Center is hosting the seventh annual Same-Gender Hand-Holding day, starting off with a March for Equality.
When: Sunday at 11 a.m.
Where: The march begins at Dexter Lawn and ends at the University Union Plaza
Questions? Call Erin Ehols at 756-7153

Loverspeak
What: Four faculty members will read their works of fiction and poetry. The event is put on by the English department and serves as a fundraiser for the literary annual Byzantium.
When: Wednesday at 8:10 p.m.
Where: Bioresource and agricultural en­gineering, room 123
Questions? Call English professor Kevin Clark at 756-2506

Free livestock show
What: What: The 24th annual Western Bonanza Junior Livestock Show will host more than 500 youth livestock exhibitors from across California. It’s organized by students in the Cal Poly animal science department’s live­stock show management class.
When: 6 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
Where: Paso Robles Event Center Questions? Call show advisor Wendy Hall at 756-5398

Change the Status Quo
What: The campus conference includes workshops about a student’s role in shaping society, and slam poetry and other presenta­tions. Admission is $10 for students.
When: Friday and Saturday
Where: Cal Poly campus Questions? Call the Student Life and Leadership office at 756-5834
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kim Gamel

Car bombs and gunmen struck new U.S. allies, police and civilians Sunday in northern Iraq, killing as many as 53 people. The spate of attacks came even as the American military released a captured diary and another document they say shows al-Qaida in Iraq cracking under a Sunni revolt against its brutal tactics.

The violence coincided with a visit by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to Baghdad, where he warned that hard choices face Iraq's political leaders on how to stabilize the country, despite promising new signs of progress toward reconciliation.

The deadliest bombing on Sunday was near Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, against a checkpoint manned jointly by Iraqi police and members of an awakening group.

Iraqi police said a suicide truck bomber targeted a checkpoint manned by U.S.-allied fighters and Iraqi police at the entrance of a bridge in the district of Yathrib on the outskirts of Balad. Security forces opened fire on the driver, but he managed to detonate his payload, devastating a nearby car market and other stores.

Police in the joint coordination center of the surrounding Salahuddin province and hospital officials said 34 people were killed and 37 others were wounded. Capt. Kadin Hamid said many residents in the predominantly Sunni area had removed victims directly from the site because they feared going to the hospital in Balad's mostly Shiite center.

The U.S. military put the casualty toll at 23 killed, 25 wounded and said a car bomb exploded near an Iraqi checkpoint in a market in Balad, but it did not confirm it was a suicide attack. U.S. and Iraqi forces had secured the area and the wounded had been evacuated to hospitals, according to a statement.

It was one of the worst bombings this year and a recent rise in violence, and underscored U.S. warnings that al-Qaida in Iraq remains a serious threat despite military offensives that have severely curtailed its operations.

The explosion came hours after suspected al-Qaida-linked insurgents stormed two villages near the Syrian border but were repelled by U.S.-allied fighters and Iraqi security forces in clashes that left at least 22 people dead.

Sheik Fawaz al-Jarba, the head of the Mosul anti-al-Qaida group, and other officials said the 22 killed included 10 militants and six members of the so-called awakening group in the area, as well as four women and two children.

The U.S. military in northern Iraq confirmed an attack on compound housing its Sunni allies against al-Qaida in Iraq near near Jenjar, about 60 miles west of Mosul, saying five U.S.-allied fighters were killed, five wounded and 10 insurgents were killed.

Insurgents also attacked a group of civilians elsewhere in the northern Nineveh province on Sunday, killing two men and one child and wounding two other men, two women and two infants, according to the military.

Iraqi police also said four civilians were killed Sunday when a tanker truck laden with explosives blew up near an Iraqi army checkpoint on Mosul's southern outskirts.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has promised a "decisive battle" against the terror network in Mosul but given no start date. The U.S. military has warned it will not be a swift strike, but rather a grinding campaign that will require more firepower.

