Lema's platform pushes better access to student services

Sara Wright
MUSTANG DAILY

Long years of showing animals through Future Farmers of America and 4-H are not all that shaped Associated Student Inc. presidential candidate Melisa Lema's work ethic and desire to be involved.

Lema, a dairy science junior with an agribusiness minor who plans to graduate in fall 2009, has a wealth of experience with ASI. She has been on the Board of Directors for two years, serving as vice chair this year after spending her first year as an alternate for a member studying abroad. She also serves as chair of the Budget Committee and vice chair of the Personnel Committee.

Additionally, Lema has been the chair of the College of Agriculture Student Council, which brings clubs under the college together, and has been involved in organizing activities since her freshman year. Lema is also active with Open House and is in training to be a WOW leader for the upcoming school year.

"I love Cal Poly and it has always been a hope of mine to be active on campus," Lema said. "I think having a hand in the school is a big part of making your college experience." Lema said she's "thought long and hard" about running for ASI president.

"I really want to work hard to know student wants and needs, and make ASI about the students," she said.

"I love meeting students and hearing what they have to say."

She added that being a part of the Budget Committee was a good opportunity to see how "to make money work for students."

Access to student services is an issue that Lema particularly wants to address as president.

"If you've been there recently, you'd know that the Health Center is a pretty rough place to be right now," she said. She hopes to work with administrators to utilize student fees as efficiently as possible, as well as find other ways to subsidize alternative sources of funding.

Lema also thinks that getting students involved in legislation is a priority, mostly because of recent budget issues.

"I want a strong Lobby Corps up and running by September for students to voice their opinions and help alleviate problems in the student budget," she said.

Also, Lema wants to improve transportation and safety in San Luis Obispo by working with the city to increase ridership in high-impact areas, especially in the mornings, which would be helpful for community members driving through town as well. She also wants to bring the Sober Ride program to its full potential.

Regarding her competition, Lema said she has worked with both Angela Kramer and Arvand Sabetian in ASI.

"They are both amazing people and hard workers," she said. "But I've worked really hard for this and I feel like I can do a really good job."

Supermileage car gets 2,752 MPG

Rachel Glas
MUSTANG DAILY

In the day and age in which car dealers claim over the efficiency of an automobile that gets 40 miles per gallon, the Cal Poly Supermileage Team will sit back and laugh at their enthusiasm.

After all, the team just built a car that gets 2,752.3 miles per gallon. No, that's not a typo.

The number was good enough to win Cal Poly the silver medal at the 2008 Shell Eco-Marathon Americas competition.

The competition, which pin university students from around the world in designing high-mileage cars, has been held annually since 2007. The Cal Poly team won gold in 2007 with a car that ran 1,902.7 miles per gallon.

The 2008 car, called the "Black Widow," is the same 92-pound car from 2007, with improvements including a new top and hardware.

The club was started in 2004 by a group of four engineering students. David Ulrich, a founding member and this year's team manager, said the club gave students interested in cars something to do besides race or off-road them.

"The whole energy and gas situation in the U.S. is huge, so it just seemed appropriate to start a new Supermileage, page 2

Museum gets new fountain

Aaron Gaudette
MUSTANG DAILY

Children will be able to get a hands-on lesson in solar energy and radiation when visiting the San Luis Obispo Children's Museum once it reopens, thanks to a giant solar-powered sunflower fountain that was the design of a Cal Poly senior project.

The sunflower, which adorns the Nipomo Street side of the museum, features a solar panel in the face of the flower and is connected to a nearby water fountain.

Children can rotate the flower to see how the fluctuating levels of sunlight affect the strength of the water coming out of the fountain, which shoots water anywhere from a few inches to a few feet high.

The solar-powered fountain began as the brainchild of Cal Poly professor Louis Rosenberg and is the product of months of hard work from mechanical engineering alumnus Kyle Hayes, who designed the fountain as a senior project with fellow mechanical engineering alumnus Rachel Santer and Steve Than.

"I pitched the basic idea to the Children's Museum back in 2006, and they liked it," said Rosenberg, an associate professor of educational technology with the College of Engineering and the College of Education. "The museum and I then pitched the idea to PG&E, who agreed to fund it. Thus the project was a three-way partnership between Cal Poly, the Children's Museum and PG&E, who even sent out workmen and trucks to help erect it."

Hayes, Santer and Than finished the design in 2007, and Hayes was hired by the museum to keep working on the project and fine-tune the details in both the manufacturing and the construction.

