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Anthony B
with Roots Underground and Bare Feet
Tues Sept 23 7:30pm
reggae/roots music/ska

Dirty Heads
FRI Sept 26
7pm all ages
with This Providence Rockabilly
SAT Sept 27
7pm 21+
with Dirty Heads and Klockwitz
EEK-A-Mouse
Fri Sept 26
8pm Oct 5
reggae

Matt White
TUE Oct 14
all ages 7:30pm
Rolling Stone Magazine's 10 Artists To Watch
surf/acoustic/pop

Cuesta Ridge
Fri Oct 10
8pm Oct 9
alternative/rock

Jackson United
Tues Oct 21
punk/rock/surf

MC Chris
Sun 7:30pm
Oct 19 16+
rap/hip-hop/comedy

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Cal Poly alumnus Greg Chamitoff has lived aboard the International Space Station since May and is due back down to Earth this fall.

Astronaut Greg Chamitoff is in a class of his own. A Cal Poly alumnus, he has spent the last two months as the American representative aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Before conducting a live telephone interview with Scott Rouke of Cal Poly's alumni magazine, Chamitoff took a moment to don a Cal Poly T-shirt which he brought aboard in his limited allowance of personal articles.

Speaking from the U.S. laboratory aboard the station he said, "My time spent at Cal Poly was really invaluable to me. I still have great memories of my time there and the motto at Cal Poly, 'learn by doing' is really applicable to everything we're doing up here."

The 1984 Cal Poly graduate is serving a six month tour on the station with two Russian cosmonauts, conducting experiments to study the effects of long term space travel on the human body.

"All the theories you could possibly learn at Cal Poly are really applicable to all the systems on board. That whole approach of theory and application sticks with me 20-plus years later," he said.

Chamitoff now lives in Houston with his wife and two children and has earned an M.S. degree in Aeronautical Engineering, a Ph.D. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from MIT and another M.S. in Space Science since leaving Cal Poly, his ties to the Central Coast remain strong.

Cal Poly math professor James Muller was one of the family and friends invited to watch Chamitoff's departure aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery on May 31.

Chamitoff was a top student in three of Muller's courses at Cal Poly and Muller gave the astronaut-to-be advice on graduate school and wrote letters of recommendation for him in the '80s. The two have remained friends over the years.

During his time on the station, Chamitoff has continued the astronaut tradition of speaking to young minds from orbit, most recently by communicating via radio with a Goleta Boy Scout Troop on Aug. 19.

While Chamitoff has been communicating with the ground on a daily basis, e-mail and satellite telephone see Astronaut, page 6.
Astronaut

continued from page 5

The crew of the space station is given little time for homesickness as they are kept busy throughout the day.

"Generally speaking you wake up in the morning and ground control gives you a schedule for the day," said Garrett Reisman, Chamitoff's predecessor aboard the station. "So you look at that and you have a daily summary which outlines recent developments and then you get some storage information which helps you find all the tools you're going to need for your job that day. Then you have some breakfast, a conference call with mission control and then you get to work."

"There's not much leisure time," Reisman said. "In a typical day you get maybe an hour or two of leisure time, and in that time you get a lot of e-mails to answer."

see Astronaut, page 8
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"One of my favorite things to do is take photos from space of places I've been to. I've got some good pictures actually of San Luis Obispo and some good shots of Pismo Beach and the Oceano airport," he said.

Each astronaut is allowed a collection of personal items about the size of a shoebox in which they can take whatever they deem worthy of the trip. While Chaminoff brought along his Cal Poly shirt, others have taken items ranging from coins and trinkets for family and friends to a vial of dirt taken from the pitcher's mound at Yankee stadium or a knob from the historic ENIAC computer.

They are also allowed to take along a computer hard drive full of software for personal or entertainment purposes. Chaminoff took a copy of the commercial coding program Matlab to use in his spare time.

"Some guys have taken up video games, some guys have taken up software to help them learn a new language or an instrument, and we do have a guitar on board," Kiesman said.

"For myself I took a picture of the ENIAC knob on the control panel of the Space Shuttle Endavour, so that was kind of neat." While all crews sent to the station are kept busy, Chaminoff and other astronauts sent up on the Space Shuttle pull double duty, as a member of a shuttle crew and station personnel.

In addition to delivering Chaminoff and bringing Kiesman back to Earth, the Shuttle Discovery delivered the 37-foot Japanese Kibo lab to the station.

