Tibetan Buddhist protests cause growing problems as 2008 Beijing Olympics near.

As gas prices soar, Congress presses oil chiefs on big profits

Updated Polyratings still an asset to students, nuisance to faculty

Donovan Aird

One candidate makes sense, but appears to be hated by everyone else. An alternative choice would require personal compromises, but is well liked by peers. The other option is a mystery — intriguing, yet far too polarizing by most accounts.

Like a renegade, underground voter information guide Polyratings.com lives on, purporting to help the electorate of a student body make informed decisions when selecting instructors. The site, known as Polyratings 2, through which Cal Poly students can publish critiques and praises of their professors, now features more accommodating search features while allowing students to add professors to the database.

“I live by it,” microbiology junior Julie Anderson said. A student-run endeavor created by Cal Poly students Doug Dahms and Forrest Lanning (not affiliated with Cal Poly administration or Associated Students Inc.), Polyratings was activated Jan. 9, 1999, and launched as the updated, second incarnation by Cal Poly student J. Paul Reed on Aug. 19, 2001. While Cal Poly students may peruse every word before registering, professors themselves don’t seem to pay it much mind.

“I don’t check it,” said Matt Carlton, a statistics professor at Cal Poly for nine years. “It’s a combination of two reasons. First, from a statistician’s point of view, the sample is totally biased and not close to representative of what students think. Secondly, it’s too tempting to look at others’ ratings, and that’s not an appropriate thing to do with a terribly biased sample of opinions.”

The assessments, Carlton said, are akin to feedback given to politicians because those sounding off usually do so from an extreme, while a silent majority remains unheard.

“The same thing happens in politics; when politicians hear from constituents on polarized sides,” he said. “Polyratings is really the same phenomenon — it’s either a rave or a rant. It doesn’t give any sense of how the majority of students feel.”

As of Wednesday, the most ratings a professor received was 90, amounting to less than one percent of the school’s fall 2007 enrollment of 19,777.

Adding to the inappropriateness of the ratings, said English professor Robert Inchausti, are the official evaluations administered by the school toward the end of each quarter.

“I think the faculty view on Polyratings is that the people commenting usually really like a class or really hate a class — what you’re going to get are extremes,” he said. “Official evaluations are more measured and not as extreme.”

Pamela Brady, an architectural engineering professor at Cal Poly for 10 years, agrees that the small number of commenting students doesn’t sufficiently depict the entire student body’s experiences, and that interesting things happen in a class.

“If a professor’s been here a really long time and there are only about 100 posts, it’s not really representative,” she said. “Students see Polyratings, page 2

As prices soar, Congress presses oil chiefs on big profits

H. Josef Hebert

WASHINGTON — Don’t blame us, oil industry chiefs told a skeptical Congress.

Top executives of the country’s five biggest oil companies said Tuesday they know record fuel prices are hurting people, but they argued it’s not their fault and their huge profits are not the reason.

Appearing before a House committee, the executives were pressed to explain why they should continue to get billions of dollars in tax breaks when they made $123 billion last year and motorists are paying record gasoline prices at the pump.

“Our earnings, although high in the context of the scale and cyclical, long-term nature of our industry as well as the huge investment requirements,” said J.S. Simon, senior vice president of Exxon Mobil Corp., which made a record $40 billion last year.

“We depend on high earnings during the up cycle to sustain...in investment over the long term, including the down cycles,” he continued.

The up cycle has been going on too long, suggested Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo. “The anger level is rising significantly.”

Alluding to the fact that Congress often doesn’t rate very high in opinion polls, Cleaver told the executives: “Your approval rating is lower than ours, and that means you’re down low.”

Several lawmakers noted the rising price of gasoline at the pump, now averaging $3.29 a gallon amid the context of the scale and cyclical, long-term nature of our industry as well as the huge investment requirements,

what you’re going to get are extremes,” he said. “Official evaluations are more measured and not as extreme.”

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While Democrats hammered the executives for their profits and demanded they do more to develop alternative energy sources such as wind, solar and biofuels, Republican lawmakers called for opening more areas for drilling to boost domestic production of oil and gas.

What would bring lower prices? asked Rep. James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, the committee’s ranking Republican.

“We need access to all kinds of energy supply,” Rep. Robert McCollum, chairman of BP America, added that 85 percent of the country’s coastal waters are off limits to drilling.

But Markey wanted to know why the companies aren’t investing more in energy projects other than oil and gas.

As prices soar, Congress presses oil chiefs on big profits

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FRIDAY’S WEATHER

Sunny
High 69°F Low 43°F

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Sunny
High 69°F Low 43°F

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Sean Dickey of Pinnacle Construction installs a sign on a new fuel pump at a Chevron gas station in Anchorage, Alaska on Thursday.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS
Polyratings

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should think critically and not take it at face value.”

Of the 1,365 professors filed in the database, averaging al­most 20 evaluations apiece, some seemed to have more per­sonal reasons for disregarding the site.

Although Carlton couldn’t recall a case of negative evalua­tions hindering an instructor’s in-class performance, he did men­tion a recent situation where a scathing critique was “very up­setting” to a colleague, affecting her on a personal level.

“She was certainly shaken up by the experience,” he said.

Sometimes, the overwhelming censure is enough to entirely dissuade instructors from monitoring their ratings, materia­l engineer professor Trevor Harding said.

“I think most faculty don’t look because it can be so depressing,” he said.

Even those who admitted to occasionally checking the site purely out of curiosity minimized its importance.

“Occasionally I will look, from time to time, when some­one will tell me interesting things on it and I’ll check it out,” Inchausti said. “It varies. There are people who never look at it, and others all the time — to them it’s a fascination.”

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Some may take it upon themselves to take a look if they hear about comments that necessitate it, psychology professor Chuck Slem said.

“In general we don’t look at it,” he said. “But someone may check if there’s something outrageous, or some dangerous things they may want to take care of.”

His department doesn’t appear to be the only one to have an unspoken understanding of dismissing the site.

“Most of the people in my hall steer clear of it,” Carlton said.

No study has gauged professors’ perceptions or responses to the site, according to Jean DeCosta, dean of students.

“My opinion is that students can do a disservice to them­selves if they put too much stock in comments that can be so disrespectful and biased,” DeCosta said.

She said the only times she becomes prey to comments on the site are when professors become distressed due to alleg­edly inappropriate comments, at which point they are advised to contact the site’s administrators to have the comments re­moved.

That can be easier said than done, according to Slem.

“One of the biggest problems is when a disgruntled student will say something that is completely false,” he said. “As a professor it’s very hard to get it taken off.”

Roek, who graduated in 2003, told the Mustang Daily in October 2006 that he no longer had the time to maintain the site, as more than 200 then-new professors who had been sub­mitted needed to be filtered into the database.

Vice provost of Academic Affairs David Conn, who called the site’s freelancing approach “very unscientific” and “totally haphazard,” apologized the asserted lack of validity within the comments to the same danger found everywhere online.