"We got some support from some people in the machine shop at Poly, and we had most of the bigger pieces done by a heavy machinery shop up in Paso Robles," said Hayes, who is currently finishing his thesis for a graduate degree in biomedical...
President Bush speaks at a news conference Tuesday in the Rose Garden of the White House.

Jennifer Loven

WASHINGTON — President Bush, hoping to inoculate his party and his presidential legacy from election-year anger over the economy, heaped criticism on Congress Tuesday for "letting the American people down."

"His call this morning for Congress to act is disingenuous at best," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said of Bush. "Whether on energy policy, the housing crisis or our many other economic woes, this administration and its Republican allies in Congress offer nothing but the same failed ideas that got us into this mess in the first place."

Bush's news conference, only his second expanded question-and-answer session with reporters this year, appeared to be a pre-emptive measure of sorts, as it came a day before the release of statistics on the nation's gross domestic product for January through March. The common definition of a recession is two consecutive quarters of declining GDP and many expect Wednesday's report to provide the first official confirmation of a slide.

With bad news piling on bad news, the president's march to the bully pulpit wasn't just about winning policy debates with lawmakers. The economy is shaping up to be the defining issue when voters go to the polls in November. Bush doesn't want his GOP to be the punching bag that winds up on the losing end. In an Associated Press/Lipman poll this month, just 27 percent of the people questioned about Bush's handling of the economy said they approved — his worst showing ever in the survey.

The president on Tuesday bent over backward to inoculate his party and his presidential legacy from responsibility in the current economic malaise. "When it comes to the problems that we face, it is not about who is to blame for proposing policies that would worsen the problem, not help, and that it was their duty to reject them," he said.

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State

TIBURON (AP) — The highest court of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has found that a California minister did not violate denominational law when she officiated at the weddings of two lesbian couples.

The ruling announced Tuesday by the Louisville, Ky.-based court overturns a decision last year by a regional judicial committee that found the Rev. Jane Spahr guilty by the Louisville, Ky.-based court.

The Church (U.S.A.) has found that a California minister did not violate denominational law when she officiated at the weddings of two lesbian couples.

A dark portrait of Ryan Schallenberg emerged Tuesday in a federal courtroom as prosecutors spoke in a telephone interview from Jerusalem ahead of an appeal hearing.

The hunt for Heim has taken investigators from American-held files in Germany mysteriously omitting his time at Mauthausen, and today he is the most wanted, after Heim, are:

1. Aribert Heim — Federal authorities say a South Carolina teen accused of plotting to blow up his high school told police that he wanted to die, go to heaven and kill Jesus.

2. Karl Lotter, a prisoner who worked in the hospital at Mauthausen concentration camp, had no trouble remembering the first time he watched SS doctor Aribert Heim kill a man.

It was 1941, and an 18-year-old Jew had been sent to the clinic with a foot inflammation. Heim asked him about himself and why he was so fit. The young man said he had been a soccer player and swimmer.

Then, instead of treating the prisoner's foot, Heim anesthetized him, cut him open, castrated him, took apart one kidney and removed the second, hotter said. The victim's head was removed and the flesh boiled off so that Heim could keep it on display.

"He needed the head because of its perfect teeth," Lotter, a non-Jewish political prisoner, recalled in testimony eight years later that was included in an Austrian warrant for Heim's arrest uncovered by The Associated Press. "Of all the camp doctors in Mauthausen, Dr. Heim was the most horrible."

But Heim managed to avoid prosecution, his American-held file in Germany mysteriously omitting his time at Mauthausen, and today he is the most wanted suspected Nazi war criminal on a list of hundreds who the Simon Wiesenthal Center estimated are still free.

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Heim would be 93 today and "we have good reason to believe he is still alive," said Efraim Zuroff, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's top Nazi hunter. He spoke in a telephone interview from Jerusalem ahead of an appeal hearing.

On Wednesday, and to open a media campaign in South America this summer highlighting the $485,000 reward for Heim's arrest posted by the center along with Germany and Austria.

According to an advance copy of the list obtained by the AP, the most wanted, after Heim, are:

1. John Demjanjuk, fighting deportation from the U.S., which says he was a guard at several death and forced labor camps; Sandor Kepiro, a Hungarian accused of involvement in the wartime killings of than 1,000 civilians in Serbia; Milivoj Aste, a wartime Croatian police chief now living in Austria and suspected of an active role in deporting hundreds of Serbs, Jews, and Gypsies to their death; and Soeren Kam, a former member of the SS wasted by Denmark for the assassination of a journalist in 1943. His extradition from Germany was blocked in 2007 by a Bavarian court that found insufficient evidence for murder charges.