"Chaminoff was involved with the robotics, moving around the modules and helping my crew members get out the door on space walks. His big part of the mission is after we undock is getting those systems up and running. He is the only U.S. astronaut on that station for six months," Discovery's commander, Mark Kelly said.

Despite recent developments in the United States-Russia relationship, see Astronaut, page 11
Astronaut Greg Chamitoff isn't toting the excessive weight load he appears to be in this photo, thanks to the weightlessness of space. The photo was downloaded by the current inhabitants of the International Space Station. Chamitoff and others on his expedition are studying the long-term effects of space on the human body.

The Space Shuttle Discovery launched on May 31, bound for the International Space Station, with Cal Poly alumnus Greg Chamitoff aboard. Chamitoff, a 1984 electrical engineering graduate, is due back down to Earth this fall.
Chaminoff looks over a checklist in the Destiny laboratory of the International Space Station.

The first 16 are for meeting him.

The next 12 are for dating him.

Of these are for the dramatic break up.

The next 12 are for running into his new girlfriend.

And the last 25? Well, those are for me.

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and his status as the sole United States representative, Chaminoiff and Kelly agree that there is little cultural tension onboard the station.

"I do feel somewhat responsible for him, being the guy that closed the hatch on him. But he's got a great space station commander that he's working for, who's a Colonel in the Russian Air Force, a cosmonaut named Sergey Volkov, who's really a great guy, who I've got the utmost respect for," Kelly said.

"Being up there with two Russians, I couldn't ask for two better guys for him to be with.

Chaminoiff will return to Earth aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour this fall.

From left: American astronaut Greg Chaminoiff and Russian Federal Space Agency cosmonauts Sergei Volkov (center) and Oleg Kononenko, flight engineer, take a break from training at NASA's Johnson Space Center to pose for a crew portrait. All three are part of the International Space Station's Expedition 17.
MULTIPLE CHOICES...
NO WRONG ANSWERS.

a. 

b. 

c. 

d. 

e. all of the above!!
11 alleged gang members arrested in Santa Maria

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — Federal and local authorities have arrested 11 members of a decades-old Santa Maria street gang for investigation of drug trafficking and other offenses.

The U.S. attorney’s office says the arrests were carried out Sept. 10 by an FBI-led task force, marking the first time federal authorities have worked with local police in targeting a Central Coast street gang.

Of the 11 arrested, four face federal methamphetamine trafficking charges. The other seven face state drug, grand theft or weapons charges.

U.S. attorney’s spokesman Thom Mrozek says the defendants belonged to the Northwest gang, a Latino street gang with hundreds of members.

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### Route 2 Evening Service

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<th>Transit Center Depart</th>
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Cal Poly looks to expand graduate program

Lauren Rabaino
MUSTANG DAILY

When Alexandra Kirkpatrick graduated from Cal Poly's forestry program in March 2007, she never thought she'd come back for more. But, now, Kirkpatrick is just one of the more than 750 graduate students enrolled at Cal Poly.

"I honestly wasn't sure that I was going to go to graduate school while I was in college," said Kirkpatrick, a forestry science graduate student. "But, I graduated, and looking at the job market these days, a lot of people have a BA A but he/she's degree doesn't take you as far as you think it might."

However, because of Cal Poly's strong focus on technical undergraduate fields, the university's graduate enrollment is below average for the California State University system.

The most recent data on Cal Poly's graduate program from the institutional planning (IPA) and analysis department shows that 96% of the university's 19,777 students in 2007 — or roughly 4 percent — were working toward a master's degree.

Cal Poly is at less than half of the 10 percent CSU average for grad students, according to Unny Menon, graduate program coordinator and professor for industrial and manufacturing engineering.

According to data from the IPA department, Cal Poly's graduate enrollment hasn't been above the 5 percent mark since 1995, and in 2007, there was a 4 percent decrease from 2006.

Menon attributes the low number to Cal Poly's long-standing image as an undergraduate campus, leaving the grad student population neglected.

"Being in a rural area...we have to rely on full-time grad students, while in the big cities, lots of working professionals sign up as part-time students," Menon said, adding that, in that circumstance, there is a larger pool of possible students who do not need financial support.

President and Vice President for Academic Affairs Bill Durgin has big plans for increasing Cal Poly's graduate student enrollment in upcoming years.

