Hill, Mecham ahead in supervisor races

Rachel Glas  
MUSTANG DAILY

Tuesday night’s election went smoothly as voters in San Luis Obispo county elected many new faces to public office.

Cal Poly English professor Adam Hill is best known for his ongoing campaign for 5th District county supervisor with 58 percent of the vote.

Hill — whose platform stressed smart growth, public safety and increasing alternate forms of transportation — is not what I was listening to concerning about and I seem that they are looking for new leadership,” he said.

Hill — who must resign as a Cal Poly professor when he takes office in January — said his first priority will be to work on budgetary matters.

“Leaving Cal Poly was the toughest part of my decision to run. I’m nothing but proud to be part of the school,” Hill said.

The challenge for the 1st District county supervisor seat, current Paso Robles Mayor Frank Mecham, beat seven-time incumbent Harry Ovitt in a landslide victory, 64 percent to 35 percent.

San Luis Obispo County also had results.  
see Results, page 2

ARTS

Poly grad Kelly Ferguson finds solace — and possibly syndication — in his “Basketcase” comic.

SPORTS

The Cal Poly football team’s rivalry with Sacramento State used to be a tradition, but is now on hiatus.

ONLINE

Go online and vote in today’s poll: Are you pleased with Tuesday’s election results?  
mustangdaily.net

President Barack Obama promised during the 2008 campaign to continue a policy in Iraq that asks everything of our brave young men and women in uniform and nothing of Iraqi politicians.” In a symbolic move, he spoke in the same hall where McCain will accept the Republican nomination at his party’s convention in September.

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San Luis Obispo County also had results.  
see Results, page 2
Democrats
continued from page 1

Obama, a first-term senator who was virtually unknown on the na­
tional stage four years ago, defeated Clinton, the former first lady and
one-time campaign front-runner, in a 17-month marathon for the Demo­
ocratic nomination.

His victory had been widely as­
sumed for weeks. But Clinton's decla­
rations of interest in becoming his
nominee was wholly unexpected.

She expressed it in a confer­
ence call with her state's congres­
sional delegation after Rep. Nydia
Velazquez, predicted Obama would have great difficulty winning the
support of Hispanics and other vot­
ing blocs unless the former first lady
was on the ticket.

"I am open to it" if it would help
the party's prospects in November, Clinton replied, according to a par­
ticipant who spoke on condition of anonymity because the call was pri­
mate.

Clinton's comments raised anew
the prospect of what many Demo­
crats have called a "Dream Ticket" that would put a woman and a black man on the same ticket, but Obama's aides were noncom­
ittal: "We're not in the presidential
phase here. We're going to close
out this Democratic primary and then
we'll consider that," David Axelrod, Obama's top strategist, told report­
ers prior to the candidate's plane en route to Minnesota.

McCain's comments on Obama re­
ferred to a case last year in which the Illinois senator came out against
legislation paying for the Iraq war because it did not include a time­
table for withdrawing troops. At the
time, Obama said the funding would give President Bush "a blank check
to continue down this same, dan­
gerous path." Obama, McCain contended, was seeking to score political points at a time when the American people are looking for or expect­
ding.

Tuesday's fast-paced developments unfolded as the long Demo­
cratic nomination struggle ended with primaries in Montana and
South Dakota.

Only 31 delegates were at stake at
the final few among the thousands
that once drew Obama, Clinton and
six other Democrats, candidates into
the campaign to replace Bush and
become the nation's 44th president.

Clinton was in New York for an
appearance before home-state sup­
porters. Officials said she would
concede Obama had the delegates to
secure the Democratic nomination, effec­
tively ending her bid to be the
nations first female president.

The young Illinois senator's suc­
cess amounted to a victory of hope
over experience, earned across an
iterating 56 primaries and caucus­
tests that tested the political skills and
human endurance of all involved.

Obama stood for hope and change. Clinton was the candidate of
experience, ready, she said, to serve
in the Oval Office from Day One.

Together, they drove record turns­
outs in primary after primary, with
more than 34 million voters in all
independent and Republican states
to the Democratic primary.

Yet the race between a black man
and a woman exposed deep racial and
gender divisions within the party.

Obama drew strength from blacks
and from the younger, more liberal
and wealthier voters in many states.
Clinton was preferred by older, more
dow nscle voters and women.

Measure
continued from page 1

money could be used for are items
that are already necessary for the
city. In an interview prior to the
election, Crescione said the prob­
elm is with the word "could," be­
cause the money collected from
the increased sales tax will go into
the general fund, which means the
money is not designated for a spe­
cific purpose.

Crescione said supporters of the
measure argue tourists will be
paying the sales tax as well, but he
agrees with that point. Visitors to
the city, he said, only have to
experience that tax for a couple of
days or a weekend.

"I live here all the time, which
means I pay the tax all the time," he
said. Crescione mentioned resi­
dents of the mobile home parks
who operate on a fixed income, and
said it is unfair to them to be
bundled with an extra tax.

Crescione also said that Pismo
Beach is the sixth wealthiest city
per capita in the state of California,
and that the reasons for asking for
the increase in tax are unexplained
and unjustified.

"They want more money — tell
me what for," he said.

