**INSIDE**

**NEWS**

After much criticism, China cracks down on its security for Olympic Games.

**ARTS**

Harold and Kumar, those loveable stoner-slackers, return for another comedic classic.

**SPORTS**

The Cal Poly baseball team, which has won eight of 11, hosts UC Santa Barbara tonight.

**ONLINE**

Go online and listen to what students and faculty said at the Saudi Arabia program open forum.

**WEEKEND WEATHER**

Sunny
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**MUSTANG DAILY**

Friday
April 25, 2008

mustangdaily.net

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**ARTS**

Concerns over possible Saudi partnership surface in town hall meeting

Aaron Gaudette

Cal Poly students voiced their concerns over a potential faculty exchange program on Thursday in a town hall-style meeting that featured a six-member panel, including Cal Poly President Warren B. Baker.

"Such programs have been a part of Cal Poly for many years," Baker said. "We need to be sure that such programs are forward-looking and allow for significant opportunities to hasten the development of our own engineering programs."

At issue is the controversial proposed faculty exchange program between Cal Poly and Jabil University College (JUC) in Saudi Arabia. Many of the concerns originate with the conservative nature of Saudi culture, whereby men and women are taught in separate classrooms and certain religious and sexual orientations are still considered taboo.

Political science junior Angela Kramer voiced such sentiments by likening separate classrooms for the sexes to the "separate but equal" doctrine that governed America for almost a century.

"We have to engage them with humility, and they have to want to ask questions of us. We can't assume that our way is the best way," Kramer said.

"Promoting our views is a gradual process that won't be adopted overnight," added Dean Mohammad Noori of the College of Engineering. "It took us over 200 years to see Saudi, page 2

Students use silence to show LGBT support

Sara Wright

Students across campus held their tongues Wednesday, not in spite or shame, but rather in protest of LGBT oppression.

Cal Poly took part in the 12th annual National Day of Silence, held by high school and college students every year to spread awareness of anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) issues, including harassment, bullying and assault. People across the country remain silent all day to honor the effects of the experiences LGBTs often undergo.

"It echoes the silence caused by the trauma of society," said Megan O'Sullivan, a business sophomore and member of the campus Pride Center.

"It's a way to spread visibility," O'Sullivan has participated in the event since she was in high school, and she said everyone is encouraged to participate, including LGBT allies.

The Pride Center — which promotes education and celebration of the LGBT community by coordinating programs and services for campus — supports the National Day of Silence every year.

The exact day the campus commemorates the occasion, however, changes yearly according to what is most appropriate and convenient for Cal Poly students and faculty. Today marks the official National Day of Silence for most other campuses around the country.

Participants in the Day of Silence were still allowed to speak in class, as the event is not meant to interfere with a student's education.

While many students at other schools hand out speaking cards explaining their silence in classrooms, Cal Poly students were provided with support pins, at which students may point for clarification when asked about their silence. The pins were available at the Pride Center.

Nonetheless, the task was difficult.

"It's really hard to keep quiet all day," said A.J. Rusk, a biology sophomore and a member of the Pride Center.

Every National Day of Silence ends with a "breaking of the silence," which often includes an event calling for action against anti-LGBT issues. Cal Poly ended the day with a 6 p.m. showing of "Brokeback Mountain" in the San Luis Lounge of the University Union, followed by a discussion.

This year's official Day of Silence is in memory of Lawrence King, a victim of anti-LGBT oppression. The Pride Center celebrates his memory with an annual event called "see Silence, page 2

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**SPORTS**

The new beer pong

LA County transit officials in favor of freeway toll lanes

Daisy Nguyen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The freeway may soon not be so free in the land of the automobile.

Los Angeles County transit officials voted Thursday to support a plan that would charge drivers tolls to use some freeway lanes.

The federal government recently offered $213.6 million to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to help convert some carpool lanes to toll lanes in an effort to reduce congestion during busy hours as well as fund transportation improvements.

The MTA board voted to execute an agreement with the US Department of Transportation that would introduce tolled lanes to stretches of Interstate 10 and 210, MTA spokesman Dave Sotero said.

Local officials, the state Legislature and the California Transportation Commission would have to agree to the changes before the project could begin, Sotero said. The federal offer requires that the lanes be implemented by 2010.

The Transportation Department offered the money after New York lawmakers rejected a plan to charge drivers extra tolls to enter Manhattan's most congested neighborhoods.
Saudi

continued from page 1

no longer that such a doctrine doesn't work, and we're still combating taboos against gays that just started to go away 30 years ago. We have to use a combination of engagement, dialogue, patience and effort.

