Saudi contract signed
Finalization pending JUC ink

University administrators discussed the controversial faculty exchange program between Cal Poly and Jubail University College at an April 24 forum. The deal is now pending finalization from the Saudi side.

Whitney Diaz-Mustang Daily

Although Cal Poly signed the contract that would essentially develop and implement a new engineering program between Cal Poly and Jubail University College (JUC) in Saudi Arabia, nothing has been finalized and the contract still remains private.

Cal Poly signed the controversial contract in early July, but still awaits for JUC to sign its portion, said Susan Opera-Stitzer, dean of Research and Graduate Programs, in an interview last week.

She added that the signed contract was verified as arriving at JUC July 50 by the mail carrier used by Cal Poly, and that JUC's response was expected by now. The five-year contract would bring $3.9 million to the state university.

"One of the options for (JUC) is to ask Cal Poly to get someone to teach the classes, but if that happens, then there would be issues in regard to their rather strict culture of men teaching men and women teaching women in the classroom," said Sullivan, who added that he has seen the contract.

"I don't visualize there would be any difference in the contract, but if they do ask for teaching assistance from Cal Poly, then we would have to respect their customs," he added.

A thousand coming to Poly to talk green

Chelsea Bieker-Mustang Daily

The seventh annual UC/CSU/CCE Sustainability Conference will be held at Cal Poly this weekend, the first time the conference will be hosted by a California State University. The conference includes representatives from all three public higher education systems in California: the University of California, California State University (CSU) and California Community College (CCC) systems.

Cal Poly will welcome approximately 1,000 students, faculty and administrators interested in learning new techniques for improving sustainability on college campuses.

"The conference will include speakers, workshops, a student sustainability competition, and an exhibit. The focus is on preparing students for "green-collar" jobs and the application of new energy-efficient techniques," said Margot McDonald, the chief conference planner, and said the conference is about learning the best practices for sustainability in terms of campus operations, administration, and curricula, as well as applying sustainability techniques to unexpected areas of education such as the arts.

"We think of (sustainability) as technology, those are the easy ones to understand," McDonald said. "What is less obvious are the social aspects of sustainability and the cultural aspects. One of the goals is to illustrate that it touches every aspect."

McDonald also said the theme of the conference is "putting sustainability to work," and she stressed that students and faculty present a united front by learning necessary techniques to produce urban Los Angeles.

The debut of the incredible, edible wall

Breehan Yoho-Mellor-Mustang Daily

Low-income residents of Los Angeles's Skid Row can now thank a group of dedicated Cal Poly students for an endless supply of garden-fresh vegetables available literally right outside their doors in the form of an "edible wall."

In collaboration with the international group Urban Farming and a company called Green Living Technologies, Cal Poly students spent the last three months growing the plants that are now encased in 180 steel panels filled with soil. The panels will soon be mounted on select urban walls in Los Angeles as a vertical garden.

The tomatillos, tomatoes, onions, leeks, basil, peppers, strawberries, marigolds and cucumbers grown will be available free of cost to those in need at each of the four locations.

"Our mission is to end hunger in our generation," Joyce Lapinsky said of Urban Farming's goals. "We named it the Urban Farming Food Chain and we named it that specifically to have these walls linked by intention and design and we're going to replicate these through-out the world."

Lapinsky, who is the program development consultant for Urban Farming, said that although the group has created many gardens in metropolitan areas, this is the first time they have decided to use wall space.

"Cal Poly raised its hand and offered its services to do this and grow our first walls," Lapinsky said. "We encourage growing food anywhere there's a healthy environment. So this is another option for people."

George Irwin, CEO of Green Living Technologies and creator of the edible wall idea, praised Cal Poly for its dedication.

"This is by far, the best team effort in my business yet," Irwin said, adding that he had his son and daughter children to thank for the idea of edible walls.

"My son and my daughter came to me about three years ago and they wanted to plant lettuce in daddy's wall and from lettuce we graduated and tried beans," Irwin said. "Then we started doing more some complicated crops and here we are. One key component of our business model is social responsibility and that means going beyond writing a check. That means going out there and physically working, physically doing."