Results
continued from page 1

ed no on Proposition 98 and yes
on Proposition 99, both dealing
with eminent domain. As of press
time, only half of California
precincts had reported results,
but Proposition 99 — aimed to
phase out rent control — was not
expected to pass. Proposi­
tion 98, which would prohib­
it the ability of the government
to seize homes for development,
was winning with more than 60
percent of the vote.

Overall, officials said it was a
quiet election in San Luis
Obispo County with a low
turnout.

"A lot of the ballots had very
few choices," county employee
Lynn Johnson said might be
a number of the reason for the
low voter turnout. "Some elec­
tions only had one person turn­
ing. But that doesn't mean this
wasn't an important election."

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Make it your own by picking any four items off the slam menu for $5.99.
Polygamous sect children reunited with happy parents

Michelle Roberts (ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Parents awaiting the release of children taken into state custody during a raid of a polygamous group's ranch may need to wait a few days because so many parents are showing up at foster homes simultaneously, a sector leader said Tuesday.

Parents took 229 of the roughly 430 children in foster care on Monday after a judge signed an order clearing the children from their parents, bowing to a state Supreme Court ruling that the seizure was unjustified. "Everybody is trying really hard to be patient and considerate," Willie Jessop, an elder with the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, "We know more and more are leaving every hour."

Child welfare officials expected many of the remaining children to go home Tuesday as parents traveled across the sprawling state to foster facilities where the children were scattered.

Jennetta Jessop fought back tears when she was reunited with her 5-year-old son: "I just love my children so much," said Jessop, who picked up her son Monday at a Fort Worth shelter and had four other children to collect. "This is the happiest day of my life."

Amid the parents' joy, a church elder announced what he called a clarification in sect policy aimed at keeping such a seizure from ever happening again: Future marriages will only involve sect members who are of legal age.

"The church will counsel families that they neither request nor consent to any underage marriages," Willie Jessop said late Monday, reading from a statement at the ranch in Eldorado. Many sect members have the same last name but may or may not be related. Willie Jessop said the church has been widely misunderstood and quoted within the church have been almost consensual.

He would not say whether marriages of underage minors had taken place in the past but said the sect as a whole should not be punished for the misdeeds of a few.

Judge Barbara Walther's order requires the parents to stay in Texas, to attend parenting classes and to allow the children to be examined as part of any abuse investigation. But it does not put restrictions on the children's fathers, require the parents to renounce polygamy or force them to leave the Warning For Zion Ranch run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a breakaway sect of the Mormon church.

Child Protective Services removed all the children from the ranch after an April 3 raid prompted by calls to a child protective services.

The lawsuit is intended to keep him from profiting from the murders by selling his story.

A woman from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints with her child.

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“How useful do you think Safe Ride really is?”

Compiled and photographed by Shannon Boren

“It’s probably very useful, but I’ve never used it myself.”
— John Macaluso, business senior

“I don’t know; I don’t even know what that program is.”
— Emmi Id, civil engineering junior

“I’ve never used it, so I don’t know.”
— Kelsey Haberer, agricultural business freshman

“I guess it’s useful, but I wouldn’t know for sure.”
— Rob Dahl, civil engineering senior
Chinese police drag grieving parents from protest

Cara Anna
Associated Press

Chinese police forcefully pulled away more than 300 parents protesting the deaths of their children in a poorly constructed school that collapsed in last month's earthquake.

Police grabbed the parents, many holding pictures of their children, by the arms and lifted them off the ground on Tuesday outside the courthouse in Dujiangyan, a resort town northwest of the Sichuan provincial capital of Chengdu.

"Why?" some parents yelled. "Tell us something," they said as black-suited police wearing riot helmets yanked at them, pulling them down the street to the side of the courthouse.

The action was authorities' harshest response yet to angry parents and represented a hardening of official attitudes toward protests that police have closely watched over the past two weeks without intervening.

The parents had been kneeling in front of the courthouse yelling, "We want to sue!" Their children attended a high school in Juayuan, near Dujiangyan, where 279 students died.

The Southern Metropolis News quoted a rescuer as saying that rubble from the school was "entirely open for two days and could not be stopped." Pictures of collapsed schools surrounded by rubble still stand on filing cabinet doors.

The government says the May 12 earthquake destroyed 7,000 classrooms. Many parents have accused contractors of cutting corners when building the classrooms, resulting in schools that could not withstand the 7.9-magnitude quake. Pictures of collapsed schools surrounded by buildings still standing have fueled anger.

An Associated Press reporter and two photographers covering the protest were dragged by the arms up the steps into the courthouse by police trying to prevent them from seeing the demonstration. They were held inside, along with two Japanese reporters, and questioned for a half-hour before being let go, after the protesters had been moved away.

"Call it local police were not answered Tuesday."

 Asked why reporters were removed from the courthouse, an official from the foreign affairs office of the local government, Zao Ming, said "this is not a good place to do interviews." In a dozy like this, there will be a lot of opinions. The government will solve their problems." There were several Japanese reporters at the courthouse. One witness said the police told the parents that "the Japanese are reporting bad things about you." The witness asked not to be identified for fear of reprisals by authorities.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Tuesday that the government had been unusually open about allowing journalists to report on the earthquake and its aftermath. He told a news conference in Beijing that the "principle of transparency and openness remains unchanged.

