**More than 10,000 feared dead after Myanmar cyclone**

**Associated Press**

YANGON, Myanmar — Myanmar’s government said Monday more than 10,000 people including Buddhist monks and villagers were feared dead in a cyclone that unleashed 12-foot tidal surges and high winds that swept away bamboo homes in low-lying coastal areas, cutting off electricity and water in the country’s largest city.

The ruling junta, an authoritarian regime which controls the nation’s foreign and the international community for decades, appealed for foreign aid to help in the recovery from Saturday’s disaster, the country’s deadliest storm on record.

The casualty count has been rising quickly as authorities reach hard-hit islands and villages in the Irrawaddy delta, the country’s major rice-producing region, which bore the brunt of Cyclone Nargis’ 120-mile-per-hour winds.

Resident of Yangon, the former capital of 12.5 million, said they were angry the government failed to adequately warn them of the approaching storm and has so far done little to alleviate their plight.

“The government misled people. They could have warned us about the severity of the coming cyclone so we could be better prepared,” said U Tin Thon, a grocery store owner.

Some in Yangon complained the 400,000-strong military was only clearing streets where the ruling elite reside, while leaving residents, who were feared dead, to cope on their own against the huge tangles of uprooted trees.

“There are some army trucks out to clear the roads, but most of the work was done with a dah (knife) by the people. Some of these tree trunks are 4-feet thick,” said Barry Breen, a retired U.S. State Department officer who was in Yangon when the cyclone struck. “Thousands of trees were uprooted. All the roads were blocked by the trees.”

If the numbers are accurate, the death toll could be the highest from a natural disaster in southeast Asia since the tsunami of December 2004, which killed 229,866 people as it devastated coastlines in Indonesia, Thailand and other parts of southeast and south Asia. In the wake of the tsunami, an extensive early warning system was established in the Pacific region.

A Myanmar state radio station said 3,939 people perished in high winds and huge storm surges battered coastal areas, with another 2,879 people feared dead.

—

**Prode of San Diego court pipe bomb looks at earlier blast**

Elliot Spagat

SAN DIEGO — The FBI said Monday that it is looking into whether a pipe bomb attack at a downtown federal courthouse is linked to a blast at a FedEx office last month.

The courthouse explosion early Sunday spread nails and shrapnel as far as two blocks, and someone could have been killed if they were in the way, said Keith Slotter, special agent in charge of the FBI’s San Diego office.

Slotter said surveillance video shows “some individuals” in the area shortly before the explosion, but declined to elaborate. Authorities have not identified any suspects and no one has claimed responsibility.

The FBI is determining whether the attack is related to a bomb that shattered the glass door of a FedEx building in San Diego around 2 a.m. on April 25. Authorities found a second bomb in the FedEx parking lot and detonated it.

“We are looking at that obviously very closely,” Slotter told reporters.

“We have not reached the point where we can say the two were connected...I think we’re way ahead of the game to characterize something like this as a serial bomber.”

More than one pipe bomb — it’s unclear how many — were left outside the federal courthouse Sunday shortly before they exploded around 1:40 a.m., causing “considerable damage” to the entrance and lobby, Slotter said.

Debris was found lodged in a window about eight stories up the A&T&T building across the street. The courthouse is located near the Gaslamp Quarter’s bars and nightclubs.

“This was a pretty powerful bomb,” Slotter said.

The courthouse was scheduled to reopen Tuesday, said Mark Owen, acting chief deputy of the U.S. Marshal’s Office for the Southern District of California. There was no estimate of property damage.

About 40 investigators are working on the case and federal authorities are treating it as a top priority, Slotter said.

“Evidence was flown Monday to FBI labs in Quantico, Va.”

Slotter said the motive for the attack was unclear.

“Is it (someone) trying to make a statement to the government? To the justice system?” he said. “Who knows?”

**Online ASI voting begins tomorrow**

Raiza Canelon

**Mustang Daily**

This year, voters don’t have to stand in line and wait to check off their choices for Associated Students Inc. president or Board of Directors; ballots will be cast online directly through the My Cal Poly portal.

Because of last year’s run-off election and having to hold another ballot casting, we decided to re-examine how the ballots are tallied, so now it will be instant run-off instead,” Election Committee Chair Amanda Rankin said.

Instant run-off will enable students to rank the candidates by choice. If no candidate has the majority of votes, the candidate with the least amount of votes will be disqualified. If your choice receives the least amount of votes, your second choice will automatically get your vote.

“It is important to vote because we are shaping what’s going to happen for next year and who we want representing our colleges and our school,” Rankin said. “If you don’t vote, your voice is not heard on how you think our school should be run.”

Rankin explained that any computer can be used to cast a ballot, whether it’s located on or off campus.

