Poly grad brings home gold
Brown Trafton first to claim U.S. gold in women's discus since 1932

Cal Poly alumna Stephanie Brown Trafton celebrates her surprise win with a U.S. flag at the National Stadium in Beijing after bringing home the Olympic gold for the U.S. on Monday in women's discus.

SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY FROM THE OLYMPICS

BEIJING — Cal Poly graduate Stephanie Brown Trafton won the gold medal in the women's discus Monday night at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing and became the first gold medalist from Cal Poly after posting a mark of 201 feet, 5 inches.

"Someone told me that I was coming to the Birds Nest to lay a golden egg," she told reporters. "That's what I tried to do.

Brown Trafton's gold, her first in international competition, gave the United States its first gold medal in the event since 1932. It hadn't even medaled in the women's discus since Leslie Deniz won a silver in 1964.

"I'm just so thrilled that mine was gold and I get to represent my country," Brown Trafton said. "Every Olympics, anything can happen.

Yerely Barrios of Cuba took the silver at 208-9, and Olenna Antonova of Ukraine the bronze at 205-4.

Brown Trafton, a 2004 graduate in engineering, completed her gold standard with her first throw and waited through 47 tosses by 11 others before she could relax.

"All through college, and even when I was coming up, my first throw has always seemed to be my best throw," said Brown Trafton, a three-time All-American at Cal Poly. "That was definitely the strategy here tonight. No one else stepped up and I was able to pull off the upset.

It was indeed an upset. The 28-year-old Arrows Grande native entered as the 16th seed, but had the No. 1 throw in Friday's qualifying round, at 203-3.

At the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, she failed to advance to the final round by finishing 11th in the first of two prelims groups, at 192.1.

In a newsletter given to American fans in Beijing, Track and Field News editors commented on Brown Trafton's win, "A surprise? YES Brown Trafton was only third in the U.S. Olympics trials in Eugene, Ore., and has never won a U.S. title, and when she led the qualifying (in Beijing), we tended to think it was a very pleasant fluke... We didn't even have her mentioned in our (medal prediction) form sheet.

Added track fan Manuel De Anda from Oakland after watching Brown Trafton in Beijing, "I don't think I'll remember in Eugene... what a surprise.

Some speculated a light rain that enveloped the field at the start of the discus throw may have actually helped Brown Trafton's chances. The rain may have been a godsend because the slippery (discus throwing) ring caused difficulties for the rest of the field," the Track and Field News editors wrote.

Interestingly, Brown Trafton's affiliation with San Luis Obispo has caused some confusion and earned her a new nickname in Beijing. "SLO" is the Olympic abbreviation for Slovenia, earning Brown Trafton the nickname "Stephanie from Slovenia," although her U.S. fans who've given her the moniker clearly know she's from the California coast.

Brown Trafton is the third Cal Poly graduate to medal in Olympic competition, following Gina Miles and Karen Kraft. Miles won a silver in equestrian eventing last week, and Kraft won a silver in pairs rowing in 1996 before collecting a bronze in the same event in 2000.

Other Cal Poly alumni who competed in Beijing include Sharen Day, who took 12th in the qualifying round of the women's high jump and will not compete in the final round, and baseball player Jimmy Van Ostrand, who, along with Team Canada, was eliminated from the medal round after the team posted a 1-6 mark. Cal Poly senior Mark Barr will swim for the U.S. at the Paralympic Games which begin Sept. 6, also in Beijing.

Journalism professor George Ramos contributed to this Mustang Daily special report from the Olympic Games in Beijing.
Robbery
continued from page 1

After the license plate of the car involved in the gas theft was matched with that of Di Lorenzo's vehicle,Minnesotta police took Di Lorenzo into custody at his hometown before he was booked into Hennepin County Jail,Roland said.

He was being held without bail while awaiting extradition,at his request, to Minnetonka authorities, a jail official said.

"He was being held with­out bail..." he said. "We don't know." A phone message left Wednesday afternoon for Di Lorenzo, who is listed in Cal Poly's directory as a business major, was not returned by press time. Nor was a phone message left for his parents at the address listed in the court document.

Di Lorenzo,a 7-foot,215-pound center called a "top" recruiter by Cal Poly when his signing with the school was announced Nov. 14,2007, averaged 8.2 points per game as a senior at Hopkins High School in Minnetonka.

In the announcemen t,Bromley touted Di Lorenzo as "a seven-foot center with a great deal of potential" who would "have a big impact playing in the Big West Confer­ence."

Textbooks
continued from page 1
to sell back. Publishers also tend to issue new editions frequently, which further distorts the resale, Allen explained. "They issue new editions an average of 3.8 years apart," she said. "Then they jack up prices between editions an average of 12 percent, so not only..." do they wipe out all the used books, "...but they're changing more for the new books than they were for the older ones."