An al-Qaida front group for northern Iraq warned last week in an Internet statement that it was launching its own campaign in Mosul and surrounding areas.

In all, 70 people were reported killed or found dead by police on Sunday, one of the highest nationwide death tolls in recent months. That figure included three policemen who perished in a suicide car bombing at a checkpoint in the Anbar city of Fallujah and 10 bullet-riddled bodies showing signs of torture.

Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, a U.S. military spokesman, said the documents released Sunday offered proof that al-Qaida in Iraq had been severely disrupted by the so-called awakening movement and changing U.S. tactics, but he stressed the terror network was by no means defeated.

The military said the two documents were discovered last year by American troops in November at the Sunni movement that began in Anbar province was spreading to Baghdad and surrounding areas.

One was a 39-page memo written by a mid- to high-level al-Qaida official with knowledge of the group's operations in Iraqi western Anbar provinces. The other a 16-page diary written by another group leader north of Baghdad.

It's back...

Buck a beer at the brew

Tuesday nights, nine-close
Briefs

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Writers Guild of America moved swiftly Sunday toward a resolution of its three-month-old strike, with guild leaders deciding to recommend the contract to members and ask them to vote on a quick end to the walkout.

By calling for separate votes on ending the strike and accepting the contract, the union cleared the way for the entertainment industry to return to work almost immediately.

Membership meetings will be held Tuesday in New York and Los Angeles to allow writers to decide whether the strike should be brought to a speedy end, said Patric Verrone, president of the guild's West Coast branch.

***

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hundreds of artifacts and sets of remains belonging to the Gabrieleno-Tongva Indians of California will be reburied this summer — two years earlier than expected.

Archaeologists unearthed the artifacts before construction of a master-planned development in Los Angeles' Playa Vista area in 2003 and stored them away for future reburial.

American Indians had complained that delaying reburial was undignified, and pushed for earlier refusal to return to work almost immediately.

Membership meetings will be held Tuesday in New York and Los Angeles to allow writers to decide whether the strike should be brought to a speedy end, said Patric Verrone, president of the guild's West Coast branch.

***

NEW YORK (AP) — When it comes to identity theft, most people think they're especially vulnerable when they're working on their computers, or when fraudulent numbers back into big databases and steal credit card numbers.

In fact, consumers are far more likely to be victimized if their wallet, checkbook or credit card is lost or stolen, according to a new study released Monday by Javelin Strategy & Research.

The research group, which is based in San Francisco, also found that as financial institutions and retailers have improved their in-store and online security, ID thieves have turned to more-traditional channels of theft, especially the telephones and the mail.

***

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — This feast was for the record books, and it only took 34,818 pancakes to get there.

Thousands of people, including an official with Guinness World Records, escaped the bone-chilling winter weather on Saturday for the 50th anniversary of The Kiwanis Club's Pancake Karnival fundraiser.

Grills flipped flapjacks and served them with sausages and orange juice for most of the day until they more than surpassed the 30,724 pancakes served in 2002 by the Lubbock, Texas Lions Club.

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WORD ON THE STREET

"Would you ever go streaking?"

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman

"No, what if my dad saw?"

— Jacqueline Wisecarver, child development junior

"Probably not, because it would set a bad example for other people."

— Adrian Gomez, biomedical engineering freshman

"Probably not. I just don't want to be naked in public."

— Ilya Seletsky, computer science freshman

"Yeah, because people wear clothes all of the time, so why not? It's the way we were born."

— Mikey Haskell, Information Technology Services (ITS) employee

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Dancing like the Stars

Poly dancers hit the dance floor Saturday in the second annual Mustang Ball

Marlize van Roensburg

This was no college house party, but things got hot and heavy on the dance floor nonetheless, as long legs and little red dresses went flying across the floor at the second annual Mustang Ball.

Saturday's ballroom dance competition seemed to prove that dancing with rules is just as sexy, if not more so, than the informal versions of the activity found in downtown bars and college apartments.

