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

**SPORTS**

The Cal State Fullerton sweep of Cal Poly completes regular-season second Mustang Ball. cha-cha-ed Saturday in the bombings this year. Roughly a thousand people lined Hathway Avenue on Friday night — from Campus Bottle to where Carpenter Street joins Hathway — 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 bathtub, 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 reason for streaking I’ve ever heard of.”

One of the few women participating in the run, philosophy freshman Allison Bode said she was streak­ ing 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 no one else followed. Shortly after, a larger crowd of about 50 students began their bare-bodied jog. Some wore just hats and shoes, some just shoes, others un­ derwear and shoes. One played a trombone while he ran. The crowd lined both sides of the street to watch.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

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<td>16.9</td>
<td>percent builders lowered their spending on housing projects in 2007</td>
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<td>0.9</td>
<td>percent workers' average weekly earnings fell in 2007</td>
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<td>percent the economy grew by in 2007</td>
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**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Sunny
High 69°/Low 42°

**ONLINE**

Go online to view an audio slideshow of the 2008 Cal Poly Mustang Ball. mustangdaily.net

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Streak
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The T-shirts depict Will Ferrell's "Funk the Tank" character from the movie "Old School" under a Hathway Avenue sign, with his line "We're getting stained" on the front. The back of the shirts showed Ferrell nursing a hurt 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 69 shirts to sell.

Collings cited Campus Bottle as a large contributor to the success of the fundraising. 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 bunner 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'd 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 All-States poll. Fifty-nine percent of days said the 1-shirts sold for $10.80, but added that he still had 69 shirts to sell.

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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. Enhart Agriculture building, room 220

Questions? Call Ronald Con Ooter 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: Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Where: The march begins at Dexter Lawn and ends at the University Union Plaza

Questions? Call Erin Echols at 756-7153

Loversspeak
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

Sweetheart Night at Farmers' Market
What: Farmers' Market will feature Valentine's Day events, including live music and special meal deals.

When: Thursday at 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Higuera Street

Questions? San Luis Obispo Downtown Association at 541-0286

Free livestock show
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 adviser 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
Bombings and gunmen strike civilians in Iraq

Kim Gamel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 show 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. Kadir 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 Sinjar, 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.

Iraq 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 as 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 Iraq's western Anbar province; the other a 16-page diary written by another group leader north of Baghdad.
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 interment.

National

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 fraudsters hack 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.

Grillers 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.

International

DILLI, East Timor (AP) — Rebel soldiers attacked President Jose Ramos-Horta’s house early Monday, wounding him in the stomach. The Nobel Peace laureate was undergoing surgery, but it was unclear whether his injury was life-threatening, a presidential adviser said.

East Timor television reported that Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao’s home also came under fire but that no one was hurt, raising the possibility that the rebels soldiers may have been staging a coup attempt.

***

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez on Sunday threatened to cut off oil sales to the United States in an “economic war” if Exxon Mobil Corp. wins court judgments to seize billions of dollars in Venezuelan assets.

Exxon Mobil has gone after the assets of state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA in U.S., British and Dutch courts as it challenges the nationalization of a multibillion-dollar oil project by Chavez’s government.

“If you end up freezing (Venezuelan assets) and it harms us, we’re going to harm you,” Chavez said during his weekly radio and television program, “Hello, President.”

“Do you know how? We aren’t going to send oil to the United States. Take note, Mr. Bush, Mr. Danger.”

“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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“Would you ever go streaking?”

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman

“No, what if my dad saw?”

— Jacqueline Wisecarver, child development junior

“Most of my friends are like that, but I want to be special.”

— Adrian Gomez, biomedical engineering 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

Travel more. Spend less

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**Dancing like the Stars**

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

Mariline van Roosburgh

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 balloon 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 Mambo — had gone well, the clubs and continues to organize the competition.

company with the Ballroom Dancing lessons every Thursday.

His dance partner, Moraes, said the started ballroom dancing lessons every Thursday.

“I feel good about it, everyone’s out there having fun,” he said, as he looked out on the floor where legs and hips were swinging with perfectly timed precision.