The new law means that textbooks, workbooks and CDs must be sold separately to cut costs and that new book editions should be issued less frequently. Veronica Long,a political science junior and employee at Aliso's University Book Exchange in San Luis Obispo, was one of many people who "think it's a good step in the right direc­tion," she said. "But at the same time, it's not really going to have that big an impact," Long said. "Even if they took the student solutions manuals out, brand new books still cost way more money than they are worth."

Long said that eliminating bundles would not help those buying only used books, since only brand new books are packaged and bundled.

However,she said publishing fewer new editions would probably help lower textbook prices.

"They update the health books every year," Long said. "I think it's all the same exact informa­tion I learned in high school."

Another reason Allen said textbooks cost so much is that professors don't often use the prices of the textbooks they choose until they are on the bookstore shelves.

"In the old-fashioned tradition...they'd give the woman a different menu with no prices on it hoping that she'd choose the most ex­pensive meal," Allen said. "They say things like the bookstores are re­sponsible for the high prices, which isn't true. By withholding the price info they don't have to worry about the professor saying, 'Hey, wait a minute, this textbook is $250; are you kid­ding me?'"

As to why the prices of textbooks are so high, Allen said the publishers have "said given reasons that in her opinion "don't hold water."

"They say things like the bookstores are re­sponsible for the high prices," Allen said. "They say that paper costs a lot, ink costs a lot, editorial costs a lot. The information in text­books is definitely valuable, but for an imme­diate calculo textbook to cost $20? That's one of the main tactics publishers to drive up costs."

Ciali made no major textbook publishers McGraw-Hill and Ondord University Press to discuss textbook prices were not returned.

Jessica Ramussen, one of the man­agers of Aliso's,said she would like to be able to compile about the high cost of books except that she doesn't quite know what she's paying for.

"I wish that they would reveal what's going on," Ramussen said. "I don't really know how much it's costing them to produce some of these books that they're selling to us for $75 that we're selling to the students for $85. I feel like it's because they price gouge...but I don't really know.

The new law will also require schools to give students the list of re­quired textbooks a semester or quar­ter early, giving the consumer time to shop around, including online, for bargains.

Cindy Gamboa, coursework di­vision manager for El Corte Book­store,said in favor of that aspect, having grappled many times with professors not letting her know which textbooks they wanted until the last minute.

"If we get the textbook informa­tion really late then it makes it hard to get used books at all or to do buy­backs from the students," Gamboa said. "The Academic Senate did pass a resolution encouraging the faculty to turn in the book information early and some of the faculty have done that, some have not. At this point, there really isn't a penalty for them not turning it in early.

Frank Casley, bookstore director at El Corte Bookstore,was skeptical about the law's effectiveness.

They have to recoup the produc­tion costs and the printing,he said. "(Say) we retail it for $100. It costs us $75. Even if we were to sell it at $75, the feeling of the students would still be 'you're ripping me off' so I don't drastically raise that (bill) as being the panacea," Casley said.

On the other hand,some students were encouraged to hear about the bill.

"It will be nice to have cheap text­books," said Whitney Moran,a graphic communications senior and -employee at El Corte Bookstore. "At least working at the bookstore, people won't be so surprised when they come to pay and you're like, '$90, please.' It just frustrates them to pay that much for text­books every quarter."
Biden favored for Democratic VP

Nedra Pickler

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. Joe Biden has emerged as the front runner among Democrats to be Barack Obama's running mate for his understanding of foreign policy in grave global times and his fighting spirit against the rival Republican ticket.

Obama is keeping his decisive quiet, but his staff in Chicago and party activists who await a decision are buzzing about Biden in large part because he can address two of Obama's biggest weaknesses — his lack of experience, especially on world affairs, and his reluctance to go on the attack.

The speculation is less of an indicator of whether Biden will ultimately be Obama's pick, and more of a recognition of the challenges his candidate faces at this pivotal moment in the race.

Obama plans to appear with his newly selected running mate Saturday, with the pick announced via text message by stepping up his attacks during the primaries by making the case that he is an outsider who can bring change to Washington.

Biden is a charismatic and hard-charging campaigner with a compelling personal story — his wife and daughter were killed in a car accident a few weeks after he was first elected, but two sons survived serious injuries in the crash. Biden returned home to Wilmington daily to care for them, but two sons survived serious injuries in the crash. Biden is a native of Delaware. Obama was once considered an unlikely contender in the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he has served three years.

Biden is a veteran of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he has served for 33 years.