He said local authorities were making decisions based on the conditions in the disaster zone, though "they are not trying to block any news or to make difficulties for the reporters.

The protest happened while Chinese leader Li Changchun, the country's fifth-ranked ruler, was touring other parts of the city. The official Xinhua News Agency said Li was checking heritage sites damaged in the earthquake.

The confirmed death toll for China's worst disaster in three decades was raised Tuesday to 69,307, an increase of about 90 people from a day earlier, and 18,230 people are still missing, the State Council said. The quake also left 5 million people homeless.

Meanwhile, the official Xinhua News Agency said that authorities have delayed for two days an attempt to divert water from a huge lake formed when the quake sent landslides tumbling into a river in Beichuan in northern Sichuan.

Water levels in the lake had been rising steadily and threatened to flood surrounding areas, prompting authorities to evacuate nearly 200,000 people already uprooted by the quake.

But Xinhua said with little rain forecast for the next several days, rescue workers were not likely to start draining the lake until Thursday. The work had been expected to begin Tuesday.

Workers have already used heavy equipment to dig a runoff channel to remove the water. The government is worried the newly formed lake could burst, sending a wall of water through a valley.

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End of the Year
Customer Appreciation Sale!
SAVE 30%
National Briefs

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — General Motors is dosing tour smaller vehicles.

— A corrections officer who prices hasten a dramatic shift to Canada and Mexico, affecting 10,000 workers, as surging fuel prices hasten a dramatic shift to smaller vehicles.

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP) — A corrections officer who had been making frequent take-out food deliveries to the county jail was caught sneaking syringes inside tacos and marijuana under out food deliveries to the county jail with three pizzas at 3 a.m. Saturday, said county investigator Mike Liles. Twenty minutes later, Liles brought in what appeared to be a large bag containing chili and tacos, Liles said.

A jail sergeant became suspicious, searched the food and found marijuana that had been formed into three round patties under some chili and a couple of syringes inside tacos.

KINGSTON, Pa. (AP) — The young woman probably thought the 71-year-old Korean War veteran, whose friend was in a wheelchair, would make an easy target. She was wrong. Harry Kopenis chased and tackled the 22-year-old woman, who he says robbed him at an ATM in Pompano Beach bank about an hour earlier. Authorities are still looking for him.

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Homeowners who don’t mow their grass in this northeast Ohio city now face tougher penalties — including possible jail time. The city council unanimously passed a law Monday that makes a second high-grass violation a fourth-degree misdemeanor carrying a fine of up to $250 and as many as 30 days in jail.

The previous law only made the first violation a minor misdemeanor, with a fine of up to $150 but no jail time. The new law will take effect in 30 days.

police arrived. "Maybe she thought I was easy prey. She didn't think I was going to get her. Well, senior citizens aren't easy prey," Kopenis said.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A bank robber got as far as a nearby pawn shop before a dye pack, inserted in his wad of stolen cash, exploded in his pants, authorities said.

The man then fled the store, leaving behind the money that contained the theft-detection device.

Fort Lauderdale Police Department spokeswoman Kathy Collins says the man matched descriptions of a robber who pilfered a bag of money Monday from a Pompano Beach bank about an hour earlier.

Authorities are still looking for him.

Spacewalking astronauts floated outside the international space station Tuesday to help install the orbiting outpost's newest room, a big-sized Japanese laboratory.

During a scheduled 1 1/2-hour spacewalk, astronauts Michael Fossum and Ronald Garan Jr. prepared the $1 billion lab, named Kibo — Japanese for "hope" — for installation by removing power and heating cables and various restraints connecting it to the shuttle.

A separate storage room loaded with Kibo equipment went up in March. A porch for outdoor science experiments and the smaller robot arm will fly next year.

The spacewalkers also planned to remove a 50-foot inspection boom from the orbiting complex and try out some cleaning methods on a jammed solar rotating joint that has hampered energy production at the space station since last fall. The joint enables the space station's solar arrays, which provide electrical power, to rotate and track the sun.

Discovery astronauts begin first spacewalk

Juan A. Lozano

ASSOCIATE PRESS

Spacewalking astronauts floated outside the international space station Tuesday to help install the orbiting outpost's newest room, a big-sized Japanese laboratory.

"We're looking forward to a great day, an exciting day to install the Japanese Kibo module," said Japanese astronaut Akihiko Hoshide, who helped move the lab with the station's robotic arm.

Kibo, at 37 feet long, is bigger than the U.S. and European labs already attached to the space station. The Japanese lab also has a pair of robot arms, the larger of which flew up on this shuttle mission.

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"It's going to lead to a really busy day for all of those guys," said Emily Nelson, a space station flight director.

The first job for the spacewalk was transferring the boom from the space station to the shuttle.

The laser-equipped boom is usually attached to the shuttle's robotic arm and used to conduct a detailed inspection of the spacecraft's wings and nose. The inspection is one of the safety measures put in place by NASA after the 2003 Columbia accident to check for launch damage.

Discovery didn't have enough room for the inspection boom; Kibo filled the entire payload bay, so the last shuttle crew left one behind at the space station in March.