“Not to say there isn’t some useful information on it, but a lot of times people may not know what they’re looking at,” Conn said. “It’s a little bit like using the Internet in general — you may know very little about something’s reliability and validity.”

Despite its criticisms, students still figure to frequent the site.

“I always check it out when I register to see what professors are like,” English sophomore Stacy Liu said. “I’ve found it pretty useful.”

Gasoline

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— or giving up some tax breaks so the money could be directed to promote renewable fuels and con­

servation and take pressure off oil and gas suppliers.

“Why is ExxonMobil resisting the renewable energy revolution?” asked Markey, noting that the other four companies together have invested $3.5 billion in solar, wind and biodiesel projects.

Exxon is spending $100 million on research into climate change at Stanford University, replied Simon, but current alternative energy technologies “just do not have an appreciable impact” in addressing “the challenge we’re trying to meet.”

The appearance Tuesday before the Select Com­

mittee on Energy Independence and Global Warming was not the first time that oil executives had faced the harsh winds of a lawmakers frustrated over their in­sability to do anything about soaring oil and gasoline costs.

In November 2005, executives of the same com­panies sought to explain high energy costs at a Senate hearing at which Hofmeister emphasized the cyclical nature of his industry. “What goes up almost always comes down,” he told the senators on a day when oil cost $60 a barrel.

Six months later, the executives were grilled again on Capitol Hill when a barrel of oil cost $75. At the three-hour House hearing came to a close Tuesday, the price of oil settled at just over $100 a barrel on the New York exchange.

“We face a new reality, volatility, high prices, greater competition for resources,” said Peter Robertson, vice president of Chevron Corp., adding that he under­stands that “Americans see the pain” of $100-a-barrel oil.

Marky challenged the executives to pledge to in­

vest 10 percent of their profits to develop renewable energy and give up $18 billion in tax breaks over 10 years to help produce energy that can fill our energy needs.

They responded that their companies already are spending on alternative energy projects and argued that new taxes would dampen investment and could lead to even higher prices.

“Imposing punitive taxes on American energy companies, which already pay record taxes, will dis­
courage the sustained investment needed to continue safeguarding U.S. energy security,” said Simon. He said over the past five years Exxon Mobil’s U.S. tax bill ex­ceeded its U.S. earnings by $19 billion.

Marky wasn’t impressed.

“These companies are defending billions of federal subsidies ... while reaping over a hundred billion dol­

ars in profits just the last year alone,” he said. The companies are reaping “a windfall of revenue” while poor people have to choose between heating and eat­ing, unable to save money and buy food.

Elsewhere on Tuesday, many independent truck­

ers parked their rigs and others slowed to a crawl on three highways to protest high fuel prices. The demonstra­
tions were only scattered, but long lines of trucks were moving at less than 20 mph on the New Jersey Turnpike, and three drivers were ticketed for speeding traffic on Interstate 55 outside Chicago, driving three abreast at low speeds.

Instrumental in Polyratings’ appeal is its particularized na­
ture exclusive to Cal Poly. Anderson said.

“It like because it’s not just four stars,” she added, al­
hed to nationally oriented sites such as RateMyProfessor.com, providing less opportunity to reason a grade. “You have an op­portunity to explain yourself and justify the ratings with word­

and it’s set up for Cal Poly, not like other sites that are set­

up for any university.”

However, what other sites may lack in locality, they make up for it with more constructive, quantifiable, specific informa­
tion. Sites such as Pickprof.com, which is affiliated with Facebook, offer students detailed data on teachers’ grad­
ing habits.

Anderson, who clarified Polyratings should be “taken with a grain of salt,” indicated that in reputation as a helpful resource doesn’t seem to be on the verge of disappearing any time soon.

“In one of my classes there are a lot of freshmen, and every­one seems to know about it,” she said.

Most professors and administrators urge students to exer­
cise healthy skepticism when considering the site’s offerings, consult known and trusted friends and peers when registering, value learning over grades, make more thorough use of official evaluations and remember what one student may dislike about a professor’s teaching style may be liked by others.

In spite of their grievances, most faculty and administrators credit the site for its noble ideals and inherent exercise of de­
mocracy, albeit one they say is overly rough around the edges.

“Professors may have misgivings about themselves being up on Polyratings,” said Slem, who reminisced about his days as an undergraduate student at UCLA, where a Polyratings of its day nearly ruined the bookcase as a bookeeper considering students’ reviews of teachers. “But I’m sure they wouldn’t mind having student ratings to know who they’re getting in class.”

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Teams of scientists find genetic changes linked to cigarette addiction, lung cancer

Seth Borenstein

Scientists have pinpointed genetic variations that make people more likely to get hooked on cigarettes and more likely to develop lung cancer — a finding that could someday lead to screening tests and customized treatments for smokers trying to kick the habit.

The discovery by three separate teams of scientists offers a glimpse into the genetic underpinnings of nicotine addiction and its likely effect on lung cancer.

The gene variations, which govern nicotine receptors on cells, could eventually help explain some of the mysteries of chain smoking, nicotine addiction and lung cancer. These oddities include that there are 90-year-old smokers who don't get cancer and people who light up an occasional cigarette but don't get hooked.

"This is really telling us that the vulnerability to smoking and how much you smoke is clearly biologically based," said psychiatry professor Dr. Laura Bierut of Washington University in St. Louis, a genetics and lifestyle habits join forces to underpin nicotine addiction and lung cancer. These studies are surprising in that they point to areas of the genetic landscape that are not associated with pleasure and the rewards of addiction.

That may help explain why some people make it while others fail, said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse in Bethesda, Md., which funded one of the studies.

"It opens our eyes," Volkow said Wednesday. "Not everyone takes drugs for the same reason. Not everyone smokes cigarettes for the same reason."

One clue is in the location of the just-discovered variants, on the long arm of chromosome 15. Volkow said it is in an area that, when damaged during tests on animals, makes them depressed and anxious. While some people smoke because it helps them focus or gives them a physiological reward, others do it to stave off depression.

That suggests that adding antidotes to some smokers' treatment could help them kick the habit.

Bierut said a simple, inexpensive test could be developed to screen people for the variants. Kari Stefanson, lead author of the largest of the studies, agreed. He is chief executive of deCode Genetics of Iceland, which already does prostate cancer genetic tests.

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National Briefs

OCONOMOWOC, Wis. (AP) — An explosion and fire in southeastern Wisconsin on Wednesday destroyed two homes and injured seven people, including three firefighters, authorities said.

Road and sewer work was being done in downtown Oconomowoc before the explosion occurred around 3:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, said Bob Duffy, economic development director for the lakeside community 30 miles west of Milwaukee. The blaze and being debris knocked over several workers, he said.

NEW YORK (AP) — The leader of the largest branch of American Judaism said Wednesday that progressives in the movement shouldn’t work with the Rev. John Hagee, a Christian Zionist, calling him an “extremist” on Israeli policy who disparages other faiths.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the liberal Union for Reform Judaism, said Hagee and his group, Christians United for Israel, reflect any Israeli land concessions to achieve peace with the Palestinians.