Biden got another scare 10 years ago, when two brain aneurysms kept him out of the Senate for several months.

Biden turned Monday from a trip to Georgia at the invitation of the embattled country's president, a well-timed reminder of the value he could bring to Obama's ticket.

Fighting between Georgia and Russia has only increased the sense that Americans will turn to the candidate they believe will be a strong international leader. McCain brings a military background and leadership on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Obama has only served three years in Washington, but Biden is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he has served for 33 years.

Polls also show the race between Obama and GOP rival John McCain tightening, and Obama is responding by stepping up his attacks in speeches and commercials targeted to key states. Obama has never been entirely comfortable going negative, a move that threatens his call for civility in politics, but Biden has never shied from a fight.
At least 153 dead in Madrid jet crash

Harold Heckle
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A jetliner heading to the popular Canary Islands vacation resort crashed during takeoff Wednesday, turning a wooded area off the end of a runway into a hellish scene of charred bodies and smoldering wreckage. Some 153 were believed dead — Spain's worst air disaster in nearly 25 years.

Only 19 people survived the midafternoon crash of the Spanair MD-82 at Madrid's Barajas International Airport, and some were in critical condition, said Development Minister Magdalena Alvarez, whose department oversees civil aviation in Spain.

The airline didn't release a death toll, but said the plane carried 172 passengers and crew members and passengers, including two babies and 20 youngsters. There was no word on how many children died.

As smoke billowed from the wreckage, dozens of fire trucks and ambulances rushed to help, lining up a nearby road and filling a field next to a swath of charred vegetation. It is all destruction."

Rescuers rushed the few survivors to hospitals, while emergency workers shrouded the dead in white sheets. One body lay on burned grass, an arm and a leg poking out.

Later, a long convoy of black hearses rolled onto the airport grounds to carry bodies to a make-shift morgue set up at Madrid's main convention center — the facility used for relatives to identify bodies after the 2004 Islamic terror bombings that killed 191 people on Madrid commuter trains.

A steady stream of hearses arrived at the morgue under police escort Wednesday night. Mourners went to a special waiting area, avoiding photographers and reporters.

It was not immediately clear what went wrong. Alvarez said the jetliner had barely gotten airborne when it veered right, crashed and broke into pieces.

Spanair, a Spanish company wholly owned by Scandinavian Airlines, said it did not know what caused the accident. Alvarez said investigators ruled out foul play and considered the crash an accident. She said the plane's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder have been recovered.

While preparing for a first takeoff attempt, the plane's pilot reported a breakdown in a gauge that measures temperature outside the plane. The gauge was fixed, delaying the departure, said Spanair spokesman Susana Vargas.

College presidents seek debate on drinking age

Justin Pope
ASSOCIATED PRESS

College presidents from about 100 of the nation's best-known universities, including Duke, Dartmouth and Ohio State, are calling on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 21 to 18, saying current laws actually encourage dangerous binge drinking on campus.

The movement called the Amethyst Initiative began quietly recruiting presidents more than a year ago to provoke national debate about the drinking age.

"This is a law that is routinely evaded," said John McCaffrey, former president of Middlebury College in Vermont who started the organization. "It is a law that the people at whom it is directed believe is unjust and unfair and discriminatory."

Other prominent schools in the group include Swarthmore, Tufts, Colgate, Kenyon and Morehouse.

But even before the presidents began their public phase of their efforts, which may include publishing newspaper ads in the coming weeks, they are already facing sharp criticism.

"Mother's Against Drunk Driving say lowering the drinking age would lead to more fatal car crashes. It accentuates the misrepresentation science and looking for an easy way out of an inconvenient problem. MADD officials are even urging parents to think carefully about the safety of colleges whose presidents have signed on.

"It's very clear the 21-year-old drinking age will not be enforced at those campuses," said Laura Dean-Mooney, national president of MAD.

Both sides agree alcohol abuse by college students is a huge problem. Research has found more than 40 percent of college students reported at least one symptom of alcohol abuse or dependence. One study has estimated more than 500,000 full-time students at four-year colleges suffer injuries each year related in some way to drinking, and about 1,700 die in such accidents.

A recent Associated Press analysis of federal records found that 157 college-age people, 18 to 23, drank themselves to death from 1999 through 2005. Montana Jagsa, a Duke University sophomore from Singapore, where the drinking age is lower, said reducing the age in the U.S. could be helpful.

"No, if they were to change the age to a lower one even younger kids would want to buy it because at age 18, some kids are still in high school. It'll be more accessible to younger high school students."

-Sayra Reyes, art and design senior

"Definitely, I think that's one of the problems with America today: (it's) so taboo. I think if there was more alcohol education, I don't think as many teenagers would be into rebel drinking."