The hunt for Heim has taken investigators from the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg all around the world.

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soldiers who need special waivers to get into the Army because of bad behavior go AWOL more often and face more courts-martial.

But they also get promoted faster and re-enlist at a higher rate, according to an internal military study obtained by The Associated Press.

The Army study late last year concluded that taking a chance on a well-screened applicant with a criminal, had driving or drug record usually pays off. And both the Army and the Marines have been bringing in more recruits with blemished records. Still, senior leaders have called for additional studies to help determine the impact of the waivers on the Army.

FLORENCE, S.C. (AP) — Federal authorities say a South Carolina teen accused of plotting to blow up his high school told police that he wanted to die, go to heaven and kill Jesus.

A 19-year-old Jew had been sent to the clinic with a foot inflammation. Heim asked him about himself and why he was so fit. The young man said he had been a soccer player and swimmer.

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Concentration camp doctor heads list of most wanted Nazis

David Rising

WASHINGTON (AP) — Karl Lotter, a prisoner who worked in the hospital at Mauthausen concentration camp, had no trouble remembering the first time he watched SS doctor Aribert Heim kill a man.

It was 1941, and an 18-year-old Jew had been sent to the clinic with a foot inflammation. Heim asked him about himself and why he was so fit. The young man said he had been a soccer player and swimmer.

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International Briefs

AMSTETTEN, Austria (AP) — In an “extremely unusual” move, members of an Austrian family returned to decades of recent and improvements made for the first time at a clinic where psychiatrists are helping them recover, authorities said Tuesday.

Details of the emotional gathering emerged as police said DNA tests confirmed Josef Fritzl is the biological father of his daughter’s six children.

The retired electrician confided Monday to imprisoning his daughter Elisabeth for 24 years in a warden of soundproofed, dark rooms, sexually abusing her, gathering seven children with her and dissecting the body of an one, who died in infancy, in a furnace.

***

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Marine scientists in New Zealand on Tuesday were thawing the corpse of the largest squid ever caught to try to unlock the secrets of one of the ocean’s most mysterious beasts.

No one has ever seen a living, grown squid in its natural deep-ocean habitat, and scientists hope their examination of the 1,590-pound, 24-foot-long squid, set to begin Wednesday, will help determine how the creatures live. The thawing and examination are being broadcast live on the Internet.

***

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A NATO spokesman said Wednesday a suicide attack on eastern Afghanistan has killed 13 local people and wounded 25.

Maj. Martin O’Donnell and there were NATO troops in the area of the attack Tuesday but there were no alliance casualties.

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Mustang Daily News

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Candidate and participating in campaign activities, come to UU212 to register.

The filing period for ASI elections has officially closed. If you are interested in being a write-in candidate and participating in campaign activities, come to UU212 to register.

Word on the Street

“What’s the most dangerous thing you’ve ever done?”

Compiled and photographed by Sara Wright

• Base jumping. It was just some random bridge in Arizona.
— Richard Baines, aerospace engineering sophomore

• I once jumped off the pier in Pismo. I paddled out and made it to the breakers, but I got a cramp and got stuck out there. I had to... get carried back.
— Justin Hodges, political science senior

• I was really stupid when I was little, and I climbed on the top of the swings. I remember falling on my neck, but I didn’t die.
— Jen Go, biomedical engineering freshman
Popular films return to The Palm

Hayley Bramble

For all you movie buffs out there, there is a new religious holiday: Palm Wednesday.
The new series at San Luis Obispo's beloved Palm Theatre begins today, and each subsequent Wednesday the local theater will have a special screening at 7 p.m.

Cameron Bowman, general manager of The Palm, said he hopes titles like "Billabong Odyssey," "The Big Lebowski," "Amelie," "Reservoir Dogs" and "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" will appeal to the younger student population.

"We want the students back," he said.

Theaters are currently the theater's biggest audience, and the theater sells the most tickets for Saturday and Sunday afternoon matinees, he said.

"I wanted to make something to reach out to more people," he said.

Recently, the theater had great success with "Juno" and "There Will Be Blood." The Palm had the exclusive screening in town and sold out every screening at 7 p.m.