The shuttle astronauts, who arrived at the space station on Monday, will use the boom next week to check Discovery for any damage that could endanger them during re-entry.

Imagery experts, in the meantime, are poring over the 302 digital pictures that the space station crew took of Discovery's belly right before the docking.

About five pieces of foam insulation broke off Discovery's external fuel tank during liftoff but are not believed to have caused any damage.

NASA, meanwhile, is investigating the worst launch pad damage in 27 years of space shuttle flight.

A large section of the flame trench — 20 feet by 75 feet — broke apart, and chunks of the large heat-resistant fire bricks and concrete mortar were scattered all the way past the chain-link fence 1,800 feet away.

The fence was damaged in places. None of the debris appeared to hit Discovery, said LesRay Cain, chairman of the mission management team.
International Briefs

BAGHDAD (AP) — Lawmakers allied with Prime Minis­
ter Nouri al-Maliki said Tuesday that negotiations over a U.S.-Iraqi security pact and the future status of American troops in Iraq were stumbling, with "almost all pows under dispute."

Down party lawmaker Haider al-Abadi said sellers in Bagh­
dad's U.S.-guarded Green Zone that "almost all American-sug­
sitions were countered by different Iraqis."

"The negotiations are at a standstill, and the Iraqi side is
studying its options," al-Abadi said, reading a statement from his
party.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Beijing's airport is de­
claring war on Denmark's intel­
ligence service and cast Blance
on-Qua for an attack near its
embassy in Pakistan that investi­
gators said Tuesday was carried
out by a suicide bomber.

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Are you suffering from a recent ANKLE SPRAIN?

Doctors are evaluating investigational, medicated patches to see if they relieve pain when applied directly to the ankle.

Local doctors are currently conducting a clinical research study evaluating the effectiveness of investigational, medicated patches for treating the pain associated with an ankle sprain, when applied directly to the ankle.

To be eligible for this study, you must:
- Be 18 years of age or older, AND
- Be experiencing pain from an ankle sprain that occurred within the past 48 hours, AND
- Not have taken any pain medication or used compression to treat your ankle sprain.

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical evaluations and study patches at no cost. Reimbursement for travel and meal expenses may also be provided.

To learn more about this local study, please contact:
Coastal Medical Research Group, Inc.
549-7570
Zachary Herrmann

Scarlett Johansson has never really been about the brighter side of this life. He champions the sort of people who (no paraphrase: one time New York Gov. Mario Cuomo) live in the gutter where the glitter don't shine. They are beaten, wrecked and miserable. But most importantly, the characters are alive.

In braving the dreaded crossover, Scarlett Johansson has dulled Waits' vivid portraits to death on “Anywhere I Lay My Head.” Her debut album features 10 Waits compositions and one original, all delivered in the same hazy sleepwalk tone.

Beyond the single songwriting credit and vocals, Johansson’s participation in the project appears to have been pretty minimal. The weight of the album rests squarely on the shoulders of producer and arranger David Sitek (TV on the Radio). Although Sitek’s work on “Anywhere” varies greatly in imagination and success, it is conceivable he could have pulled it all off with the right voice.

The entire packaging of the album raises the question: Where was Scarlett laying her head while Sitek cooked up the entire album? Johansson’s half-dead, brooding monologue loses out every time to Waits’ monster-in-the-closet whiskey growl. She never owns a second of a single track, faintly singing along to Sitek’s haunted, 80s-noir bedtime stories rather than delving into the material.

And Sitek, whether knowingly or not, returns the favor by completely burying Johansson’s lead vocals in the depths of his heavily-layered tracks. Her performances—think Sinéad O’Connor on sleeping—never make a mark.

Scarlett Johansson’s attempt to crossover into the musical world with her recently released “Anywhere I Lay My Head,” which was produced by TV on the Radio’s David Sitek, proves to be a complete flop.
not your typical basketcase

Cal Poly grad and new Daily cartoonist Kelly Ferguson is following his passion: comics.

Raiza Canelon

Being an artist runs in Kelly Ferguson's family. His grandfather and great-grandfather were painters, and Ferguson, 32, also paints, but he really makes his face light up in cartoons.

"Growing up, I loved going straight to the comic section in the newspaper and my dad used to cut out cartoons and put them on the fridge, which I really loved," Ferguson said.

Even a permanent disability and limited dexterity won't stop Ferguson from providing comics to the world. At the age of 17, a work accident left Ferguson in a wheelchair with limited motor skills.

"I used to work construction to help pay for tuition and books, and during the winter in between freshman and sophomore year, while on the job, a board was wind-blown and struck me in the C5 vertebrae and here I am. I had to relearn everything from coming to drawing," Ferguson said.

The accident left him with limited use of his arms. Ferguson can control his wrist for the most part, and uses his shoulder muscles to move his arm and hand.

"It's like using a Ouija board to draw with," Ferguson laughs.

Ferguson grew up in Bakersfield, attending high school and taking art classes through the local community college. What really propelled his desire to draw was taking an English class in high school where the students had to sketch out a cartoon of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar."

"Funny ideas just pop into my head, and I sketch as much as I can right away because I know I will kick myself if I forget it," Ferguson said.

After his accident, Ferguson started sophomore more year late, but he was determined to get back to school.