-Jenna Hames, recreation administration junior

WORD ON THE STREET

"Do you think the legal drinking age in the U.S. should be changed?"

Compiled and photographed by Scott Silvey

"No, if they were to change the age to a lower one even younger kids would want to buy it because at age 18, some kids are still in high school. It'll be more accessible to younger high school students."

-Sayra Reyes, art and design senior

"Yeah, if you can join the military when you're 18, you should be able to drink."

-Javier Mendez, computer engineering freshman

"Probably because you're an adult when you're 18, and you can vote. In other countries it's younger as well."

-Miles LaMon, wine and viticulture senior

"Definitely, I think that's one of the problems with America today: (it's) so taboo. I think if there was more alcohol education, I don't think as many teenagers would be into rebel drinking."

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Olympic protestors detained in China

Andrea Ang

Two elderly Chinese women who applied to hold a protest during the Olympics were ordered to spend a year in a labor camp, a relative said Wednesday. Police later switched a pro-Tibet demonstration.

The women were still at home three days after being officially notified they would have to serve a year-long term of re-education through labor, but were under surveillance by a government-backed neighborhood group, said Li Youhui, the son of one of the women.

Li said no cause was given for the order to imprison his 79-year-old mother, Wu Dunyuan, and her neighbor, Wang Xinying.

"Wang Xinying is almost blind and disabled. What sort of re-education through labor can she serve?" Li said in a telephone interview. "But they can also be taken away at any time."

Meanwhile, worries of plaintexts police set upon four foreign activists early Thursday as they tried to stage a protest against Chinese rule over Tibet — the latest in a series of unsanctioned demonstrations to occur during the Olympics.

Beijing announced last month that it would allow protests in three parks far from the Olympic venues during the games but they had to be approved in advance. Of the some 77 applications lodged so far, none have been approved, and rights groups have called the zones a charade.

The four unfurled a Tibetan flag and shouted "Free Tibet" south of the "Bird's Nest" National Stadium, the New York-based Students for a Free Tibet said. It put the number of police at 50 to 60, a spokesman for the Beijing Public Security Bureau declined comment.

"The fact that there were so many undercover police following them it just made them go with the action unusually," said Kate Woznow, the group's campaigns director.

Two Associated Press photographers were roughed up by plaintexts security officers, forced onto cars and taken to a nearby building where they were questioned before being released. Memory cards from their cameras were confiscated.

The four activists — whose whereabouts were not known — were identified by Students for a Free Tibet as Tibetan-German filmmaker Norbert Grauhansh, 30, Mandie McKeown, 41, of Britain, and Americans Jeremy Webb, 36, and John Winterberg, 36.

The rough treatment and detention being meted out to foreigners, and elderly Chinese underscore the authorities' determination to prevent any protest during the Olympics, even though Beijing Olympic organizers last month said demonstrations would be allowed in designated areas.

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Just days after gracing a San Luis Obispo stage, San Diego rock-and-roll band Delta Spirit will make its TV debut on the Late Night with Conan O’Brien stage on Sept. 3.

One of the band’s first summer performances to promote its new album, “Ode to Sunshine,” will be at Boo Boo Records in downtown San Luis Obispo for an in-store show August 27 — the day after the album’s re-release.

The band will make its way around the country for two months and make its first TV performance with O’Brien.

“We’re pretty psyched, and we like Conan a lot,” bassist Jon Jameson said, adding that Delta Spirit is in the process of planning a way to spice up the on-air performance to make it memorable.

“We’re kind of trying to think of something that would be like very us and make it a little bit more like a special thing, but we haven’t really come up with anything yet,” he said.

The idea they’ve considered include wearing bear costumes or dressing as lumberjacks.

“This won’t be the first time Delta Spirit has ventured to the Central Coast. They performed at Downtown Brew in 2007 and The Graduate in May.

“We’ve played some good shows (in San Luis Obispo) ... and we had good response from people,” Jameson said of returning to the Central Coast.

Before it was picked up by Rounder Records, the band’s album, “Ode to Sunshine,” was featured on music review Web site DayTrotter.com as one of 2007’s top 15 albums.

“It’s music that can change you in the most ways, make you a little happier, a little more alive,” the Day Trotter review said about the album.

Delta Spirit originally recorded “Ode to Sunshine” in a cabin in the San Diego mountains.

“We just wanted a place that was out of our normal setting and a place that would isolate us a little bit so we could actually get work done,” Jameson said.

The band members, all in their mid-20s, said that because they’re young and have friends at Cal Poly, students will likely relate to their music.