“Even a student studying abroad can cast their votes for the election,” Rankin said.

There are computers available for student use in the University Union, Kennedy Library and in each department. Students can vote through eVote links on the My Cal Poly portal, Cal Poly Web site or ASI Web site.

Students can also cast a paper ballot at the Student Life and Leadership office in the UU.

The voting process for the Board of Directors races will be slightly different because there are more choices. Students will pick their top five choices, and the number of representatives chosen will depend upon the population of each college. There will be three to five members for each college.

Elections will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday.

Information on the candidates for ASI president and voting process is also available on the ASI Web site at http://www.asi.calpoly.edu.
Cyclone continued from page 1

people reported missing in a single delta town, Bogalay, 60 miles south of Yangon. However, Foreign Minister Nyan Win told Yangon-based diplomats the death toll could rise to more than 10,000 in the region, which sits barely above sea level, according to Asian diplomats who attended the meeting.

Hundreds of thousands were left homeless and without clean drinking water, said Richard Horsey, a spokesman in Bangkok for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The diplomats said they were told that major aid, including urgently needed roofing materials, medicine, water purifying tablets and mosquito nets. The first 10-ton shipment was scheduled to arrive from Thailand on Tuesday.

The appeal for outside assistance was unusual for Myanmar's ruling generals, who have long been suspicious of international organizations and closely controlled their activities. Several agencies, including the International Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders, have limited their presence as a consequence.

Allowing any major influx of foreigners could carry risks for the military, injecting unwanted outside influence and giving the aid givers rather than the junta credit for a recovery.

However, keeping out international aid would focus blame squarely on the military should it fail to restore peoples' livelihoods.

Although relief talks with the government were still ongoing, the U.N.'s Horsey said it appeared the U.N. had the "green light" to send in a team to assess the storm's damage as early as Tuesday, and would pull out all the stops to send in food, clean water, blankets and plastic sheeting.

In Washington, first lady Laura Bush said the U.S. Embassy in Myanmar had authorized an emergency contribution of $250,000 to help with relief efforts and was prepared to provide more if the government allows a U.S. disaster assistance response team to enter the country to assess needs.

"Although they were aware of the threat, Burma's state-run media failed to warn the people in time, leaving citizens in the storm's path. The response to this cyclone is just the most recent example of the junta's failures to meet its people's basic needs," she said.

Washington has long been one of the ruling junta's strictest critics for its poor human rights record and failure to hand over power to a democratically elected government.

The cyclone came just a week before a crucial referendum on a military-backed constitution, and the government's ineffectual warning system and inefficient effort to recover from it so far, could sway angry voters to reject the charter.

"The combination of the cyclone and the referendum within a few days of each other makes it an angry population angrier and vulnerable and makes the political situation more volatile" than it has been since massive pro-democracy demonstrations last September, said Monique Skidmore, a Myanmar expert at Australian National University.

The government apparently made little effort to prepare for the storm, which came bearing down from the Bay of Bengal late Friday. Although warnings were broadcast on television that 120- mph winds and 12-foot storm surges were predicted, no guidance was given about taking shelter.

In any case, the electricity supply is so spotty in Myanmar that few households, especially in the poor rural areas that were worst hit, would have been aware of the televised warnings.

The government has given no explanation for the high death toll, but many residents in the worst-hit region live in fragile bamboo homes with thatch or zinc roofs, which would have been swept away with their inhabitants by the6orning tidal surge.

Even in Yangon, the country's biggest, most modern city, residents were shocked by the destruction.

"We heard the big bang and then I looked out on the balcony, I couldn't stand there, but I saw things coming down from the roof. Trees were falling which have stood there for a long time," said Sweden's former immigration minister, Jens Olof Back, who was in the city when the cyclone hit.

"And in our hotel, the ceiling came in with glass and the lights and it turned black," he told AP Television News.

Yangon, where officials said 59 people died, was without electricity except where gas-fired generators were available and residents lined up to buy candles at double last week's prices.

With pumps not working, most homes were without water, forcing families to stand in long lines for drinking water and bath in the city's lakes.

"Once the storm subsided, people were walking out to assess the damage and were shocked at everything around them," said Pamela Sitko, communication manager for the Asia-Pacific region for the aid agency World Vision. "One 11-year-old boy said he had to run backwards to take shelter in a school during the storm as the wind was so strong," World Vision, like other aid agencies, was negotiating with the government to try to arrange an airlift of aid.

"The biggest concern is communications because the electricity is down, running water has stopped, phone lines are down and it is difficult to assess the real needs because we can't reach the outer-lying regions," Sitko said.