Rabbi Yoffie, speaking on leaving a Palestinian state; Hagee sees a biblical mandate for the territory as God’s “eternal” holy land.

... ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — A Maryland jury found a former Army Ranger guilty of second-degree murder in the shooting death of a fellow Ranger he had served with in Afghanistan.

Gary Smith, 25, was accused of killing Michael McQueen, 22, with a gun that the two shared in Gaithersburg in September 2006.

... NEW YORK (AP) — Maybe men had it right all along. It doesn’t take long to satisfy a woman in bed.

A survey of sex therapists conducted should the optimal amount of time for sexual intercourse was 3 to 13 minutes. The findings, to be published in the May issue of the Journal of Sexual Medicine, strike at the notion that endurance is the key to a great sex life.

If that sounds like good news to you, don’t cheer too loudly. The time does not count toward, and the therapists did rate sexual intercourse that lasts from 1 to 2 minutes as “too short.”

... MONROE, Ga. (AP) — The biggest mystery of a tire that plunged from the sky and crashed through the roof of a home here now has an explanation.

A Federal Aviation Administration official told homeowner Mark Brown on Tuesday that the wheel plummeted to earth from a helicopter owned by the Loganville-based Forever Green Landscaping. The wheel is part of equipment used to haul the helicopter around the landing pad during maintenance.

Officials said the equipment should have been removed before flight.

Octopuses are the kinky creatures of the sea, study says

Paul Elias Associated Press

Marine biologists studying wild octopuses have found a kinky and violent society of jealous murderers, gender subterfuge and once-in-a-lifetime sex.

The new study by researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, who journeyed off the coast of Indonesia found that wild octopuses are far from the shy, unromantic loners their captive brethren appear to be.

The scientists watched the Abdopus aculeatus octopus, which are the size of an orange, for several weeks and published their findings recently in the journal Marine Biology.

They witnessed picky, macho males carefully select a mate, then guard their newly domesticated digs so jealously that they would occasionally use their 8-to-10-inch tentacles to strangle a romantic rival to death.

The researchers also observed smaller “sneaker” male octopuses put on feminine airs, such as swimming girlishly near the Isottom and keeping their male brown 1-inch tentacles to strangle a romantic rival to death.

And size does matter — but not how you’d think.

“If you’re going to spend time guarding a female, you want to go for the biggest female you can find because she’s going to produce more eggs,” said UC Berkeley biologist Roy Caldwell, who co-wrote the study. “It’s basically an investment strategy.”

Shortly after the female gives birth, about a month after conception, both the mother and father die. researchers said.

“It’s not the sex that leads to death,” said Christine Huland, the study’s lead author. “It’s just that octopuses produce offspring once during a very short lifespan of a year.”

...
**Thursday, April 3, 2008**

**NEWS**

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**WORD ON THE STREET**

*"What's your favorite meal of the day?"*

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gillman

"Breakfast because you usually don’t feel bad about filling up."
— Nathaniel Reed, computer science senior

"I like breakfast. I have it multiple times a day."
— John Grinstead, architecture junior

"Snack because you can have it multiple times a day and it’s always instant gratification."
— Lindsay Berkwitz, architecture sophomore

"Dinner. I like having a international party on my plate and an after party in my mouth."
— Brian Hubbs, liberal studies senior

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**celebrity news**

**Cusack’s New Follower**

A woman who was ordered to stay away from John Cusack was charged Wednesday with a felony count of stalking.

Emily Leatherman, 33, was also charged with misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct, a court restraining order, and petit theft in connection with her arrest outside the actor’s Malibu house over the weekend. She faces up to three years in state prison if convicted of the stalking charge, and up to a year in jail if convicted of the misdemeanor counts, the district attorney’s office said.

**John Cusack’s alleged stalker**

Emily Leatherman.

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**Idol Hospitalized**

A producer for “American Idol” says contestant David Cook went to the hospital because of heart palpitations after appearing on the show.

Executive Producer Nigel Lythgoe said Wednesday that the 25-year-old from Oklahoma had heart palpitations and high blood pressure near the end of Tuesday night’s show.

Lythgoe said Cook was treated at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and did not require continued care.

Cook returned for Wednesday night’s cattle show.

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**Neighborhood Chatting**

Since moving to Los Angeles to play for the Galaxy, Beckham has lived in the same neighborhood as Jay Leno, and on “The Tonight Show” Tuesday the men traded jokes about driving themselves places and life with a constant paparazzi presence.

Beckham apologized for the paparazzi hanging around the neighborhood, but also said American celebrity photographs “have been kind to us” compared to those across the pond.

Leno quizzed Beckham about Emporio Armani ads that have the soccer star appearing in briefs.

“You normally sit around the house like this?” asked Leno.

---

**Injured Comedian**

41-year-old actor Adam Sandler broke his ankle over the weekend while playing basketball — but still won the game — according to a statement sent to The Associated Press from Sandler’s representative.

Sandler, who starred in “Happy Gilmore” and “I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry,” is currently shooting Walt Disney Pictures’ “Bedtime Stories.” In the film, due out later this year, Sandler plays a hotel handyman whose bedtime stories magically come true.

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**Kidney Infection for Simpson**

Jessica Simpson is feeling “much better” after being hospitalized with a kidney infection.

Simpson was admitted to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Friday for a “minor kidney infection” and was released Monday. Simpson’s representative Lauren Auslander told The Associated Press on Thursday that hospital officials firel an employee who was accused of mishandling Simpson’s information.

---

**Privacy Policy Ignored**

UCLA Medical Center officials investigated an employee for accessing Farrah Fawcett’s medical records and took disciplinary action, officials said Wednesday.

Fawcett expressed concern to a doctor in May that details of her condition were being leaked to tabloids, and he reported it to hospital executives, said UCLA spokesman Roxanne Moster.

The Los Angeles Times reported on its Web site Wednesday that hospital officials fired an employee who reviewed Fawcett’s records without authorization.

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Hey, we’ve got a real news feed too.
Unrest among China’s Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists creates challenges for Beijing

Christopher Boddean

Unrest was reported Wednesday among Muslims in far western China - a locale for Beijing as it tries to quash Tibetan protests and another sign that neither investment nor repression has ended anti-government feeling in the hinterlands.

The protests in Xinjiang create new problems for Beijing as it tries to contain demonstrations while finding a balance in its treatment of minorities ahead of this summer’s Beijing Olympics.

Meanwhile, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Beijing since a deadly March 14 anti-government riot in the Tibetan capital, said he appealed to Chinese leaders to engage their critics.

"I expressed our concerns about the violence and urged a peaceful resolution through dialogue," Paulson said. He declined to specify to which officials he made the appeal.

The reports about the latest unrest in Xinjiang described disturbances last month in a bazaar in the city of Hotan, deep in the Muslim Uighur minority's cultural heartland.