"My biggest motivation was I didn't want to get left behind," Ferguson said. "I was in rehab for five months, and it still takes me awhile to do what I want, but I just keep going."

He graduated in 2000 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

After moving to the San Diego area to become a consultant, Ferguson ultimately decided that being an artist is what he was supposed to do. He draws from home in his office by first drawing on 8.5 by 11 inch paper in pencil, then going over the work with a permanent marker. He then scans the comic into his computer before shrinking it down.

"I am completely devoted to becoming a consultant. So far I only have my wank in the Mustang Daily, but I hope to be in a national newspaper one day," Ferguson said.

On top of having a humorous column, Ferguson also has a political side and posts political cartoons on his Web site www.liberalangst.com.

"I separated my two columns about a year ago because I didn't want to alienate anyone who looked at either of my strips," Ferguson said.

Ferguson lives in Los Osos with his wife Karen, who is an interior designer. You can see more of his work at his comic every day in the Mustang Daily or just visit his Web site, www.basketcasecomics.com, to see more of his work.

Johansson sounds damn near convincing with the opening lines, "My head is spinning 'round/My leg is in my shoe," but it is considerably less so with, "I don't need anybody/Because I love to be alone."

She hits her most sincere notes on the album's lone original tune, "Song for Jo," breaks up the album's repetitive instrumentation nicely with a low acoustic hum to accompany Johansson's dressing table singing, which, at least in this case, feels appropriate. But even when Sitek pits his singer against some more intriguing backdrops, the renditions are frigid. There is no wincing pathos in the execution.

Although Johansson's passion for Waits' music is less than evident on the record, Sitek fleshes out a few interesting, though mostly atmospheric, extrapolations on the artist's work. The downstream child's music box on "I Wish I Was in New Orleans" gives a slight nod to the Tin Pan Alley Waits, though with a bit too much kitsch involved.

But elsewhere, singer and arranger completely drop the ball. Even David Bowie's presence and backing vocals cannot save the painfully slow covers of "Falling Down" and "Fanny Street."

It happens only once, but on "Green Grass," Sitek lapses into a far-too-obvious approximation of post-Swordfishtrömbronboms Waits. The direct correlation to Waits' distinct, industrial carnale sound puts the Johnson/Sitek version in a losing competition.

Aside from the wholly forgettable nature of the album, "Anywhere" could have been far worse. Sitek remolds "I Don't Wanna Grow Up" as a poignantly semi-techno farce. The song is tasteless where so many of the other tracks are simply bland or overblown.

As the album opener, "Fawn" (from the fantastic Alice) loses all the quiet mourning contained in the original, expressed by the scant, pained notes barely escaping from an injured violin. There is more sadness and longing in that 1-minute, 44-second track than anything presented on Johansson and Sitek's lifeless homage.

In Sitek's hands, "Fawn" has been multiplied by 1,000 as an army of horns storms in over the solemn organ, stamping out any opportunity for the listener to connect to any real emotion. It is an impressive arrangement, but especially when viewed in the context of the entire album, the epic treatment is at once empty and unwarranted.

Johansson's absence from the track is not entirely noticeable, either. In terms of impact, she is absent from the rest of her debut as well.

When viewed as a Sitek album, "Anywhere" is troubled, with a few brighter moments. As a tribute to the work of one of America's greatest writers, it does nothing. And as for Johansson — let us think fondly back to the peak of her singing career, in a Tokyo karaoke bar.
How some prowling cougars seduced a self-professed Ladytron fanboy

Stop what you're doing — Ladytron has a new record out. It's called "Velocifero" and honestly, you should probably just stop the rest of this and go buy it right now. I'll save you time in the long run.

Of course, you might want to take everything in this article with a shaker of salt, considering its presentation is composed by an intrepid Ladytron fanboy who followed them down the coast on the "Witching Hour" tour two years ago, seeing them twice in as many days. (There's a fine line between fans and prudes.)

This record is the logical extension of "Witching Hour" in that it moves even further away from the limits of the pristine electro-pop template that once made up the confines of the band's musical rut. Whereas early 2000's Ladytron was sparse, antiseptic and circular, the tracks of "Velocifero" are dense with instrumentation that might shock you. Besides the "flavor of the day" arrangements (bass, abrasive electronics), be on the lookout for acoustic guitar, brass horns and male vocals (obviously these things are only shocking in the context of Ladytron). To get the full experience and pick everything out, you'll need to listen at volume levels that are somewhat likely to damage your hearing on speakers that are at least reasonably new — caps and 'hipster bullshit' readers should know this by now.

The ambassador of the album (the first single and by far the poppiest song) is "Ghosts," which is hokey as all hell and features a chorus reminiscent of the before and after puzzles in "Wheel of Fortune". "There's a ghost inside me / who wants to say I'm sorry / doesn't mean I'm sorry," Helen Marnie's vocals are prominent and clash discernibly on the mix, which is the exception to the rule on "Velocifero." Whereas vocals on the single sit firmly on top of the mix (like a Fine-Salt-choked church bench), most of the album allows the vox to sink in and meld with the dingly chaos below it (like that filthy bean bag chair on your patio). Listen to "Klara" to see how great this can sound. Mira Aroyo's voice is incredible even though I understand not a single word ever the panoramic noise (the fact that she sings in Bulgarian might have something to do with this as well). I try track "Black Cat" as also in Aroyo's native tongue and also a standout.