“It’ll be a fun in-store,” Jameson said. “It’ll be a surprise to us and to everyone else how we end up playing it.”
Some may consider beer a less sophisticated beverage than wine, but on the Central Coast, privately-owned breweries are an alternative to the plentiful wineries.

Central Coast Brewing (CCB) on Monterey Street has created a reputation for its premier brewing facilities and variety of hand-crafted microbrews and signature ales, including its most popular flavor, chai, said CCB Head Brewer Jeff Sorenson.

"Beer is more appealing to the because you can drink more of it," he said, "it has a lower alcohol content than wine, and you can sit down with your friends and have a few beers."

Creekside Brewing Co. plans to open up shop in downtown San Luis Obispo as well, according to a recent report by The Tribune. Like Downtown Brewing Co. (DTB) on Garden Street, Creekside Brewing Co. will brew its own beer on site, serve bottled selections and have a full bar pairing drinks with entrees.

For beer fans, Sorenson recommends Downtown Brewing Co's India Pale Ale (IPA), Santa Maria Brewing Co's Porter and IPA, and Firestone Walker Brewing Company's Union Jack IPA.

"You can put a flavor in the beer, but by law in Germany, you only have to have the four main ingredients or you can't call it beer," he said.

Of course, the four ingredients he referred to are malted barley, hops, water and yeast. With the perfect combination and the right amount of time, these ingredients can produce a refreshing, flavorful beverage.

"I look for balance between sweetness and bitterness," Sorenson said. "I like a real clean flavor, no off flavors like a sour or buttery taste. Some beers taste like gasoline to me."

DTB prepares about 7,000 barrels of beer annually, said DTB Master Brewer Steve Cynier, who has been brewing at the location for more than 10 years.

"Beer is always the best when it's fresh," he said. "I think beer should always be cold. It's a perishable. And we don't filter our beer here. In a way, it's better here because a lot of times when filtering, you're looking for shelf stability, looking for it to last. Here, we're not interested in making it last as long."

Courier, who works as a brewer at Firestone Walker Brewing Company in Paso Robles. He said the difference between DTB and Firestone Walker is that it's a bar, restaurant and brewery and the other is just a brewery.

Also, the production rate is much higher at Firestone Walker, where nearly 40,000 barrels are brewed annually.

"When people come to Firestone Walker, they're coming just to drink beer," he said.

The brewing process takes about three weeks before any beer is ready to be tasted, Sorenson said, adding that beer tasting is just as sophisticated as wine tasting.

"We're not like wine makers, where they wait for the crush to do it," Sorenson said. "Hops and barley can be stored for years. Mainly, what I tell people is to pay attention to what they taste. Give it a good smell, because a lot of the taste is in the smell."

When sniffing IPA, Sorenson said to look for a really nice, fresh hop smell. For a lager, like a Hefe­westen, he said to smell for that clove, banana and bubble gum kind of aroma.

Courier said that a beer's clarity, or clear, bright color, is important to a lot of people.

"To the average drinker, seeing a bright, clear beer is appealing," he said. "A lot of times people drink with their eyes first."

DTB offers a 6-beer sampler for $6, CCB's beer tasting is $1 per beer, and Firestone Walker offers a 4-beer sampler with a complimentary pint glass for $6.
Scott Silver

Capitalize on the talent of some of the genre's godfathers, hip-hop producer Chris Douglass (stage name: Presto) may well just have the needed star power behind him to get an audience for his new album, "State of the Art.

The young producer has yet to cross the thresholds to greatness, even though artists including Jadakiss, Brand Nubian fame, CL Smooth and Pete Rock and O.C. of the Brooklyn Dodgers provide Presto with an enjoyable album of jazz, funk-filled tracks.

The production is top notch; there is not one throw-away beat on the disc. But when you get several more hip-hop giants together who seem to be fading from the spotlight, it often results in verses mailed in from rappers hoping that the name recognition of past exploits is enough.

The featured track on the album is entitled "Conquer Mentally". It features the aforementioned Jadakiss and O.C. as well as Large Professor. The interlaced piano makes for an upbeat sound, but the lyrics don't sor. Mie interlaced piano makes for a fresh voice to work with on the album. The verses of the song are battle rhymes, but the beat does not have the gritty feel that one would expect from a battle track.

If Presto can get in contact with some of the bright young minds of the industry, he could become a force in the hip-hop world. But he needs to find himself some young talent to produce, a la Prince Paul with De La Soul or Dan the Automator with Kool Keith so he can carve out a more definite niche in the flooded hip-hop market.

"State of the Art" brings to mind the3.0.720 "Headstrong" album, which brought the Columbus, Ohio-based producer critical acclaim. The main difference between the albums is that RJD2's "Headstrong" album, which brought the Columbus, Ohio-based producer critical acclaim. The main difference between the albums is that RJD2 didn't do very little in terms of vocals. You could just relax and get into a mood with each beat.

