Fraternity refurbishes 35-year-old painting honoring late professor

Donovan Aird

Sixteen years ago, the Cal Poly community lost a beloved architect, artist and professor.

Since Vern Swansen passed away, Alpha Rho Chi, a professional fraternity in the Cal Poly College of Architecture and Environmental Design, has preserved and curated about 4,000 of his paintings, including a decades-old mural adjacent to Backstage Pizza.

Though it won't be able to be displayed for about 18 months due to pending University Union renovations, the mural was recently repainted by Alpha Rho Chi, then sealed by Facility Services to more splendidly present and safeguard it in the future, said Dwayne Brummitt, UU director of business services.

“It's a neat thing students got together to do, to take time out of their busy schedules to improve something like that,” Brummitt said.

Alpha Rho Chi approached the Associated Students, Inc. advisory board about refurbishing the mural.

Brummitt said, and was able to arrange a joint effort with ASI, which helped finance the project through paying for materials and 4-feet-by-8-feet sheets of plywood that would be painted.

The sheets of plywood were sealed and stored. They will be installed by facility services, likely after the completion of the UU Plaza renovation, which is tentatively expected to be undertaken in the spring of 2009.

“We basically nixed the entire mural,” said architecture sophomore Brittany Thornburg, Alpha Rho Chi historian and Vern chair. “It's a neat thing students got together to do, to take time out of their busy schedules to improve something like that.”

Brummitt, UU director of business services, said.

The Cal Poly chapter of Hip Hop Congress continues to find identity as part of larger organization.

The Cal Poly Fencing Club will host the All California Collegiate Championships Online.

Work of art by the late Cal Poly professor Vern Swansen, including the mural adjacent to Backstage Pizza, are being preserved by professional fraternity Alpha Rho Chi.

A national touring panel shared its opinions about hip-hop, youth vote activism and how they relate to the 2008 presidential election on Tuesday night in Fisher Science room 286.

People get so caught up in the hype over a black candidate, so that they won't remember to ask the hard questions.”

The forum began with a discussion between the two panelists about the current political situation, asking why so many people are getting caught up in the hype over a black candidate.

“Politics has really become a spectator sport over the past few decades, where politicians really aren't discussing the issues that are pertinent to us,” said Davey D., a hip-hop columnist for the San Jose Mercury News and disc jockey for Berkeley-based KPFA FM.

Frustration has really become a spectator sport over the past few decades, where politicians really aren't discussing the issues that are pertinent to us,” said Davey D., a hip-hop columnist for the San Jose Mercury News and disc jockey for Berkeley-based KPFA FM.

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Two men are going to jail after taking a guac on the wild side when they attempted to steal avocados from a Cal Poly orchard.

Braulio Franco and Alejandro Sanchez of Santa Maria were sentenced to 60 and 45 days in the San Luis Obispo County jail, police said.

Mission Produce is a Southern California avocado and avocado products company with more than 6,400 avocado trees planted near five years ago on 70 acres of Cheda Ranch. The smallest of the Cal Poly campus ranches, it sits beside Steinner Creek and California Highway 1.

The attempted avocado theft is just one in a string of similar thefts that occurred in Southern California in the past few years.
Panel

"We have people who stood out in the snow for two hours in New Hampshire to see Obama speak at a rally," said Davey D, who spent a considerable amount of time on the campaign trail early in the year. "I had a homeless man in South Carolina telling me he found inspiration in a black candidate because they shared the same skin color."

Clemente retorted, "Yes, but people can find false hope in such officials as Condeleeza Rice and Colin Powell, who sat in front of the UN and gave a speech that he knew was full of shit."

"I'm not trying to hate; I'm trying to think critically and not let our generation be another one which has gotten duped."

The debate touched on a variety of topics regarding socioeconomic and political situations in America and the inherent constraints that such an environment places on aspiring minorities.

Issues ranged from the prison industrial complex to how U.S. politics make even potentially profitable a la Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell, who sat in front of the UN and gave a speech that he knew was full of shit. "I'm not trying to hate; I'm trying to think critically and not let our generation be another one which has gotten duped."

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Mural

"It was really cool seeing it come together," Thornburg said of the venture initiated by architecture senior Vi Tran, now studying abroad. "We started with just the blank pieces of plywood. But when it came together, it looked a lot better than the one up right now."

Swansen, born in Oregon in 1916, was raised in Pasadena before earning his Bachelor of Architecture degree at USC, where he became a member of Alpha Rho Chi, a chapter of which he was integral in starting and advising at Cal Poly years later. He served as the president of the Santa Barbara Art Association and as the Santa Barbara Museum of Art curator of education from 1961 to 1971. He also acquired a master's degree in art from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland in 1975.

Following stints as an instructor at Santa Barbara City College and Westminster College, Swansen began teaching architecture and watercolor at Cal Poly, and in 1987 was bestowed the faculty merit award from the CMAE.

For Thornburg, in her first active year with the fraternity, dignifying Swansen made the mural revision memorable and worthwhile. "One of the things that interested me in pledging was Vern Swansen," she said. "I feel honored working on this, something that everyone can see every day. He wanted the best for his students."

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Sunday April 13, 10-6
New assembly bill seeks to give cities power to regulate guns

Rachel Gross

A local member of the California State Assembly has authored a state bill that would enable cities in California to impose their own handgun laws.