Indeed, by the time the American Rhythm and Latin dances — including the Rumba, Cha-Cha, Samba, and West Coast Swing and Bolero with Ashley Moraes; fourth in Advanced American Smooth Three-Dance and the Viennese Waltz with Selena Prayl of UC-San Diego; and in the advanced-category, first in the Hustle, third in West Coast Swing, South in Salsa and Nightclub Two-Step, and fifth in Merengue.

Also dancing for Cal Poly, Sean Stravropoulos and Ashley Morazes went on to seal first in advanced Nightclub Two-Step; third in Salsa and Merengue and fourth in the Hustle. Stravropoulos, an aerospace engineering junior, started dancing in sixth grade, "basically because my mom made me do it," he said with a laugh. "But then I really started to enjoy it." He enjoyed it so much that by high school, he was teaching ballroom lessons. Now, he helps out at Cal Poly's ballroom dancing lessons every Thursday.

"I like ballroom because it's a good workout, you get to meet people, and it's something not a lot of people know how to do," Stravropoulos said. "I'm planning on keeping with it. Hopefully wherever I end up getting a job, there will be a ballroom in the area." His dance partner, Morazes, said the started ballrooms because of the social aspect.

see Ballroom, page 7
This isn’t Disney’s kind of shark tale

Dustin Stone
MUSTANG DAILY
ARTS

Public opinion of sharks is typically less than flattering. We fear and label them as bloodthirsty killing machines that enjoy nothing more than snacking on surfers and late-night skinny-dippers. “Sharkwater” not only dispels the man-eater myth, but also teaches us that the deadliest creature in the sea is not the shark but — dramatic pause — humans.

In his first documentary, biologist and undersea photographer Rob Stewart simply wanted to show the world that sharks are nothing to be feared. But along the way he discovered something even more compelling: the billion-dollar shark-finning industry.

Every year, 100 million sharks are killed solely for their fins, which are used to make shark fin soup. The dish is a delicacy in China, even though the fins have no taste and are used only for their texture. Because a single bowl of the soup costs around $100, the dish serves mainly as a symbol of wealth.

In order to obtain the main ingredient, fishermen around the world employ a technique known as “long-lining.” This process involves dragging lines, several miles long, bearing thousands of baited hooks. These lines catch and kill more than just sharks. Turtles, birds and many other ocean species not specifically targeted by fishermen are enticed by the bait, become tangled in the lines, and drown.

Once caught, the sharks are hauled onto the boat where their dorsal, pectoral and tail fins are cut off. They are then thrown back into the ocean either drowned or bled to death. More than 90 percent of the shark is wasted because the meat is worth much less than the fins and takes up too much space on boats. There is no discrimination based on breed or age. All sharks caught are killed, including the endangered whale shark.

Upon witnessing the wholesale slaughter of his favorite animal for its fins, Stewart changed the direction of his documentary to focus mainly on the preservation of sharks. Midway through the film, he teams up with renegade environmentalist Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Society on a mission to stop illegal finning in Costa Rica.

On this trip, the Sea Shepherd crew encounters a pirate fishing vessel and tries to bring it to justice. They attack the boat with water cannons in an attempt to flood its engines, and when that doesn’t work, Watson rams the poachers until they agree to be escorted to authorities waiting onshore.

This is where things get odd.

Upon arriving in a Costa Rican port, the Sea Shepherd crew, including Stewart, is arrested for seven counts of attempted murder by the government that invited them to fight shark finning. The poachers are set free.

While awaiting trial, Stewart uncovers a massive black-market finning operation run by the Taiwanese mafia, funneling millions of dollars into the Costa Rican economy. Seeing they have no chance of standing a fair trial, the crew does the only thing they can do: run.

In one of the most intense scenes of the movie, the crew boards their ship and makes a mad dash for international waters with a Costa Rican gunboat hot on their tail.