Another provocative issue was addressed when a student pointed out that the engineering program taught by Cal Poly could help develop weapons, which pose a danger to the U.S. and the world. The student noted that the program's norms in Saudi Arabia would lead to a discriminatory faculty selection process for the project, as well as possible discrimination while working in Saudi Arabia.

"I believe that an educated citizenry is better than an ignorant citizen," Provost William Durgin responded. "It could be used for such purposes, but it could also be used to pursue other interests, perhaps in the biomedical fields. The value of education outweighs the possible threats that come along with it."

"So you're essentially saying that you're not worried about it?" the student asked.

"I feel that, while technology could be used to hurt us, it probably would be used to help us," Durgin responded after a laugh.

The panel addressed the chief issue of whether the societal norms in Saudi Arabia would lead to a discriminatory faculty selection process for the project, as well as possible discrimination while working in Saudi Arabia. Panelists noted that the proposed contract includes a term that would be triggered should JRC reject any faculty for anything other than performance criteria or qualifications. The faculty selected for the project would undergo the normal, nondiscriminatory selection process, and go to Saudi Arabia to assist in a non-teaching capacity.

The panel also recommended that any Israeli or homosexual faculty sent abroad should conduct themselves in a discreet fashion and not overly "thrust" such characteristics. They also recommended following U.S. state department directives of observing Saudi customs.

The panel finished the session by affirming their commitment to ensuring that any faculty sent abroad be safely housed, cared for, and kept free from discrimination.

"There's enormous value in having an environment with people of diverse perspectives," said Ed Sullivan, associate dean for the College of Engineering. "Nothing will change if we don't; the U.S. global education enterprise doesn't reach out and engage other countries. We have to be informal ambassadors."
Chinese authorities stepping up security ahead of Olympics

Tini Tran
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Foreigners report random ID checks. Police check on chemicals in school science labs. A music festival is postponed. With 3½ months to go, China is ramping up its campaign to tighten security ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

Authorities are taking no chances that Beijing’s moment in the international spotlight will be marred by protests or attacks. The pro-Tibet demonstrations dogging the Olympic torch on its world tour have only served to heighten the government’s worries.

Beijing’s Public Security Bureau kicked off an “Olympic security” campaign this month that will run through October, saying “some unstable factors” could affect the August games.

Twice in recent months, the government has accused Muslim separatists in the Xinjiang region of terror plots tied to the Olympics. Activist groups critical of China’s human rights abuses and its rule over Tibet have pledged to try to disrupt the games.

“They certainly have reason to be worried,” said David Zweig, director of the Center on China’s Transnational Relations at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. “Given the failure to be prepared for what happened in Tibet, one should not be surprised by overreaction.”

The Beijing campaign includes increased security checks at hotels, entertainment areas and rented homes, the security bureau’s Web site said.

The failure to be prepared for what happened in Tibet, one should not be surprised by overreaction.

Staff at another school, the International School of Beijing, have been advised to carry identification documents and to be prepared for random breathalyzer tests on the street, communications director Lance Witte said.

“We have a weekly update on safety and security now because there’s always something new,” he said.

For many foreigners, the biggest concern has been a tightening of visa requirements. For many foreigners, the biggest concern has been a tightening of visa requirements.

A popular site is The China Visa Blog, started by German businessman Juergen Weckherlin to help navigate the rules.

Travel agents in Hong Kong, a major gateway to China, reported early this month that the government visa office had declared multiple-entry business visas would not be available from mid-April until mid-October. In the past, such visas were easily obtainable.

More rules came last week, including requirements for additional documentation for business visas and for hotel bookings and plane tickets for tourist visas.

“I understand they want heightened security but this way is the completely wrong way to do it,” said Weckherlin.

A municipal officer and security guards supervise the demolition of a row of shops. City authorities are removing temporary and illegal buildings, and demolishing older apartments to make way for new complexes in the buildup to the Olympic Games.

In a country where control has long been paramount, China faces unprecedented challenges when an estimated half million visitors come to Beijing for the Olympics, along with 10,500 international athletes and 18,000 journalists.

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State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three weeks ago, Screen Actors Guild president Alan Rosenberg insisted that his union would seek a better contract deal than Hollywood writers got after their 100-day strike.

But just nine days into negotiations, Rosenberg said the guild is far from a deal and finds itself under pressure to settle quickly, as its members fear the idea of a walkout and another actors union prepares to negotiate an agreement that could undercut SAG's demands.

In addition, the guild must make its case without significant support from writers and directors, who settled their contract disputes earlier.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A landlord couple accused of endangering the children of the polygamous sect's San Francisco apartment are facing felony charges in an alleged case to prevent tenants from leaving.