Presidential Candidates
Mellissa Lema-College of Agriculture, Food & Env. Sciences
Arvand Sabatian-College of Engineering
Angela Kramer-College of Liberal Arts

Board of Director Candidates
College of Architecture and Environmental Design
Sean Christy
Katie Groth
Peter Kim
Theresa Swen

College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences
Brandon Banner
Daniel Boys
Megan Brownwell
Wes Carlson
Shane Cooper
Richard Darrach
Michael Kent
Patty Lev
Josh Little
Matthew Melendrez
Ashi Middlet
Lucas R. RossMer
Kayla Rogani
Nate Sandler

College of Business
Laura Gunderson
Nina Salle
Jesse Schwartz
Ashley Senger
Lauren West

College of Liberal Arts
Christina Chiappe
Kayan Chinchian
Kelly Griggs
Jan Hajar
Sara Hunt
Jenn Lesheter
Aria Niazi
Jessica Patton
Kendra Searle

College of Engineering
Matt Aignich
Jonathan Fillm
Stephen Grider
Alyssa Habing
Laura Ashley Harris
Max Meeker
Andrea Schmidt
Kaitlin Spak
Russell Taylor
Brett Welfman
Kelley Wigton

College of Science and Mathematics
Phil Dirlam
Josh Lazarus
Adam Marez
Morty Mendoza
Sanil Patel
Ryan M. Ward

News: Lily Caneva, Giana Magnoli mustangdailynews@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Tuesday, May 6, 2008
More than 3.5 million new voters, AP survey finds

Mike Baker

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Voter excitement, always up before a presidential election, is pushing registrations through the roof so far this year — with more than 3.5 million people rushing to join in the historic bulging, according to an Associated Press survey that offers the first national snapshot.

FIGURES ARE UP FOR BLACKS AND YOUNG PEOPLE. RURAL AND CITY.

Overall, the AP found that nearly one in six adults American signed up to vote in just the first three months of the year. And in the 21 states that were able to provide comparable data, new registrations have soared by 64 percent from the same three months in the 2004 campaign.

New voters are flocking to the most open election in half a century, inspired to support the first female president, the first black or the oldest ever elected.

Also, the brashing Democratic race has lasted longer than anyone expected, creating a burst of interest in states typically ignored in an election year.

Some Democratic Party leaders bemoan the long battle, with two strong candidates continuing to undercut each other. But there are clear signs that the registration boom is favoring their party, at least for now.

"This could change the face of American politics for decades to come," said Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas, predicting permanent gains for her party.

Republicans, concerned at least somewhat for 2008, say these surges come and go over the longer term.

While detailed data are available from only a handful of states, registration seems to be up particularly strongly for blacks and women.

Among the new voters in North Carolina is Shy Ector, 25, of Durham. She favored Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry while at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill four years ago, but never actually took the time to make sure she was registered to vote. Barack Obama's candidacy was enough to make sure she did this year, she said.

"I was like 'Oh, now this is a reason to vote.' This is different," Ector said. "It was inspired and I was excited."

New voters are generally less reliable. So there's no guarantee this year's newcomers will stick around in years to come — or even cast ballots. In November if their candidate doesn't make it.

"I will be very disappointed, and it will take me some time to recover," Ector said of an Obama loss to Hillary Rodham Clinton. "I'm not going to do it. I'm just going to write off politics for good, but it does make you feel like you're doing all this work for nothing, and nothing's coming to fruition."

Even if some discouraged new voters drop off, the numbers are striking.

Consider Pennsylvania and North Carolina — where the primary elections hadn't been expected to matter because they occurred so late in the nominating process.

New voter registrations favored Democrats in North Carolina, which holds its primary Tuesday.
celebritynews

Prince Becomes an Author
Prince the musical auteur is becoming an author.
"21 Nights," a "photographic essay" that offers "a rare glimpse into the life, lyrics, and music" of the maker of such hits as "1999" and "Purple Rain," will be published worldwide come fall, according to Atria Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster.

Uma Has a Stalker
Jack Jordan, 37, is on trial in state New York Supreme Court in Manhattan on charges of stalking and aggravated harassment; he faces up to a year in jail if convicted. The celebrity-obsessed loser "terrorized" Uma Thurman by flooding her with phone calls and e-mails, ringing her doorbell at all hours and threatening to kill himself if he couldn't meet her, a prosecutor said Monday in closing arguments.

"This isn't about love for Uma Thurman," Assistant District Attorney Jessica Taub told jurors. "This is about self-absorption."

No Death for Movie
Will "Sex and the City" have a "Death in the City?" It's been a persistent rumor in cyberspace as the buzz kicks into overdrive for the film opening later this month.