Irwin, who himself installed brackets into the walls, said that the project also helps to stimulate the local economy. Instead of taking the money back to Rochester, New York where his company is based, the produce to urban Los Angeles.
located, he has local gardeners to maintain the walls in locations all over the country. "That was the start of it because... landscaping is like being an artist," Irwin said. "Except my medium is different: textures, colors, flowers and more importantly, the idea with the garden walls is that we're doing something good for people that are less fortunate than we are." But of course, all of this could happen in Skid Row, the Cal Poly students were there to make sure the vegetables had a healthy environment.

"One of the challenges has been trying to get people interested in the project. It's been quite a challenge, but I think we're making progress," Irwin said. "We've got over 500 people on our waiting list to help out. And we're not even close to being done yet."

One of the most difficult aspects of the project has been maintaining the walls. The students have to water the plants, keep them healthy and make sure they're growing properly. The project has been a great way to teach the students about sustainability and how important it is to take care of the environment.

Despite the challenges, the students are excited about the project and are looking forward to seeing it continue to grow.

"It's been a very fruitful experience," Webster said. "It's been really interesting. It's a lot of fun to be out there working on the project and seeing all of the progress we're making."

The project has also helped to bring the community together. "We've had a lot of community involvement," Webster said. "We've had a lot of people come out and help with the project. It's been a real team effort."

The students are planning to continue the project for as long as possible. "We're hoping to make this a permanent part of Skid Row," Webster said. "We're hoping to make it a permanent part of the community."

"It's been a very rewarding experience,"Smith said. "It's been a lot of fun to be out there working on the project and seeing all of the progress we're making."
Israeli PM to resign, will not run in party primary election

Mark Lavie
Associated Press

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert speaking at his Jerusalem residence, Wednesday, to announce he will resign in September, throwing his country into political turmoil in a move that could stall U.S.-backed Middle East peace efforts.

AURORA, Colo. (AP) — John McCain’s presidential campaign on Wednesday released a withering television ad comparing Barack Obama to Britney Spears and Paris Hilton, suggesting the Democratic contender is little more than a vapid but wide- ly recognized media sensation.

Obama’s campaign quickly re- sponded with a commercial of its own, dismissing McCain’s complaints as “baloney” and “bure- lousy.”

CANEY, Kan. (AP) — Three tiger cubs, born Sunday at a Kan- san zoo, were given maternal care from Isabella, a golden retriever. When the mother stopped car- ing, Isabella stepped in after just weaning her own puppies.

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Police believe a body found in a small-time evangelist’s home freezer is his wife and a mother of eight, and arrested him on a murder charge as he preached at a south Alabama church.

Anthony Hopkins, 37, was be- ing held in the Mobile County jail Wednesday awaiting a bond hear- ing and appointment of an attor- ney.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The salmonella strain linked to a nationwide outbreak has been found in irrigation water and in a sample from a batch of serrano peppers at a Mexican farm, federal health officials said Wednesday.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush approved an or- der Wednesday that rewrites the rules governing spying by U.S. intelligence agencies, both in the United States and abroad, and strengthens the authority of the national intelligence director, ac- cording to a U.S. official and gov- ernment documents.

ATLANTA (AP) — Flight attendants discovered the body of a 61-year-old woman in the rest- room of a plane shortly before the flight landed in Atlanta Wednesday morning, a spokeswoman for the airline said.

It was unclear how Michelle O’Neil Carbuchan died, and how long she was in the restroom.

Did You Know that Sexual Conduct, Even with a Condom, Can Spread the Virus that Causes Genital Warts?

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In this undated composite image provided by the Delft University of Technology, Netherlands, Wednesday, a hidden portrait under the Vincent van Gogh painting “Patch of Grass” from 1887, is seen.

Scientists reveal hidden images in Van Gogh portrait

Anrica Deb
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A team of European scientists unveiled on Wednesday a new method for extracting images hidden under old masters' paintings, recreating a color portrait of a woman's face unseen since Vincent van Gogh painted it over in 1887.

For years, art historians have been using X-rays to probe artworks hidden underneath other paintings, a technique resulting in a fuzzy, black-and-white image. But Jorn Dik, a materials scientist from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, combined science and art to engineer a new method of visualizing hidden paintings using intensity X-rays and an intimate knowledge of old pigments.

Dik and Janssens used high-intensity X-rays from a particle accelerator in Maastricht, Germany to compile a two-dimensional map of the metallic paints on the painting beneath “Patch of Grass,” which is part of the large Van Gogh collection in the Kröller-Müller Museum in the Netherlands.