"As part of Cal Poly's last strategic plan, we had a goal to increase that percentage to 10 percent," Durgin said. "Unfortunately, it wasn't realized, so really we're continuing our goals."

Durgin said the university would have to increase outside support for graduate resources through federal agencies and focus on areas that have a high demand, like engineering, agriculture and business.

Because Cal Poly's "4+1" plan allows students to work toward a bachelor's degree and master's degree at the same time through an extra year at the university, Durgin said the graduate program is heavily reliant on Cal Poly undergraduate students.

He wants to increase recruiting from outside sources and form joint programs with other universities.

Starting in fall, the first phase of a joint program with USC's master's program will take shape when six Cal Poly students will split their research time between the two schools.

For students who want to get graduate school done with quickly and more cost-effectively, Menon says the 4+1 program is the answer.

The program allows students to earn graduate credit for several of their senior electives with overlap of up to nine units.

Requirements include a completion of 180 units and at least a 2.5 GPA for the most recent quarter completed.

"Even if you think you do not meet the published admission requirements, you should explore viable alternatives to make up for any perceived deficiency," Menon said, noting that many programs will allow "conditional admission" with remediation to overcome any academic gaps.

Joe Montrose is a student making the transition to the engineering graduate program with a specialization in integrated technology management through the 4+1 system.

"For me, it makes financial sense because I'm saving money here and making more when I'm done," Montrose said.

She said students with the financial capacity to get real world experience before pursuing a graduate program should probably do so, but said that the required internship in the 4+1 program is just as serious as a real job.

Plus, Kirkpatrick said there are advantages to doing both undergraduate and graduate studies at the same school.

"I've heard that it's probably better that you go to a different school because it looks better on your resume; it looks like you've got some diversity," Kirkpatrick said. "But at the same time, I know the school really well, I know the professors."

Because one of her professors, Chris Dicur, wrote a grant proposal to the Joint Fire Science Program, Kirkpatrick's senior project receives grant funding.

The grant pays for expenses while she and two other colleagues travel California to study negative environmental effects that result when people purge wildlife from their homes as a means of fire safety.

"It's a laborious process. Writing grant proposals is pretty sophisticated work," he said.

see Grad, page 18
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Grad continued from page 15

For a grant proposal to be effective, the writers must understand what the granting agency is asking for and must make a strong technical or scientific case as to why they, among the many other people applying for the money, should get funded.

The success rate for getting research funding is sometimes as low as 10 percent, Shelton said.

"So you could do a lot of work for little return," he added.

Faculty can learn how to write grants for the graduate program through on-campus grant writing workshops and through occasional grant-writing consultants who give lessons. But by and large, it's on-the-job training," Shelton said.

Menon said the additional expenses of going to graduate school are worth it for the eventual payoff.

"There is an extra cost and they may pay for that through extra loans," Menon said. "But with the increased salary you're going to get right away within a year or two years, you can pay off the loans you took. That's the trade off."

Gloria Massie, a 1996 graduate of William Jewell College in Missouri and a 2008 graduate of Cal Poly's biological sciences master's program, is a shining example of this theory in action.

Because her nationally and internationally recognized research focused on the new concept of trypanosome-gondor — cat feces parasites that end up in whales and dolphins — it was hard to get outside funding.

Massie relied solely on student loans while at Cal Poly and it put her $30,000 in debt — a debt which she has already paid off.

"I'm already making more money..." she said.

She's currently a part-time honors biology teacher at Mountain View High School until she gets her doctorate degree.

"There's no question to me that I would not have gotten this position if I did not have a masters in biology," Massie said.

Massie has been featured in publications like Harper's Magazine, Science Daily and Cosmos Magazine and has spoken at conferences around the United States for her studies.

She cited the professors and class sizes as the strongest point of Cal Poly's graduate program.

"I can just walk down the hall, knock on the door and say, "Dr. Kett, I have a question about this,"" she said.

"The very one-on-one interaction that I had with professors, I wouldn't have found that at a large school," Shelton also cited professor quality as a strength.

"Just the kind of faculty that come to Cal Poly want to be pretty exposed to doing applied research, doing practical research and that's not often the case at universities around the world," Shelton said.

But every program has its drawbacks, and at Cal Poly, Shelton sees two major weaknesses.

"We need more research space at Cal Poly," he said. "It's something that we really haven't developed to the degree that we need so that the students can do the high-tech cutting-edge kind of research that we need."