Engaged Duo
Scarlett Johansson and her boyfriend, Ryan Reynolds, are engaged. The 23-year-old actress and the 31-year-old actor have not set a wedding date, Johansson's publicist, Marcel Pariseau, said Monday.

Kylie Gets an Honor
Australia's pop star Kylie Minogue is Australia's latest knight, The 39-year-old Australian singer received the prestigious title the day before kicking off a world tour for her album "X." Past recipients include Ella Fitzgerald and Bob Dylan.

Engaged Duo
Cris Noth, will somehow kick the bucket.
"Kill Mr. Big! I would have been chased around the planet by women with torches," said King, who also wrote the film and produced it along with its star, Sarah Jessica Parker.

Kylie Gets an Honor
France honored Kylie Minogue on Monday, making her Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters for her contribution to French culture. The 30-year-old Australian singer received the prestigious title the day before kicking off a world tour for her album "X." Past recipients include Ella Fitzgerald and Bob Dylan.

Engaged Duo
"How will electronic voting affect the ASI elections?"
Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone

"Electronic voting will help make this year's election decision more representative of what Cal Poly students truly want."
-Lauren Oelrich, statistics junior

“I think it will help, but it won’t change the interest in voting on campus.”
-Lyndsay Soll, kinesiology freshman

“I think people are going to get lazy and they aren’t going to do it. I’ll probably forget.”
-Giancarlo Attamura, wine and viticulture freshman

“I think it will make more voters and give people more flexibility as to when they can vote.”
-Lyndsay Soll, kinesiology freshman

STI screening and treatment
Pap and cancer screening
Urinary Tract Infection Treatment
Free Condoms
Emergency Contraception

Take It SLO
Cal Poly A Cappella

Spring Concert
Saturday, May 10 @ 8:00pm
Grace Church 1350 Osos St, SLO

Tickets to see Michael Buble in Santa Barbara: too much
Gas to get to Grace Church: less than one gallon

Admission at the door: $5.00 - $7.00*

The perfect Mother's Day gift: Priceless

There are some things money can't buy. This Mother's Day, give your mom the gift she's always wanted – Take It SLO.

Sushiya Japanese Restaurant
Sushi Bar, Appetizers, Party Room, Karaoke Room

Happy Hour Special!
Everyday 3-5

$1.95 Sake-Guro or Beer
$3.95 Large Sake or Beer
$3.95 A Choice of One Appetizer, Sushi Bar, or Beer
Caliente Tempura Cups

Your Hhour Ends At 9pm

1502 Linn Creek Valley Rd
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-595-7700 1-877-763-9999
www.sushiyarestaurant.net
A book that makes even DEATH look GOOD

Christina Casci
MUSTANG DAILY

Death, despair and Hitler ripped through Europe in World War II. We have all heard the story from every vantage point we thought possible — the Jewish side, the Nazi side and those it touched that fell into neither category. However, the side of Death is not one we hear often. The Grim Reaper obviously must have been busy during the Holocaust, but how often do we think about what it would have been like to have that job? Markus Zusak’s “The Book Thief” explores the life of one German girl through the storytelling of Death. Now that’s a story Hollywood doesn’t go near.

It is a story about a German girl, Liesel, who cannot help but swipe books from anywhere possible. She learns to read them at night with her foster father. Due to an event in his past, the family takes in and hides a Jewish man, Max. Throughout the whole book, Death tells the story and adds his own narration and editorial remarks along the way. Zusak builds the characters in a way that makes the reader feel for them. Liesel is this girl that keeps living through fascinating events, some on her own accord and some she cannot prevent. Her foster mother is a loud, mean lady that nobody likes, but she has a secret, more intimate side that her family sees. In turn, the reader sees this side and even respects her.

Then there is Max. He is running from the Nazis and the only person he can rely on is a man that was his father’s best friend in the army years before. Throughout the story, things happen to him that make the reader wonder how he’s doing and know that he’s alive.

It is even easy to know Death. The idea is one most people fear every day of their lives, but by the end, it is easy to be empathetic and really understand that the job of the Grim Reaper is one that not even he wants. The most interesting thing to look for is the color in the sky every time he takes a life from earth. And yes, he will note it every single time.

Not only is the character development unbelievable, but the writing style is also excellent. The whole story just flows. There are no hiccups or bumps in the road where Zusak has confused the reader. It is just there, laid out for everyone to read. The story is broken up by little chapters that make it easy to keep reading. The “I’ll just read one more chapter” mentality leads the reader to the end much more quickly than imagined.

“The Book Thief” is the new definition for thought-provoking and heart-wrenching. The terms may be over-used in general, but they are the best ways to describe the tale. Yes, most everyone believes that time was a horrible one, but there is no way to understand how it felt to be involved.