Knowing that mercury atoms were part of a yellow pigment, they were able to chart those colors in the underlying image.

“We visualized — in great detail — the nose, the eyes, according to those colors in the underlying image,” Dik said. Scanning a roughly 7-inch square of the larger portrait took two full days.

Though his paintings are now worth millions, Van Gogh was virtually unknown during his lifetime and struggled financially before committing suicide in 1889. He often reused canvases to save money, either painting over the back or over the top of existing paintings, and experts believe roughly a third of his works hide a second painting underneath.

The painting under “Patch of Grass” is thought to be “Potato Eaters,” a small oil study of a field that Van Gogh painted in Paris while living with his brother Theo, who supported him. While not in exact detail, the image produced was a woman’s head that may be the same model Van Gogh painted in a series of portraits leading up to the 1885 masterpiece “The Potato Eaters.”

The new method will allow art historians to obtain higher quality and more detailed images underlying old masterpieces. In Van Gogh’s case, it could reveal details of works that were painted over. For other works, it could provide new insights into the studies that the artist built a painting on.

Dik and Janssens used high-intensity X-rays from a particle accelerator in Hamburg, Germany to compile a two-dimensional map of the metallic paints on the painting beneath “Patch of Grass,” which is part of the large Van Gogh collection in the Kröller-Müller Museum in the Netherlands.

Knowledge of mercury atoms were part of a red pigment and the antimony atoms were part of a yellow pigment, they were able to chart those colors in the underlying image.

“We were enthusiastic about the peace process, and he spoke about this process with great attention, but this process has not achieved any progress or breakthrough,” Alpher said. While neither the Palestinians nor Syria would be eager to close a deal with a lame-duck leader, the prospect of Netanyahu lurking in the wings could propel them forward despite the fluid political situation.

White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe said President Bush called Olmert to pledge continued cooperation.

Israel's labyrinthine political system is weighted against a quick interim Kadima resolution to the crisis — with hard-line ex-premier Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud waiting to take advantage.

Netanyahu opposes most concessions to the Palestinians and Syrians suggested by Olmert. Olmert's Kadima Party has only 26 seats in the 120-member parliament, and his successor must patch together a coalition with a majority.

Olmert's main partner, Labor, is headed by another ex-premier, Ehud Barak, who would like his old job back and may be more comfortable fording an election than playing second fiddle to Livni.

Barak, currently Israel's defense minister, supported Olmert's decision and left open the possibility that he might seek to replace him.

"We will assist every opportunity to move forward," Barak said during a visit to the United Nations.

Israel's political analyst Yossi Alpher said Olmert's resignation would at least slow the process. "The Arabs are asking themselves how useful an agreement with Olmert would be, because he is a self-proclaimed lame duck and he will have a hard time to get his deals approved," Alpher said.

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With cameras all over, SoCal earthquake was a star

John Rogers
Associated Press

When it came time to shout, "Action!" the earthquake was ready for its close-up.

In an age when cell-phone cameras seem to be mounted on almost everyone's belt, it stood to reason that even a natural phenomenon couldn't escape leaving its every movement recorded in real time and down-loaded almost instantaneously onto the Internet — just like one of Lindsay Lohan's car crashes.

In the case of Tuesday's 3.4 temblor, it also didn't hurt that it rattled the heart of L.A. Land, where cameras were rolling all around towns, recording one reality show after another.

Thus we see "Judge Judy" Judy Shendallis scram-bling from the courtroom set of her show, leaving a frightened looking plaintiff and defendant behind to fend for themselves. Over at the set of "Family Court With Judge Penny," Penny Brown Reynolds dove under her desk while gallery spectators dashed for the door.

At CBS' "Big Brother" house, a few of the residents appeared to be napping when they were startled awake with a dose of earthquake-style reality at 11:42 a.m.

"Oh my God, this is so scary," shouts one while another from the rest of the house's residents, telling them to get outside. At that particular moment it appeared none would have minded that much if they were the house's next big love — as long as they were sent back home to some place there are no earthquakes.

Then there were the surveillance recordings taken from hidden cameras mounted all over Southern California. They showed people running out of stores as everything from bottles of booze to bicycles crashed to the floor.