He said it's not a problem limited to Cal Poly; it's a state university struggle.

"We also need to look at faculty workload as it relates to research activities," Shelton said, adding that the deans and provost are currently looking into a solution to adequately support faculty.
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Twitter dee and Twitter dumb

Chelsea Fiddyment

God knows there are tons of networking Web sites taking the In­
ternet and our social lives by storm: MySpace, Facebook, Friendster, 
Jobster, Honester, Friendster, MySpaceBook, FaceSpace, MyFaceSter, 
the list is endless. Basically if you combine a place (home, school, work) 
or a relationship (friend, family, stalker) with the suffix "-ster," "-space," 
or "-book," you are bound to find a networking opportunity.

A more recent addition to this steadily growing list of sites is Twitter 
and an exception to the previous naming rule. The site is crafted around 
a single question: What are you doing right now? As far as I know, this 
is the only thing you can do with a Twitter profile.

I find the whole idea of service like this entirely disconcerting. 
People already take their MySpace 
top friends listings seriously (I'm 
sure that somewhere out there, a 
relationship has ended over an­
other guy knocking a boyfriend 
into the lumber town spot). Others 
exploit their Facebook status mes­
tages in order to broadcast their 
up-to-the-minute feelings to their 
entire friends list ("So-and-so is 
feeling sad and wishes someone 
would cheer me up..."). What is 
the allure in knowing what some­
one else does every minute of the 
day?

Imagine the messages:
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Only the sign “Ah Louis Store” still gives some inclination that the building has any historical significance — which for the many descendants of Chinese immigrants, it does. But that building and the few others that remain in what used to be San Luis Obispo’s Chinatown serve as reminders of the story that unfolded there; and for those who take the time to dig a little deeper, the history pages reveals a tale of toil and triumph and a single man who rose above the odds to become “Mr. Big.”

Cassandra Carlson

MUSTANG DAILY

There is a stark contrast between today’s San Luis Obispo and the city it was a century ago. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the city was home to one of the largest Chinatown districts outside of San Francisco. Yet today, few remnants of old Chinatown remain and even fewer know the story behind what’s left.

The block of Palm Street between Chorro and Morro Streets that once thrived with a large Chinese-American community is now home to the Palm Theatre, a small Chinese Bazaar, a recently closed Mee Heng Low chop suey restaurant and various shops in addition to the Palm Street parking lot.

Where it all started:
The Ah Louis Store

However, one historic building will forever be set on the corner of Chorro and Palm, registered and protected as California State Landmark. Now acting as a gift store, its outward appearance is almost the same as in dated pictures of the building. The front of the building is painted white while the sides and back of the structure are purely brick, accented with teal colors over the once dark iron doors, shutters, and iron grillwork balcony. At first glance, it may look like some generic, small town general merchandise store yet the bright red sign with black letters reading “Ah Louis Store” catches the eye and gives recognition to the one man behind Chinatown’s existence.

That man is On Wong, a Chinese immigrant who traveled to California in 1856 in the age of booming gold strikes. Wong, after never finding luck in the mining industry, became a laborer and worked in Oregon before moving to San Luis Obispo.

Upon arrival, he changed his name to Ah Louis (pronounced Ah Loo-ee), after a co-worker urged him to sound more Americanized. He also changed out of his Chinese coolie costume into the standard male clothing of the time.

But although Louis shed his name and cultural clothing to fit into his new surroundings, he is responsible for much of the infrastructure, industry and the Chinese culture that helped build the Central Coast at the turn of the century.

He opened Ah Louis Store in 1874 at 800 Palm St., feeling that there was a need in the Central Coast community for a small Oriental mercantile (1 in 10 San Luis Obispo residents at the time were Chinese).

see Chinatown, page 24
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Chinatown
continued from page 22

Chinese-American.

The store acted as a bank, employment office, and pro-
vided general items such as rice, sugar, rum and tea, but also
unusual delicacies such as salted duck egg, sea cucumbers,
and dried abalone. He even offered Chinese and Japanese
medicines such as opium (which was legal until 1915) and
whiskey-soaked rattlesnakes to be applied to sore muscles.

Walter Louis, a descendant of Louis, joked to the Tele-
graph Tribune (today’s San Luis Obispo Tribune) in an Oct.
22, 1991 article about the rattlesnake treatment saying, “I
think it was the beginning of your sportscream and Ben-
Gay.”