"I'm not going to limit any requests. We have a chance to bring in a lot of fantastic cinema," he said.

The nearby Fremont Theatre also screens older films with its SLO Rewind series.

Bowman has been working in the industry for eight years and joined The Palm in October, he said.

"I think that was kind of a turning point for the theater," he said. "In the coming months, you're going to see a lot of strength coming out of this theater.

Bowman said Palm Wednesday will feature movies that weren't as popular in the theaters but gained a bigger following when they were released on DVD.

"Jim's really on the cutting edge with these kinds of things," Bowman said of Jim Dee, owner, founder and operator of the theater.

Bowman said he and Dee selected the titles to bring good films back to the screen.

"I love movies and I was so sick of seeing movies like 'Food's Gold.'" he said. "Hollywood's so afraid to do anything, but movies that I watch here are consistently fantastic." Admission will be regular price, which is $7.50 for general admission. The series will show on screen one, which has 124 seats.

The special screenings are listed through June, and other possibilities include "Donnie Darko," "SIC Punk," " Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" and "Romeo and Juliet." In the end, Bowman said the theater's commitment is to good cinema.

"Even if there are bad movies all around town, there's going to be a good movie at The Palm," he said.

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**MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS**

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring communities. We appreciate your feedback and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

- The main photo on page 9 of Monday's arts section was incorrectly identified as being part of the "Chicano, Arte, Y Que!" art exhibition in the Kennedy Library Gallery. The work was actually created by Kate Nakamura and is now showing in the Annual Juried Student Exhibition in the University Art Gallery.
- A word was omitted from Monday's Trendsetters article on religious trends in the paragraph beginning "Then we had billboards in September that said. . ." The sentence should have read "Then we could have billboards in September saying. . ."
The Smile and Nod improv troupe meets twice a week to practice for upcoming shows. The group performs both short-form and long-form comedy sets every Saturday night in the Cal Poly Blackbox Theatre, and has traveled to Southern California and Scotland to participate in improv festivals.

Rachel Glas

For some, comedy is something to indulge in occasionally, say on Thursday nights with episodes of "The Office" or when a favorite comedian comes into town. But for the members of Cal Poly's Smile and Nod improvisment team, comedy is a way of life.

The club, formed ten years ago by Cal Poly alumnus Mark Sitko, is comprised of 20 members, all of whom devote their free time to practicing and performing. Although some students may only know the group from its performances, the club performs twice a week to practice, and performs two shows every Saturday night at the Cal Poly Blackbox Theatre (H.P. Davidson Music Building room 212).

Each show costs $5 for students and community members. Smile and Nod members perform two styles of improv each week, and each performance runs 90 minutes.

The first performance is done in short-form style, as seen on the now-cancelled improv show "Whose Line is it Anyway?" A group of seven to eight club members gather on stage and perform two to five minute skits. The audience usually generates the skit ideas.

"There's a lot of audience interaction during short-form improv. We are always talking to them, and sometimes an audience member volunteers to come on stage," said Lee Barats, a mechanical engineering senior and team manager.

The second type of improv the team performs is called long-form improv. According to Barats, during long-form improv, the team takes a generalized suggestion from the audience, such as "a doctor's office," and performs a longer sketch based off that idea.

The club does more than just perform for Cal Poly students, however. Recently, the group traveled to the University of Southern California to participate in "Fracas," the only college improv festival in the country. Hundreds of improv teams gathered together to attend improv workshops and performances and meet other college improv enthusiasts.

"It's like going to another school and meeting people from your same fraternity," said Barats. "It's almost like being in a fraternity," he said. "We have so many alumni living in Los Angeles or New York who want to help us out!"

For various reasons, both Barats and Calladine agree that joining Smile and Nod was one of the best decisions they've made in college. When asked what the team's ultimate goal was, Calladine became pensive. "People think we're just trying to go up on stage and tell jokes. But it's more than that. It's about entertaining them." Barats, who went to Scotland in 2006 and plans to go again this summer, said, "It was one of the greatest experiences of my life."

So why do busy Cal Poly students aspire to take part in such a time-consuming organization? After studying the requisite 25-35 hours, many find there isn't a lot of time left over.

"But it's the people who keep them motivated, theatre senior Duncan Calladine said. "Everyone in the club is so unique and awesome," he said. "We're all different — we are theatre majors to business majors to engineering majors — that we'd probably never be friends otherwise. But thanks to Smile and Nod, we've all got close."