Prosecutors say 33-year-old software engineer Kip Macy and 32-year-old real estate agent Nichole Macy told workers to cut off the power to a tenant's floor after he successfully fought eviction in court.

The couple allegedly shut off his electricity, cut his phone line and had workers poke a hole in his bedroom floor through it.

Authorities arrested the pair Thursday and charged them with felony stalking, burglary and conspiracy and other counts.

New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite best efforts to keep school writing assignments formal, two-thirds of teachers admit in a survey that emotions and other informal styles have crept in.

The Pew Internet and American Life Project, in a study released Thursday, also found that teens are more likely to keep blogs or use social-networking sites like Facebook or News Corp.'s MySpace than to slip obedient elements into assignments.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A mural in a subway station is worth $15 million, more than the cable-strapped transit agency expected, raising questions about how it should be cared for once it is removed before the station is demolished.

"We did not expect it to be that much," Port Authority of Allegheny County spokeswoman Judy McNeil said Thursday. "We don't have the wherewithal to be a caretaker of such a valuable piece."

WASHINGTON (AP) — Youth boot camps and their reform services are using deceptive marketing practices when trying to convince parents of troubled kids to try the programs, a federal investigation has found.

The programs, also referred to as residential treatment facilities, behavior modification programs or therapeutic boarding schools — have been under congressional investigation for about a year. IRS estimated that at least 20,000 U.S. teens attend such facilities.

International

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepal's former communist rebels declared the biggest party in a new governing assembly Thursday, while the Maoists won't have a majority, they are expected to usher in sweeping changes for the poor Himalayan nation.

"The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly will end the monarchy and establish a republic, there will be no compromise," the Maoist leader, Prachanda, told reporters Thursday.

LONDON (AP) — A British court has overturned the government's decision to deny Snoopy Digg a visa after he was involved in an airport lounge brawl in 2006.

The Guardian newspaper says a panel of immigration judges has rejected an attempt by Britain's Home Office to keep the 36-year-old U.S. rapper out of the country.

BEIJING (AP) — China's fast-growing population of Internet users has soared to 221 million, tying the United States for the largest number of people online, according to a government data report Thursday.

The figure, reported by the Xinhua News Agency, reflects China's explosive growth in Web use despite government efforts to block access to material considered subversive or pornographic. It was a 61 percent increase over the 137 million Internet users reported at the start of 2007.

Compiled and photographed by Sara Wright

"I would have an extra arm so I could triple fist."

— Sarah Riviere, business senior

"A third arm because then you could play the piano and drums better."

— Jonathan Eipper, industrial engineering junior, and Erland Mowinkel, mechanical engineering junior

"An extra arm for multi-tasking."

— Michelle Ramos, biomedical engineering freshman

"An extra arm because I could block bounces in beer pong."

— Justin McCarthy, mechanical engineering junior

WORD ON THE STREET

"If you could have an extra limb, what would it be?"

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Time: 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Where: In front of UPD
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Friday, April 25, 2008

mustangdaily.net

Curts says state can take sect children to foster homes

April Castro and Michelle Roberts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dozens of mothers from a polygamist retreat were bussed away from their children Thursday, their legal efforts to stay united rejected as Texas officials sort out their mass custody case.

Two buses took the women from the San Angelo Coliseum, where they had been temporarily housed for two weeks, and left for some of our case workers," said Darrell Azar, but he added that the move was for the good of the children.

The women separated from their kids were given a temporary quid, the children were 5 or younger, an exception that officials believe 25 more mothers from the compound who had claimed to be adults are under 18.

Authorities are investigating whether the call that prompted the raid came from a woman in Colorado who has a history of making fake calls to authorities.

The programs, or therapeutic boarding schools — are referred to as residential treatment facilities, behavior modification programs or therapeutic boarding schools — have been under congressional investigation for about a year. IRS estimated that at least 20,000 U.S. teens attend such facilities.

The case has been marked by confusion, even on the number of children involved. The state's count rose for the second time, this time to 462 on Thursday because authorities are investigating whether the call that prompted the raid came from a woman in Colorado who has a history of making fake calls to authorities.

The purported 16-year-old caller has not been identified, but state child-welfare officials say their investigation has uncovered evidence of abuse and that they responded to the call in good faith.

Last week, state officials separated mothers from their children unless the kids were 5 or younger, an exception that meant many of the mothers were able to stay.

On Thursday, however, the women were gathered and told that children older than 1 year would go with their mothers. She said they weren't allowed to say goodbye.