“Sharkwater” makes an excellent case for the preservation of the ocean’s alpha predator. While Stewart’s inexperience in the medium of film may be obvious to the casual observer, his footage, replete with the sights of hammerhead schools and Blacktip reefers, set to the music of artists like Portishead and Moby, brilliantly captures the beauty of the animal we so fear. And the images taken of finning boats in action are enough to make any audience’s blood boil.

In “Sharkwater,” filmmaker Rob Stewart went on a quest to discover why millions of sharks are killed each year. Along the way, he discovered the lucrative billion-dollar shark finning business. Annually, 100 million sharks worldwide are killed solely for their fins.

COURTESY PHOTOS
Ballroom

continued from page 5

“Dancing with a partner versus dancing with yourself presents a whole different social area,” she said. Then, pausing to laugh, she added, “Well, actually, I just got into it because of the costumes.”

Back in the competition, Mikael Peterson and Halle Scott took seventh in silver Rumba, while Peterson also took third in silver Foxtrot, international Waltz, and international quickstep dancing with Laura Niana.

Scott also took sixth in bronze international Waltz and seventh in the silver category dancing with Christopher Shireman.

Horacio Hendra and Cindy Manning of Cal Poly danced to get eighth and fourth in the final rounds of advanced Salsa and Merengue, respectively.

Meanwhile, Eddie Lopez and Eily Murphy proved that dancing as a boyfriend-girlfriend couple has its advantages out on the floor. The couple took first in bronze American Waltz, second in American Tango, third in Cha-Cha and fifth in Rumba. In the silver category they placed third in Cha-Cha, fourth in American Waltz and Tango, fifth in Rumba, East Coast Swing and Bolero, and eighth in international Samba. They also tried out nightclub Two-Step as newcomers and placed third.

“We felt good about our Rumba, our Cha-Cha and our Tango,” Lopez said. “Especially considering that, being an architectural engineer, I don’t have a lot of time to practice.”

“Ballroom’s good because you stay in shape and it’s a social activity,” he continued. “You get to share the experience with other people.”

As his girlfriend and dance partner, Murphy added that “compared to getting out there on the dance floor at a club this is a lot more structured, a lot more organized, but there’s still a lot of room for improvising. Of course, it’s fun to be dancing with your boyfriend, too. You don’t have to dance with someone like that, but it does make certain dances easier.”

Yeah, you can trust each other on certain moves, (and) you can feel more comfortable about getting close,” Lopez said.

Cal Poly’s ballroom newcomers proved they could hardly be considered strangers to the dance floor anymore either, with many of them placing in the final rounds.

Architecture freshman Alex Vincent and Amanda Thelandar took second as newcomers in American Waltz, Tango and Cha-Cha, and fourth in Rumba, while Kevin Martinez and Nikki Webster took fifth in the final round of nightclub Two-Step.

Kevin Blakeney and Letitia Chagolla of Cal Poly won first in the newcomer category for American Tango and Cha-Cha, and second in Rumba. They also scored sixth in the final round of Cha-Cha, dancing one level up in bronze.

Blakeney danced again, this time with partner Jessica Merrill, and took first in newcomer American Waltz and second in East Coast Swing.

Chad Clawitter and Jennifer Alford took second in the final round of newcomer Lindy Hop and sixth in the silver Cha-Cha category.

Saturday’s competition wound down with a spectacular five-dance Latin showcase by professional dancers Esteban and Alcina Prudhom. The couple concluded the night by demonstrating exactly what makes ballroom dancing what it is: sexy, fast, flirtatious and elegant all at once.

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Saturday’s competition wound down with a spectacular five-dance Latin showcase by professional dancers Esteban and Alcina Prudhom. The couple concluded the night by demonstrating exactly what makes ballroom dancing what it is: sexy, fast, flirtatious and elegant all at once.
“Post. I have something juicy to tell you, but you have to swear you won’t tell anyone else.”

You know that convention? We’ve all been on the sending and receiving end more than once. You were told a secret and promised the secret-teller that you wouldn’t say a word.