Elwood himself stole the dance floor, placing first in the advanced category, first in the Hustle, third in West Coast Swing, fourth in Samba and Nightclub Two-Step, and fifth in Merengue.

Also dancing for Cal Poly, Sean Stratopoulos and Ashley Moraa went on to seal first in advanced nightclub Two-Step; third in Samba and Merengue and fourth in the Hustle.

Stratopoulos, 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 balloon lessons. Now, he helps out at Cal Poly’s balloon dancing lessons every Thursday.

"I like balloon because it’s a good workout, you get to meet people, and it’s something not a lot of people know how to do," Stratopoulos said. "Talking on keeping with it. Hopefully wherever I end up getting a job, there will be a balloon in the area.

His dance partner, Moraes, said the started balloon because of the social aspect.

---

**Let's not lose that loving feeling**

Brian McMullen

*Heart-shaped boxes, roses and loving (both for her and the post-Day*)

Remember in elementary school when Valentine’s Day meant getting a basket-load of candy and Power Rangers or Barbie or Care Bears cards? Those were the days!

Now that we’re older, the anti-Valentine crowd has become more sophisticated. We want roses, fine chocolate, jewelry — and now cell phones?

For some reason, cell phone companies like Verizon think that telling someone you love them is the same as buying them a new "seductive BlackBerry." What’s so seductive about a phone? "Mmmm... look at that, a full ‘qwerty’ keypad!"

I admit that it would be better if you were single and bought someone one of these and said, "Call me sometime, the number’s already in it — under Doctor Freaky Daily.

But please, has our concept of love been twisted so far that now it’s a consumerist impulse? That’s not to say that buying candy and flowers or jewelry isn’t all right. These things go beyond advertising; they’ve been here long enough to be tradition. Buying these things is unavoidable, but we can do better.

I don’t forget about the trendy devices and quirky little products.

You’re supposed to show your special someone that they’re special. Buying them a phone that thousands of people already have is sweet but not at all original.

---

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---

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www.skydivetaft.com
This isn’t Disney’s kind of shark tale

Dustin Stone
MUSTANG DIARY

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 to either drown or bleed 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 white 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 apex predator. While Stewart’s inexperience in the medium of film may be obvious to the casual observer, his footage, reeks for itself. His shots of hammerhead schools and Black-tip sharks, set to the music of artists like Portished and Mob M, brilliantly capture 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.
"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 Hallie Scott took seventh in silver Rumba, while Peterson took third in silver Foxtrot, international Waltz, and international quickstep dancing with Laura Slania. 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 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 closer," 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 Annelise Thelander 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 Leonidas and Alzenia Proskurov. The couple concluded the night by demonstrating exactly what makes ballroom dancing what it is, sexy, fast, flirtatious and elegant all at once.

Saturday's competition wound down with a spectacular five-dance Latin showcase by professional dancers Leonidas and Alzenia Proskurov. 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 conversations? We've all been on the sending and receiving end more than once. You were told a secret and promised the secret-keeper that you wouldn't say a word.

But you did, didn't you?

Soon the secret manifests itself unto a relationship. How do I know? Because I've been there: 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 eighth-grade gawk at recess whispering nonsense into each other's ears.

As part of my morning ritual (you know... brushing teeth, eating breakfast... tying my shoe), 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 onto 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-husband C orange. Before I walked out the door, I perused Reuters.com for the day's headlines. I fell upon an article regarding relations between Sens. 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 clicked out of the site, I spotted the interesting headline, "Haven't you heard..."

To all that it no doubt concerns.

I think it's great that the University Union Plaza is up for renovation. Our CERP 512 class has been working on redesigning this space all quarter long. Instead of hiring an outside entity to design the Union Plaza, why not use this as a student exercise? Twenty-two students in our graduate class each have their own proposal for how to redesign the Union Plaza. We have site analysis drawings, conceptual diagrams, cross-section drawings and site plans, and are now beginning to make it more easily visualized in Adobe InDesign, AutoCAD and 3D computer modeling. The university should ask for our input and give us the opportunity to make a presentation to the UAB and Landscape Advisory Board.