"We were tears by the children, by the women and by some of our case workers," said CPS spokesman Darrell Azar, but he added that the move was for the good of the children.

The women separated from their kids were given a choice to go back to the ranch or a "safe" location. Azar said seven went back to the ranch and 40 went to the other location.

The women chose to go had no bearing on the outcome of their custody cases, Azar said.

Buses also were taking away more of the children from the coliseum on Thursday, before then, 138 had been taken to foster-care facilities.
Movie guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>film title</th>
<th>grade</th>
<th>cast &amp; crew</th>
<th>summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Sturgess, Kate Bosworth, Lauren Fabrini, Kevin Spacey, Liza Lapira, Josh Gad, Aaron Yoo</td>
<td>needing to pay school tuition, shy MIT student Ben Campbell (Sturgess) plans a group of gambling-loving (and system-breaking) peers as they head to Sin City every weekend to make in the money. The Good: An excellent &quot;slick escapism fantasy&quot; (as per the Philadelphia Inquirer). The Bad: Its moralistic message is its downfall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88 minutes (R)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Al Pacino, Alicia Witt, Leelee Sobieski, Amy Brenneman, Deborah Kara Unger, Benjamin McKenzie, and Neal McDonough; directed by Jon Avnet</td>
<td>college professor and forensic psychologist Jack Gram reveals a threat telling him he has 88 minutes to live. Gram must find out who wants to kill him before his time runs out in this real-time thriller. The Good: Cool concept sees Al Pacino fight for his life as the minutes tick away. The Bad: Absurdly cheesy story filled with too many plot twists. Not up to Pacino standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Mama (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Greg Kinnear, Das Shepard, Romany Malco, Maura Tierney, Holland Taylor, Sigourney Weaver; directed by Michael McCullers</td>
<td>successful and single, Kate Holbrook is determined to have a child of her own, resorting to enlisting the help of a surrogate. A battle of wills over preparation for the baby’s arrival ensues. The Good: Deception. The Good: Cynical, snobby, and not much to it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deception (R)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hugh Jackman, Ewan McGregor, Michelle Williams, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Maggie Gyllenhaal, and Naomi Watts; directed by Marcel Langenegger</td>
<td>Jonathan (McGregor) lives a lonely, boring life until he becomes entangled in the exciting life of a lawyer (Jackman), which turns out to be much darker than he expects. The Good: Deception produces great visual effects by keeping it simple with camera angles. The Bad: There’s no deception when it comes to the predictable plot in this generic thriller.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13)</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Jet Li, Jackie Chan, Michael Angarano, Cotten Chou, Crystal Liu Yi Fei, and Liu Bing Bing; directed by Rob Minkoff</td>
<td>Jason Tripolita is hunted back in time to ancient China, where he must find a female warrior held captive by an evil warlord. A wise kung fu master teaches him what he needs to get home. The Good: Impressive special effects and fight scenes, playful humor and a fresh take on an age-old genre. The Bad: May not live up to the expectations of kung fu purists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R)</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Jason Segel, Kristen Bell, Milla Kunis, Bill Hader, Brandon Routh, Jonah Hill, Paul Rudd, Liz Cackowski; directed by Nicholas Stoller</td>
<td>after being dumped by his girlfriend for five years, Peter Bretter (Segel) escapes to Hawaii. But in a sick turn of fate, Sarah and her new beau happen to be staying at the same resort. The Good: Clever one-liners and awkward situational humor in this “ultimately romantic disaster” movie. The Bad: If you don’t like full-frontal nudity, you better close your eyes (for four times). (Janelle Eastrige)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold &amp; Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay (R)</td>
<td></td>
<td>John Cho, Kal Penn, Rob Corddry, Roger Bart, Neil Patrick Harris, Kal Penn, Rob Corddry, Roger Bart, and Neil Patrick Harris; directed by Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg</td>
<td>an entertaining, farcical romance with impressive acting and authentic costumes and sets. The Good: Harold &amp; Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay (R) is a hodgepodge of story arcs that work. The Bad: Those easily offended may not enjoy the film’s crude sense of humor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leatherheads (PG-13)</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>George Clooney, Renée Zellweger, John Krasinski, Jonathan Pryce; directed by George Clooney</td>