But you did, didn’t you?

Soon the secret manifests itself into a relationship, an association, a prerequisite: that you can’t make it go away. No matter how you are involved, the situation sucks. That ugly, little thing called gossip is so much more than an eighth-grade gag at recess whispering nonsense into each other’s ears.

As part of my morning ritual (you know ... brushing teeth, eating breakfast ... tying my shoes), I spend a few minutes on the computer. This particular morning, I logged on to PerezHilton.com. The self-proclaimed queen of gossip’s pink site loaded into my screen and a huge picture of Britney Spears greeted me (not so appealing at seven in the morning). Perez was reporting that Brit had been drugged by her ex-manager (gossip). Moving on with my morning routine, I checked my e-mail and read a juicy item in my inbox from a friend-gossip. Right before I walked out the door, I perused Reuters.com for the day’s headlines. I fell upon an article regarding relations between Scos, Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Apparently, Obama’s frustration with Clinton was mounting due to her failure to produce tax information and her push for more debates (gossip). Right before I checked out of the site, I spotted the interesting headline: “Haven’t you heard. Hospi­tals and gossip galore, and found the inspiration for today’s column.”

According to the article, the Serbian Health Ministry is banning, among other things, hospital employees from participating in gossip. Contending that the activity leads to a negative work environment and reduced care of patients, administration will punish staffers that refuse to commit to a gossip-free workplace.

The Health Ministry isn’t alone in their commitment to ending the potentially harmful spread of rumors. Many businesses in the United States have created “gossip-free zones” to ensure positive work relations. Obviously, at least within the U.S., no one can completely banish some­thing from free speech, but I understand their motivation. At the least, gossip is a distraction, but soon it can become insidious, especially if you are the subject of curiosity. In its most mar­licious and elevated form, gossip can be harmful, even career-ending for some.

Still, I have trouble believing that a work regulation will stop a natural activity. After all, every office has its own character­istics. Regardless of rules, employees will con­tinue to talk, maybe just a little bit quieter.

After reading the article, I did a little re­search to see how much gossip affects our lives. According to the nasal in­dustries Research Center, gossip contributes to 67 percent of women’s conversation time (understandable) and an astounding 55 percent of men’s conversations. And here I thought it was a girl thing.

The obsession with rumors doesn’t stop at intra-office communica­tion. Unfortunately, much of the news media contribute to the live­lihood of gossip. Many respected news organizations have sections of their formats devoted to gabbing with the knowledge that the juiciest information attracts the most viewers. Additionally, with the advent of the Internet, gossip forums such as PerezHilton.com are gathering the attention of more and more of the public.

Celebrities, sports, politics; all they have their gossiping arenas online, and now niche populations are establishing their own. Browsing the Web the other day, I found an interesting site called JuicyCampanu. With the tagline “Always Anonymous ... Always Juicy...” the site acts as a medium for the curious students to post the juiciest details about their campus and fellow classmatess. Unfortunately for us, Cal Poly isn’t listed as a participating university.

Let’s be honest, gossiping’s not going anywhere. If anything, it’s proba­bly growing. A buzz on rumors is just fuel for fire, motivating participants to gab and gossip even more. Rather than censor it, hospitals in Serbia, and the rest of us, just must learn to live with it. Keeping our PerezHel­ton.com page views to one per day, OK, maybe two.

Taylor Moore is a journalism major and a Mustang Daily columnist.

Be the change, destroy the posters

To all that it no doubt concerns,

Many elders have commented that our generation is engaging society in a growing movement not seen since the ’60s. Neil Howe, in his analysis of American generations beginning with the Puritans, has observed that as “hence” generations — civic-minded institution builders, exemplified by the GI generation Brookings labs — begin to disappear, the fourth generation after them, who range between teens and young adults, display al­most the exact tendencies. Howe also correlates these generations with times of great social change, i.e. World War II and the new crisis that on average appears as our generation’s little brothers and sisters turn 18 years of age.