The bill, authored by California Assemblymember Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, seeks to address the high rates of violence in East Bay cities by allowing those cities to create their own handgun bans and other laws that restrict guns.

"We're concerned with high gun violence in Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond," said Armando Viramontes, Hancock's legislative aide. "Lower governments are on the front line in dealing with gun violence. Because they are being affected, they have the right to make those choices."

State law currently prevents localities from drafting their own gun laws. Viramontes said Hancock's bill would remove the state laws and allow cities to take legislative action against high crime rates. Advertisement

Berkeley City Councilmember Darryl Moore said he strongly supports the bill because it addresses the spike in violence in the Bay Area. He said he plans to write a resolution urging the rest of the council to back it as well.

"We have too many guns on our streets, and if this gives local municipalities a tool to ban handguns and get them off the streets, then I am in support of it," Moore said.

However, not all East Bay residents believe a bill allowing gun bans would reverse the trend of gun violence.

"It would be a catastrophe for anyone who thinks they have any rights at all to defend themselves in their homes or businesses," said Robert Weaver, 52, the owner of the Old West Gun Room in El Cerrito.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, who is married to Hancock, acknowledged the massive opposition facing the bill, but said it remains important because it creates constructive dialogue about the current epidemic of gun violence.

"It's a great idea that needs to be put on the table to provoke discussion and debate," Bates said.

"We will see if it does happen this year, but if it doesn't, we need to keep after it, because the alternative is to keep seeing people kill each other unnecessarily.

According to Viramontes, the bill was tabled during Tuesday's committee hearing in the interests of waiting for the United States Supreme Court to rule on a case involving a similar ban on handguns in Washington, D.C. The case may be reconsidered next week.

The Heller case, as the Supreme Court case is called, highlights issues about the legality of gun laws and the scope of the Second Amendment. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the case by the end of June.

However, Viramontes believes that the Heller case will not affect the passage of Hancock's bill because Washington, D.C. is neither a city nor a state. A similar case that may affect the bill is the California Superior Court ruling that overturned San Francisco's citywide ban on handguns in 2006.

According to Viramontes, the ban passed in San Francisco with overwhelming support and was also a reaction to high gun violence.

But the San Francisco gun ban was struck down because it violated state law. The current bill aims to alter the state law, which could create the potential for local control that does not violate state law.

If the bill passes, Viramontes said, cities like Oakland and Richmond will likely modify their standards for gun control. He added that the bill could serve as an example of how cities can deal with gun violence.

"California is one of the leading states in gun control legislation, so yes, I think this bill could be model legislation that other states would look into to address the gun violence problem," Viramontes said.

Avocado

continued from page 1

Avocado prices can reach $1.30 a pound, or about two avocados, according to the University of California Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics.

The price has been affected by consumer demand as well as several setbacks, including a 30-percent water cut by officials from the Sacramento River Delta; the San Diego County wildfires, which caused an estimated $25 million in damage to avocados; according to the county farm bureau; and a January freeze that cut California's avocado production from 237 million pounds to $50 million pounds last year, said the California Avocado Commission.

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Spice it up with new menu items at Veranda

Veranda Cafe is already one of your favorite eateries on campus... and it has just been made better with the addition of several new items in many sections of the menu.

If you love burritos, be sure to try the two new creations: the Baja, a classic burrito with beans, rice, cheese, lettuce and your choice of meat; and the Cancun, with black beans, cilantro rice, Monterey Jack cheese and lettuce... you can even order it Vegan-style!

The Southwest Chicken Caesar salad puts a south-of-the-border twist on the traditional measure by beans, rice, cheese, lettuce and your choice of meat... and the Cancun, with black beans, cilantro rice, Monterey Jack cheese and lettuce... you can even order it Vegan-style!

Veranda Cafe already offers several dishes with shredded cabbage, pico de gallo and crema de baya. Two new soups add zest to the menu, including Sopa de Lima, a chicken tortilla soup with lime, and the chicken and pork Pozole with hominy and fresh cabbage.

Don't forget to add toppings from the salsa bar to your soup! Finally, to top off your meal, pick up a slice of Tres Leches cheesecake or a chile chocolate brownie.

Don't be sad that all of the old items aren't on the menu. You can still find the chicken or beef quesadillas, nachos with beans or your choice of meat, and the popular taco salad!

The Taco Combo is also new; an order includes two soft or hard tacos with lettuce, cheese, pico de gallo and your choice of meat, as well as beans and rice on the side.

Also, don't forget about Taco Tuesday, when you can get a free fountain beverage with the purchase of a Taco Combo.

For those unfamiliar with Veranda Cafe, it is located up the stairs across from the Rec Center. It is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m., and for dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

On Thursday, April 10, 2008
Hip Hop Congress unites, enlightens and entertains

Donovan Aird

Hip-hop may seem like just spoken words with a beat, but it goes far beyond that, if you ask the Cal Poly chapter of Hip Hop Congress. Not only does it strive to cultivate the original four elements of hip-hop — breakdancing, graffiti artistry, deejaying and, of course, emceeing — but it also seeks to break down misperceptions and unite people.

"San Luis Obispo's kind of like a petri dish," said graphic communications junior Rachel Cherny, president of the Cal Poly chapter. "It exists in its own little bubble."

Such isolation, Cherny said, can lead to a narrow-minded understanding of the HHC tries to undo.