Calladine currently lives with three other members from the team, including Barats. Members also join to help further their future careers. Barats, whose lifetime goal is to be a cast member of the popular comedy show "Saturday Night Live," said, "So many of SNL's best members came from improv: Mike Myers, Chris Farley, Phil Hartman. ... It's just a great experience and learning opportunity!"

Calladine agrees. "As someone who wants to go into the theatre, it's almost like being in a fraternity," he said. "We have so many alumni living in Los Angeles or New York who want to help us out."

Smile and Nod, Cal Poly's 20-member improv troupe, performs both short-form and long-form sets every Saturday night.

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Student work in studio art, graphic design and photography is on display in the University Art Gallery until Saturday. The exhibit's 85 pieces were selected from a pool of 223 entries by judges from San Francisco State University's art department.

Hayley Bramble
MUSTANG DAILY

Pieces at the Annual Juried Student Exhibition in the University Art Gallery are hanging on the walls, suspended from the ceiling and even coming out of the floor. The exhibit is now open, showcasing student work in studio art, graphic design and photography.

Submissions were open to students in the art department or students who had taken a class in the art department within the last year. Painting instructor Daniel Dow curated the exhibit.

Brittany McKinney, a journalism junior and art minor who helped hang the show, said the show doesn't have one specific theme. "It's more a culmination of everything the students have done in the past year and things that they're most proud of," she said. McKinney will be replacing Paradise Osorio as Student Gallery Coordinator next school year after Osorio graduates.

"We had 223 entries and 85 got in. It was an incredibly competitive show," she said.

Jurors Gale Dawson and Paul Cantanese, professors of San Francisco State University's art department, awarded best in category and honorable mention titles to students in four different categories: 2D, 3D, graphic design and photography.

They looked for "work that engages the notion of risk with material, concept, technique, content or form, while carefully avoiding cliché; work that emerges from deep engagement with the creative process, criticism and history," according to their juror's statement.

Best in category for photography went to Matthew Gonzales for his "Norvus Licentia" photos, a series of five black and white photos that follow a man through daily activities: in the bathroom, praying, curled up in bed, at a desk with cup of coffee, and shooting hoops in a gymnasium. An ever-present eye/orb is incorporated into each of the shots.

Honorable mention for photography went to Isacc Suttell for an untitled digital photo. The photo features a blonde bombshell in a blue velvet dress, posed in front of a geometric topiary garden.

Best in category for 2D went to Kyle Wilhelm, who had two large oil on canvas pieces in the show, "Cartography," his winning piece, is a serene mix of greens and blues with contrasting textures.

Best in the 3D category went to Paradise Osorio, who used the floor to display her piece. The piece is a photo of her model in the ground under a plate of glass, her hand reaching up and touching the glass to give the impression that she is right there under the floor. The photo was the only surviving one of a three-piece art installation she did on California Boulevard near the Spanos Stadium earlier this year. Osorio said she noticed many students walk to and from campus with their heads down, and she wanted to give them a new perspective. The mixed-media piece in the gallery is surrounded with sand, giving her viewers a taste of what the real art installation looked like.

Emily Linkin received honorable mention for her cleverly structured and serious 3D piece, "Timeline," which is suspended from the ceiling near the entrance of the gallery. The fabric sculpture features pieces of camouflage-printed pants and other dark and canvas-like materials stuffed into an infinity-shaped symbol with the word "history" painted on it, repeated around the piece and painted to look like blood.

Jay Martinez won best in category for graphic design for a series of three posters called "Human Rights." His three vertically hung posters composed with muted complimentary colors feature a chessboard, a Chinese finger trap and a set of matryoshka dolls. One poster declares, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

Honorable mention in graphic design went to Damon Chin for his "Personal Identity System," a clean-lined and innovative letterhead and envelope stationary design. The letterhead has rounded corners and clean, punchy colors.

The exhibit is open until Saturday. The University Art Gallery is located in the Dexter Building, room 171. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays.
A supreme sampling

Few artists, if any, match the conceptual intensity, experimental mentality and pop sensibility of Matmos. Its aesthetic is advanced, one that transcends comparisons but remains accessible and enjoyably detached from its conceptual origins. Matmos consists of Drew Daniel and M.C. Schmidt, who are originally from Berkeley and now reside in Baltimore, where Daniel is a professor of literature at Johns Hopkins University.