Voter turnout during our lifetimes has increased, drug use in our generation is lower than the previous, and en­rollment in universities is up, especially for women. We obviously have the potential to change things. I suggest that we start simply with something we can all do.

As you walk to class, destroy the posters of a certain Web site.

They blanket the English, Dexter, Art, and Agribusi­ness buildings with large posters on glossy paper, they cover up the staked posters of campus clubs, they waste resources in creating pens and more tiny flyers to pollute the library’s fourth floor. They cover up other posters in workbooks, and they place their tiny flyers (pet mun­nier) on parked bicycles, resulting in the failing of count­less leaves of paper.

Re-cycle, destroy their posters. Be the change. They are out to sound off to the students; it feels very re­vengeful, and it feels very re-volting. The posters are a way for them to throw their displeasure in the face of us. As a student, we have the potential to change things. We have the potential to make a difference.

To all that it no doubt concerns,

You thought ‘The Matrix’ was cool, just wait till you check out our virtual newsroom tour at mustangdaily.net...
Basketball
continued from page 12
Bob Burton. "It gave us a lot of momentum going into halftime."

Cutler, whose Titans surrender the most points per game in the Big West, agreed that their unusually stingy defense triggered the pivotal stretch.

"We really picked up our defense," he said.

"We were lackadaisical and nonchalant but we elevated our effort. It's about who you can stop, not how many points you can score."

In the second half, Cal State Fullerton did enough of both, coasting sinking 15 of 19 free throws while outrebounding Cal Poly 24 to 13. All but one of the Titans' 14 offensive rebounds came in the second half.

The Mustangs, meanwhile, made just 1 of 8 attempts from long range after intermission and finished 12 of 23 from the charity stripe overall while falling behind by as many as 14 on a 3-pointer by Cal State Fullerton senior guard Frank Robinson with 6:14 remaining.

Robinson hit 4 of 5 from 3-point range on his way to a game-high 27 points.

Of his 16 that came in the second half, none knifed more into Cal Poly's hopes than a silky 3-point dagger with 4:10 left to push the Titans advantage to 68-50.

Though the Mustangs trimmed the deficit to 73-66 with 2:06 remaining, the Titans nailed eight of 10 ensuing free throws to ice the victory.

The two final ones were made by junior guard Josh Akognon, who entered the contest firing 93.1 percent from the free-throw line, third-best in the country.

Akognon, who came into the game as the conference's second-leading scorer, posting 20.2 points per outing, scored just four of his 15 points in the first half, during which Cal Poly took its largest lead at 26-12 on a turnaround by senior forward Matt Hanson 9:56 in.

As that point, the Mustangs had outscored the Titans 10-5 in the point, but by intermission, the interior battle had been narrowed to 16-12.

Junior guard Clark Clark led Cal Poly with 16 points, while senior forwards Dreshawn Vance and Tita Stilson clutched in 14 apiece, respectively.

Although the seasoned Cal State Fullerton starting lineup, which was without suspended junior guard Junior Russell, outscored the greener Cal Poly starters 70-40, Burton downplayed the Titans' veteran upper hand, pointing out that last season, the Mustangs beat them twice.

"They just didn't make shots that they usually make," he said. "They made those last year, and now for some reason they're not going in as much."

Last season's Cal Poly squad, though, was anchored by sharpshooting senior forwards Derek Stockalper and Tyler McGinn. Now, without Whiten, whose 2.05-point physique allowed him to pass for a small forward, their departure could be even more damaging on a team Bromley has repeatedly emphasized is different from last season's edition, which came within a win of earning a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Anderson and Lewis, Bromley said, "have to really come on and solidify the (small forward) spot."

"We have to stay upbeat," he added, opening there's still time for the new-look rotation to gel and make a postseason run, especially in such a topsy-turvy conference whose unpredictability is exemplified by the fact that third-place Cal State Fullerton was swept by fourth-place UC Santa Barbara, which has in turn been swept by fifth-place UC Irvine.