"People don't understand what hip-hop is; they think it's all what's on the radio, or about dealing drugs or prostitution or whatever," she explained. "But it began as a way to start social change and break through boundaries in the community. People can tend to hate what they think is hip-hop, or they hate hip-hop because they don't understand it.

Eradicating the erroneous notion of hip-hop as merely music is key to the chapter's goals, according to manufacturing engineering sophomore Jonathan Villeda, a Los Angeles native.

"We're trying to get hip-hop culture here at Cal Poly, since not too many people know about it besides the music," he said, emphasizing all four elements working in unison.

Breakdancing happens to be especially well-represented at Cal Poly. Its Secret Service crew boasts 15 to 20 regular members who practice three times a week in order to prepare for various community events, Cherny said.

She added that many chapters come to be renowned for a given element, and those interested usually join those chapters accordingly.

"We're primarily breakdancing with a few deejays, some who deal mostly with artwork and then some who just have a love for hip hop in general," Cherny said. "We are somewhat lacking on emcees because there aren't really many rappers who go to Cal Poly."

Important to the chapter's success in illuminating the lesser-known aspects of hip-hop, Villeda said, is its ongoing search for venues to host shows.

At regular meetings, he said, members discuss possible places in the area that would be well-suited for concerts or events and try to pinpoint artists coming through not just San Luis Obispo, but California at large, and then make a calendar detailing such opportunities.

"That way, if people are into a particular artist, it's easier to check it out," he said.

Aside from art's sake, the communicative potential inherent to hip-hop, which the chapter stresses, is often underappreciated, opined executive director of housing and residential life Preston Allen, the advisor.

"It's a great opportunity to bring everyone together under the umbrella of music," Allen said. "And it's exciting to watch because there's such an increasing dialogue between diverse groups of people — yet they're sharing the diversity of their experiences as well. It's a movement of communication — just as powerful as the Internet."

At present, the chapter is trying to arrange for Crown City Rockers, a group known for its eclecticism and liveliness, to return to Cal Poly in late April or early May. It also intends to assemble a collective assortment of Bay Area acts that could take the stage at a locale such as Downtown Brewing Co.

For fundraising, the chapter has started a first-of-its-kind T-shirt initiative pertaining to the HHC as a whole. The endeavor features a design initially devised to fit Cal Poly but is flexible enough to fit all chapters.

Headquartered in San Jose, Hip Hop Congress was originally begun as a student organization, and has developed more than 50 chapters in communities, high schools and colleges across the nation. At Cal Poly, it originally began as the S.U.B. (Students United By Hip-Hop) Culture Club, founded by Brian McMullen, Brenton Smith and Matt Johnson.

In late 2007, co-president Jennifer Rosenberg (now studying abroad in Thailand) spearheaded the club becoming a chapter of the widely influential, international, non-profit organization.

"Its whole point is to use hip-hop culture to inspire action and creativity," said Cherny, who joined last year.

While meetings are formal and involve much "planning and brainstorming," Cherny said, new members shouldn't have difficulty blending in, and anyone can relate to some routines.

"One of the things we want everyone to do is to bring in new artists, or old artists you just started to really enjoy," she said. "Cherny, a Chicagoan. "A lot of us are from different places — from Alaska to all over California, there are tons of regional people. Our favorite part is to use our love of hip hop to help each other."

The full congress meets once a week at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Building 5, room 225.
International Briefs

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Fighting between insurgent attackers and security forces from Mazarat suffused in the back of a seafood truck in southern Thailand while being tugged to the popular resort island of Phuket, police said today. An additional 47 workers survived the incident late Wednesday in Ranong province and flagged down police for help, police Col. Kraiton Chantongbai said. Twenty-one were hospitalized while the rest were detailed for questioning, he said.

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — An outreach of bloodshed that killed eight people cast a shadow Thursday over the trend toward more violence on voting day. The voting for a new assembly is intended to usher in sweeping changes for this long-troubled Himalayan country, and will likely mean the end of a centuries-old royal dynasty.

BAGHDAD (AP) — Enemy mortar shells smashed into houses and a funeral tent Wednesday, leaving three children among the dead, during clashes in a Shiite militiam stronghold under siege by American and Iraqi forces on the fifth anniversary of the U.S. capture of the capital. The fighting came as the U.S. military announced the deaths of five more soldiers. That raised the number of American troops deaths to 17 since Sunday.

Student Representatives Wanted for 2008-09

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Cal Poly Foundation
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Cal Poly Foundation is comprised of successful Cal Poly alumni and friends and provides capital and endowment support to build and maintain the polytechnic model and manages Cal Poly's endowment and other private gifts.

Applications are now available in the
ASI Student Government Office. Applications are due before 5 p.m. April 11, 2008.

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Word on the Street

“How do you feel about hip-hop?”
Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone

“I like hip-hop a lot. I think it’s fun to listen to because it’s upbeat and diverse.”
— Rebecca Kanegawa, civil engineering senior

“I love hip-hop! Tupac is the best. They need to play more of it around campus. Hip-hop is not dead, it’s just not here.”
— Miguel Ramos, political science junior

“Hip-hop is cool, but there’s not enough of it down here.”
— Devin Alcantara, forestry senior

“I used to listen to it a lot when I was younger, but now that I’m in college, my musical tastes have expanded. I can’t really relate to a lot of the mainstream stuff anymore.”
— Arie Stone, mechanical engineering senior

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For some, "blog" can be a four-letter-word (OK, it's a four-letter word for everyone). The anti-bloggers wonder, "Why do people need to subject the rest of the world to their 'profound' insights regarding the universe when they could just get a roommate or a shrink like the rest of us?"