The duo’s past works have been concept-restrictive albums made for sampling found sounds from a single source or idea. In “A Chance to Cure,” the artists, cloaked in surgical scrubs, took field recordings during plastic surgery operations. All sounds on the album are made up of these samples, which are cut, time-stretched, pitch-shifted and shuffled to make complex and rhythmic pop songs. Arguably their magnum opus was 2006’s “The Rose Has Teeth in the Mouth of the Beast.” Conceived as ten “audio portraits,” the songs of these samples, which are cut, time-stretched, pitch-shifted and shuffled to make complex and rhythmic pop songs. Arguably their magnum opus was 2006’s “The Rose Has Teeth in the Mouth of the Beast.” Conceived as ten “audio portraits,” the songs during plastic surgery operations.

Matmos’ latest project, “Supreme Balloon,” is a departure from past albums in that no microphones were used. Made up entirely of old and new synthesizers, MAX patches, and obscure effects pedals and drum machines. The premise for the album appears to be less restrictive than in other albums. Despite the lack of recorded object sampling, all the tracks stay true to Matmos’ sound without coming across as stagnant.

The second track, “Polychords,” starts off as a typical electropop song, but as soon as you think you got it, the instruments begin to take on unfamiliar shapes. Below the somewhat straightforward rhythm bubbles a menacing pool of sound, which occasionally overflows into the foreground of the piece. The instruments in “Exciter Lamp” take on percussive qualities reminiscent of early BBC Radiophonic experiments. Matmos’ finesse in emphasizing sound composition is highlighted in this track, the colorful synthesizers gracefully balance out the sporadic and squelchy composition of the album’s first half. In this track, the colorful synthesizers finally get a chance to breathe and show off their full majesty. Finally, the crescendo heightens and the album finishes off with a down-tempo, cool-down track.

“Supreme Balloon” may be conceptually less dense than Matmos’ previous works, but it lacks a strong contextual narrative, but in no way is this detrimental. In fact, “Supreme Balloon” and the duo’s earlier albums lay in perfect symmetry. Matmos treats the synthesizers just as they would any object. The instruments are never used as an end themselves; Matmos uses their rhythmic properties to create a starting point before deconstructing and rebuilding. If anything, “Supreme Balloon” is more conceptually restrictive in that no microphones were used, a real challenge for a music group so comfortable in its medium.

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Girls & Sports by Justin Boms and Andrew Feinstein

I'm off to steal the Olympic torch to protest baseball's exclusion from the 2012 games.

You gotta wait your turn, pal.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0319

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The Mustang Daily is now accepting guest commentaries.

Submit an article, limited to 500 words, by e-mail to mustangdaily@gmail.com.
Subject: Guest Commentary.

*Editors reserve the right to edit for grammar, profanity and length.
Way back in December, the status of the Republican primary was about as clear as the status of today's Democratic primary, a primary that continues to lurch along like a stream of stagnant creek water.

It was different and interesting watching the candidates duke it out at the debates, because for the most part they tried to see who could end up the farthest right on each issue, as opposed to the Democrats who usually have to pinhole shoot for the center. There was something eerily foreboding about these fiercely contested "I hate illegal aliens more than you" debate questions and their ilk.

It was hard to tell back then, but it was these same questions from these same debates that would epitomize the true discos in the Republican party and ultimately open the door for an improbable comeback.

Enter John Sidney McCain, some hokey poll-tested phrase about "God's children," and the dashing-off of the George W. Bush playbook of three simple rules:

1. Pander to the right.
2. Answer to the rich.
3. Always promise to moderate.

The Republican front-runners became so caught up in the first two rules that they forgot about the third (much to their demise), and so the story unfurled—the collective hare tripped over the tortoise in the race to the center.

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Thank you Rev. Wright

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

www.mustangdaily.net

MUSTANG DAILY
OPINION

All the talk about race is tiresome. It goes to show how far we have to go as a country to be a truly equal place. There are still many who think that it is acceptable to divide people based on their skin color. This is something that needs to change.

The problem is that many people still do not understand the impact that race has on our society. There are still many who believe that they are entitled to certain things just because of their skin color. This is something that needs to change.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Stop stirring the pot

It's people like you that add fuel to the whole race debate.

Yes, there is a problem with the way people treat each other, but it's not just a race problem. It's a human problem.