Presto's album does not allow you to feel the music because you are listening to the words of the verses through the songs. Eventually, what you hear are interreverting verses of redundant one-liners or recycled tales of women and Boone.

Presto is on the verge of diminishing himself among the best of today's young producers. Finding an entirely fresh voice to work with on the next album may just push him over the threshold.

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 to determine the feasibility of investigational, medicated patches for treating pain associated with an ankle sprain, when applied directly to the injured ankle.

To be eligible for this study, you must:
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be experiencing pain from an ankle sprain that occurred within the past six weeks.
- 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 time may be offered to participants.

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

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The featured track on the album is entitled "Conquer Mentally". It features the aforementioned Jadakiss and O.C. as well as Large Professor. The interlaced piano makes for an upbeat sound, but the lyrics don't sor. Mie interlaced piano makes for a fresh voice to work with on the album. The verses of the song are battle rhymes, but the beat does not have the gritty feel that one would expect from a battle track.

If Presto can get in contact with some of the bright young minds of the industry, he could become a force in the hip-hop world. But he needs to find himself some young talent to produce, a la Prince Paul with De La Soul or Dan the Automator with Kool Keith so he can carve out a more definite niche in the flooded hip-hop market.

"State of the Art" brings to mind the3.0.720 "Headstrong" album, which brought the Columbus, Ohio-based producer critical acclaim. The main difference between the albums is that RJD2's "Headstrong" album, which brought the Columbus, Ohio-based producer critical acclaim. The main difference between the albums is that RJD2 didn't do very little in terms of vocals. You could just relax and get into a mood with each beat.

Presto's album does not allow you to feel the music because you are listening to the words of the verses through the songs. Eventually, what you hear are interreverting verses of redundant one-liners or recycled tales of women and Boone.

Presto is on the verge of diminishing himself among the best of today's young producers. Finding an entirely fresh voice to work with on the next album may just push him over the threshold.

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 to determine the feasibility of investigational, medicated patches for treating pain associated with an ankle sprain, when applied directly to the injured ankle.

To be eligible for this study, you must:
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be experiencing pain from an ankle sprain that occurred within the past six weeks.
- 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 time may be offered to participants.

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

Scott Silver

Capitalize on the talent of some of the genre's godfathers, hip-hop producer Chris Douglass (stage name: Presto) may well just have the needed star power behind him to get an audience for his new album, "State of the Art.

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Chealse Barik

"Pineapple Express," written by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, is the latest film to emerge from the Judd Apatow fun factory and, dare I say, it wasn't that bad.

Meet Dale Denton (Rogen) and prepare to be un­amazed. As with every role Rogen plays, he doesn't stray too far from his prevailing laid-back, charming loser profile. Denton doesn't have a whole lot going for him, squandering away his days as a process server, getting high in his car between bouts of ruining peoples' days.

Denton finds himself in a bit of a "wrong place, wrong time" situation when he accidentally witnesses drug lord Ed Jones (Carr Cole) and crooked cop Card (Rosalie Perez) murder one of the "Asians" that had been stirring up trouble for his new album. "State of the Art." It brings to mind the3.0.720 "Headstrong" album, which brought the Columbus, Ohio-based producer critical acclaim. The main difference between the albums is that RJD2's "Headstrong" album, which brought the Columbus, Ohio-based producer critical acclaim. The main difference between the albums is that RJD2 didn't do very little in terms of vocals. You could just relax and get into a mood with each beat.

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'Pineapple Express': a train wreck you can look away from

Seth Rogen (left) and James Franco star in the weed- obsessed comedy "Pineapple Express," in theaters now.

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'Pineapple Express': a train wreck you can look away from

Seth Rogen (left) and James Franco star in the weed- obsessed comedy "Pineapple Express," in theaters now.
Take out the ear buds, smell the rose buds

Quick show of hands how many of you have an iPod?
If you do and you're a student at Cal Poly, then chances are, you got yours in the last four years and that little clickable interface is like second nature to you. The latest song you just heard is been at your fingertips for most of your adult or even teenage years with 1,000 songs readily at your disposal, the walk between classes need never be boring again.

Just watch out for that bicyclist as you pass Dexter Lawn. He's got one too and he's far too engrossed in Katy Perry. "I know a Gurl" to notice you crossing in front of him.

For a minute let me take you on a trip through memory lane. The year is 2004. A war is on and a presidential election is up, but that's not important for the moment. What is important is that you and the bikers haven't met yet.