"Touché, blog naysayer, but not everyone has the privilege of having their "profound" insights published weekly in their college newsletter (wink)."

According to Webster's Dictionary, a "blog" is "a Web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments and hyperlinks." Provided one has access to a computer (and the frontal lobe of their brain), anyone can blog. Considering the endless space for personal ramblings available on the Internet, is it such a good thing that people can just vomit their opinions all over cyberspace? I say: yes and no.

Since I go to Cal Poly, and I primarily learn by doing, I will share my first blog, examining the advantages and abuses of writing one:

Dear Blog (is this thing on?),

Wow, I can't believe how fast this quarter is going! It seems like just yesterday I was moving into the dorms and lying about my age (True, but perhaps intimidating information; consider revising). I am very happy with my grades last quarter, as I got yet another 4.0, which makes me on the Dean's List for the eighth consecutive quarter (Total bullshit; my compassion credibly). But even though I am so successful and talented (from humility here), I still can't seem to find my keys or a boyfriend (Reminder: take blog link off Facebook). But things are looking up because that guy in my math class is pretty cute ) (Uncomfortably Springy). Anyway, I was just popping in to say hello and note the wonderfully pleasant weather we are having lately (Totally boring; expunge completely).

Love,
Allison

P.S. I hate spiders (Poor use of opinion; next time, care about something that matters).

While it is all too easy to write a blog that just isn't very good, I have a few pointers for you who, like myself, are just getting used to the idea:

1. Don't forget that people might — God forbid — actually read your blog. Don't get too personal if it's a public blog.
2. Be honest. Don't lie.
3. Be accurate (libel suits are easy because Exhibit A is nicely packaged).
4. Stay away from incriminating information (again with the Exhibit A).
5. Say what's on your mind — democracy demands it (and so do your readers).

Happy blogging!

Allison Baker is an English senior, Mustang Daily columnist and pop-culture enthusiast with a love of internet self-promotion.

Every week, KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM, adds a selection of the new and latest music to its ever-growing library. Below are five of these "adds" to the station this week. You can hear this music showcased on New Releases, which airs Mondays from 10 a.m. until noon or on any of the regular format shows. If you'd like to try your hand at spinning these albums and countless others on your very own radio show, KCPR is accepting applications through Friday. Pick one up in Bldg 26, room 361.

**Witch** — "Paralyzed" (Ice Pick)
Pure and simple psychedelic stomer rock — nothing more and nothing less.

**Belury Poly** — "The Willows" (Ghost Box)
These meditative, library music-based songs evoke B-movie and sci-fi imagery that transcends camp.

**Richard Swift** — "Onasis" (Secretly Canadian)
Is it a double EP, double LP or just an album? It doesn't matter what's important is that these '60sers rock jangles will encourage you to take off your shoes, pop open an Budweiser and do the twist, no matter what the situation.

**Blyas Amed** — "The Verigo Of Dawn" (Time - Lag)
Cold, warm, fuzz-drenched psych folk moves beyond Americans to encompass a rich variety of musical traditions.

**Mauz Haus** — "W1F1" (NPR)
Indie pop, dreaminess and texture make this album enjoyable for everyone. Seriously, you will only hear this on KCPR, and if you hear it elsewhere, you are probably really cool.

Paul Camacho and Brian Cassidy are KCPR's music directors.

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760 Higuera Street Downtown SLO 549-8373
Beyond the sidewalk

Classical and contemporary choreography will converge Sunday as the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo presents Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Sidewalk Stories," a work adapted from Shel Silverstein's infamous book of poetry.

There will be something for everyone this Sunday at the Performing Arts Center, where the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo will perform two very different ballets: one classical, one contemporary.

The local company will first perform a ballet based on William Shakespeare's classic comedy of errors "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The ballet will be performed in a traditional style, with original choreography from artistic director Drew Silvaggio and company member Jackie Lee.

"It's all about paving our own way," Silvaggio said. "Everything is new. It'll be fun, full of both slapstick (comedy) and melodrama."


According to Silvaggio, the choreography is modern and high-energy, "like looking at a picture book," he said.

The contemporary choreography is supplemented by contemporary music. Etta James, Nat King Cole, DeVotchKa and even Queen are all featured in the selection.

"There's definitely a wide variety of music (to keep the audience interested)," Silvaggio said.

Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo has a long history in the community. Founded 30 years ago by Silvaggio's mother, Lori Silvaggio, civic ballet has been a beloved part of the local arts scene.
Stair Steps to the Gods
Building the Great Pyramid at Giza

Craig B. Smith
Thursday, April 10
11:10 - 12:45 Lecture
12:45 - 1:15 Reception and Book Signing
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World-renowned expert Craig Smith will present an illustrated lecture on the design and construction of the 4,500-year-old Great Pyramid.

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Ballet
continued from page 9

the company has been performing ever since. Their "The Nutcracker" ballet, performed near Christmas annually at the PAC, has become a staple holiday custom for many local community members.

"We perform 'The Nutcracker' every year; it's a tradition," said Cathie Brown, marketing programs director for the company.