A local government statement said a "tiny number of people" tried to create an incident March 23 "under the flag of separatism." A local government spokesman blamed the protest on Uighur separatists whom he accused of seizing on the Tibet unrest to call attention to their independence cause.

"These people are splittists responding to the Tibetan riots," the spokesman, Fu Xiaochuan, said. He said dozens were arrested, but only the "core splittists" remained in custody.

The protests in Xinjiang create new problems for Beijing as it tries to contain demonstrations while finding a balance in its treatment of minorities ahead of this summer’s Beijing Olympics.

The rare official confirmation of the Xinjiang protest appeared to signal the government's sensitivity to unrest, said Nicholas Bequelin, a Hong Kong-based researcher for Human Rights Watch.

"It was out already, so they were forced to react rapidly," he said.

Linking the protesters to events in Tibet was a way of portraying them as opportunistic and thereby undermining any real grievances, he added.

Faced with local opposition, China has employed the twin policies of economic development and repression in both Xinjiang and Tibet, believing that would win over the masses while crushing dissent.

Opposition has continued, however, mainly peacefully in Tibet, but sometimes accompanied by violence in Xinjiang. Authorities this year claimed to have foiled a Uighur terror plot targeting the Olympics and an attempt to crash a commercial airliner.

The incident in Hotan came nine days after the deadly rioting in Lhasa set off the largest and most sustained wave of protests in Tibetan areas of western China in almost two decades.

China tried to tamp down the unrest — something China has repeatedly ruled out.

Many Tibetans insist they were an independent nation before communist troops invaded in 1950, while radical Islamic groups in Xinjiang have battled Chinese rule through a low-intensity campaign of bombings and assassinations.

Uighurs, pronounced "Woo-geers," are a Central Asian people related to Turks whose language, customs and religion are distinctive from those of most Chinese.

Beijing has pumped billions of dollars in aid and investment into the regions in hope that economic development would quash anti-communist sentiment.

Yet intense police and army repression may have undermined such gains, with Tibetans and Uighurs complaining of restrictions on religion, economic disenfranchisement and the waving down of their culture and language.

International Briefs

HAVANA (AP) — It's not the stuff of Lenin or Marx, or even of Fidel Castro, but it's hardly free-market capitalism, either. In fact, steps to encourage a Cuban spending spree may help the communist system in and new president survive.

In rapid-fire decrees over the past week, Raúl Castro's government has done away with some despised restrictions, lifting bans on electric appliances, microwave ovens and computers, inviting average citizens to enter long-forbidden resorts and declaring they can even legally have their own cell phones.

More could be on the way. Rumors are rampant the government could ease travel restrictions and tolerate free enterprise that would let more people start their own small businesses. Hopes that it will break the dual-currency system that puts foreign products out of reach for most Cubans have sparked a run on the peso.

"We're going to get out and buy more and more," said retiree Roberto Aizu. "That's the future in Cuba, and it is a strong future."

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, the common-touch Dubliner who roused Ireland's economic boom and the blossoming of Bellepeace, announced his resignation Wednes­day under a darkening cloud of fi­nancial scandal.

The announcement stunned Ire­land and much of the Cabinet, whose members stood by Ahern during an 18-month battle against allegations he accepted secret cash payments from businessmen in the 1990s.

Ahern, who governed Ireland through 11 years of growing prosperity at home and peace in Northern Ireland, maintained his inno­cence.

BUCAREST, Romania (AP) — President Bush suffered a painful diplomatic setback Wednesday when NATO allies rebuffed his passionate plea to put former Soviet republics Ukraine and Georgia on the path toward membership in the Western military alliance.

The decision, to be made final on Thursday, was sure to be cheered by Moscow, which heatedly opposes NATO's eastward expansion.

In another sign of discord, Greece blocked Macedonia's request to join the 26-nation alliance because of a dispute over its name. Only Croats and Albania will be invited as new members.

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A court-appointed expert has recom­mended that Chevron Corp pay up to $16 billion for allegedly polluting the Ecuadorian Amazon. Chevron on Wednesday called the expert's advice, and the trial a farce.

The $16 billion lawsuit by 30,000 jungle settlers and Indians alleging the San Ramon, California-based company failed to clean up billions of gallons of toxic wastewa­ter produced by Texaco Petroleum Co, which Chevron acquired in 2001.

The court in the jungle town of Lago Agrio confirmed the multi­billion-dollar damage total to The Associated Press on Wednesday. It was tallied by geologist engineer Richard Cabrera, but has yet to be approved by a judge.

A young Tibetan monk walks inside the Namtu temple in Kangding, west of Sichuan province, China. New separatist unrest was reported among a Muslim minority group in far western China, even as Beijing seeks to contain fallout from major anti-government protests in Tibet.
TV's Best and Worst Shows

(A Short List)

By Allison Baker

It's the beginning of the quarter, and (if your professors know what's good for them) you probably have a little more time on your hands than you did a few weeks ago. Whatever will you do with the time? I have four ideas for you.

If you're anything like me, you have your few staple TV shows and then whatever happens to be on before or after. I know it's hard to branch out, even if you see a promising, 30-second preview during " Oprah. You probably don't even have time to watch all the shows you want to watch (if you do, maybe I could get a few pointers from you on time management).

Even if time isn't an issue, it's still hard to choose which ones to invest in, especially when those 30 seconds don't do them justice. That's what I'm here for. Over spring break, in between trips to the pitia colada bar and reapplications of sunscreen, I did some research (I love that I can call it that) and found quite a few new shows that have misleadingly similar stories. Two shows about rogue lawyers, two " Sex and the City" clones, two shows involving amnesia and two shows about twenty-somethings. Here are a few you should skip and a few to love. (I swear ABC isn't paying me for this).

Not Worth It

"Canterbury's Law" (FOX)

In "Canterbury's Law," Elizabeth Canterbury does whatever it takes to make sure the innocent walk free, even though she works just as hard to get the criminals off as well. We all love bad people that do good things, but " Eli Stone" has more heart, wit and did I mention the George Michael cameo?

"Amnesia" (NBC)

Despite the title, " Amnesia" doesn't have to do with the medical condition. Hosted by Dennis Miller, the contestants are quizzed on specific details from their life for cash. Their life: NBC? are you serious?

"Lipstick Jungle" (NBC)

Before watching it, I thought "Lipstick Jungle" to be the legitimate heir to the " Sex and the City" throne. It has Brooke Shields and her white teeth, scandal, and Kim Raver's character has an affair with a hot young man (Robert Buckley).

"Quarterlife" (NBC)

The characters of "Quarterlife" are all creative working twenty-somethings trying to live out their dreams but also pay the rent. It's actually a decent show, but it hits too close to home (shall we me in a few months)?

Love It

"Eli Stone" (ABC)

Eli Stone is a San Francisco lawyer who suffers from a brain aneurysm that causes him to have odd hallucinations and outbursts that tell him which cases to select and how to win them. A recurring hallucination includes a singing George Michael.