"I am the gentleman with the short hair at the bottom of the screen wearing the red shirt, one of the people who had to handle over the bike that was dropped in the middle of the floor," Bryce Dupriest, a mechanic at the Int'l Bicycle shop in San Dimas, said by phone Wednesday.

He was describing the store's widely-viewed surveillance video of nearly a dozen people racing out the back door as the quake sends rows of bikes and shelves full of accessories toppling to the floor.

"If it had sounded it would have been funny," Dupriest said of the video. "What starts the mad dash is the boss running out the back and yelling to get out.

"Are you accustomed to earthquakes in California?"

Compiled and photographed by Canas Frank

"I've only been in two earthquakes ever. They were really small. In '89 I was just born so I don't remember it. They kinda happen around me but not to me."

Robert Possagno, graphic communication junior

"I've only been here since I started school, so I'm not used to them at all. I don't know what I'd do if there was an earthquake. I just haven't been around them very long."

Ashley Hart, environmental engineer-junior

"Probably not too accustomed, I've lived in California all my life but they always happen somewhere else. My parents called (Tuesday) and were like, 'We just had a good shake'. Everyone's fine but it scares me."

Megan Evans, mathematics junior

"I live on the Hayward Fault, so (we) get 'em and they're pretty small, something on the shelf will be shaking around. But, you never really get a big one and if you do it's only last like a minute."

Travis Appar, earth science junior

FRESNO (AP) — The main source of highlands near Yosemite National Park reopened Wednesday after firefighters kept flames from leaping across a steep river canyon and drawing perilously near the park.

The blaze is now 40 percent contained and has charred about 50 square miles of dry brush and oak woodlands. 

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A man was arrested on charges of stabbing his 8-year-old cousin and pleaded not guilty. The boy made his plea Wednesday to murder and attempted murder charges in Compton juvenile court.

SOUTHCOM (AP) — A man recently released from prison pleading no contest to his alleged role in vandalizing a pair of West Oakland liquor stores that was selling alcohol to African-Americans.

Authorities say 22-year-old Yaudley IV was one of 11 Black men dressed in suits and bow ties who were caught on camera smashing liquor bottles and toppling food racks in 2005.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Officials from celeb escapers are convening Thursday for the first time to discuss ways to combat身亡 lots, whose tactics have grown more aggressive and confrontational in the past few years.

COMPTON (AP) — A 13-month-old boy was rushed to a hospital after falling on a 3-year-old cousin who pleaded not guilty. The boy made his plea Wednesday to murder and attempted murder charges in Compton juvenile court.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A San Francisco judge has refused to impose a gag order in the triple-murder case of a man accused of fatally shooting a father and his two sons.

Judge Lucy Kelly McCabe ruled Wednesday that media coverage of 21-year-old Edwin Ramos' case has not uncompromised his right to a fair trial.

Authorities say Ramos gunned down 48-year-old Tony Bologna and his sons, 20-year-old Michael and 16-year-old Matthew at an intersection on June 22.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Drug company Abbott Laboratories says it will pay between $16 million to $27.5 million to settle an antitrust lawsuit filed by AIDS patients over the company's 40 percent price hike of an HIV drug.
A war is fought in large part by a company of hired mercenaries in the Middle East for a government that is unable to explain its motives completely. Sound familiar?

This isn't the story of the American landscape today, but of John Cusack's latest comedy, "War, Inc." 

The film follows Cusack as Brand Hauser, a hitman who is working for the former American vice president (Dan Aykroyd), who is also the head of a private corporation that creates war-for-profit scenarios to stay afloat. Aykroyd informs Cusack that he must journey to "Turakistan," a country that his corporation has occupied, in order to murder an influential politician.

Cusack's cover is in the role of a weapon trade show producer with Joan Cusack returning opposite her brother as his pet-portal assistant.

The film features a stellar cast. Marisa Tomei plays a journalist reporting against the tradeshow. Hillary Duff turns in one of the better roles of her young career as Yonica Babyyeah, a misunderstood Britney Spears-esque pop star. Ben Kingsley co-stars as Hauser's mentor. Even talk-show host Montel Williams makes a cameo as Hauser's only confidant, an artificially intelligent computer navigation system called Gudee.

While the film has many over-the-top scenes including tanks rolling through the streets of Turakistan with advertisements plastered all over them, it is intended to hammer home the point that war has become nothing more than a way for corporations to profit.