However, if there is one book to get us one step closer, it is this one. At the end, you find yourself in the middle of it all, and when it’s over, you don’t really know how or when you got there, but feel one step closer to understanding the horror that occurred to Liesel and those around her.

You thought ‘The Matrix’ was cool, just wait ‘till you check out our virtual newsroom tour at mustangdaily.net
In their documentary "Gas Hole," Scott Roberts and Jeremy Wagener attempt to tell the story behind the multi-million-dollar oil industry and rising gas prices. The film will be showing tonight at the Palm Theatre, and both filmmakers will be on hand for a question-and-answer session.

Raiza Canelon 
MUSTANG DAILY

There was a time, not too long ago, when the price of a gallon of gas was cheaper than a Sharpee from 7-Eleven. Signs a few years ago used to say 91 cents per gallon, and now people would freak out if it was to be that low again.

Globally, the rise in refined oil prices has soared past what anyone thought gas would be. The problem is there are too many factors contributing to the crisis, and there aren't easy solutions to it either.

Two guys from Los Angeles — Scott Roberts and Jeremy Wagener — have taken the question of why gas prices are the way they are and have made a feature-length documentary called "Gas Hole," in which they explore the oil industry and the auto-manufacturers unwillingness to invest in alternative sources for transportation.

Roberts and Wagener bounced around the idea of the documentary for a while before they actually started filming. The duo thought the story of how the oil industry got started and the life of the business would be a compelling one and decided to go for it.

"In my opinion, the reasons of the high prices for oil and why the technology is not advancing is because of the oil industry and the auto-manufacturers unwillingness to invest in alternative sources for transportation," Roberts said.

Roberts then told the story about how Shell Oil tried to shut down its plant in Bakersfield because they claimed it wasn’t making money or producing enough oil. Later, the Attorney General opened its books and found that the Bakersfield operation was making more money than any other oil producer in the state.

"The experience of making this documentary was amazing and challenging. One, because we were almost entirely self-financed, and two, it was hard to get people to talk to us," Wagener said. "The intention when we started out was not to be activists, because we were almost entirely self-financed, and two, it was hard to get people to talk to us."

Wagener said, "The intention when we started out was not to be activists, because we were almost entirely self-financed, and two, it was hard to get people to talk to us." Roberts mentioned that the Bakersfield operation was making more money than any other oil producer in the state.

Roberts and Wagener bounced around the idea of the documentary for a while before they actually started filming. The duo thought the story of how the oil industry got started and the life of the business would be a compelling one and decided to go for it.

"In my opinion, the reasons of the high prices for oil and why the technology is not advancing is because of the oil industry and the auto-manufacturers unwillingness to invest in alternative sources for transportation," Roberts said.

Roberts then told the story about how Shell Oil tried to shut down its plant in Bakersfield because they claimed it wasn’t making money or producing enough oil. Later, the Attorney General opened its books and found that the Bakersfield operation was making more money than any other oil producer in the state.

"The experience of making this documentary was amazing and challenging. One, because we were almost entirely self-financed, and two, it was hard to get people to talk to us," Wagener said. "The intention when we started out was not to be activists, because we were almost entirely self-financed, and two, it was hard to get people to talk to us."

Wagener said, "The intention when we started out was not to be activists, because we were almost entirely self-financed, and two, it was hard to get people to talk to us."

"Another thing that’s a big mistake is just waiting around for the perfect job. I kept waiting for my dream job to pop up on the horizon," Roberts said. "If people are interested about the rise in gas prices, they’ll want to see this documentary."

COULD BEA PAGE BREAK
Susan Tebben
Senior Staff Writer

Has pop music suddenly taken a silver De Lorean back to the '80s? It seems that way with the onslaught of drum machines, under the direction of that leech Timbaland. If the beeps and ticks of a soundboard haven't brought us back to the tube socks and winged hair, a new album by Madonna certainly will.

"Hard Candy" is a shot back to the days of old just as the artist herself is. Ironically, however, the once queen of sexuality and raging hormones is at her most metaphorical, with sexual innuendoes more veiled than anything else this year.

Thanks to a collaboration with musical midas Justin Timberlake on her single, "4 Minutes," Madonna ushers in the 21st century better than she did with Britney Spears duets. A collaboration with Kanye West should also win her points with the general public.

Madonna's vocals are relatively simple compared to today's other female singers. She doesn't have the power of a Christina Aguilera or an Alicia Keys, but the fact that she never tries to overexert her voice is a refreshing change of pace.

Unfortunately, the music is as simple as the vocals, making the album boring. Listeners are used to hearing Madonna above a sea of soundboard effects and keyboard strains. This is the sound that is natural to her, a sound she has mastered since the days of "Like a Virgin."