"It's crazy," Bromley said.

Cal Poly plays at UC Santa Barbara at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Wrestling
continued from page 12
Dual victory of the season against Phil Doerner, winning 5-1 to improve his overall record to 11-16.

Eric Maldonado and Ryan Williams were others Henson thought had impressive performances.

"Those two guys wrestled hard," he said. "They did a great job. They didn't get as much competition because they didn't start at the beginning of the year so it just takes a little longer to get going."

Maldonado (11-9) claimed a 5-2 decision over Lucas Espericueta at 149, and Williams (16-8) had a takedown and near-fall in the last minute of the first period against Kyle Puhals at 165, winning 9-0.

Boris Novachkov returned from injury to wrestle at 133, a weight class higher than he suited at this season. He won by decision in the loss.

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Lakers beat Shaq-less Heat, spoil Marion's debut

Odom pulls down 18 rebounds as L.A. wins for fifth time in past six games on road trip

TIM RYAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Shaq Marion's debut was strong. It just wasn't enough for the Miami Heat to stop Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant scored 33 points, and the Lakers used a 16-2 second-half run to pull away and beat the skidding Heat 104-94 Sunday in Miami. Marion's first home game of its post-Shaquille O'Neal era.

Mark Blount finished with 22 points for Miami, which has lost seven straight games and 22 of its last 23. A two-point win over the Indiana Pacers — who played that day without Jermaine O'Neal and Jamal Tinsley — is Miami's only victory since Dec. 22.

Dwyane Wade scored 19 for Miami, and Marion, playing his first game for the Heat since Wednesday's stunning deal that sent O'Neal to the Phoenix Suns for him and Marcus Banks, finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Lamar Odom finished with 15 points and 18 rebounds for the Lakers, who've won five of seven games and 22 of its last 23. A two-point win over the Indiana Pacers — who played that day without Jermaine O'Neal and Jamal Tinsley — is Miami's only victory since Dec. 22.

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MUSTANG DAILY

Titans hold off Mustangs
Cal State Fullerton clutch shooting in second half sends Poly to sixth place in Big West

Cal Poly junior forward Titus Shelton drives around Cal State Fullerton senior forward Scott Cutley on Saturday night at Mott Gym. The Titans won 80-67 to complete their regular-season sweep of the Mustangs.

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal State Fullerton men’s basketball team’s coaching staff hung back, calm and collected, talking amongst themselves while their play­ers were left alone to relax on the bench in the face of pressure. About 50 feet away, Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley time and again urgently moved himself into impasioned instruction at the center of a close-knit huddle trying to learn on the fly.

There was only so much cram­mimg the Mustangs could do Sunday night in Mott Gym, falling 80-67 to the more experienced Titans, and into sixth place in the Big West Con­ference.

“Our coaches really prepared us, and we know everything to expect down the stretch,” said Scott Cutley, a senior forward who had 13 points and eight rebounds for Cal State Fullerton, whose entire roster is made up of juniors and seniors, all of whom are transfers.

Cal Poly, on the other hand, in light of again playing without se­nior guard Devon Whitson, started two sophomores in forward Charles Anderson and guard Lorenzo Keeler, and played freshman guard Shawn Lewis 24 minutes off the bench. The three underclassmen combined to shoot just 2 of 12 from the floor and 2 of 6 from the free-throw line.

“They’re coming,” Bromley said of the trio, whose collective playing time has skyrocketed in the absence of Whitson, who will likely miss the remainder of the season due to plan­tar faciitis in his right foot. “They’ve been thrown into a tough situation.”

It wasn’t the only unassailable pre­dictable the Mustangs (9-13, 4-6 Big West) found themselves in, though, as they couldn’t score for the final four minutes and 43 seconds of the first half, during which the Titans (15-7, 8-3 Big West) reeled off a 10-0 run as part of a larger 24-8 surge to take the lead for good and head to the locker room ahead 36-28.