Be assured that with a cast including comedic giants such as Cusack and Aykroyd, there is a lot of humor. "War, Inc." does not fail to produce a few laugh-out-loud moments.

There are many similarities to the current situation in Iraq, including Aykroyd's character parodying Dick Cheney and Halliburton, but it is hard to make a serious comparison due to the amount of farce in the film. There is a scene in which many civilians are killed by the corporate soldiers that evokes memories of the Blackwater scandal of last year. But the scene, which should have been poignant, seems overdone in the context of the film.

The film's light feel does no justice to the points it tries to convey. However, if viewers watch the comedy with an open mind and resist the urge to make the political connections, they should find it an enjoyable experience.
The Garden’s Kitchen Cooking Studio in San Luis Obispo will open its doors to the public in a grand opening doubling as a charity fundraiser Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Ashleigh Hutchison, the kitchen’s owner and operator, said she came up with the concept of the studio after having lived in, and been exposed to, the food culture of San Francisco and Hawaii.

After teaching private cooking lessons in people’s homes and catering events at local wineries, she realized a demand for this type of business.

“It’s just a really neat scene that we have on the Central Coast that has food and wine as a part of culture,” Hutchison said. “So I wanted to kinda do something different and I’d come up with the idea of opening a cooking studio where we could create what is really just going to be a hands on area that allows people to come in and learn how to cook something, but is still in a very informal setting.”

The open house will feature cooking demonstrations, wine pouring and a raffle to benefit Transitions Mental Health Association, a local nonprofit agency devoted to helping at-risk youth and disabled adults. There will also be live music and, of course, food for visitors to enjoy.

The studio, located at 710 Fern Lane, has already seen action in its newly-remodeled location in a converted warehouse, providing much more space than an ordinary kitchen.

“We’re really open to interpretation,” Hutchison said. “There’s so much that can be done there. It’s a 1,200 square foot space. The kitchen’s huge.”

Theme nights, including couples’ night, girls’ night, guys’ night and kids’ cooking lessons will be held in September and October.

“It’s just fun,” she said. “We can probably have five or six people in the kitchen at a time.”

Since the studio has already been open for lessons, Hutchison said she sees Saturday’s event as an opportunity to give back to the community for her success.

Hutchison met representatives of Transitions while taking part as a vendor in another event, the June 7 SLO Wine and Grill Affair.

“When she (Hutchison) decided to hold her grand opening she offered to use part of it as a fundraiser for Transitions. Of course we were just thrilled and delighted and very grateful,” said Hannah Brown, a Transitions staff member.

“Any private donations are certainly appreciated right now,” she said. “The administrative costs of our programs are well under 10 percent, so people who donate can be confident knowing that the vast majority of what they donate goes directly to client services.”

For a suggested $20 donation, attendees will receive a commemorative wine glass and five raffle tickets for a chance to win a range of items and services.

“Those who win the raffle are going to get some really great prizes,” Brown continued. “There’s massage packages and there’s also catering and wine and so on.”

Other prizes include plants from the program’s nursery that specializes in native flora, as well as gift certificates and products donated by merchants from around the county.

“I’m just really excited about it. I’m really excited at the opportunity to have this extension of myself and be able to share it with everybody,” Hutchison said.
Scully and Mulder return in ‘X-Files’ movie not worth believing in

Kara Koloini

Six years after the cult favorite sci-fi series wrapped its final episode, and nearly a decade since the first “X-Files” movie directed by series writer Rob Bowman, the show’s creator Chris Carter has returned to direct an undeniably overwhelming follow-up film that never quite seems to get its feet off the ground, nor explain why it merits the status of a theatrical presentation.

In “The X-Files: I Want to Believe,” David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise the roles that launched their careers to A-list status in the ’90s, FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dr. Dana Scully, responsible for investigating the paranormal activities and bizarre cases filling the unshowed “X-Files.”

The film opens to the realization that since our last encounter with the pair, they have gone their separate ways. Mulder retiring himself to isolation, obsessively collecting information and random tidbits about the strange occurrences he once investigated, and Scully practicing at the eerily named Our Lady of Sorrow hospital.

This presents the first of Carter’s many miscalculations and inevitable disappointments—the dramatic, extended lead-up to the audience’s first meeting with Mulder is so intense that his entrance, with a heavily bearded face and tired eyes, proves to be anticlimactic at best.