<td>in an effort to save his second-rate football team, Dodge Connelly (Clooney) manages to sign a war hero turned football star to only fight him for the affection of a scheming reporter. The Good: The 1920s ads, clothing and culture make for an aesthetically pleasing film period. The Bad: 1% football, 85% banter. Not a romcom or a man’s movie, just an awkward inbetween.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Frances McDormand, Arly Adams, Claran Hinds, Shirley Henderson; directed by Bharat Nalluri</td>
<td>Miss Pettigrew (McDormand), an aging governess dismissed from her job, becomes social secretary for Delysa Lassofes (Adams), helping her navigate a career and complicit love life. The Good: An entertaining, tart romance with impressive acting and authentic costumes and sets. The Bad: It’s a British film, but there are no British actors in the leading roles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nim’s Island (PG)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin, Gerard Butler, Aplonbro McAllister, directed by Martin Levain</td>
<td>Nim (Breslin) enjoys life on a utopian island, until her father goes missing and she writes to her favorite author for help in finding him. The Good: Flawless animation and an enjoyable, family-friendly plot. The Bad: Slapstick comedy and too much interaction with CGI animals drag down acting performances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart People (R)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dennis Quaid, Sarah Jessica Parker, Ellen Page, Thomas Haden Church, Ashton Holmes, Christina Lahti; directed by Noam Murro</td>
<td>Lawrence Wetherhold (Quaid) is a widowed Victorian college professor and forensic psychiatrist Jack Gram receives a threat telling him he has 88 minutes to live. Gram must find out who wants to kill him before his time runs out in this real-time thriller. The Good: A surprisingly well-crafted film that fails to reach its potential. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shine a Light (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, Bill Clinton, Ron Wood, and Charlie Watts; directed by Martin Scorses</td>
<td>this documentary captures the raw energy of a Rolling Stones concert in a way never before seen by the world using a legendary team of cinematographers. The Good: Perhaps the most well-crafted documentary of any live concert to date. The Bad: All about the Rolling Stones. If you don’t like them, you won’t like this. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Angels (R)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sam Rockwell, Kate Beckinsale, Michael Angarano, Griffin Dunne, Amy Smart, Olivia Thrive; directed by David Gordon Green</td>
<td>summary: An unexpected act of violence intertwines the lives of the film’s three couples, each of which are in different stages of life, in this heartwarming tale of love lost and found. The Good: Told by a humanist not afraid to look at both devastating and uplifting aspects of life. The Bad: One extremely emotional, unsettling film — not necessarily a bad thing, but beware.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Kings (R)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Keann Reeves, Forrest Whitaker, Hugh Laurie, Terry Crews, Chris Evans, Cedric the Entertainer, Common, The Game; directed by David Ayer</td>
<td>after the death of his grandmother, young Carlitos heads north across the U.S.-Mexico border in search of his mother, Rosario, who is working in Los Angeles. The Good: Moral messages presented in an efficient format. The Bad: One big game of testosterone-fueled one-upmanship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under the Same Moon (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kate Del Castillo, Adriana Alonso, Jesse Garcia, Eugenio Derbez, Maya Zapata, Carmen Salinas; directed by Patricia Riggen</td>
<td>summary: After trying to sneak a bor^ aboard an international flight, antihero slackers Harold and Kumar become terrorist suspects. The boys then embark on a global journey to prove their innocence. The Good: Over-the-top party humor delivers loads of laughs for those who enjoy this type of stuff. The Bad: Harold &amp; Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay (R) is a hodgepodge of story arcs that work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From left to right: "Under the Same Moon," "Cedric the Entertainer," "The Forbidden Kingdoms," "Baby Mama," and "Street Kings" are playing in SLO theaters. Go to page 6 for movie times.
Harold and Kumar have the munchies — again. And this time, it takes them all the way to Cuba in their newest movie, “Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay.”