"Samantha Who?" (ABC)

" Samantha Who?" starring Christina Applegate is about a remorseful amnesiac who finds out little by little what her life was like before she was in a terrible accident. As it turns out, she was a jerk.

"Greek" (ABC FAM)

" Greek" is witty and highly addictive, so view with caution.

"Cashmere Mafia" (ABC)

"Lipstick" ultimately doesn't compare to " Cashmere Mafia," which has more watchable " Sex and the City" charm and way more laughs.

Natalie Abreu

THE DAILY COLUMNIST (UNLICENSED)

Some might not think a film where a man leaves his future wife at the altar with their unborn child would be predictable. For the most part, it is. " Run, Fat Boy, Run" proves to be the right balance of light, goodhearted underdog story than a laugh-a-minute plot.

Pegg once again plays the role of the lovable loser who achieves greatness. He plays Dennis, who five years ago walked out on his pregnant fiancée Libby (Thandie Newton of " Crash") on their wedding day. Five years later, he is a pudgy security guard of a women's store, living in the basement of a brownstone and wishing to win back Libby. However, she has a new boyfriend, the seemingly perfect Whitt (Harry Azaria of "The Simpsons"). He plans to run a marathon in three weeks in which Dennis also wants to run. While some of Dennis' friends take bets against him running the marathon, some try to help him. Even though there is humor, it is mostly Americanized rather than British humor in gross-out jokes, middle fingers, nude scenes and farting. It is so far in between somewhat sappy moments between Dennis and his son, by the same name, trying to win back Libby and competing with the arrogant White.

The film follows a standard underdog story plot, a romanticized view of the world in which even the everyday man can achieve fame, greatness and get the girl. Perhaps if this film followed the variation of other Pegg films like " Shaun of the Dead" and " Hot Fuzz," of making fun of underdog films, it would find more laughs.

However, the film is enjoyable, especially the supporting characters like the Indian landlord and Dennis' friend Gordon (played by Dylan Moran of " Shaun of the Dead") who act as coaches in Dennis' training.

The film allows the viewer to get a feel at the posh side of London. Schwimmer shows promise as a director in the way he films the city and we visuals like an actual wall to show how Dennis " hits the wall" during his run.

Overall, viewers should not run to " Fat Boy," but it is definitely worth watching. It seems like a perfect 2010 rental.

Allison Baker is an English senior, Mustang Daily columnist and pop-culture enthusiast.
MUSTANG DAILY

ARTS

The word on the street was the show would be big, but nothing prepared me for what took place April Fool's night. Bay Area rapping legend E-40 headlined a show at The Graduate, and I would've been a fool not to check it out.

Standing for what seemed like forever in a line that put Disneyland rides to shame, I was finally greeted at the door by security guards with an intrusive frisk and inventory check. Heightened alert would be an understatement, but since a drive-by shooting happened near the same place just days before, I had no qualms about being groped.

Past security, patrons formed another, slightly smaller line at the bar while opening acts prepped the crowd for what was to come. After impressive performances by local groups The 40oz. Freaks and Public Defendaz, a brief intermission was called for a welcomed breather.

Finally, the lights dimmed and bass filled the room. A posse of backup singers and rappers took the stage, and then split to give way to the unmistakable figure of E-40. The crowd roared with approval, and E-40 immediately started by delivering old-school crowd favorites that everyone knew and loved.

Within minutes the temperature rose to what felt like 50 degrees. The air became thick with the aroma of sweat and smoke. People, packed together like sardines in a can, jumped in unison to the beats. It felt like the floor might give way at any moment.

After pummeling the crowd with his signature flows, E-40 took a break to shout out to fans and get the crowd even more pumped than before. Incidentally, UFC fighter Chuck Liddell, who was in attendance, joined E-40 on stage to give way to the unmistakable figure of E-40. The crowd roared with approval, and E-40 immediately started by delivering old-school crowd favorites that everyone knew and loved.

Unfortunately, fans didn't get to hear The Iceman bust a rhyme, but that's probably asking too much anyway.

E-40 then picked back up with some of his newer jams. Every song was a crowd-pleaser; it was like listening to a "best of" album. Throughout the last few songs, more and more fans joined the stage to sing and dance. By the final song, the stage resembled the world's biggest house party with scantily clad ladies and male hip-hoppers shaking their tails alongside E-40.

Straight up, this show was just plain awesome. In the past, big-name rappers who've performed in San Luis Obispo have disappointed fans with lackluster performances. I can remember rappers arriving hours late or too drunk to perform — or, more often, both. Maybe they don't take San Luis Obispo seriously? Who knows.

But this was the exact opposite. E-40 brought his A-game to San Luis Obispo, and his performance was on point. He effectively renewed my faith in rap concerts and reminded fans of just how intense a live show can be.

Perhaps Jason Carmichael, who drove from Morro Bay and took the day after off to see the show, said it best when he yelled, "That show was $%&$#@ sick!"

I couldn't have said it better myself.
The restaurant is teeming. Every booth and table is filled. Young people, old people, families and couples are all packed into the open, colorful room, eating and chatting. It's just another Friday night at the sushi bar Sushiya.

"Friday and Saturday nights are always crazy here, just packed," Sushiya manager Toshio Maruta said.

The sushi businesses in San Luis Obispo are booming. In the last year and a half, two popular new sushi bars opened — the aforementioned Sushiya and Sumo Sushi, located on Marsh Street; Shin's Sushi Bar, Yaragi Sushi and Grill, and Sushi Kokku also thrive here.

"It's the trendy thing to do now, to go eat at a sushi bar," English junior Emilie Egger said.

College students seem to be the catalyst for this growing Central Coast trend. Shin's Sushi Bar manager Jonathan Brogno estimates that 90 percent of his customers are students from Cal Poly and Cuesta College. But, according to Maruta, San Luis Obispo is actually behind the times.

"Sushi has been popular in places such as Los Angeles since the 1980s. San Luis Obispo is just now catching up," he said.

Despite popular belief, sushi does not refer to raw fish. The word refers to foods that are paired with rice marinated in sweet, rice-wine vinegar. Raw fish (called sashimi) need not be part of the equation at all. Sushi rolls do, however, generally contain some form of raw fish, and popular choices include tuna and salmon. Vegetables are sometimes added to the rolls as well.

In fact, most students said their favorite type of restaurant to visit in San Luis Obispo is a sushi bar.

But why is this simple meal of raw fish and rice wrapped in seaweed becoming so incredibly popular among San Luis Obispo college students?

It's healthy

It's no coincidence that people living in Japan have the longest average lifespan in the world, as per the news Web site Japan today.com. According to another Web site, world'shealthiestfoods.com, sushi is one of the healthiest meals you can eat. Sashimi contains a high concentration of omega 3 fatty acids, which help maintain a healthy heart. The seaweed surrounding the roll contains vitamins and nutrients as well. Overall, sushi rolls are low in calories and saturated fat, and high in protein, making it an ideal meal.