The painfully thin Amanda Peet and overly effusive Alen Bonner (aka rapid Xerox) join the cast, acting as FBI agents who recruit Scully to aid them in recovering a missing colleague, while encouraging her to find and reunite with Mulder for additional help.

The chemistry between Mulder and Scully is still understatedly strong and beautifully acted, with the two seamlessly returning to drawn-out eye locks and passionate exchanges (including Scully’s declarations that she won’t return to “chasing monsters in the dark”). However, beyond their relationship, the two seem entirely apathetic, indifferent to former co-workers, touchy topics like the child Scully reluctantly and regretfully gave up for adoption, and even the mysteries they’re researching, one that was supposedly major enough to bring them out of retirement and back together.

Billy Connolly co-stars as the enigma at the center of this mystery, a former priest, possibly a pedophile, possibly a messenger of God, possibly psychotic, definitely creepy. Despite a solid performance from Connolly, the uneven puzzle his character propels forward could be to blame for the majority of awkwardly unfolding scenes and timing.

Unlike the highly revered and awarded series, where cases and experiences often seemed less complex than their resolutions revealed them to be, the film introduces a myriad of alternatively disturbing and suspenseful clues, only to leave most of them unexplained, or chalked up to what seems to be little more than an unbelievable coincidence tale.

Essentially, presenting plot twists that are far from believable is the film’s issue. Aside from invoking such cliché tropes with the extended title, meant to be a throwback to a poster Mulder hung in his office during the original series, Carter seems to have lost sight of the magic that made the show great to begin with. Film history has proven that show-to-movie adaptations are always difficult, and Carter’s decision to write a plot that could play out without an extensive knowledge base of the show may have been his downfall.

In “X-Files: I Want to Believe,” the film never feels like anything more than a superseded episode, and even in that capacity, it’s weak. While the reunion with Mulder and Scully was marginally enjoyable, the writing did neither the actors nor the groundbreaking series justice. The only thing I’m left believing is that “The X-Files” are better left in television history.

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THE PALM THEATRE

You deserve a break.

Fair weekend usually marks the smallest turnout for Concerts in the Plaza but, according to events coordinator Christy Tiaga, an estimated 2,500 to 2,500 music lovers gathered at the San Luis Obispo Mission to rock out with Trea Tates.

Check out sights and sounds from today’s show at mustangdaily.net.

You deserve a break.
LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM... SORTA

Becky Hammon wanted to play basketball for her country at the Olympic Games, but her country didn’t want her. So Hammon did the next best thing: she joined a new country. It just so happens that the two countries have quite a checkered past.

Hammon, who was born and raised in South Dakota, will play under the Russian flag in the Olympics this summer, sparking a trend that has disturbed many and influenced people to name her a traitor.

Los Angeles Clippers center Chris Kaman was raised in Michigan. He will take to the Beijing court in a German uniform opposite new German teammate and NBA rival Dirk Nowitzki.

Hammon seems to take the brunt of the scrutinizing, however. Living in Russia during the WNBA offseason to play in a Russian league, Hammon was fast-tracked to citizenship due to league rules allowing limited international roster spots.

After being snubbed by the American Olympic team for the second time, Hammon decided she would follow her Olympic dreams to the Russian national team. The American national team coach Anne Donovan was the first to publicly label Hammon a traitor, saying, “If you play in this country, live in this country, and you grow up in the heartland, and you put on a Russian uniform, you aren’t a patriotic person.

Donovan does not make any mention that Hammon actually spends more time in Russia than in the United States, nor that she makes more money playing abroad than she does in the WNBA.

While Donovan does not agree with Hammon’s decision, I question Donovan’s decision to not invite the WNBA MVP runner-up to the first round of practice for the team. Hammon was not one of the 23 initial players selected for the roster. That is akin to Chris Paul, who finished runner-up to Kobe Bryant, being thought of as not good enough to make its first list of hopefu­lful.

Eventually the list was expanded to 30 names and Hammon was added to it just days before the first tryout, but by that time the insult was too great.

While Hammon has no genetic connection to Russia, Kaman’s grandparents were both native Germans. Perhaps that is why he has gotten a virtual pass from the media and analysts.

If someone dreams of playing Olympic basketball, should the country they represent be such an important aspect? Or should playing on the highest level against the best the world has to offer be good enough?