A sequel four years in the making, the bumbling pair of Harold and Kumar — played by John Cho and Kal Penn — are now finding trouble on an international level. And even the actors who suspect they’re terrorists.

Unfortunately, Kumar just can’t leave home without his bong, which ends up being mistaken for a bomb. A lot more is at stake this time around besides some burgers, and while the boys try to prove their innocence, hilarity and grossness ensue (of course). Both Neil Patrick Harris and Chris Meloni make cameos.

And this time, they aren’t afraid to bring politics into the picture.

“I don’t think it’s a political film in terms of taking a stance on anything, but definitely it inherently deals with some of the pop culture that surrounds the political sphere right now. I mean, we’ve got a caricature of President Bush in the movie, so you can’t deny that you’re playing with the idea of politics,” Penn said.

But don’t expect to see “Harold and Kumar 3: Munchies in Iraq” in theaters any time soon. It turns out Penn isn’t too fond of the genre, even though it’s what he has become best-known for participating.

“I’m not comfortable doing that sort of stuff at all, which is why you do it as an actor,” Penn said. “If you played characters that were similar to you all the time, it would be pretty boring, I think. I don’t watch a lot of comedies, and I don’t watch a lot of gross-out comedies.”

Penn added he didn’t see himself reprising the role of Kumar in the future.

On the other hand, Cho is open to the idea of possibly playing Harold in the future, despite his very lucrative future playing Captain Hikaru Sulu in the latest addition to the Star Trek movie franchise.

“I think it would depend on how people react to this one,” Cho said of the possibly of another “Harold and Kumar.” “Really it just depends on whether people vote with their dollars for this movie, just like the first one.”

From a desk job to a dream job: folk star comes to SLO

Angela Marie Watkins

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From a desk job to a dream job: folk star comes to SLO

Patrick Barbieri

For singer/songwriter Amy Obenski, the unusual has happened — not only once, but twice. Even if you’ve never heard of her, you may already be familiar with her music, as some of Obenski’s songs have appeared in the popular television shows “Made” and “Grey’s Anatomy.”

Five years ago, Obenski was working a desk job in San Jose, leaving her childhood dreams of becoming a singer on the back burner. However, she soon quit her nine-to-five job to pursue a full-time career in music.

“It was something I wanted to do my whole life,” Obenski said. “I wanted to switch my life and start pursuing my passions.”

Growing up, she sang in choirs and began playing the piano at an early age; the genre of jazzy folk-rock seemed the perfect fit for Obenski.

After adding acoustic guitar to her music repertoire, she wrote her first album, “What We Tell,” which was released in 2003.

Obenski’s lucky day came in 2005, when she received a mysterious e-mail from MTV executives asking to use some of their songs in a show's soundtrack.

“MTV is the perfect fit for Obenski,” said Jason Bowes, the show’s producer. “She has a really unique voice and style that fits perfectly with the show’s music.”

Obenski’s music has since been featured in several other shows, including “Grey’s Anatomy,” “The O.C.,” and “Smallville.”

But Obenski’s success didn’t come without its share of challenges. As a singer-songwriter, she often finds herself juggling between her music career and her day job.

“I have to balance my music career with my day job,” Obenski said. “It can be tough, but I love what I do.”

And despite the challenges, Obenski is determined to continue pursuing her passion for music.

“I love what I do and I’m willing to do whatever it takes to make it work,” Obenski said. “I’m not going to give up on my dreams.”

For more information about Amy Obenski and her music, visit her website at amyobenski.com.
Folk singer Amy Obenski, whose songs have been featured on "Grey's Anatomy" and MTV's "Made" series, will play at Linnaea's Café at 8 p.m. Saturday.

Obenski continued from page 6

her songs in several episodes of the popular MTV series "Made." Apparently an executive heard one of Obenski's songs on a friend's iPod, and it made an impression. Not bad for a striving musician.

Fast forward to 2007, after the release of her second album, "Kite," Obenski again received a random e-mail, this time from an editor of ABC's "Grey's Anatomy." The editor had used one of Obenski's songs in a scene on a whim, and the director loved it.

"Getting my songs on television was a complete surprise," Obenski said. "I didn't see it coming. I never try to play a specific type of music; I just write what feels natural to me."

What comes naturally to Obenski is her ethereal vocals and infectious choruses, which sometimes brood with melancholy and at other times gleam with hope. Add some gentle piano ballads and acoustic strumming to the mix and you have an idea of what can be found on her latest album.

With the exposure from "Grey's Anatomy," Obenski's song "Carousel" was propelled to No. 23 on last year's iTimes folk music charts.

As a graduate in environmental studies from UC Santa Cruz, Obenski continues her interest in protecting the outdoors through her music. Last year she played in the "Take Back Your Forest" benefit concert, aimed at raising funds for the purchase and protection of Santa Cruz forestland from loggers and developers.

When not performing in her hometown, Obenski can be found touring the Bay Area as well as other parts of the West Coast. She'll be bringing her live performance to Linnaea's Café Saturday night for an 8 p.m. show.

In an age where it seems hard to get noticed, Obenski has already made her mark within her genre while at the same time turning a lifelong aspiration into a reality.

"The independent music movement is here," Obenski said. "Anybody who has talent and desire can do it; it's just a matter of putting your mind to it."
In 1970, the Beatles broke up. Apollo 13 made it back to Earth. June Hendrix’s death, four students at Kent State University were killed in an anti-war protest, and construction of the World Trade Center was completed. Looking back, it is easy to mark a year of change, unrest and turmoil, but also new beginnings.