Since she has mastered that sound, it would be nice to see her come out of her comfort zone. If she were accompanied by, say, a piano instead of a keyboard and a guitar rather than a soundboard, it could be a welcome change.

Even when she tries a new genre, like on "Spanish Lesson," it sounds the same as the rest of the tracks. The title alludes to some sort of Latin flair but lacks any semblance to Spain's style, except the finest likeness in the drums.

As is often the case with Madonna (and most pop music today), the three remixes at the end of the album are unnecessary. All the tracks on the album sound like remixes, even the original "4 Minutes" that is remixed twice.

There is nothing extraordinary about "Hard Candy." It is a disappointment compared to the revolutionary strides Madonna took in the heyday of her career. "4 Minutes" can't stand up next to "Justify My Love," "Papa Don't Preach" and even "Material Girl" (though "Seasame Street's" version, "Cereal Girl," is possibly more enjoyable).

With the solid reputation Madonna has created for herself, she can easily hold her own in today's pop music scene, especially since she was one of the founders. But for a legend like Madonna, holding her own is not enough.
Kramer can shape new Poly

Every other week, about 30 student representatives convene to spend their Wednesday evenings discussing important bills, upcoming events, how money should be doled out to student clubs and much more. These students are the very ones you chose to represent you and your college, and will have the opportunity to choose once more in the next few days. But as the school year progresses, many of these students only occasionally exercise their rights to debate and their attendance becomes more infrequent.

That said, there is one person who continues to stand out and raise her hand when the rest of the room remains silent. And it’s not just in 216 that she inquisitively raises her hand — it’s throughout the Mustang Daily editorial staff met with the candidates in person when the Mustang Daily filmed an interview just more than a week ago (check it out at http://tinyurl.com/664nw) and had the opportunity to ask their own questions. Other editors took the time to speak with the candidates one-on-one at their booths or by researching their platforms and stances on issues. Some had even previously interacted with them in a class setting.

But after a week of active campaigning, there wasn’t a whole lot of doubt among the 14 editors. With one editor supporting Arvand Jabbari, one supporting Melissa Lena and one undecided, the majority of the staff agreed that Angela Kramer is the obvious choice for the 2008-09 ASI president.

While the two other candidates both show great experience and ambitious agendas for the position, Kramer truly embodies a new future for ASI and student involvement in general. It should be noted that the Health Center is certainly an example of a student service that could stand to be improved, and Sabetian’s idea to provide safe transportation to the students living in Poly Canyon Village next year is a great idea that should be pursued by whom-ever is elected president.

But the role of ASI president is so much more than that. Don’t think of this as the U.S. presidential election that promises to accomplish specific tasks that will fix or change everything; this is about setting a tone and most importantly, implementing a vision that will last for years to come.

And Kramer’s vision is a particularly green one — one she calls “a realistic dream.” Her campaign says it all and sets an example of the ideals for which she stands. Few students in ASI are pushing as actively for sustainability and LEED certification at Cal Poly as Kramer is, and we believe she has the persistence and motivation to start paving such a future.

Unless you live under a rock, you’ve probably seen Angela Kramer before — she is everywhere. She stood megaphone in hand proclaiming “Homophobia has got to go!” at the Pride Alliance’s Same-Sex Holding Day in February and, along with her peers, smeared coal on her face in support of clean power at Focus the Nation in January.

From the last-minute Chelsea Clinton speech to the controversial Saudi Arabia forum, she is always present and always asking questions. Whether it’s in a classroom environment or an ASI Board of Directors meeting, Kramer doesn’t accept being spoon-fed information. Instead, she asks pertinent questions when no one else will.

And she takes the time to answer questions as well. Who would make a better ASI president than someone who has already been actively representing the university as a PolyRep and an ASI board member? Her passion for this position is unparalleled and even the most polarized of student organizations can’t help but be inspired by her. Kramer truly holds the potential to transform Cal Poly into a university where students are involved, unafraid to ask questions and who believe she has the persistence and motivation to start paving such a future.
"It's not you, it's me... well, actually, it is you." Breakups happen every day, sometimes leaving a person in the dark. Love is more than just chocolate and flowers. It can cloud your judgment and, in many cases, suck you into a relationship that should not have happened in the first place. Once the first kiss is over with and the butterflies in your stomach go away, what do you do next left — real companionship or the empty shell of infatu­ation.

Relationships do not always work out, and many times problems are ignored until it is too late and too much damage has occurred. It is in these times, when the effort put into a relationship is not producing any changes for the better, that a couple reaches the breaking point. And if two people are not equally committed to making a relationship work, then it is also time to break up. Relationships need to end when the bad times start to outweigh the good. A healthy, lasting relationship should bring out the best in both people, not the worst.