It's a very interesting year for technology buffs. In January Apple announced that it just sold their 200 millionth iPod. In February and March ICANN, the government body which assigns and tracks internet address, finds itself under attack from media companies and from the United Nations.

In October, Wired Magazine recognized podcasts as "the new twist on Internet audio." In short, 2004 was a year in which the digital landscape that so many know and love was shaped.

It was also the year I personally started to take notice of the growing phenomenon of social isolation that was taking hold due to technological reliance.

Sure, cell phones had already become fixtures in daily life and people complained about the emergent propensity of the "dial and drive" trend, but it was also the year that more individuals than ever started turning in their iPods and tuning out the real world.

Remember the dancing baby commercials? They were a perfect symbol for the isolation and insulation that was taking hold. Babies are supposed to explore the world around them with a sense of wonderment and joy and here was a commercial summing up the new human experience as a mask to our projected consumption.

Technology is a wonderful tool, allowing instant communication—even constant communication—with friends and total strangers. There has always been a debate, however, that the benefits of mobile communication outweigh the social consequences.

In 2004, I was a high school senior, still I have to admit, a little preoccupied with the frivolities of movies and video games, which was not unusual (many of my peers still are). But that year, I had a chance encounter that changed my perspective on the use of technology in our daily lives.

I had taken a little trip from the sleepy town of 5,000 where I spent my formative years, to visit my best friend in the nearest city of 150,000 people. It may not seem like a big deal, but to me it was a bit of a culture shock when I got out of the car and realized everyone my age was milling about, either with their eyes on the ground chatting on a cell phone or bopping along with those little white orbs hanging from their ears.

After being introduced to my friend's new girlfriend, which had been part of the point in my journey, we all piled into his car to grab a pizza. I was perplexed when she got into the backseat and proceeded to rock out to U2 on her iPod mini.

She had become one of the pod people. My consternation was made complete when, as we puttered along in traffic, my friend's cell phone rang and he began a very detailed conversation with a classmate over the tenuous strength of steel (engineering students, what are you going to do?).

I realized very suddenly that, although I was in a vehicle with two other people, I was very much alone. The use of electronic gadgets allowed them to create their own realities, and consequently robbed us all of any meaningful experience in the moment.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized how socially isolated we all have the potential to become due to the unfortunate consequences of busy lives and rampant technological intrusion. The issue seems at first glance overwhelming and complex. With GPS maps we don't ask for directions. With iPods we don't have to pay attention. With cell phones we can talk to someone anywhere in the world. With MySpace and Facebook we speak to "friends" through an IM interface instead of speaking to neighbors across the fence.

It may be part of the reason that a quarter of Americans said in a 2006 study that they had no one with whom they could discuss their private trials and tribulations. No real friends in other words. That number was double the findings for the 1985 study (a period when most people thought that letters arrived in the mail and not on a computer screen).

I'm not saying that there's nothing to be done about it. California recently addressed public safety concerns with the ban on using handheld cell phones while driving (although you can still talk via Bluetooth) and New York state attempted to use similar grounds last year to ban use of electronic devices that distract pedestrians as they walk the street.

Legislation will never solve the underlying cause though. My advice is, you're walking across campus, talk to your friends, talk to your classmates, and make some friends.

Take the ear buds out and stop to smell the roses. There are some lovely gardens near the Education building.

Carl's Peaick is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily reporter.
Barden 
continued from page 12

evaluators, he voices more concern over what he sees in pads than in
shorts. "I want people to look at my tape
and say, 'Wow, I don't care what that
number says — 4.3 or 4.5 — he's killing everybody who's running across
the field, so he's got it.'
Among the most viciously
departed last year were West State (which
busted him for 267 receiving yards), Weber State (219) and Idaho State (208).
Those in FCS circles do not only
look, but also did look for cover.
In a forum topic at BobcatsNation.com,
a Montana State fan wrote:
"Do they have any corners that
can cover and jump as high as him?"
Credos "Intrust bank".
Swiftly, "Alpha-Girl", answers, "No. He will own us once again.
before 'travesty' claims in, "It's
a good year to stay away from Cal Poly."
He was so dominant as a junior that
another commissioner looked
more and more plausible.
'What's this little thing, we've
got going on within the team where
we put pictures together and try to
find celebrities we look like, and I
got Kurdistan Johnson a lot," Barden
laughs. "It's only a matter of time
before the buzz gets out that I look
like him.
Some onlookers haven't been as
confused to his identity, though:
I get an autograph requests a lot," the
business administration major says.
'People will mail me little
pictures in pre-stamped envelopes
and things like that.'
At a position known for breeding
thinner-than-life egos, Barden has kept
his teammates among his biggest
fans. "It's a blessing to have him," says
Jonathan Dally, the Mustangs' senior,
starting quarterback. "Aside from
being a tremendous athlete, he's just
a great all-around guy. He'd give
anyone on the team the shirt off his
back."
Even in the face of so much
acclaim, Barden, the honoree of
Facebook groups such as "A fan of
Kordell Stutesman"!, "Ramus Barden is
G.O.D."
and "Rams To Ramee", doesn't seem to be
letting the spotlight make him into someone he
wasn't.
"It's always fun to be liked and
appreciated, but I don't buy into it
too much," explains the Sporting
News, Lindy's Phil Steele's and
Consensus Draft Services FCS
proscons All-American who's been
formulated as "a small college" diamond
in the rough by newspapers as far
away as The Courier-Register, La.
"It's not like I can go downtown
and everyone's going to buy me free
everything and whatsoever. That's not
the case — I still have to wait in line
with everyone else."
Wherever Barden's line may
lead, entering the next level from a
pre-conceived "small school" won't be
anything new.
Hailing from La Cadena
Henredon's Fluidium Prep, which
was a CIF-Southern Section Division
III high school playing eight-man
football until 1996, the Aldenian native was invited on varsity
only to non-scholarship programs
Penns and San Diego before choosing Cal Poly.