In September 1969, David Nelson (D-Wis.) announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a grassroots demonstration and "teach-in" on environmental issues. (Remember that at this time, air pollution was seen as a sign of economic prosperity, every passenger car was a V-8, leaded, gas-sipping tank, and conversa
tions about the environment among politicians were few and far between.) Months later, the New York Times reported, "Rising concern about the environmental crisis is sweeping the nation’s campuses with an intensity that may be on its way to eclipsing student discontent over the war in Vietnam." And sure enough, on April 22, 1970, under the leadership of Sen. Nelson, more than 20 million Americans participated in a day of education, celebration and community service for the first-ever Earth Day.

Ask your parents. Some probably celebrated, protested or cleaned up a creek, while others may have rejected the event as another dirty hip
tie party. But one thing is for sure: April 22, 1970 changed America as we knew it today. Earth Day launched the environment into national conversation and sent a strong signal to Washington, D.C. Following this monumental grass roots event was a wave of government action, includ
ing the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air Act.

Over the years, Earth Day grew to be a critical event to educate and push for stronger environmental policies. Earth Day 1990 involved more than 200 million people from 141 countries. This event focused on recycling worldwide and provided a huge boost of attention to the United Nations Rio De Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992, which involved 171 nations (most of which were the nation’s presi
dents or heads of state) and nearly 20,000 participants. This two-week conference focused on toxicity, water scarcity and other environmental issues, but it is most remembered for an agreement made on the Climate Change Convention. This agree
tment eventually led to the Kyoto Protocol (which the U.S. still hasn’t signed, but that’s another column for another time).

The Earth Day Network of 37,000 environ
mental organizations worldwide predicted that this year, more than 500 million people participated in differ
tent Earth Day activities. This year’s focus was on campus climate, and with the Kyoto Protocol set to expire in 2012, there couldn’t be a more important time to elevate the discussion for the next international climate agreement.

Just as concerned citizens in 1970 and 1990 raised crucial environ
mental issues to a national and global level, we have the power to elevate the conversation on the challenges of our generation, climate change. We can start by making changes on campus, but also, when in chorus with more than a billion others, we can help change the world.

The Mustang Daily officially celebrates Earth Day next week, and you are invit
eed to join in on an important discussion on climate change. Next Tues
day, April 29, in Chumash Auditorium at 11 a.m., British polar explorer Robert Swan will sail into Morro Bay Harbor on a renewable energy power boat as part of a five-year worldwide "Voyage for Cleaner Energy."I encourage the entire Cal Poly community to attend this discussion and join the world in celebrating our wonderful planet.

Chad Worth is an industrial engineering senior, president of the Engineers Coalition and an environmental columnist for the Mustang Daily.
Janie McCauley

OAKLAND — Frank Thomas won in his return to Oakland. Rajai Davis got three hits in his Athletics debut.

Yet it was Donnie Murphy who delivered all the punch.

With two new and familiar faces in the starting lineup, the A's jumped on Minnesota starter Francisco Liriano for six runs in the first inning on the way to an 11-2 victory over the Twins in the rubber game Thursday.

Murphy hit solo shots in the fifth and sixth innings for his first and second homers of the season and first career multihomer game.

Thomas razzed him about it after the swing, "Oh, it's that easy, huh?" Murphy said with a grin.

"I was tune for a change in my life. Gymnastics took a lot out of me," Myers says. "I wanted to do something else, but it was time for a change in my life. Gymnastics took a lot out of me."

She won the Ohio state championship in the long jump in 2006 and was a two-time Junior Olympic qualifier while at Urbana High in Urbana, Ohio before visiting Baylor and Michigan State and ultimately committing to Cal Poly.

Now, besides majoring in kinesiology, Pickett is focusing on adjusting her jumping technique.

"In the long jump, I've got to work on keeping my eyes up — I always look down," she says.

The freshman is also trying to perfect using the hitch-kick technique, which means she would have to stop throwing her arms and head back when she jumps, and basically run in the air instead.

She says the transition has been challenging, but fruitful, much like her move to California.

"I want to do the best that I can and help the team," Pickett says. "Cal Poly will host UC Santa Barbara in a dual meet May 3.