The following is a guide for proper etiquette when breaking up.

1. Never break up with someone over the phone or through a letter, e-mail or text message. Doing it in person is always the best option because it allows you to present the person more respect than cowardly trying to get out of the relationship does.

2. When breaking up, make it official and for good. Don't call them afterward, unless your intention is to get back together. Calling the person is going to create false hopes.

3. Give the person time to heal before attempting to communicate again.

4. Let the person who got dumped decide if there is a future relationship as friends.

The German festival, Oktoberfest, is a celebration to commemorate the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig (later King Ludwig I) and Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen way back in 1810. Did any of you know that I sure didn't.

What I did know was that it was an opportunity to drink large amounts of imported beer and speak in funny German accent while watching movies such as "Beerfest." Again, without knowing any history behind a holiday, Americans have successfully populated it, as long as the occasion called for alcohol and partying. (As of now, I haven't heard of any American students celebrating Germany's Re­pentance Day, or National Day of Mourning.) There's nothing wrong with alcohol and partying. The problem lies in the assumption that we are "celebrating" a cultural event, usually a holiday of minor significance, because it's an excuse to party.

As a social issue, holiday celebration brings about the same problems. Are we feeling under pressure? Is your significant other over­stepping boundaries? Are they picking out your underwear? Are they just plain psycho? Maybe it's time to break up.

5. A gift is a gift. Don't ask for it back after you break up.
6. Don't try to keep tabs on what the other person is doing post-breakup.
7. Don't bring other people into the breakup mess. Keep it between the two of you.
8. Be civil if you see the other person.
9. Respect the other person's opinion and feelings. This may be the reason you are breaking up in the first place.
10. There is no good time to break up. You are just prolonging the inevitable.

Sure it sucks to be in a breakup situation, but if one person is unhappy the entire relationship cannot work. It takes two people to make a relationship healthy and continue; take one person out and you no longer have a bond, just two people bound by a socially constructed tie. It's never healthy to keep someone in a position they no longer want to be in, this will only strain the already rocky foundation of the connection a couple once had. If you believe in fate, this situation can only lead to the person you were really meant for, and if you don't, maybe this will better the social life you once had.

We date for a reason: to find a person that we're compatible with. Incompatibility can only result in a breakup, and though, as painful as it is, it can only lead us to better people and better things.

Jessica Ford is a journalism senior and Elizabeth Yi is an animal science senior. Ford and Yi are the love, sex and dating columnists and can be contacted at sudadelsathedolphins@gmail.com. Last week's winner of the pick-up line challenge was Luke Ayer with "I may not be Fred Flintstone, but I can still make your bed rock."
Morel continued from page 12

schedule that comes with playing more than 50 games a season.

"I enjoy just being able to play
every day," he says.

In fact, Morel's baseball idol is
Cal Ripken Jr., who holds the Ma-
jor League Baseball record for most
games played in a row.

But the liberal studies major ad-
mits the grueling schedule can make
it tough to study.

"It can be difficult to balance," he says. "You're on the road a lot and have five games a week, so you just hope that your teachers un-
derstand."

Juggling so many responsibilities
seems to embody professionalism
that Morel intends to carry into a possible MLB career.

"Ideally, I want to continue to
have a good year and get drafted at
the end of my season — then go start
my professional career," he says. Lee
thinks highly of Morel's

"He'll get drafted fairly high and
have a good year and get drafted at
the end of my season — then go start
my professional career," he says. Morel
believes the Mustangs,
who have been "underachieving,"

have to stop playing to the level of
their competitors to get to the play-
offs this year.

"We're a good team," he says. "We've just been playing well
against the good teams and playing
poorly against the bad ones. But we
have a lot of room to make up."

Cap Poly (22-23) will visit USC
at 7 tonight before traveling to Cal
State Fullerton for a three-game Big
West series opening at 5:15 p.m.
Friday.

Bryant continued from page 12

LaDarrick Nowotki won the award and two-time MVP
Steve Nash finished second.

Bryant averaged 28.3 points, 6.3 rebounds, 5.4 assists
and 1.8 steals while playing in all 82 games despite tear-
ing a ligament in his right pinkie finger in February. A
hand specialist recommended surgery but Bryant decided
to put it off until after the Olympics this summer.

Bryant is expected to receive the MVP trophy
Wednesday night from commissioner David Stern before
the Lakers face the Utah Jazz in Game 2 of their best-of-
seven second-round playoff series. The Lakers won the
opener 109-98 on Sunday.

Bryant, second in the NBA in scoring behind Cleve-
land's LeBron James, would be the first member of the
Lakers to win the MVP award since Shaquille O'Neal
was a near-unanimous choice in 2000. Other previous
Lakers to win the award during back to 1956 when it
was first presented were Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic
Johnson, who won it three times each. Abdul-Jabbar also
won three with the Milwaukee Bucks.