Barden separates from a defender in a 23-17 win against UC Davis on Oct. 7, 2006.

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

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Summer means....

Summer means....
Ramses is ready for more

After last season, Cal Poly’s Ramses Barden considered turning pro instead of returning for his senior year. He couldn’t be happier to be back.

Donovan Aird, Mustang Daily

Since its debut 10 years ago, the cover of EA Sports’ “NCAA Football” video game series has been reserved for icons. Heisman Trophy winners Desmond Howard, Charlie Woodson and Reggie Bush exemplify the standard, so a Facebook-circulating Photoshop job placing Cal Poly wide receiver Ramses Barden on the cover of this year’s XBOX 360 version may seem a bit far-fetched. Then again, it might not.

“I want to be the best player in college football this year,” Barden says. “I want to be the best player in college football this year, period,” Barden says. “The best player in college football.”

Why not?

When the Mustangs open Aug. 30 at San Diego State, the 6-foot-6, 227-pound senior will take the field as the active (formerly Division I-AA) leader in career touchdowns, receiving yards and yards per catch.

After a 2007 in which he was named to FCS preseason All-America first team and was a Walter Payton Award finalist thanks to skying and muscling his way to 57 catches for 1,467 yards (a comical 25.7 average) and 18 touchdowns, Barden considered declaring his NFL Draft eligibility early.

Projected as a fifth-round pick at the time by the league’s advisory committee, he decided to return for one more year.

“There’s definitely not much I regret about the decision,” Barden says. “I’m happy to be back. Everybody seems to be taking the season really seriously.”

I want to be the best player in college football this year, period. The best player in college football.

— Ramses Barden
Cal Poly senior wide receiver

For Barden, the offseason (during which he and others partook in player-run, unofficial practices to maintain focus) was businesslike indeed.

In June, he worked out at Elite Athletics, a training facility in Westlake Village that was started by New Orleans Saints tight end Billy Miller. Since the facility’s full opening in February, several NFL players with Southern California roots have stopped by, including the Saints’ Bush, with whom Barden was put through drills by former LSU strength and conditioning coach Travelle Gaines.

“That was a real positive experience,” Barden reflects. “It gave me an opportunity to work with some people who’ve already been through some of the things I’m going through, and kind of give me a vision of some of the things I can see in my future.”

Often compared to similarly towering, imposing targets like Marques Colston and Vincent Jackson (both of whom also played at the FCS level), Barden went out on track at Cal Poly in March to improve his speed, clocking an 11.03-second time in the 100 meters and a 22.60 in the 200.

“I loved track,” Barden says. “There’s a lot I learned, but I wasn’t able to pull everything together in the time that I was there. I still think I left a lot on the table.”

Most draft sites — some of which chart him as a day-one possibility — estimate his all-important 40-yard dash time between 4.5 and 4.68 seconds.

“I still don’t think I’ve run my fastest 40, by a long shot,” says the 22-year-old rated as the country’s top “small school” talent and a “potential franchise player” by National Football Foundation contributor Josh Buchanan. “I like to think I play with above-average game speed ... I want to silence all the critics.”

Although Barden clarifies an understanding of the importance of the stopwatch result to NFL

Records Barden has set at Cal Poly

32 Career receiving touchdowns

4 Receiving touchdowns in a game

108 Points in a season

1,467 Receiving yards in a season

7 100-yard receiving games in a season

18 Receiving touchdowns in a season

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