— Colin Clarke

GUEST COMMENTARY

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 baby boomers, has observed that as "heric" generations civic-minded institutions, exemplified by the GI generation Brookings studies — 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 enforcement 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, science, art, and agriculture 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 (let minority) on parked bicycles, resulting in the failing of countless leaves of paper.

Recycle their posters, boycott their sites. It only takes a second to tear at their ads, and it feels very rewarding. Tear them in the blue bin. In concert, we shall never give in.

Still, I have trouble believing that a website will stop a natural activity. After all, gossip is not going anywhere. If anything, it's probably growing. A buzz on rumors is just fuel for fire, motivating participants to gal 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 Perez Hilton.com page views to one per day, or maybe two.

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

One o f  your e-mail

From: Mustang Daily

To: Mustang Daily

Subject: Haven't you heard...

Dear Mustang Daily,

I think it's great that the University Union Plaza is up for renovation. Our CERP 512 class has been working on redesigning this space all quarter long. Instead of hiring an outside entity to design the Union Plaza, why not use this as a student exercise?

Twenty-two students in our graduate class each have their own proposal for how to redesign the Union Plaza. We have site analysis drawings, conceptual diagrams, cross-section drawings and site plans, and are now beginning to make it more easily visualized in Adobe InDesign, AutoCAD and 3D computer modeling. The university should ask for our input and give us the opportunity to make a presentation to the UAB and Landscape Advisory Board.

— Colin Clarke

Response to "Polar UU Plaza slated for renovation"

You thought "The Matrix" was cool, just wait till you check out our virtual newsroom tour at mustangdaily.net

— Mustang Daily

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The Mustang Daily is a free newspaper; however the removal of more than one copy of the paper per day is subject to a cost of 50 cents per issue.

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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1231

Across
1 Oddle 6 Wide as the ocean 10 Hufed and pulled 14 Seoul's land 16 Jacob's first wife 17 A magnet attracts it in a physics experiment 19 Between twice and never 20 Grand Coulee in 4-g 21 County seat of NW of Oklahoma City 22 Relieve 24 Hit a hit 26 Prasse 27 Tire filler 28 Divorces 29 Some verbal 30 Mountains.

32 Locate for a New York dina 35 What the number of birthday candles signifies 36 Old-time times 37 Jimes 38 Snooper's organ 39 Tomato-hitting-the-floor sound 40 Speed skater 41 Bambuste 42 Sales pitches 43 Zich 45 Camp the day 46 Crazy-sounding bird 47 Firefigters' lights 51 One with a hook line and sinker 54 Stupnum sleep 55 Dec's picture 56 Java neighbor 57 Star's marquee position 60 Genesis garden 61 Tall tale tale 62 Have a meal at home 63 Orange-flavored powdered drink 64 "Born Free" lionses 65 Medieval amounts

Down
1 On the (gaging to pot) 2 Deep pen 3 Entire small 4 TV room 5 Two-point plays in football 6 Logiseme 7 Peched 8 Viny or glutony 9 Event before moving 10 Pre-transition procedure 11 Gave for a while 12 To... his own 13 Amusement park 14 Escape route 15 Leeteen 16 "Yes, madame!" 17 "Yes, madame!" 18 "Yes, madame!" 19 Women's link org 20 Paragon of virtue 21 One and only

30 __ Mountains. 31 Europeans' separator 32 Four-footed 33 Medal winner for bravery 34 Escarpment route 35 Nickel or dime 36 Shot up, as inflation 37 "Galveston" crooner 38 Inspectors of fin. 39 Leo and Libra 40 Hindu teacher 41 Gleeful laugh 42 Hindu teacher 43 "Black gold" 44 Misery 45 "Galveston" crooner 46 "Galveston" crooner 47 King (dangorous snake) 48 Shot 49 Old TV comic 50 Leo and Libra 51 Help illegally 52 Zich 53 "Slaveston" crooner 54 Inspectors of fin. 55 "Black gold" 56 Neighbor of a Vietnamese

The Family Circus: Beyond the Circle

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

"Now Grandma's really in heaven!"

su|do|ku © Puzzles by Pappocom

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

8523
19748
29616
87426
563189
63189
24147
38915

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Basketball

continued from page 12

Bob Burton: “It gave us a lot of momentum going into halftime.”