“Mr. Big”: a man of many talents

The store’s upper stories were living quarters for Louis
and his second wife, Ying Cion, and their five sons and three
daughters. A section of the living quarters above the shop
was set aside as a temple where Louis practiced his Taoist
faith. Now, the upstairs serves as an office for the owner of
the building — Ah Louis’ grandson, William Watson. Ad-
ditionally, the wooden frame of the store was later built
using bricks from the brickyard Louis owned near the base
of Bishop’s Peak. Louis’ brickyard also provided many of
the bricks still seen throughout San Luis Obispo’s older
buildings and roadways.

A man of many talents, Louis became one of the larg­
est employers of labor on the Central Coast, due in part
to a contract he was awarded for a 10-year project that to
dig eight South Pacific railroad tunnels through the Cuesta
Grade just North of San Luis Obispo.

Around 2,000 Chinese-American laborers were
brought to the area by Louis to carve the tunnels with
hand tools and dynamite. With a total profit of $200 a day
for ten years, Louis began his illustrious career as a labor

see Chinatown, page 26

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The Ah Louis store at 800 Palm St. in San Luis Obispo is a registered California Landmark, protected because of the significance the man who built it played in the turn-of-the-century industrial development of the Central Coast. Ah Louis was a Chinese immigrant whose many talents led him to become a famed business man and industrialist.

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contractor and soon became known as "Mr. Big" among community members and Chinese-American friends. According to a May 15, 1972 Los Angeles Times article, the now deceased Wing Louis said each of his father's workers made $1.50 a day, of which only 10 cents went to Ah Louis.

At one point, at least 10,000 Chinese laborers from Louis' home district Tsi Shan came through San Luis Obispo, a key distribution point for the laborers. Throughout California, the men built roads and dikes in the Delta county, as well as worked in the mines.

"Many Chinese immigrants paid Ah Louis for the passage to America," said Merle Pettitzen, assistant director of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center.

A variety of several restaurants, the Joss House (a Chinese church), gambling houses, outhouses and board houses used by Chinese laborers working for Ah Louis made up most of Chinatown.

Louis is thought to be one of the most influential Chinese figures throughout the San Luis Obispo community and California in general. He was appointed the mayoral role of Chinatown where he was called the "Chief Mandarin of Chinatown." As chief, he would arbitrate many disputes making sure the Chinese knew and observed the law.

Even though the Chinese immigrants graded the roads that made it possible to travel between Los Angeles and San Francisco (and hence the Central Coast), built irrigation systems and provided seeds, they were still severely discriminated against and often seen as foreigners taking jobs from white men.

Adding to the pressure that the Chinese-Americans were the 1854 California Supreme Court ruling from "The People v. George W. Hall." The case resulted when George Hall, a white man, was convicted on capital murder charges for killing a Chinese-American miner in Nevada County, based on evidence given by other Chinese-Americans. The testimony was dismissed and Hall freed. The court ruling stated that the Chinese were "a race of people whom nature has marked as inferior, and who are incapable of progress or intellectual development beyond a certain point, as their history has shown, differing in language, opinions, color, and physical conformation, between whom and ourselves nature has placed an insurmountable difference." Adding to the racial tensions caused by the case was the 1879 recession and the Foreign Miners Licence Law passed by Congress and sharply limiting the number of Chinese workers allowed into the United States.

The local government further threatened the livelihoods of Chinese-Americans in 1880, when the San Luis Obispo City Council voted to remove all Chinese laundries from the city because other residents didn't like the clouds of steam and odor they exhaled. Six years later, Arroyo Grande residents forced the Chinese residents out of their town and threatened those who remained with hangings.

Ah Louis bought iron shutters for the windows to protect his eight children from crime and the potential blowout of racial tension. The shutters were shipped from England around Cape Horn to fend off feuds and other marauders in early Chinatown, according to a Californian Historian edition from November 1965.
Chinatown

continued from page 26

Tragedy struck the Louis family when Ah Louis' wife was shot in the head around the same time. Historical reports differ as to the actual sequence of events some claim the wife was asleep with the youngest child when she was shot in the middle of the night while other publications say it was outside the store on the sidewalk. Either way, the male suspect was tried quickly by a jury and hanged. The Ah Louis store still kept its business despite the tragedy.

Ah Louis is remembered as having a long white beard and a crooked nose with a three-foot-long cherrywood and ivory pipe in hand that he smoked corn silk out of to help his asthma.