"My mother, who lives in Japan, only eats fish and vegetables. She's 94," Maruta said. "Sushi is a trend here because students want to be healthy."

It's cheap

In a world where a decent steak can cost upward of $20, sushi in San Luis Obispo is a bargain. Restaurants like Sushiya and Sumo Sushi offer high-quality sushi for a lower price than what one would pay for the same dish in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"We know college students can't afford to pay what people in big cities can pay, so we make an effort to keep costs down while providing the same quality of food," Maruta said. Sushiya also gives a 10 percent discount to all college students with an ID.

Shin's Sushi Bar is also all about low costs; the restaurant's rolls are usually half the price of rolls at other sushi bars, Brogno said.

It's new

Like Egger, avid sushi eaters may not have consumed the Japanese food prior to attending college.

Brogno believes the novelty of sushi drives his business. "Sushi is 'new age' and different. Students come from these small towns to Cal Poly and want to try something different."
Sushi
continued from page 7

Daly and they want to try new things. Sushi is new to them, so they try it and like it and keep coming back," he said.

It's accessible
In a town where businesses close at 6 p.m. (or 5 p.m. on Thursdays!), sushi bars are known for offering hours that extend well past this early closing time. Sumo Sushi is open until 11:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, while other restaurants are open until similar hours.

Sushiya caters to college students by remaining open all day, even though sushi bars traditionally close in between lunch and dinner. "We know students are always hungry and have crazy class schedules, so we open early and close late every day," Maruta said. Most students eat dinner at Sushiya after 8 p.m., he added.

It's fun!
Although only Yanagi Sushi and Sushiya take formal reservations, sushi bars in town do their best to accommodate large parties. And since most sushi bars have a large seating capacity, they have become the go-to place for birthday parties.

When people celebrate birthdays at Sushiya, they are treated to Sushiya's famous birthday serenade, complete with strobe lights and techno music.

But whether a customer is celebrating a birthday or not, sushi bars offer a good time. Sake bombs are extremely popular with the college crowd. A sake bomb is created by pouring sake (an alcoholic beverage made from rice) into a shot glass and dropping the glass into (usually Japanese) beer, then drinking the concoction quickly. Students often race to see who can drink their "bomb" the fastest.

"In Japan, everyone is very reserved during the day, people rarely speak. So when they get off work, they like to go out and have fun. We try to replicate that same atmosphere here," Maruta said. "Sushi is great. It's good food in a fun environment," recreation administration senior Julia Ciroth said.

Just stop by any sushi place in San Luis Obispo, and there will be plenty of students who agree.

Sushiya stays open longer and all day for busy college students and sushi lovers.

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Girls & Sports

Across
1. Luxury hotel amenity
5. Some exam practice for short
9. "Get____!
13 Show ... (used)"
14 Somewhat
15 "Hey Capt!
author Charles
16 Farberware set
18 Film director
19 Word with red,
white or rock
21 Copied
22 Priests: Abbr
23 Summon up
24 Require
25 Get in trouble, in
26 Some beams
27 Sighter of the
28 Yen or yuan
29 Huffington of the
30 Talk that might
31 Embryonic
32 Political hostess
33 Yukon neighbor:
34 Hitter of 511
35 HBO's "Da____"
36 Bothers
37 Excavation
38 Dr. J's first pro
39 Post-vacation,
40 Home tool
41 It may fill a hall
42 Software
43 Twisted thread
44 Longtime ABC
45 Hideouts
46 Classic song with the words
"Look away! Look away!"
47 Singer of the anthem "Standing Tall"
48 Heraldic border
49 Sony subsidiary
50 Computer command
51 Reader
52 Soldas
53 Red letters?
54 Madcap
55 Avril follower
56 ___ gum
57 Bullet followers
58 Sterile
59 Cry at Old
60 Side in a debate
61 "____Coming"
62 Mountain West
63 Short
64 It's often turned
upside down
65 "Hard Cash"
66 Short
67 Owner of The
68 Award nominee
69 Mother ____
70 Providers of life
71 "____to this
puzzle's circled
letters"
72 Positions'

Down
1. Filmieu
2. Off-white shade
3. Creator of Oz
4. Abbr. that may
5. Like a certain
6. Sign of fright
7. Owner of the
History Channel
8. Instant replay
subjects, for
9. Mother____
10. Providers of life
11 Words with a
familiar ring?
12 "S" on a French
shaker
14. "Compromising
seller"
15 Put a new coat
16 "____Coming"
17 "____Coming"
18 "____Coming"
19 "____Coming"
20 "____Coming"
21 "____Coming"
22 Priests: Abbr.
23 Summer up
24 Require
25 Get in trouble, in
26 Social who
writes the best
"Compromising
Poses"
Should America legalize marijuana?

Lee Barats: Yes. But I'll hit it every day either way

'Since I see it as a little off this week. I just shared a bowl of marijuana with this talking deer I just met. He's crazy, man. Anyway, yeah. I think America should totally legalize weed. It just makes the world better. You know those square, white, aholes who still want to keep it illegal? I don't even wanna think about it, I just wanna smoke that thought right out of my mind.

Real quick, think about your favorite band. The members smoke weed. Lots of it. Weed has contributed more to the American arts than tobacco or alcohol; and it's not even illegal! Could you imagine how American culture would blow up if ganja was made readily available for every woman, man and child? We'd have a country full of Dylan, Marleys and Chapelles.

But if the reef was legal, there would be a lot less dicks around. Everyone would be all mellow 'cuz they're all stoned. I bet that lady wouldn't have been so unreasonable when I crashed my car into her mailbox 'cuz I was high. She woulda been like, "Nah, it's cool, man. The Postal Service was bringing me donuts anyway."

Mann, hittin' greens feels so good, it's just gotta be right. Why would God put us on this planet if he didn't want us to feel good all the time? Think about that, you uptight, Neo-con, flag-waving females. Now excuse me while I hit the hay.

Sean Michetti: No. The gateway to Hell drug

For years I've believed marijuana to be "the gateway drug," but I've had little proof. Now, really do I believe scientific findings, much less quote them, but I must make an exception for this virtue study performed by Yale scientists: "The soil surrounding a marijuana plant literally provides a gateway for Lucifer to travel from earth to hell."

Terrorized yet? I constantly am. Several symptoms associated with excessive marijuana use are clearly influenced by the devil. You can almost see his goat-like grin in each smoke ring blown.

Studies show that marijuana users report feeling a sense of tolerance. Tolerance! Tolerance to settle with your abusive spouse? Tolerance of a radical third world nation? Tolerance of yourself? All are disturbing ideas that have led to the dreadful conditions we see in our urban cities.

If we allow marijuana to become legalized, then our cities will fail and our doped-out citizens will be too complacent to fix anything. Advantage: devil.

If our nation succumbs to the pressures of Oregonian hippies and legalizes marijuana, then we will see respiratory infection cases shoot through the roof, and doctors will be overwhelmed with patients who giggle while describing their constant shortness of breath. We can't allow marijuana to terrify the lungs of our young.