Cutley, whose Titans surrender the most points per game in the Big West, agreed that their unusually stingy defense triggered the proverbial switch.

“We really picked up our defense,” he said. “We were less technical and more physical, 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, mostly sinking 15 of 39 free throws while outbounding Cal Poly 24 to 13. 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 much as 14 on a 3-pointer by Cal State Fullerton senior guard Frank Robinson with 6:14 remaining.

Robinson hit 4 of 6 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 68-59.

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.

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

Junior guard Trac Clark led Cal Poly with 16 points, while senior forward Dreshawn Vance and Titus Shelton chipped 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’ veterans 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 Whitson, whose 205-pound physique allowed him to paw 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 start up,” he added, “opposing team 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 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 Benson thought had impressive performances.

“Those two guys wrestled hard,” he said. “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 Pullos at 165, winning 9-4.

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.

Novachkov, Mendes, Mike Williams and Ryan Williams won by decision in the loss.

“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 Pullos at 165, winning 9-4.

Boris Novachkov returned from injury to wrestle at 133, a weight class higher than he started this season. He fell to Tanner Gardner, ranked No. 6 in the nation. Gardner also has moved up from 125.

Henson said while Novachkov, a freshman, showed some weaknesses, “He’s a great wrestler but he was wrestling a senior that was a two-time All-American.”


On Sunday, Cal Poly lost 27-12 at Cal State Bakersfield. Nowachov, Mendes, Mike Williams and Ryan Williams won by decision in the loss.

The Mustangs probably won’t change their routine much before grappling with Oklahoma on Friday. Henson said:

“We’re going to continue to do what we’re doing right,” he explained. “These guys are getting it. It’s just a process — it doesn’t happen overnight.”

Cal Poly wrestles at Oklahoma at 5 p.m. Friday, and then at Oklahoma State at 5 p.m. Saturday before heading to the Pac-10 Conference Championships in Eugene, Ore. on March 2 and 3.

While the Mustangs wind down the regular season, Mendes said they do so with only one goal, the national championship in mind.

“I’ll keep my eye on the prize,” he said.
**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 Raynolds

MIAMI — Shawn 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 Marion's first home game of its first 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 starting deal that sent O'Neal to the Phoenix Suns for he 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 seven of six so far on a nine-game road trip that will take them to the All-Star break. Sasha Vujacic scored 13 points and Pau Gasol added 12.

Dorell Wright scored 15 and Jason Leach had 14 for the Heat, who put all five starters as double-figures but whose bench was out-scored 24-11.

The Lakers led by 17 with 8 minutes remaining, before the Heat made things plenty interesting. Blount's 3-pointer with 2:43 left got the Heat within nine, and on the next possession, Bryant inexplicably fouled Wade on a 3-point try. The 2006 finals MVP hit two free throws, added two more a few seconds later, and followed it all with a steal and layup with 1:28 left to get Miami within 98-94.

But Gasol easily scored over Blount — he's only a foot shorter than the Lakers' new center — with 1:04 left, restoring the Lakers' six-point margin.

With the Lakers — another of Shaq's former teams — in town, the Heat had planned to make Sunday's game a celebration of O'Neal, with a halftime montage of video and highlights featuring his first 3½ years in Miami.

Those plans were quickly aborted, of course. O'Neal's locker stall was cleaned out, his nameplate gone, and even his spot next to Wade in Miami's national-anthem formation remained empty. Banks was assigned the locker next to O'Neal's former spot, and Marion's jersey was placed in the locker formerly occupied by Luke Jackson, who was waived to make room for the former Suns.

For all the fanfare, Lakers coach Tim Reynolds said, "I'm happy to be a part of this Heat organization and we're trying for a ring. That's the goal for the future," Marion said. But images of the championship past — including one poignant shoe of O'Neal and Heat coach Pat Riley sharing a quiet moment after the Heat won the Eastern Conference title — still plaque the walls around Miami's locker room.

And they'll stay, too, permanent tributes of what Miami did with O'Neal here.