“Our defense sparked that run,” said Cal State Fullerton head coach Scott Cutley.

Though Cal Poly (5-6, 4-4 Pac-10) was shorthanded and had to forfeit the lightest weight class due to injuries, assistant coach Sammie Henson didn’t want to absolve the blame for the 27-16 loss to visiting Stanford at Mott Gym.

“I think we had some individual problems where we wrestled well,” he said. “Of course, everyone has injuries so you don’t want to make excuses.”

Even though it was the only loss for the Mustangs, the 1,016 in attendance saw Mendes (21-0), who has been ranked No. 1 in the country at 141 pounds for four straight weeks, pin Max Rosefigura in 33 seconds.

“He went out the way he should in Mustang land,” Hansen said of Mendes’ sixth pin of the season. Cal Poly heavyweight Jim Powers earned his first Pac-10

Mendes wins two more, stays unbeaten
Brittney Clyde
MUSTANG DAILY

Nation’s top-ranked 141-pound­er wins twice over weekend, but shorthanded Mustangs fall in final pair of Pac-10 duals

Five senior Cal Poly wres­lers were honored Friday night prior to the Mustangs’ penultimate Pac-10 dual and final home dual of the season.

One of them, Chad Mendes, said he had mixed emotions on Senior Night.

“It’s my last wrestling match ever in here and I went out with a good one,” he said. “It’s exciting but sad at the same time.

Mike Williams, John Hanks, Ernie Varela and Arturo Baz­uelo were also recognized.

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see Wrestling, page 10

see Basketball, page 10

Softball team stuns No. 2 Texas A&M in season opener
The Cal Poly softball team went 2-3 at the Cathedral City Kick Off in Palm Springs over the weekend, bookending four wins with two losses.

In the season-opening 5-1 win over the Aggies at Big League Dreams Sports Park, sophomore pitcher Hel­en Peña went the dis­tance, allowing her only run in the last inning.

Mustangs senior rightfielder Sarah hpata led off the season by turning an Añana Scarborough pitch into a ground-rule double to right field. Hwata moved to third on a wild pitch by Scarborough before ju­nior second baseman Stephanie Tam singled into left field to put the Mustangs ahead 1-0.

Texas A&M stranded 11 bas­ runners while Cal Poly won on opening day against a ranked foe for the second year in a row.

On Sunday, the Mus­tangs edged New Mexi­co State 5-3 in their fina­l game thanks in large part to Cary’s three-RBI, lace­clearing double in the top of the first inning, in which they scored all but one of their runs.

Cal Poly senior pitcher Robyn Kontra New Mexico State scored the sixth inning while winning her season debut.

Between the two wins, the Mustangs reeled off a 3-0 sweep of San Diego State on Friday, 14-4 to No. 20 Oregon and 8-3 to No. 6 Texas A&M on Saturday.

Coryna went 3 for 3 and had a pair of RIBI in the loss to the Ducks. Junior leftfielder Jenna Maiden chipped in two hits and crossed home plate twice in de­feat. In the ensuing shootout at the hands of Volunteers starter Megan

Rhodes, the Mustangs could must­ter just two runs.

The Mustangs will next travel to Las Vegas for the Louisville Slugger Desert Classic, which they’ll open Friday against South Carolina at 1:30 p.m. before tak­ing on Illinois at 3:45 p.m. The tournament runs through Sunday.

Second-half surge causes women’s basketball team’s loss
The Cal Poly women’s bas­ketball team from setting a record for the best home-game conference start in school history. The Mustangs were out­scored 47-29 in the second half of a 70-­55 loss at Cal State Fullerton on Satur­day night to fall into fourth place in the Big West Con­ference.

Senior guard Kyla Howell scored a team-high 12 points on 5-of-11 shoot­ing for Cal Poly (9-14, 4-4 Big West), whose freshman forward Krista Santiago added 11 points and seven rebounds.

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