The company is comprised of a wide variety of dancers, young and old, experienced and trainees. Some have other full-time jobs, but all have been trained professionally, Brown said.

Silvaggio also has a long history with the company. After growing up in San Luis Obispo, he left to pursue a musical theatre degree at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Upon graduation, Silvaggio performed for several different organizations, including the Barrymore Awards (Philadelphia's equivalent to the Tony Awards) as well as the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. He also toured China, Spain and Cuba with the San Luis Obispo Jazz Dancers.

After an injury, Silvaggio returned to the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo, where he currently works as the artistic director, as well as teacher and choreographer. Silvaggio will also dance in the upcoming performance.

"It'll be a great time. A dance needs to do something for the audience, provoke them, make them question life. If I can make an audience do that, that's how I know a show is successful," he said.

Performances are Sunday at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the PAC ticket office or by phone at 756-2787.

Ballet
continued from page 9

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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

**Crossword from The New York Times**

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0228

**Puzzle by Matt Ginsberg**

36 "No nation is permitted to live in .... with impunity": Jefferson. 46 Tweedrings competitor 54 12/24 and 12/31

37 Discussion spots 46 "Hurlyburly" playwright David 56 Converts to a cause, briefly

38 Words of praise 52 "It's defi.. 57 Broadcast

or words of condemnation 53 "no returns" 58 Gotham

42 TV's Kakes 54 No nation is permitted to live in .... with impunity": Jefferson.

43 Respectful school 49 Sitting

44 Piers' partner 50 Gotham

45 Appro or penalize 51 Accord

46 Stadium sound 52 It's definite

49 Sitting 55 Easy to see or impossible to see

50 Confirmation or 56 Converts to a cause, briefly

51 Accord 57 Broadcast

52 It's definite 58 Gotham

53 "no returns" 59 Move gracefully or move clumsily

55 Easy to see or impossible to see 63 E.P. part, Abbr.

56 Converts to a cause, briefly 65 Univ.

58 Gotham 66 Law.

59 Move gracefully or move clumsily 67 Chaotic

61 Nav. rank 68 Crowning

62 Minimal tide 69 Sporty car roof

63 E.P. part, Abbr. 70 Coffee producer

64 Comic title 71 Navy

71 Navy 72 Justice's partner

80 "Hurlyburly" playwright David 73 "It's defi.. 82 "Please, that's pretty mean"

81 "It's defi.." 74 "Hurlyburly" playwright David 83 "Please, that's pretty mean"

82 "Please, that's pretty mean" 75 "Shakespeare's conman"

83 "Please, that's pretty mean" 76 "Shakespeare's conman"

84 "Proper use of the oars"

85 "It's defi.." 77 "She's a bolder"

86 "Gleeful" 78 "It's defi.."

87 "It's defi.." 79 "It's defi.."

88 "It's defi.." 80 "It's defi.."

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

1. Sam, e.g.

2. Gloomy

3. Place for an emotion

4. Life of Riley

5. Asian princess

6. Some Grammy

7. Life of Riley

8. Revealing

9. It might be

10. Last under use

11. Like kids at a

12. It made

13. Remaining or

14. It takes a

15. Asian princess

16. Dodger All-Star

17. Some

18. Deuce follower

19. Began operating

20. Fair housing?

21. Martini's partner

22. Sort through

23. Commonly

24. Stadium sound

25. Some Grammys

26. Paradox

27. Fair housing?

28. Play in Lemony

29. Commonly

30. Last under use

31. Away from the

32. Don't exist

33. Shenanigans

34. Kobold

35. A scrub species

36. "No nation is permitted to live in .... with impunity": Jefferson.

37. Discussion spots

38. Words of praise or words of condemnation

39. Equine ankle

40. Gotham

41. Do .... Hahn of

42. TV's Kakes

43. Respectful school

44. Piers' partner

45. Appro or penalize

46. Stadium sound

47. Non-std.

48. Willie Mays and

49. Sitting

50. Gotham

51. Accord

52. It's definite

53. "no returns"

54. 12/24 and 12/31

55. Easy to see or impossible to see

56. Converts to a cause, briefly

57. Broadcast

58. Gotham

59. Move gracefully or move clumsily

60. Entangle or

61. Nav. rank

62. Minimal tide

63. E.P. part, Abbr.

64. Comic title

65. Univ.

66. Law.

67. Chaotic

68. Crowning

69. Sporty car roof

70. Coffee producer

71. Navy

72. Justice's partner

73. "It's defi.."

74. "It's defi.."

75. "It's defi.."
Is smoking good for you?

Lee Barats:
Yes, emphysema shmemphysema

Everyone who grows up to be anyone can point to a mentor who helped lead them along the treacherous, rocky path that is our lives. Teachers, rock gods, movies stars and military generals are some of the models we fashion our lives after.

For me, it's the surgeon general. I've always had a fetish for doctors; maybe it's their lab coats. The S.G. is the god of doctors, thus making him/her my God. Since 1970, the S.G. has declared that smoking is dangerous to your health. However, that message is printed on the side of a cigarette pack, which is seen only AFTER the purchase. So I will continue the S.G.'s smarmy work and give you three solid reasons — BECAUSE you should stop smoking.

First, what is a basic and terrifying ingredient in cigarettes? Tar. More importantly, secondhand smoke is terrible for your social health. However, that message is printed on the side of a cigarette pack, which is seen only AFTER the purchase. So I will continue the S.G.'s smarmy work and give you three solid reasons — BECAUSE you should stop smoking.