"Being an Irish guy, I'm pretty sentimental and nostalgic," Riley said. "That's the way I am. Shaq will forever be a player that I think did an incredible amount for me and for this franchise. I don't care what's written or how it's written." There were still more than a few O'Neal jerseys donned by fans, but the Miami crowd seemed to take a quick liking to Marion.

His first touch in a Heat uniform led to points, when he found Wright for a layup 3:18 after tip-off. And his first basket gave Miami its first lead Sunday, a putback of Wade's miss that gave the Heat a 53-52 lead in the opening quarter.

It didn't last long. Bryant found Jordan Farmar for a wide-open 3 that put the Lakers ahead 25-24 at the first-quarter buzzer, and Los Angeles didn't trail again. Vujacic went 4-for-4 for 10 points in his first five minutes of playing time, staking the Lakers to a 35-28 lead, and the margin was 51-47 at halftime.

Marion had seven points in the third quarter, trying to keep the Heat close, but the Lakers were just too strong.

Wright missed a pullup 3-pointer on a rare 5-on-1 fast break late in the third, and Wade was charged with a turnover trying to pass a 2-on-1 break on Miami's next possession. That started what turned into the game-deciding 16-2 Lakers run, one that transformed a three-point contest into a 92-75 lead.

Miami forward Shawn Marion scored 15 points and secured 14 rebounds in 44 minutes during his first game with the Heat.
Cal State Fullerton clutch shooting in second half sends Poly to sixth place in Big West

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF

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 invented himself into impasioned instruction at the center of a close-knit huddle trying to learn on the fly.

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

Through 12 of the trio, whose collective playing time has skyrocketed in the absence of Whitman, who will likely miss the remainder of the season due to plantar fasciitis in his right foot. "They’ve been thrown into a tough situation.”

It wasn’t the only unrelenting predicament the Mustangs (9-13, 4-6 Big West) found themselves in, though, as the Titans (8-14, 6-4 Big West), whose freshman forward Kristina Santiago added 11 points and seven rebounds.

Their effort wasn’t enough, though. The Titans dieted over the weekend, bookending its five-game conference start in school history. The Mustangs were out-scored 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.

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

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,” Hen- son said of Mendes’ sixth pin of the season. Cal Poly heavyweight Jim Powers earned his first Pac-10 see Wrestling, page 10

Helen Peña

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF

Cal Poly’s Chad Mendes, right, pinned Stanford’s Max Rosefigura in just 33 seconds Friday night at Mott Gym. The Mustangs lost 27-16. On Sunday night they lost again, 27-12 at Cal State Bakersfield.

MUSTANG DAILY ROUND-UP

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 first outings with victories over No. 2 Texas A&M on Friday and New Mexico State on Sunday.

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

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

Tam finished with a team-high three hits, while sophomore first baseman Krysten Cary and fresh- man catcher Stephanie Correa shared a team-high of two RBI. Texas A&M stranded 11 bas- eRunners while Cal Poly won on opening day against a ranked foe for the second year in a row.

On Sunday, the Mus- tangs edged New Mexi- co State 5-3 in their fina- le thanks in large part to Cary’s three-RBI, bases-clearing double in the top of the first inning, in which they scored all but one of their runs.

Cal Poly senior pitcher Robyn Kontra held New Mexico State to one run and eight hits while finishing her season debut.

Between the two wins, the Mustangs improved their 2-0 record in Big West play to 8-14 overall. The Titans won 14-4 to No. 20 Oregon and 8-0 to No. 6 Tennessee- see on Sunday.

Correa went 3 for 5 and had a pair of RBI in the loss to the Ducks. Junior leftfielder Jenna Maidens chipped in two hits and crossed home plate twice in a de- feat. In the ensuing shutout at the hands of Volunteers starter Megan Rhodes, the Mustangs could not muster 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 see Basketball, page 10

The Cal State Fullerton mens basketball team from setting a record 50 feet away, Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley time and again urgently invented himself into impasioned instruction at the center of a close-knit huddle trying to learn on the fly.

The Cal State Fullerton mens basketball team from setting a record

Asst. Sports Editor: Donovan Aird

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

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