Every two years, America shows its athletic dominance at the Olympics. Fort Knox was built to house our proud flow of gold bling. Ask yourself, how many gold medals did the Netherlands bring home from Salt Lake City and Athens? THREE TOTAL! And they were all from the winter games. Reason: only one of its athletes even SHOWED up at the summer games, the rest of them slept until the closing ceremonies were long over. The Netherlands has legalized marijuana and consequently breeds terrible athletes. Our nation already suffers under the heavy weight of obesity, how can we afford to allow our kids to become any LESS athletic? Advantage: U.S. in gold medals; devil in everything else.

Marijuana is real, people. If I had any less self control and found myself smoking marijuana, then this article, and all my extensive research, would never be completed. It's a fact. Marijuana users suffer short-term memory loss. Marijuana is real, people. If I had any less self control, this article would never be...

Lee Barats is a mechanical engineering senior and Sean Michetti is a journalism senior. Barats and Michetti are Mustang Daily humor columnists and can be contacted at itsforlats(a)gmail.com.

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April 3, 2008

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Mustang Daily

"I will stamp my class ring into your forehead!"

Margaret Scott

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Margaret Scott

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Mustang Daily will no longer run the "Collegiate Culture Snob" humor column by James Konian. After writing for the Daily for two quarters, Konian did not have the time to continue writing during spring quarter but an archive of his work can be found at mustangdaily.net.

Let it out!

Post a comment or send a letter to the editor

only at

www.mustangdaily.net
Of all the disaster warnings parents give children, they probably leave out the most important: the zombie invasion.

I'll smash in a head if I have to.

I've been given instructions by my friends Seneca and Dylan, who have both researched potential scenarios thoroughly. When the day comes, I am to gather my family and drive immediately to Seneca's house, the designated meeting place. Seneca's mother originates from Oklahoma. Apparently it's fitting that they have various firearms.

You think I'm nuts. But I'm writing for your welfare, with your best interest at heart. So listen up, unschooled.

Walking out of the horror film "28 Days Later" and silencing that small voice that asks, "What if that happens?" is understandable, because those zombies are supernatural. Though many of you are doomed already, the concept of being overtaken by the supernatural undead is pretty absurd. But believe me, it'd be a royal screwing (even an ironical screwing when infected Queen Elizabeth II herself runs you down).

The inevitable event should be prepared for—both preparation and panic. Your best bet is to be stationary. Stay away from densely populated areas. If you are already in such an area, use your supplies to stay put for a few days until the commencing turmoil subsides.

Give it two or three days for society's initial panic to settle. Yes, there will be more zombies out there, but they'll be easier to fight than a thinking human desperate for survival.

Your best bet is to be stationary. Stay away from densely populated areas. If you are already in such an area, use your supplies to stay put for a few days until the commencing turmoil subsides.

The article stated, "The feat, the researchers say, will make a similar trip, not as a matter of ghoulish curiosity but as a means of preserving life in the face of otherwise fatal injuries."

Does anybody else see this as the opening scene? It's a few small hops, skips and blood transmissions away from the impending.

Max Brooks, author of "The Zombie Survival Guide: Complete Protection from the Living Dead" states on his Web site that infection can occur only through direct fluidic contact.

"A zombie bite, although by far the most recognizable means of transmission, is by no means the only one. Humans have been infected by brushing their open wounds against those of a zombie or by being splattered by its remains after an explosion," Brooks wrote.

The moment of truth will elicit pure chaos. If you're lucky enough to not be one of the poor suckers lost to the first phase, the next step is to decipher a means of survival. Your rudimentary instinct will most likely be to reach the most advantageous habitat such as a megastore Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Costco are all going to be fought over. The riotous battle to make a claim on such a venue may be more perilous than wading off the infected.

Your best bet is to be stationary. Stay away from densely populated areas. If you are already in such an area, use your supplies to stay put for a few days until the commencing turmoil subsides.

Give it two or three days for society's initial panic to settle. Yes, there will be more zombies out there, but they'll be easier to fight than a thinking human desperate for survival.

Escape heavily populated areas but do not necessarily move. Build a base camp preferably in the hills or mountains not too far from an urban area. This proximity will allow you to be far enough to see the threat coming and close enough to travel for supplies without a dependency on the little, if any, transportation available.

The inevitable event should be prepared for—both mentally and with supplies. Stocking up on supplies is obvious. In the least, have the following: food, pet food, water, firearms, ammo, blades (Why blades, you ask? For stealth moves when ammo isn't available), a fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, clothing, shortwave hand radios, batteries, gas-powered generator, flashlight and toilet paper.

Mental preparation is key. Be fully prepared to demolish the heads of loved ones who are infected. Assume all forms of communication inoperative.

Hollywood is misleading in what the actual outbreak will probably be like. Movies like "Resident Evil: Extinction" may give you the idea that becoming non-necrotic is potentially a good idea. Do not do this! What if it turns out you aren't the main character and you're that secondary RV that gets a flat tire? And in mid-change the zombies catch up and Mills Jovovich can't save you?

Relying on your supplies for an indefinite period of time is your best bet. Do not rely on the possibility of a cure, but rather the undead decaying after running out of their food supply.

"Goals range from stronger human antibodies to resistant cell structure to a counter-virus designed to identify and destroy (the virus)," Brooks wrote on a potential treatment. "This and other, more radical treatments are still in their earliest stages, with no foreseeable success in the near future ... chances are, the infected human was doomed from the moment the virus entered his or her system."

Hopefully, this will inspire you to have your own back-up plan as you should for any other emergency like floods and earthquakes. Good luck out there, because there's no more room at Seneca's.

Agnes-Ori Fassett is a journalism senior and a former Mustang Daily reporter.
For Omaha and fans, keeping College World Series an absolute must

Chris Hatch

There's obviously a lot of concern, with worries about the "Blitz" needing some remodeling, let us not forget it is, after all, 60 years old.

Terry Francona once was an outstanding player inside the walls of the stadium. Some 42 percent of fans at the CWS are from out of town, and many people of note have come to soak up the ambiance of college baseball at its highest level.

Many of these moments are tied into the culture of the city of Omaha, leaving an indelible mark. Much as Dynasty has its 500 or Kentucky its derby, we Nebraskans have the CWS.

Let's not forget about the students either. Every year, the students come pouring in from around the country to paint up and shout out, cheering and stomping their feet on the famous metal bleachers in the outfield.

For every game, nearly all of the 23,000 seats are packed full. People from all corners of the United States pack in to watch as their teams compete. And if your team didn't make it, so what? It's a great place to enjoy regardless of who you're rooting for.

Many of the most die-hard fans of the CWS are merely there to cheer for the game of baseball itself and the way it brings people together.

If the College World Series were to change venues, none of these traditions nor the series itself would ever be the same again. In a sport that too often only makes the news because its professionals have been caught cheating again, we need to keep the purest and best part of the game thriving.