Finally, cigarettes make your teeth look as crummy as a pirate's. How can you actively destroy the fifth-best thing about you? Your smile. How can you actively destroy the fifth-best thing about you? Your smile.

Don't smoke. It's not good for you. The surgeon general says so. The Marlboro man came out and said so. If Joe Camel could speak, he'd even say it's bad, but he can't because he had a botched laryngectomy.

Lee Barats is a mechanical engineering senior and Sean Michetti is a journalism senior. Barats and Michetti are Mustang Daily honor scholars and can be contacted at TitforTat@gmail.com.
A eulogy for the art of hip-hop

Brian McMullen

Hip-hop is dead. It was a culture unifying the art forms of breakdancing, rapping, graffiti and DJing and today, little evidence of its original intent and feeling can be found.

What we see labeled as hip-hop today is a reflection of that basic culture distorted by capitalistic values and a lack of social awareness. To understand this point, you first need to understand hip-hop’s roots.

Hip-hop as a musical art form was given birth in the ’70s by a DJ named Kool Herc. He took two turntables and a couple of copies of the same record and alternated between the two, extending the funkiest part of the song—the "break"—that made dancers go crazy. Kool Herc hosted block parties throughout New York, driving people wild with his new sound.

Similar DJs such as Afrika Bambaata began hosting parties, bringing together breakdancers and rappers to move large crowds. These events were the pinnacle of hip-hop culture and were carried out with positive intentions. A former gang member, Afrika Bambaata saw hip-hop as a means to express oneself and compete without resorting to gang violence. His idea was that if you want respect and territory, you had better be able to dance, rap, DJ or paint to earn it. If a fight were to break out, they expressed themselves through aggressive dance moves that could be substantiated for fistfights. Breakdancing crews were established, and their reputations on the street were determined by how well they could embarrass opponents with innovative moves. Everyone was given a name that said something about his or her unique style.

Rapping came from Jamaican-style toasting, which was basically shout-outs over the DJ's music at a party. When rappers joined the hip-hop culture, they each had a unique style and character that defined them and what the energy their hosted party would be like. They were the masters of the ceremony, and their job was to keep the party people live and hyped with call and response and creative rhymes. MC Busy Bee was known in the late ’70s and early ’80s for his comedic rhymes and his battle aptitude. Back then, a rapper's credibility was determined by their lyrical prowess, not their off-the-cuff activities.

Graffiti started in the ’70s as well, and saw artists running from cops, painting trains and bridges, and fighting those who copied their style or ruined their piece. Respect was again innovation in the form of color and style as well as placement and visibility.

There are some similarities between hip-hop’s earliest form and its contemporary manifestation. The competitive nature still exists but is based on a different set of values. Today, innovation does not necessarily guarantee respect. In rapping, economic success and lyrics about the amount of “weight” (drugs) one can move are the epitome of credibility. It is important to note that there were rappers in the ’70s and ’80s who touched on these topics (the Funky Four Plus One More’s Lil’ Rodney C2 rapped about private jets and sports cars) but this is when those sorts of lyrics were new. And songs about drugs in early hip-hop were usually about their damaging effects and not their economic opportunities. In Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five’s hit “White Lines,” MC Melle Mel rapped about cocaine addiction and the differences in punishment for drug offenders depending on their race. This is a far cry from the message of newer songs like DJ Khaled’s “Brown Paper Bag.”

Furthermore, hip-hop’s initial emphasis on originality is lost in today’s sales-oriented music culture. When Soulja Boy released “Crack Dat,” it seemed overnight that a song called “Crack that Batman” hit the radio from the Pop It Off Boyz. This would have been labeled whack in the ’80s because biting someone else’s style was the ultimate disrespect and was cause for a fight or a battle in one of the four elements. But in today’s culture, if something’s successful, you piggyback on it and squeeze all the money you can out of it.

This repetitious nature has ensured hip-hop’s death. It’s no longer a cultural movement to make the lives of the disenfranchised visible and to create something positive out of a negative environment. In the hands of record companies, it has become commodified, stripped of its soul, with the four elements separated. While it may say something about the state of culture and the mindset of people in America today, the “hip-hop” we see and hear says little in congruence with the founder’s intentions. Then again, hip-hop’s death is its ultimate message?

Brian McMullen is a journalism senior and a former reporter for the Mustang Daily.

I am sure that Mr. Baker, Mr. Durgin, Mr. Mohammad Noon (and many others with various names like Al and James) in the administration will be most impressed with your insightful analysis. Maybe they, too, will invite you for coffee... if you buy. I do understand that Mr. Baker visited the ASI Board of Directors meeting Wednesday. If you haven’t met him, now is a good time. Maybe he talked about his involvement with gender apartheid Saudi Arabia? Have fun!

— Roger Ferberg
Response to “To the great president of our wondrous and diverse university”

THANK YOU for confirming what I’ve suspected for a long time... we’re getting SOAKED here on the Central Coast, and California in general. I was on the phone to a friend in Minnesota yesterday and told her about our high prices. She was complaining about $3.15/gallon. I emailed her the article. Keep up the good work!

— Denise Hicks
Response to “SLO County home to highest gas prices in nation”

As a parent I am quite shocked to learn that the President of Cal Poly is so hands-off to students. Hopefully he will read this article and change his approach to how he interacts with the student body. Maybe I should call him before I send my next donation check! Hmmm.