Playing at the level of competition that these athletes do, one would suspect that it is the competition they crave, and not the glory for their home country. To be the best in the world, one must mean that you are already the best in your country, no matter what country it is.

Still, one has to wonder if the fact that Hammon is playing for Russia and not any other country has something to do with the backlash she is getting.

In an interview with the Houston Chronicle in June she said, “I don’t think people would be as upset if I was playing for Switzerland. God loves Russia just as much as God loves America.”

Scott Silvey is a journalism senior, Mustang Daily reporter and assistant sports editor.

ELEANOR MILL, SENIOR

CAL POLY-JUC ENGINEERING DEAL

CAL POLY, JUC ENGINEERING DEAL

WEB MAIL

Responses to guest commentary “Should read fine print before signing with Saudis” by Unny Menon:

How different is this than signing a nuclear contract with Iran? You would have to be crazy to enter into any contract with any Muslim nation. History shows that they almost always lie and betray their “friends.” We are all a bunch of suckheads in their eyes and they just can’t wait to get rid of us. Cal Poly, reconsider.

— Dave

FINALLY. Sanity in this debate. I read this piece with hope that it could change the way President Baker and Dean Noon and Provost Durr see this deal. Then I got to the end and read the editor’s note. This is a sad day for Cal Poly.

— David Marx

No one is surprised that Warren Baker would push this deal through during the summer months when they think no one is looking. This is the way things have always happened at Cal Poly.

Big questions remain. One of the obvious is who is “fronting” the expenses in this deal? Will we ever know? I could make an educated guess — the Saudis are not known for taking risks in this manner.

I hope everyone gets to see the showing of “Indoctrinate U” later on this year — starting some of Cal Poly’s administration’s “he­roes.” It never ends. I wonder when Baker will step aside for — hopefully — someone who the faculty and the students and the community can respect. That’s “change I can believe in!”

— Roger Finken

What are our values here? Do we even care about money and knowledge outweigh human rights, diversity and ethics? As a staff member, student, and member of the adjunct pool of Cal Poly, I was both ashamed and angered when I read this article. Do the valid concerns of the Cal Poly community matter that little? Is the “learn by doing” philosophy once again reduced to “this is what we tell you to do, you learn from it!”

On the College of Engineer­ing Web site, in “A Mammal With the Drant,” Mohammed Noorii wrote that our Society of Women Engineers was the largest women’s student chapter in the nation — has been “Best in the U.S.” for free years, I do not know Noorii’s history but I do know his present: male and economically and educationally privileged.

I would ask all those involved in this decision to take a moment and walk in the shoes of those who are not as privileged as themselves and understand the consequences. Saudi Arabia is a human rights offender; to women, men, gay, Jews and other religious views, and that is not mentioning the links to terrorism and energy manipulation. However, they are a rich country and as such have riches for those who do business with them — not just 30 pieces of silver but 30 pieces of gold.

This timing, “learn by doing” needs to show that we value human rights and that as an institution we do not align ourselves with those who disregard them. We need to set an example to our staff, faculty and most important­ly, our students. They can have a voice without fear of retaliation and their voices are valued.

With $91 million in donations this year and $10 million pledged just this week because of our “learn by doing” philosophy, Cal Poly does not need these 30 pieces of gold, we need our integ­rity and our moral compass to stand for human rights and diversity.

— Felix Contreras-Littfeld

To read the original commentary, go to http://tinyurl.com/ComPolyJUC.

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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

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Hey, we've got a real news feed too.
NBA
continued from page 12
which entailed randomly flipping through Peterson's Guide to American Colleges, where he discovered the Stockton campus, with which he became—obviously, in retrospect—a No. 1 overall pick.
Could Brown put the Big West back on the NBA map?
"They would say the Big West isn't the toughest competition, that you couldn't do it against the bigger schools." Brown says of critics during the draft-evaluation process. "But I think we showed we could compete at any level."
He says watching his former teammates' run to the field of 64 last season not only put him at peace with his decision to leave college, but carried forward his senior campaign on the court this year. "I chose Free Checking...

with REAL OVERDRAFT PROTECTION
and said 'Goodbye' to High Fees.

SESLOC Free Checking Gives Me
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I think we showed we could compete at any level."
Big West's new king

Former Mustangs, NFL teams open training camps

Cal Poly roller hockey club prepares for tryouts