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{Ohio continued from page 12} \\
\text{school so she can become a pathologist, but has always wanted to go to the Olympics and hopes to one day go pro.} \\
\text{"Running is my passion and I would do it for the rest of my life if I could," Byrd says.} \\
\text{Pickett has Olympic aspirations of her own.} \\
\text{"The season's going really well," Pickett says. "I set (personal records) and I qualified for regionals."} \\
\text{Pickett has been jumping for just four years, starting track her freshman year of high school after an accomplished gymnastics career.} \\
\text{"Being a gymnast, it came naturally to me," Pickett says. "But it was time for a change in my life. Gymnastics took a lot out of me."} \\
\text{She was tune for a change in my life. Gymnastics took a lot out of me."} \\
\text{She says her move to California.} \\
\text{"But it's that easy, huh?" Murphy said with a grin.} \\
\text{Mike Sweeney — whose playing time will probably diminish with the addition of Thomas — had a two-run double off the wall in left field in the fourth, a day after connecting for his first home run in 40 games.} \\
\text{"Looking at the lineup, in the 3-4 holes you have Mike Sweeney and Frank Thomas — that's pretty good," Murphy said. "I had a feeling we were going to score some runs."} \\
\text{Emil Brown hit a two-run single to knock starter Greg Smith (2-0) to a comfortable lead.} \\
\text{"I didn't feel out of place. It really felt like I just left," Thomas said. "I'm happy to be back. I'm happy to shake the rust off today because they pitched me tough. I'm sure their game plan was not to give in because they knew I missed a whole week, so they threw some sliders and breaking balls and run the ba in on me. I'm just happy we got big win."} \\
\text{Davis was claimed off waivers from the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday and appeared in his first game, getting a single in the first, triple in the fifth and another hit in the sixth.} \\
\text{Murphy homered to left to start the fifth, Davis tripled, then Kazu Suzuki hit an RBI double to chase Brian Bass.} \\
\text{"Our offense was really rolling today," A's manager Bob Geren said.} \\
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Baseball
continued from page 12
Lee added the bullpen has also been strengthened by the return of formerly starting ju-
ior southpaw Derrick Sarto. If there were ever a time this season for Cal Poly to test its improvement, it could be now, as the Mustangs will begin an eight-game home stand while opening a three-game series against UC Santa Barbara in Baggett Stadium at 6 tonight.

Arkansas, three contests with USC. Opening a three-game series also been strengthened by the Big West in team batting from April 15 to Sunday by a

New York Jets: In this sce-
nario, the Jets take McCAFFER-
YED, RB, Arkansas. In other scenarios, they trade out of here — if they do.

New England: Reason BRANDEN ALBERT, G-Tvirgin-
ius, is "showed up" at the last week is because word has gotten out that Bill Belichick likes him — strange, because no one is tighter with info than Billy B. Still, Albert played for Bills old associate Al Groh in college and it goes better if that run over in the Super Bowl.

Baltimore: There is a hole at QB differed opinions on Ryan. There are other needs and QB might be filled with a trade to the late part of the first round for Chad henne of Michigan, probably the "hottest" of the three second-tier QBs. Go with MATT RYAN, QB, Boise State.

Cincinnati: The Bengals make their fans happy by choosing SEDRECK ELLIS, DT, Southern California. Ellis has a "dropped" a bit in the overanalysis of the last couple weeks.

New Orleans: If KEITH RIVERS, LB, Southern California, lasts this long, the Saints have to take him, although they can use a corner-
tack, too. Unless, of course, they

Draft
continued from page 12

4. Oakland: Al Davis suggests he won't take Darren McFadden, the Arkansas running back. That prob-
ably means he will. But he really does need a pass rusher. VERNON GHOFLETON, DE/ LB, Ohio State.

5. Kansas City: The Chefs are on the board. They desperately need OT, help, but other than Jake Long, the O's are rated slightly worse. RYAN CLAYDOW, OT, Boise State, may be a reach, but sometimes "reaches" work out better than ob-
vious picks.

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11. Minnesota: If the Vikings can land Jared Allen from Kansas City before the draft, they either won't have this pick or will use it on PHILIP MERLING, DE, Clemson.

12. Denver: The Broncos have a pretty mediocre recent draft record. They thought for a long time that Clady would be available. Instead, it's CHRIS WILLIAMS, OT, Van-
delra.

13. Carolina: Jordan Gross is probably in his last season with the Panthers and OTs are disappearing quickly. JEFF OTAH, OT, Pitt.

14. Chicago: It's time for the Bears to get help for Cedric Benson. Ber-
son — or someone to send him to the bench. RBs are plentiful in the second and third rounds, but RASHARD MENDEHHALL, RB, Penn State, is a local kid who was recruited to college by Ron Turner, Chicago's offensive coordinator.

15. Detroit: The Lions can get a running back later. DL takes prior-

16. Arizona: Anrell Rolle is

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all electric, all the time!
Ohio track tandem teams up at Poly

Cal Poly track and field freshmen have already qualified for Big West competition and strive to reach various West Regional marks.

SPORTS
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly opens eight-game homestand

Mustangs have won eight of 11, continue Big West Conference play by hosting rival Gauchos tonight

NFL teams look for help in draft Saturday