When he passed in 1936, his family returned to China for his last farewell. Many Chinese schools were closed for the funeral that was carried on a nationwide broadcast around China.

Most of the Chinese-American laborers moved south in the late 1930s. San Luis Obispo began to grow extensively after World War II and the downtown served as significant component of commercial housing. Chinese residents were further forced to vacate when city officials claimed land on both sides of the block to Palm and Monterey and Chorro and Morro streets.

There is also an Ah Louis project slated to leave the store standing but include a four-story building with retail, offices and an apartment upstairs next door.

Sam Luis Obispo Mayor Dave Romens said the new project will "eventually be one of a kind" and possibly "the crown jewels" of the city, although he wasn't sure if they would contain any Chinese influence in them to reflect the history of the old town and the story of the man that built it.

Palm Street today

Next to the store is a bell dedicated to Ah Louis from his son that sits on the right side of the building.

His granddaughter Elise reminisces about her grandfather and the bell in H.K. Wong's book, "Gold Mountain Man" (Chinese for "Gold Mountain Man"): "At his sign (hand motion) someone went out into the street to clang the bell loudly and announce in Chinese that dinner was ready."

Currently, there are plans to do more on the space where Chinatown once sat. The Chinatown project being built by the Copeland family will take up 300,000 square feet containing off-street parking, an upscale hotel, condos, retail, a restaurant and offices over more than three-tenths of the block between Palm and Monterey and Chorro and Morro streets.

There are two stands of the block, doors would fly open — anyone who wanted to come was welcome and would scurry to 800 Palm St. to find a place on a stool around a table which was set up in the store. Food was brought to the guests first."

Chinese letters adorn the corner of Palm and Chorro streets. Currenty, there are plans to do more on the space where Chinatown once sat. The Chinatown project being built by the Copeland family will take up 300,000 square feet containing off-street parking, an upscale hotel, condos, retail, a restaurant and offices over more than three-tenths of the block between Palm and Monterey and Chorro and Morro streets.

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B L O G

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Twitter
continued from page 21

I shouldn’t have eaten that two-week-old seafood for dinner! Going to the bathroom now! Will update from hospital if I have food poisoning!"

As things stand, I have never heard of offices using this site for co-workers, and I don’t think anyone would want their family or friends to know what they happen to do at any given moment. Twitter advertises that the service is as informative as you want it to be. You can update very infrequently, or turn off updates by certain people. Okay, great! But if you don’t want to display your whole life like the Truman Show or ignore people, why would you use the service to begin with?

As fun as it could be to obnoxiously use Twitter for purposes of personal humor, we’ve developed yet another outlet for our secret inclination toward social exhibitionism. We’re so starved for our fifteen minutes of Internet fame that we imagine broadcasting our every move will interest someone, anyone, enough that they will continue to read. Between Internet networking and blogging, everyone and their mother - often quite literally - crave that acknowledgment, whether in Web site hits or comments.

As a response, I’m working on my own project. I’d like to combine the personal information of Facebook profiles and the University’s Find People online watchlist with the visual broadcasting aspect of YouTube and the constant status update capabilities of Twitter. That way, people can find out who you are, exactly where you are, and read/watch what you’re doing at any given moment. I’m calling it “House Arrest.”

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Twitter
continued from page 21

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Win A New Prius!
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Chelsea Bieker

The popular musical "Oliver!" features songs such as "Food, Glorious Food" and "You've got to pick-a-pocket or two."

"Oliver!" kicks off the Broadway's Best Series at the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center Friday.

"Oliver!" is the heartwarming tale of an orphan forced to live on meager rations, enduring difficult living situations. Determined to find a better life, young Oliver Twist runs away from the abusive orphanage and finds himself mixed up with pickpockets in 19th-century London.

"Oliver!" was first written by Lionel Bart in 1960, attracting large audiences and gaining much success, making it a must-see beloved family musical today.

The people who wrote the music for the show did a wonderful job, considering that it is always a risky turning a play into a musical, said Cal Poly Arts interim director Peter Wilt.

"By the time it got to Broadway it was a big hit," Wilt said. "I think it is a great family musical, and I was really glad we were able to open the season with it, because it's kind of an uplifting type of thing. Poor Oliver has his periods where life isn't too great for him, but in the end everything works out nicely."

Wilt said the musical will appeal to Cal Poly students because it captures life as a child, and anyone will be able to relate to Oliver's trials and tribulations.