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Celtics stumble at just the worst time

Tom Dahlberg

David Stern was courthouse in Atlanta, taking in the game and making sure no one was flashing any signs not officially approved by the NBA. Stern did his job well because there wasn't a gangsta moment all night, unless you count the mugging Joe Johnson and the Hawks gave the Boston Celtics in the fourth quarter of a series that by all accounts was supposed to be over by now.

Depending on whose side you're on, the fact that it's not either says something about the unpredictability of a league where anything can happen or the silliness of having a team that shouldn't have made the playoffs find a way to overcome them. Kobe Bryant and the Lakers must have thought it was strange that the Denver Nuggets actually came to play after rolling over in the second half of their game a few nights earlier, but that didn't stop Los Angeles from completing an easy four-game sweep.

While the Celtics are struggling with a team that wouldn't have snuffed the playoff had it been in the West, the Lakers dominated a team that won 50 games in the regular season and had a pair of superstars in Carmelo Anthony and Allen Iverson. In doing so, they put to rest the theory that any playoff team in the Western Conference could beat any other team.

That's largely because the Lakers have Bryant, who will likely finally come to play after rolling over everyone had coming in. "Basketball is a strange thing," Anthony said. "Strange things happen."

Strange things do happen, but usually the great teams find a way to overcome them. Kobe Bryant and the Lakers must have thought it was strange that the Denver Nuggets actually came to play after rolling over in the second half of their game a few nights earlier, but that didn't stop Los Angeles from completing an easy four-game sweep.

The Celtics won't have that luxury. They have at least two more games against the lowly Hawks, games they should never have had to play, and have accomplished nothing so far other than to make a long season even longer.

They may still emerge from the East to play in the finals, but it no longer seems the certainty it did after the Celtics finished the regular season with a league-leading 66 wins. While Bryant can carry his team seemingly whenever needed, Kevin Garnett made it pat the first round of the playoffs only once in eight attempts with Minnesota.

Garnett, of course, never had the supporting cast he now has with Paul Pierce and Ray Allen, but teams of destiny don't lose one first round game to the likes of the Hawks, much less two in a row.

"We've got to find us real quick," Casell said. "We've got to find our team identity, our team chemistry, and we've got to find all that real quick."

Boston coach Doc Rivers didn't seem all that worried about his team's ability to recover in swagger. Someone once noted that the Red Sox had lost five in a row and wondered what Rivers would tell people who might be thinking of jumping off a bridge in despair over the twin losing streaks. "Don't jump," Rivers said, chuckling.

Good advice, because the Celtics will be back home tonight and should again look like the team that won the first two games of the series by an average of 21 points. They're so talented that Vegas oddsmakers had them a nine-point favorite on the road against Atlanta, and a blowout wouldn't be surprising.

The Celtics are still likely to run the table and hold up their part of the bargain for the dream matchup in the finals against the Lakers that would send television ratings through the roof. Their ill-timed stumble aside, they still be far the best team in the East.

But so far they're making it a lot harder on themselves than they should.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.
Former Poly star carries shutout into seventh, gets win

Baltimore Orioles pitcher Garrett Olson throws during the first inning of Baltimore's 7-4 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday night in Baltimore. Olson (1-0), who pitched at Cal Poly from the first seven batters he faced, and gave up two runs and four hits...
Mustangs edged by USC, lose for fourth time in five tries

Last year Olowolafe earned All-Big West Conference Freshman Team honors after finishing her initial season seventh in the Big West with 1.23 blocks per game. Add to that an impressive performance at the USA National Team tryout camp in February, and Olowolafe all but guaranteed herself a spot on this year's A2 team.

"I tell myself, 'I can't lose,'" Olowolafe said. "I'm always trying to beat the odds and go against the grain."

Last year, Mustangs opposite Kyle Atherstone was part of the A2 team. Atherstone, now entering her senior season, was invited back this year, but has declined to attend, saying she didn't expect to be called back a second time and thus didn't prepare for the two weeks off from school needed to play in May.

"When I got the invite to return this year, it was a big surprise," Atherstone said. "I wasn't able to talk to my teachers and prepare for it in advance. But it's an honor to get invited back. Last year it was so much fun." Olowolafe, however, will definitely be attending.

"I'm ecstatic," she said. "A2 is such an awesome program. Originally from Lansing, Mich., Olowolafe started playing volleyball in middle school at the suggestion of a teacher who told her she was "made for it."" Sometimes when people don't believe in you, you have to believe in yourself," she said. "You have to believe that you can do it."