Really, most of the songs on "Velocifero" deserve to be talked about in depth, but I'll sum this up by saying that a solid record like this should be no surprise at this point. Ladytron is a band we can safely classify as established and mature. Perhaps it bears mentioning that, as of this year, female vocalist Mari Me and Aroyo find themselves in their thirties (and thus their sexual prime). It should then only be expected that the band can usher us with the confidence and accuracy of a prowling cougar.

Jesse Bledholm is an architectural engineering senior and a business director for KCFP. San Luis Obispo, 9/3
Collin Elwyn
ORIGIN DAILY EMERALD (0.3RELS)

Considering the amount of scary movies we are forced to sit through in an average year, it's amazing to think that more don't try to use realistic situations. We've all seen supernatural thrillers that have spooked us, or religiously themed fright fests that only those who adhere to the faith can call realistic. What seems to be used an utter absurdity in the opening, and by the time the film's premise provoking almost unimpressive, the disturbing quiet of watching the hunters stand or walk. From there, it's a slow and steady descent into boredom, and even the eventual climax becomes commonplace and almost relaxing by the time the flick is only halfway over. From then on, it's a slow and steady descent into boredom, and even the eventual climax becomes commonplace and almost relaxing by the time the flick is only halfway over.

And a mess is exactly what the viewer becomes, with the music spiking, and things popping out almost exactly where you expect them to, yet still provoking a gap almost every time. Tyler has a shriek for the ages; it sends chills down your spine every time you hear it (and you hear it a lot), setting the tone for the movie's paranoid feel. For the first bit of the strangers' attack, it's all cat-and-mouse; no action ever really happens, just one scare per three minutes or so. It's enough to make you a wreck with anxious anticipation.

The problem, however, is that just after the movie has started out so well, playing its cards the right way each and every time, it starts to get content with its methods and ceases to unveil any new terror. The slow, methodic haunting of the start never goes away, and no matter how scared you want to be, it's hard to get fooled by the same trick twice (or six or seven times). The disturbing quiet of watching the hunters stand or walk, rather than run, so unsettling at first, quickly becomes commonplace and almost relaxing by the time the flick is only halfway over. From then on, it's a slow and steady descent into boredom, and even the eventual climax becomes commonplace and almost relaxing by the time the flick is only halfway over.

"The Strangers" isn't a completely bad movie, but it's certainly more bad than it is good. After a promising start, the movie slowly declines into complete worthless-ness, the maddening horror-movie logic of its protagonists proving almost unbearable at points. The fact that the film may have been killed by your own home means that it has some real staying power afterward, something that could cause the easily frightened a few sleepless nights. But such terror is a product of the film's premise, and what it ends up doing with that premise is thoroughly unimpressive.

"The Strangers" is the ultimate shark of a movie; once it stops moving, which it does well within the first hour, there's no debating that the movie you're watching just died.

Not going to be on campus tomorrow?

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‘Strangers’ one shark of a movie

"The Strangers," a new "realistic" scary movie, isn't necessarily a bad movie. But then again, it isn't exactly a good one either.
Although I am against the current war in Iraq, I have the highest level of respect and admiration for our men and women in uniform. Hearing their stories of commitment, courage and sacrifice for this country is always a humbling experience, and it makes our debt to them real and unwavering. Unfortunately, our nation's debt to our brave soldiers is long overdue, and I fear that under this pathetic excuse for a president, the debt will continue to go unpaid.

Last week during his weekly radio address to the nation, President Bush threatened to veto the tremendously popular and bipartisan bill to fund the war through the end of the fiscal year. This bill, sponsored by Sens. Jim Webb (Democrat) and Chuck Hagel (Republican) — both Vietnam veterans — would guarantee soldiers who serve at least three years in the Army four years of tuition to the best public university their state has to offer. The bill would also provide soldiers with a monthly stipend for housing and food costs. The old GI bill, enacted after World War II, to aid soldiers returning from combat, had not been properly updated to account for the rising costs of tuition and housing.

Thankfully, it appears there is enough bipartisan support in Congress to override any presidential veto (hence Bush will likely acquiesce and begrudgingly sign it). Nevertheless, President Bush's resistance to funding our soldiers' education is just another example of his administration's long history of the well-being of our troops. I am sure we all remember when Bush's former defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld was asked by a concerned soldier in 2004, "Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to armor our vehicles?" Shamefully, Mr. Rumsfeld replied, "As you know, you have to go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you want." Translation: You soldiers want armor but, 'with the Army you have, not the Army you want.'

I continue to pray this administration will fund our soldiers' needs, but given their track record so far, I am not optimistic.

Patrick Molnar is a business junior and a liberal columnist for the Mustang Daily.

administration utterly asleep at the wheel when it comes to our troops. In the case of Walter Reed, this administration was directly responsible. CNN claims the Pentagon gave $120 million of privatization contracts to run Walter Reed to a company named IAP in 2006. For those unaware, IAP is the same company that couldn't even get ice down to New Orleans to aid Hurricane Katrina victims.