"Hopefully (students) will be able to see how rough some people did have it as a kid, and they can be thankful they are here at Cal Poly — they aren't like Oliver," Wilt said with a laugh.

The musical is full of catchy and enthralling songs that the audience will be sure to enjoy, Wilt said. Some of the musical's famous songs include "Food, Glorious Food" and "You've got to pick-a-pocket or two."

"Oliver!" will come to the PAC Sept. 20 at 7 p.m., since show times this year will be one hour earlier. Wilt said that two discounts will be offered including one for faculty and staff, as well as a student rush discount that will be available at 6 p.m. the night of the show.

The PAC has four shows in its Broadway series this year and offers discounts for getting tickets to all of them. Visit pacslo.org for more information.
Advice from your ASI president

What's in a beginning? Every year thousands of students walk into their first year of college at Cal Poly, wide-eyed and excited for the next chapter in their lives to begin. As ASI President, I have been asked to welcome each one of you, new and returning, to a new year.

When I entered these collegiate doors some three years ago my perspective was much different than it is today. This will not be easy, nor should it be, but rather, the next half decade should open your mind to a plethora of new ideas, experiences and realities.

As President, I am often asked for key pieces of advice regarding success at Cal Poly. My advice is to make this place your home and to find your roots. Finding your roots isn't static; there isn't one path, nor is there one destination. In college, experience is everything. In order to make the most out of college, you have to take advantage of opportunities and present yourself. I encourage you to study abroad, join a club, kayak Avila, give love, give love, volunteer, and start now.

Remember, nobody knew you or this old thing was important until you started. How do you think the world who you really are and what you want to be known for?

I look back at my career at Cal Poly and I can say with certainty that I have no regrets. Sure, there were some ups and downs, some awkward moments, but like I tell my friends, there are no regrets, just good stories.

Perhaps this perspective would be different today had I taken alternate routes through my tenure. What if I hadn't switched majors?

What if I hadn't approached that booth nearly four years ago at the Work block party? Would I be the active I am today? Would I be 21 years old with nothing but possibility ahead? The point is that I took the risk, I put myself out there, and I found my roots.

This year, Cal Poly has a lot of potential for change. Throughout my campaign for ASI President, I made it clear that my commitment to student success was unswerving, and that I was going to push a set of three main issues: sustainability, diversity, and campus safety.

In addition, the year will unfold under an umbrella vision ASI Student Government will work to "bring politics back to the students." That said, I challenge each of you to take your passion and channel it through the university.

We at ASI have worked all summer to create a set of events, programs, and opportunities for students to make this vision a reality. Look out for the Diversity Forum in the Fall, a new Safe Ride Program in the Winter, and the State of the Student Address early next year.

Take this first week to explore your new microcosm of the world. For those of you who are new, visit nearby beaches or play some bocce ball at Mitchell Park, and for those of us who are returning, re-discover the reasons you fell in love with San Luis Obispo in the first place.

Angela Kramer is ASI Student Government president and a political science senior.
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YOUR GUIDE TO THE NEW ‘90210’

Kelly Outrani
THE DAILY ORANGE (ORANGE, CA)

After the old crowd grew up, got married and moved on, life went on
in Southern California. With a new cast and new problems the popular
zip code is back to attract a new generation to the sex, lies and intrigue
that lie in Beverly Hills, 90210.
The newly revamped “90210” seems to be a mixture of “Gossip Girl,”
“My Super Sweet 16” and “Scrubs.” It has bratty rich kids with problems
and a unique comedic spin that is less witty and pop-culture charged
than “The OC,” but still funny.
When the Wilson family moves from Kansas to Beverly Hills, daughter
Anne (Shenae Grimes) and adopted son Dixon (Kristian Kiehling) get
thrown into a crazy, fast-paced world much like the Walshes did 18 years
ago.
In its two-hour premiere last Tuesday, the show broke records for
The CW. More than 4.5 million viewers tuned in to make “90210” the
highest rated premiere on the network. With better acting, fewer
cheesy moments, 90210 will
be on its way to becoming
the next breakout teen show.

Character Breakdown:
New characters and more
drama can be confusing, so
here’s “90210” characters 101:

ORIGINAL CAST

Original cast of “Beverly
Hills, 90210” (left). New cast
of “90210” (below).
Annie Wilson: A good girl from Kansas who has a love for theater. After getting on the bad side of queen bee Naomi and stealing the theater spotlight away from Adrianna, it looks like there might be some catfights in the future.