— Cal Poly parent
Response to “To the great president of our wondrous and diverse university”

get it

iff your chest.

send your opinions, rants and raves or submit your letter through mustangdaily.net

all letters should be 250 words and are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and style.
Women

continued from page 16

lottery and any other topic regarding rule-driven sports, don't think I don't know a good female athlete when I see one.

We have a volleyball team at Cal Poly with perennial All-Americans, and one of the best coaches in the country. Cal Poly has dominated the Big West, winning it twice, and having the conference player of the year two years running. While Cal Poly hosted a regional in 2006, it advanced to the Sweet Sixteen this past season. This team plays everyone who is anyone, and is on the cusp of becoming one of the elite programs in the country. Let me put it this way for you — if volleyball were football, our coach would have gotten the UCLA job last season.

Sharon Day, a two-sport athlete at Cal Poly, is on the cusp of becoming an Olympian in high jumping. She seems to win every collegiate meet she attends, and makes every other competitor in the Big West look inferior. She's easy one of, if not the greatest, female athletes to ever step foot on this campus. Whether she makes the Olympics or not, her legacy is already etched in stone at Cal Poly.

And while Cal Poly might not be the elite platform in track like several of the Pac-10 schools, Day has helped this program creep closer with her immense talent.

Last but not least, I can't forget about the softball program. Its head coach, Jenny Condon, has taken this program out of obscurity to the national spotlight in less than four years. In 2007, she led the program to its first Division I NCAA tournament appearance by winning the Big West. Averaging 34 wins over her first three seasons, Condon has this team headed down a winning path, and has beaten several highly-ranked teams in a short time at Cal Poly.

So while the men tend to grab the headlines in my articles, it's definitely not due to a lack of female talent at this school.

John Middlekauff is an agribusiness center and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.

Fencing

continued from page 16

think the batter and the batter is always trying to guess the pitch that's coming," he said. "It's addictive."

Recently, the club participated in the final NCFEI tournament of the year, and did fairly well. Ferraresi said: "Even though it is disappointing that we didn't win the cup, I feel that the club is slowly rebuilding and improving," he said. "Many of our novice fencers have been placing in the top eight and I'm very hopeful that we may win the cup again within two years."

Yamasaki placed first in epee and eighth in foil, and Ferraresi eighth in epee.

With regards to the future of the club, Yamasaki would like to see the program develop more. "I'd like to get our members competing in more national events and branching out and getting better," he said.

All ambitions aside, though, the club continues to thrive because of the simple joy it provides. "Fencing is a fun, gratifying sport — and you don't need any experience whatsoever to succeed," Ferraresi said.

On April 26, the club will host the All California Collegiate Club Championships on campus in the Recreation Center. The club meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Mott Gym from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will take students until April 15.

MEN'S TENNIS VS. UC SANTA CRUZ

TODAY APRIL 10TH 2 PM

BASEBALL VS. PACIFIC

FRIDAY APRIL 11TH 6 PM
SATURDAY APRIL 12TH 6 PM
SUNDAY APRIL 13TH 1 PM

WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. UC DAVIS

SATURDAY APRIL 12TH 11 AM

WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. UCSB

SUNDAY APRIL 13TH 11 AM
Morel uplifts morale of Mustangs

Miles MSN

Fresno State at Baggett Stadium on Wednesday night. Morel had two hits in the game, including a home run, to help lead the Mustangs to victory.

Morel's home run was the highlight of the game, as it helped push the lead to 8-4 in the third inning. The Mustangs went on to win the game 10-4, improving their overall record to 11-6.

Despite the win, the Mustangs are still in a tough spot. They are currently in fourth place in the Western Division of the Western Athletic Conference, with a record of 5-6. The conference is known for its tough competition, with many teams in the top 25 in the country.

Morel said he was happy to contribute to the victory, and he hopes to continue his hot streak at the plate.

"I was just trying to make contact," Morel said. "I was happy to hit the ball out of the park.

The Mustangs will look to continue their winning ways as they face their next opponent, San Diego State, on Friday night. They will need to play well if they want to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Coach Mike Montgomery said he was pleased with the performance of his team, and he hopes they can carry this momentum into their next game.

"I was happy with how the team played," Montgomery said. "We need to keep playing well if we want to have a chance to make it to the playoffs.

The Mustangs are currently in fourth place in the Western Division of the Western Athletic Conference, with a record of 5-6. The conference is known for its tough competition, with many teams in the top 25 in the country.

The Warriors and the Nuggets

There's a symmetry to the two teams in this tough spot. Both are in the West — and the improbable unprecedented glut of good teams in this tough spot, thanks to the exciting clubs that find themselves with Golden State. We could get along.

They're both inconsistent — he has encouraged his players to embrace Golden State's playoff mentality. They're both inconsistent, with Denver sputtering through much of this season, and the Nuggets' defense yielding roughly 107 points each game, but they're also two of our favorite teams. They've provided much of the excitement to this season, and it's a shame they won't make it to the playoffs.

It's something that is just crazy right now, and it's always quick to point out his team's ability to obtain same. Mustangs

The Warriors seem a bit bewildered by their predicament, given how they've performed so far this season. They're both inconsistent, with Denver sputtering through much of this season, and the Nuggets' defense yielding roughly 107 points each game, but they're also two of our favorite teams. They've provided much of the excitement to this season, and it's a shame they won't make it to the playoffs.