You can keep your corporate money, and your big-name media marketers. The only place I want to do that is Omaha.

Lester, Ortiz lead Red Sox past A's

Greg Beacham

OAKLAND — After opening day in Japan, an exhibition weekend in Los Angeles and yet another opener in Oakland, the Boston Red Sox are finally headed back east from the Far East.

And they're still off to a rock-solid start to their crazy season.

Jon Lester pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning, David Ortiz broke open a scoreless game with a two-run homer and the Red Sox beat the Athletics 5-0 Wednesday.

Kevin Youkilis had a double and a run-scoring single while setting the major league record for consecutive errorless games by a first baseman as the Red Sox defeated the A's for the third time in a four-game series that began last week in Tokyo. Boston won two straight in Oakland, with Lester and Danoke Matsuzaka carrying the Red Sox until their hitting perk up.

"We're certainly not on all cylinders," manager Terry Francona said. "That may be part of the trip ... but what they did today was good enough."

The Red Sox still aren't done with a 16,000-mile trip that included two exhibitions against Japanese teams and a game in front of 115,300 fans at Los Angeles' Memorial Coliseum. Boston has a three-game weekend series in Toronto before finally getting back to Fenway Park.

Lester (3-1), who lost his season debut in Japan, didn't allow an Oakland runner to reach second base after the first inning. He retired 10

see Baseball, page 15

Football

continued from page 16

Only five starters, however, return to the Mustang defense, which finished 62nd in the country a year ago, allowing 370.4 yards per outing.

To the right are 10 likely games on the schedule, according to various reports and opponents' Web sites, leaving three Saturdays in late September and early October open for the 11th game.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>OPEN DATE</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>OPEN DATE</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>at South Dakota State</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Southern Utah</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Idaho State</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>North Carolina Central</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>UC Davis</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>at Wisconsin</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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Home games are bolded, and all times are Pacific.
jump and the 4-by-100 and 4-by-400 relays. Eventually she decided to do both, and she's been so close to breaking the 14-foot barrier that she's been so close to breaking the 14-foot barrier that I've been coaching the pole vault for 15 years, and I've seen a lot of pole vaulters, Brown said. "And Christine, she's got it with a smile. She's extremely disciplined." Brown thinks Silva's background in gymnastics has made her role as her coach easier. "Gymnasts are used to learning new things at a fast pace, and Silva really is. She's basically ideal, very coachable and a lot more bar clearances will be coming soon." Silva even has a number of褛 sponsors, though she says she'll likely have to "get a part-time, full-time job because even a Nike sponsorship for pole vaulting is not very much to solely support yourself with." In order to be in good shape for the 2012 Olympics, she plans to remain in the area after graduating in May to train for the "B" standard of the U.S. Olympic Trials in Eugene, just enough training to meet the standard of 13.8. Regardless of what her future holds in store, Silva will always love pole vaulting. "I love the adrenaline rush," she said. "I love learning the complex technical aspect, I love working for amazing coaches and I love the big network of friends you get to meet in San Luis Obispo, in California, and across the nation." Silva, along with six other Mustangs, will compete in the 91st Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays, which are held through Saturday at Mike A. Myers Track and Soccer Stadium in Austin, Texas.
Cal Poly senior pole vaulter has overcome a broken wrist to become one of country's 20 best

Sara Wright

Need inspiration? Meet Christine Silva, who has overcome a broken wrist from a year ago to become one of the top pole vaulters not only in the Big West Conference, but in the entire country.

The 22-year-old senior cleared 12-2 at Cuesta College to capture the school record in 2004, when she would go on to finish second in the state at the community college level, a distinction she would repeat in 2006.

Even with a broken wrist, she cleared 12-5 3/4 on April 28, 2007 at the UC Santa Barbara dual to qualify for West Regional competition in Eugene, Ore.

Now, Silva, whose feet rank in the top five all-time in Cal Poly history, is half a foot away from her goal of a shorter approach, or from 10 to 12 steps in comparison to a long run, 14 to 18 steps.

Her interest in pole vaulting began after her sophomore year of high school at Bishop O'Dowd in Oakland, following a lengthy 12 years of gymnastics.

Her involvement in pole vaulting was mostly for fun; there wasn't even a coach.

Cal Poly senior Christine Silva won the pole vault at the UCLA Invitational on March 8 with a clearance of 12 feet, 9 1/2 inches, meeting an NCAA West Regional standard.

Her 12-9 mark ranks second in the Big West and 16th nationally.

“Of course I'm happy to do this, but I'm more proud of how long I've been able to control my body and my pain,” she said.

“I'm the strongest I've been,” she said.

“I'm proud to say that I stayed injury-free and put in the best fall season yet.”

The Mustangs, who often are separated into green and gold and coached by offensive coordinator Ian Shields and defensive coordinator Payam Saadat, will take the field, as one full half of play is planned utilizing the scoreboard and play clock, without live kicking.

The Mustangs, who conducted spring drills in February and March before taking a break during winter-quarter finals, will have one full preparatory practice Friday morning.

Cal Poly, which went 7-4 last season, returns 10 starters from an offense that compiled 487.1 yards per game to finish second in the Football Championship Subdivision.

The average yards per game gained by the Cal Poly offense in 2007, second in the Football Championship Subdivision in total offense, fewer than two yards behind national champion Appalachian State’s 488.3.

Nowitzki returns as Mavs hurt Warriors’ fading playoff hopes

Stephen Hawkins

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki unexpectedly returned to the starting lineup and scored 18 points after missing four games with a high ankle sprain, and the Dallas Mavericks didn’t need much more to make the playoffs.

The 5-foot-7 Silva won the Husky Invitational in Seattle on Feb. 16 — to meet an NCAA West Regional standard.

Nowitzki, who sprained his ankle and his knee 10 days earlier, moved gingerly when he took shots during warmups. But there were chants of “Dirk! Dirk! Dirk!” just before game introductions, then a deafening roar when he was the last starter introduced.

Nelson embraced Nowitzki and tapped him on the head in front of the scorer’s table before tipoff.

Dallas never trailed in the game.

The last time Golden State lost consecutive games was Jan. 2 and 4, at Dallas and against New Orleans.

The Mustangs conclude their final day of spring practice on Saturday with a live spring game at 3 p.m. in Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Two groups, separated into green and gold and coached by defensive coordinator Ian Shields and offensive coordinator Payam Saadat, will take the field, as one full half of play is planned utilizing the scoreboard and play clock, without live kicking.

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Since announcing Feb. 22 a game at Wisconsin scheduled for Nov. 22, the Cal Poly football program has struggled to fill out a desired 12-game slate for the upcoming season.

After a lengthy, unsuccessful search for a final opponent that failed to make that calendar a reality, though, an 11-game schedule will likely be announced soon, Cal Poly athletic director Alison Cone said Tuesday.

In the more immediate future, the Mustangs will engage in their annual spring game at 3 p.m. Saturday in Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

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