Bryant and O'Neal led the Lakers to three consecu-
tive NBA championships from 2000-02, and a berth in the
series finals in 2004. The Lakers didn't win a playoff
series since then until sweeping the Denver Nuggets in
the first round last month.
Morel powers Mustangs into home stretch, considers pro future

Cal Poly junior third baseman leads team in batting average and RBI

Rachel Glas
mustangdaily.com

Brent Morel learned the three Rs playing baseball — but not the ones you might think. Thanks to baseball, the Cal Poly junior third baseman became reliable, rounded and respected, all key to a successful playing career.

For the Mustangs, who have won four straight and completed their first sweep of the season Sunday against UNLV, Morel boasts a .370 batting average and 51 RBI — both team highs.

“We're having a lot of guys stepping up,” Morel says. “He's certainly been one of them. The 6-foot-2, 220-pounder also has a team-high four triples and is second in runs (42), doubles (16) and home runs (six).

Recruited by UCLA and USC, among others, the Bakerfield native simply preferred Cal Poly.

“I just liked the atmosphere of San Luis Obispo, the philosophy of the coaching staff, plus it's a good school,” Morel says.

Although the 21-year-old played shortstop throughout high school, he switched to third base his sophomore year at Cal Poly. He went on to earn Most Valuable Player honors in 2006 and 2007.

“It was just a better fit,” he says. “It's a clutch offensive player and a solid defensive player with a strong arm.”

Morel says he enjoys the packed stands at Mustang Field and the support of his teammates.

Brent Morel considers a pro career, page 11

Cal Poly wins team competition at Wildflower

Sara Wright
mustangdaily.com

About 1,000 Cal Poly volunteers watched nearly 7,500 athletes compete with enthusiasm inspired by their remarkable dedication and valor — or with languor inspired by 80-degree heat and no shade — at this year's Arta Wildflower Triathlon over the weekend.

The courses sprawled around Lake San Antonio in Bradley, along various roads lining the lake, and including hills that competitors had a hard time with.

Around 80 Cal Poly triathletes competed, most in the collegiate races Sunday. Their difficult training and painful racing paid off at the finish line, evidenced by the looks on their faces at the end.

“Many people think triathlon are an individual sport, and yes, I did cross the finish line by myself but it is because of the team that I am here,” said Diane Zaida, a member of the Cal Poly tri team. 

She finished the collegiate course in 3 hours, 7 minutes amidst other members of the team, which won the team competition in Sunday’s collegiate race, an Olympic-distance triathlon including a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40 kilometers of biking and a 10-kilometer run. Team Radd paced the Cal Poly men by finishing in 2 hours, 9 minutes, good enough for second in the men’s collegiate division.

Leading the Cal Poly women was Patricia Lattery, who took fifth in the women’s collegiate division, at 2 hours, 33 minutes. Not far behind were Shana Strange, in seventh at 2 hours, 38 minutes and Hannah Tallman, in 10th at 2 hours, 41 minutes.

Cal Poly's performance came on the heels of finishing 16th at the collegiate nationals, which were held April 19 in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Winners of the professional races were Australian Chris McCormack, a four-time Wildflower winner, and Samantha McClune, who won last year.

McCormack surged past Spain's Eneko Llanos in the last mile of the race to tie his record of 4 hours, 33 seconds for the half-Ironman on Saturday. McClune also tied her record, of 4:31:38 for the 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike and 13.1-mile run.

Wildflower 2008 featured a number of well-known and amazing athletes, including Sara Reinertsen, the first woman to finish the Ford Ironman Triathlon World Championship with a prosthetic leg. She is also a spokesperson for Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF), for which funds were raised at the races over the weekend. Dozens of racers for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's see Wildflower, page 11

Bryant likely to be named MVP today

John Nadel
mustangdaily.com

LOS ANGELES — The NBA has scheduled a news conference today at a Los Angeles hotel, where Kobe Bryant is expected to be announced as winner of his first Most Valuable Player award.

Neither NBA spokesman Mark Broussard nor the Lakers would discuss the subject of the news conference, although the league did refer to it as an NBA Awards Announcement.

The Los Angeles Times reported last Friday that the 29-year-old Bryant had won the award. League spokesman Brian McIntyre refused to confirm or deny the report on Saturday.

“I didn’t know if it was going to come in my career but to have the moment come now is special, especially to share it with the group of guys we have here,” Bryant told reporters Saturday. “We talked about (how) this is shaping up to be named MVP today, page 11

SPORFS EDITOR: Donovan Ard
mustangdaily.sports@gmail.com