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Sports

MUSTANG DAILY

Fencing club to host All California Collegiate Club Championships

Brittney Clyde

"En Garde... Fencers ready? Fencer?"

Most may immediately picture "The Three Musketeers" when the topic of fencing comes up, but it is a sport that is so much more than three ridiculously dressed men fighting against injustice. It's one that requires skill, strategy, spontaneity and practice.

Though Cal Poly has never had a well-established fencing club, within the past five years it has steadily gained momentum and grown in popularity. What has helped the sport garner more attention in general is the previous Olympics, said Kyle Yamasaki, a club member. "We had a couple of gold medalists and a couple of bronze (medalists) so it has really been growing from that, and then in this year's Olympics there could be a couple medal potentials that are helping the sport a lot."

As of right now there are between 30 and 40 members, although the count varies each quarter. "Back in 1993, when our current head coach, Eric McDaid, came to Cal Poly, there were a handful of guys sharing most of their gear on a single strap," club member Mark Ferraresi said. "Since then, the club has become a top player in the Northern California Intercollegiate Fencing League (NCIIFL)."

Skill level also varies, and there is no experience required to join the club; equipment is supplied, as well, Yamasaki said.

"We have seven coaches right now; every quarter we have a beginning class that's devoted to people that don't know anything about the sport and have never done it before," he explained. "We also have intro classes for various weapons and then we have intermediate and advanced classes, as well as private lessons."

The sport includes three weapons: the foil, epee and sabre. Each weapon type has special rules, which then determine how the fencer may score on an opponent. Distinguishing fencing from other sports is its unique intimidation factor, Ferraresi added. "Most people have never seen modern Olympic fencing, as the sport isn't very widespread," he said. "Because of that, it may take some people out of their comfort zone."

Due to no two fencing bouts being the same, players can never rely on one strategy, move or trick alone, and in the higher levels, it can become all about strategy, according to Ferraresi. "You constantly have to be aware of the opponent's intentions or second intentions," he said.

Club president Tim Baldwin compared the sport to a duel between a batter and a pitcher. "The pitcher is always trying to outguess the batter, and the batter is always trying to outguess the pitcher."

The Cal Poly Fencing Club, of which there are roughly 40 members, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Mott Gym, and will welcome new students until April 15.

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Warriors host Nuggets in critical game for playoff hopes of each

Greg Beacham

OAKLAND — Stephen Jackson thought the Golden State Warriors were good enough to avoid this kind of late-season drama. Carmelo Anthony felt the same way about his Denver Nuggets.

And in any other NBA season, both players would have been correct.

Instead, the Western Conference's eighth-place teams are headed for an unlikely showdown tonight in Oakland. Both of the NBA's highest-scoring clubs are tied for the final playoff spot at 47-31 with just a week left in the regular season, and their final meeting easily could determine which team will end up with the best record in league history to miss the postseason.

"We feel like we should be in, but we still have to fight for it," said Jackson, whose Warriors are nine games better than they were at this point last season, when they sucked into the playoffs and toppled top-seeded Dallas.

The turnaround is, our record is 10 times better than it was last year. Nobody expected to have this record and be fighting to get into the playoffs, but it is what it is.

Speaking in two locker rooms 368 miles apart after their clubs' victories Tuesdays night, both Jackson and Anthony called the game "a must-win."

"Two good teams who deserve to go to the playoffs are going to battle on Thursday night," coach George Karl said after the Nuggets' 18-point win over the Clippers. "When this thing all started evolving six or eight weeks ago, I remember circling the game on our schedule."

Golden State guard Monta Ellis, left, and the rest of the Warriors host the Denver Nuggets at 5 tonight in Oakland.

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Some love for the ladies

Johnny in the Box

During the fall, while working for the Kansas City Chiefs, I witnessed an athletic performance for the ages, and it had nothing to do with football. I attended a high school basketball game in which Kansas' five-time defending state champion played a team with only six players.

The only catch was the team with just six players had the No. 1 junior recruit in the country. The performance I witnessed was one that I will never forget, and the way I view athletics will never be the same.

This player was on an entirely different level — dribbling left, dribbling right, fade-away 3s, finger-roll lay-ups. From no-look passes to a silky smooth shooting touch. Though double-teamed every possession, this player's ability to split two defenders and score was unlike anything I have ever seen on TV, let alone in person.

With six on the court, and the game on the line, there was no question where the ball was going. It wasn't against a five-time defending state champ — it was one player on a mission. And that player scored 15, 14, 14 and seven assists later, the team with six players led by one superstar went on to win a state championship.

One fact I left out is that this player was a girl, playing in a girls high school basketball game.

I had heard the hype, so I figured I better go check her out. Major universities like Tennessee, Connecticut and Stanford were all batting for her services — the three most dominant women's collegiate programs.

Simply put, this girl was an absolute stud. She would start for Cal Poly and be the Big West Conference Player of the Year right now, I can say that without hesitation.

Too often, female athletics are overlooked, and I'll admit I have contributed to this problem. There have been countless opportunities for me to write about female athletics at this school, and I have dropped the ball.

While I love writing about the NFL draft, 40 times, vertical jumps, the NBA playoffs, the NBA draft

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see Women, page 14

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