Clearly, our soldiers deserve better. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are more than five years old, yet we still continue to hear stories of troops being let down by their commander in chief and his cronies. Our brave troops have served this country well, showing us the true meaning of the military motto “Semper Fi!” (Always Faithful). I continue to pray this administration will adopt the same motto and meet all of our troops’ needs, but given their track record so far, I am not optimistic.

MUSTANG DAILY

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

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MUSTANG DAILY

OPINION/EDITORIAL

March 13, 2008

EDITORIAL

have something to say?

mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

Let's hear it.

mustangdaily@gmail.com

www.mustangdaily.net
As I drove to my parents' house in the Bay Area last weekend, I couldn't help but notice huge amounts of smoke billowing in the sky near the entrance to the Santa Cruz Mountains. I could see the haze and the air smelled of smoke for the entire weekend. The Santa Cruz Mountains were engulfed in flames.

By now, the fire has been completely contained (though there is still no estimate as to when it will be extinguished) after being out of control for almost a week. It's still burning; and a "let it burn" policy has been adopted until the fire puts itself out. The blaze consumed about 4,200 acres and burned down more than 30 homes and 63 other buildings. Also, don't forget about the animals now threatened because their habitats were destroyed. Animal shelters in the Bay Area are currently overrun with animals saved from the fires.

As horrible as this is, it's all relatively small compared to the massive fires that scorched more than 246,000 acres in Southern California last year. Something must be done to stop these fires from causing so much damage.

If you ask any typical environmentalist about these wildfires, they'll be agitated about what they've been hearing from the liberal media. "Oh look," they'll say, another example of global warming! The logic of these environmentalists is that the higher temperatures make drier forests, which are more susceptible to fire. They're so busy blaming global warming (and its average annual global temperature increase of 1°F) that they don't realize their lobbying against logging and forest-thinning is much more to blame for this devastation.

In order to protect our forests from these fires, a few actions must take place. First, the forest overstory (the uppermost part) must be thinned out. The underbrush must be cleared out to decrease surface fuels. Both of these actions dramatically reduce the forest fuels that can lead to an out-of-control fire. What also helps is a little bit of logging since forests are actually showing an increase in trees per square mile. This increase in density makes forest thinning more and more necessary. These fire prevention tactics were credited in saving the town of Lake Arrowhead from destruction last October as wildfires destroyed the neighboring towns. The U.S. Forest Service had been at work in the area to decrease forest fuels and create fuel breaks. The only damage to Lake Arrowhead was to private properties not covered by the Forest Service. The hardest hit towns by that fire didn't have fuel breaks, and hundreds of homes burned to the ground.

Every year, the Forest Service submits hundreds of proposals for forest thinning and fuel breaks to the General Accounting Office for review. About half of these are subject to appeal, and of those, 39 percent are appealed by special interest groups like the Sierra Club and the Alliance for Wild Rockies. These appeals succeed in delaying the thinning of 900,000 acres of forests, all of which are then at risk of becoming more Santa Cruz or Southern California catastrophes.

Officials for the Forest Service say they spend half their time dealing with these appeals and $2.5 billion a year fighting the litigation launched by delusional environmentalists.

To try to all of this into global warming, a fire the size of those in Southern California emits more than 38 million tons of greenhouse gases. To put that in perspective, that's the amount 7 million cars emit over the course of a year. Opps. Perhaps the environmentalists should decide which they really care about: more of our forests or their own selfish special interests.

Jennifer Gómez is a microbiology senior and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

Obsessing over how to dress?

They say dress to impress, and that your outward appearance is a reflection of your inward self. They also say it's what you wear that counts, and you can't judge a book by its cover. But you like your fuzzy, blue cow-print pajamas and your comfort zone; shouldn't you cater to the world or should you dress to please yourself? Also, the clothing conundrum has been created, filled with gray areas and dirty outs. But there are some rules to follow.

Here is my theory: We don't all have the time, money or desire to meet societal standards of dress, but there are a few times when dressing matters. Dress how you please in all settings that are always accepting of you. But there are a few times when you should dress to please yourself (and for those who are pleased by societal clothing standards, you've read too far), there are times when it pays to dress to the satisfaction of others, despite Dr. Seuss' best advice.

Shannon Brown is a journalism junior and a reporter for the Mustang Daily.

Hello! I really enjoyed this article. As a former Mustang cheerleader whose last appearance happened to be the "ubiqui-

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As a former Mustang cheerleader whose last appearance happened to be the "ubiqui-
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

I HAVE A BOYFRIEND
NO, YOU DON'T! YOU JUST SAY THAT TO GET RID OF ME

WELL, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE! YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER THAN THAT!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, THE "BOYFRIEND" BIT WILL JUST DO IT FINE

Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0423

Across
1 Low pitch symbol
2 Prepares for a physical exam
3 Pittsburgh Dr.
4 "Bill" Moyer's "Jamer"
5 "Rapten's" gr.
6 Archer who aims for the heart
7 Pinball game accessory
8 "Lost in ___"
9 Fine spray
10 "I'm so bored"
12 Prognostication
13 LP player
14 Where the action is
15 Not the whole thing
16 "Say what?"
17 Mercury
18 Spit
19 In the past
20 Where to spend
21 Where the action is
22 "I ain't buyin' it!"
23 Engage
24 Big burden
25 "I'm so bored"
26 "I ain't buyin' it!"
27 Bear in Btbbio
28 "I ain't buyin' it!"
29 Tower-top attraction
30 "I ain't buyin' it!"
31 Working the desk, say
32 "I ain't buyin' it!"
33 "I ain't buyin' it!"
34 "I ain't buyin' it!"
35 "I ain't buyin' it!"
36 Bear, in Bitbbio
37 Chicago-to-Pittsburgh dr.
38 Are, but not much
40 "Bill" Moyer's "Jamer"
41 Hawks' and Rapten's gr.
42 Legis. meeting
43 Sheriff Andy Taylor's kid
44 Hawks' and Rapten's gr.
45 Archer who aims for the heart
46 sheriff Andy Taylor's Kid
47 Part of the Kaisekian landscape
48 "I ain't buyin' it!"
49 Neil Simon's play
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51 Fine spray
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58 "I ain't buyin' it!"
59 Barracks boss, Abbr.
60 Easily set off, as a temper
61 "I ain't buyin' it!"
62 M.A. hopeful's designation
63 "I ain't buyin' it!"
64 Pikes, e.g.: Abbr.

Down
1 Help page rubric
2 Premier airline
3 Grass skirt
4 "I ain't buyin' it!"
5 "I ain't buyin' it!"
6 English word with a temper
7 Pinball game stoppers
8 "I ain't buyin' it!"
9 Strands after a blizzard
10 Free use of a car, say
11 "I ain't buyin' it!"
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38 "I ain't buyin' it!"
39 Weather map line
41 Word with early or witty
42 Legs. meeting
43 "La Belle et la"
44 "I ain't buyin' it!"
45 "I ain't buyin' it!"
46 "I ain't buyin' it!"
47 Soap alternative
48 State trees of Texas
49 Neil Simon's play
50 "I ain't buyin' it!"
51 It has a test of feeling
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57 "I ain't buyin' it!"
58 Pikes, e.g.: Abbr.
59 Barracks boss, Abbr.
60 Easily set off, as a temper
61 Elected group
62 M.A. hopeful's designation
63 Suff with election
64 "I ain't buyin' it!"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

WE'RE LISTENING

Send your opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to
mustgndailyopinions@gmail.com

All published letters must include author's name, year and opaque and are subject to editing for grammatical style and spelling.

Kung Pow Panda

Daily Dots

Basket Case by Kelly Ferguson

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Send your opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to
mustgndailyopinions@gmail.com

All published letters must include author's name, year and opaque and are subject to editing for grammatical style and spelling.

Kung Pow Panda
Football

practiced at their workout facility in El Segundo Cafè, on Monday. "It's good for both of us to be here. He's a great guy.

Pierce had his own problems. The Celtics had been accumulating young talent like Al Jefferson, Delonte West, Ray Goodin, Ryan Romans and Kendrick Perkins, but they had few wins — 24, to be ex-

act — to show for it. "We've got to show for it.

"Whenever you play a team also on your level, another CSU school, a lot of guys here were also recruited by Sys State," he says. "So there's go-

ing to be a lot of competition there. I think both teams would want to play each other because travel costs can be so much more than just driv-

ing up the I-5 to get to the game."

Come says based on conversations with the Hornets' administration and coaching staff, in the long term, Sacramento State "absolutely" is in-

terested in playing Cal Poly.

"I think it should be soon," Come says. "I anticipate it'll be a year or

two and they'll play us again. There are so few of us in West, we really need to play each other."

Dowser, A is a janitor supervisor and a Mustang Daily sports editor and columnist.

Finals

scrutinizing their own prospects and sta-

"Let us take it one game at a time, a game at a time, and start after finals. Per-

Rodman, Garnett, Pierce and Odom. They obviously went out and made the right deals. So my hat goes off to them."

"When we get a competitor, man, the one thing you want is a chance. They obviously went out and made the right deals. So my hat goes off to them."

Andrew Garnett, Cal Poly's ju-

nior-to-be kicker and a Davis native, agreed about the rivalry's place.

" whenever you play a team also on your level, another Mustang Daily sports ed it or and columnist.

In addition to finalsReporter and editor and columnist.

"Whenever you play a team also on your level, another Mustang Daily sports ed it or and columnist.
Bertoni shoots a 134, qualifies for U.S. Open

Mustang Daily Staff Report

Former Cal Poly golfer Travis Bertoni qualified Monday for the U.S. Open by carding back-to-back rounds of 67 in the Tennessee Sectional at the Cordova Country Club in Cordova, Tenn.

The Paso Robles High alumnus shot a 10-under-par 134 total on the 6,305-yard, par-72 layout to finish in a sixth-place tie. Bertoni, twice bestowed PING All-Pacific Region Team honors by the Golf Coaches Association of America, led Cal Poly to its first conference crown in 2005, when he won the individual title. In 2006, he was second individually.

He took the local qualifier by one stroke May 12 by shooting a 66 at the Madisonville Golf and Country Club in Madisonville, Ky.

The U.S. Open will be held June 12 to June 15 at Torrey Pines in San Diego.