Most like: Brenda Walsh (Shannen Doherty)/Donna Martin (Tori Spelling)

Similarities: Brenda and Annie love theater and were transplanted from the Midwest to Beverly Hills, which would make them the obvious pair. However, Annie's sweet personality and innocent naïveté align her right up with the angelic Donna Martin.

Difference: Annie seems a lot nicer than Brenda, who was basically known as the sassy hothead throughout her time on the show. Also, when it came to love triangles, Brenda was usually on the losing end, waiting for the guy to choose her.

Naomi Clark: Classic mean girl with issues. In true snotty fashion, she steps on her former best friend on her way to the top and has mindless parents who defend their little girl to the end. Flashes of insecurity are up in Naomi when she finds out her boyfriend is cheating on her and having her mom "nicely" tell her that she simply isn't a smart person. It's clear this girl will be the main event in the show.

Most like: Kelly Taylor (Jennie Garth)

Similarities: Both the girls are the high-profiled princess in school that every guy wants and every girl wants to be. Much like Kelly, Naomi seems to have some lurking family issues that will threaten to destroy her.

Difference: Although both the girls have the perfect exterior, damaged interior problem, Kelly's character grew tremendously into a caring, loveable character rather quickly. Judging by Naomi's past, it doesn't seem like she has a nice bone in her body.

Dixon Wilson: The athletic, adopted son who happens to be black (though it doesn't seem the writers will focus on race). He does, however, get in a fight with the old lacrosse captain after Dixon steals his spot in the lineup.

Most like: Brandon Walsh (Jason Priestley)

Similarities: Both Brandon and Dixon are one half of a sibling duo which move to the glamorous Beverly Hills. Also both the boys seem to be the nice guy, do-gooders who usually put morals above all else - not to mention on Brandon's first day of school, he goes to the "West Beverly Blare" newspaper and Dixon shows up at "The Blaze" TV station.

Difference: Brandon was hardly an athlete, after trying out for track and failing, he stuck to writing. Dixon, however, seems to be brash and braved as the new star lacrosse player for West Beverly. Also, the adoption story draws a huge contrast between the two.

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Comparing the original to the new "90210," many cast members are reminiscent of past characters on the show.

Clockwise from top left: Tori Spelling as Donna Martin; Shenae Grimes as Annie Wilson; Jennie Garth as Kelly Taylor; Anneliese McCard as Naomi Clark; Tristan Wilds as Dixon Wilson; and Jason Priestly as Brandon Walsh.

See 90210, page 37

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

To learn more about this local study, please contact:
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Are you suffering from a recent ANKLE SPRAIN?

Brittney Clyde

No matter a person's age, taste, gender or preference for entertainment, Cal Poly Arts has put together a vast assortment of productions that are sure to impress.

"We pretty much cover all ranges and tastes," interim director for Cal Poly Arts, Peter Wilt said.

In fact, the department is the major presenter of performing arts events on the Central Coast. All of the shows are booked as early as a year in advance to guarantee they play on the Cal Poly campus.

"We are just starting to look at the 2009-2010 season," Wilt said. "I will be going to a conference in Seattle to begin the hunt for talent."

For the fall quarter alone, 16 different shows will be performed.

Not only will there be an array of music presented including classical, jazz, blues and pop-rock, but there will also be countless Broadway/ theater productions taking the stage including "Oliver!," "Sweeney Todd," and "The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee."

To satisfy a love for world music, Great Big Sea, a Celtic pop band will be playing; and if you, then attending Simply Ballroom with guest host Debbie Keynolds is right up your alley.

An interesting fact about the production of Hamlet is that Cal Poly "has not done a professional touring Shakespeare production in probably 12 years," Wilt said. "The production is significant in that the actors playing Hamlet, his mother and his step-father are the actor's parents in real life."

This year's critically acclaimed talent is sure to suit all types of audiences and budgets. To find out more about specific dates, ticket prices or summary on any of the Cal Poly Arts productions, visit calpolyarts.org or call 805-756-6556.

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Catch a flick with your favorite celeb for $25

LOS ANGELES (AP) - "Six Made Steve Martin for a screening of "The Jerk," share a theater with Mike Myers for a showing of "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery" - or span the country, but don't miss "The Silence of the Lambs." These stars - along with Dustin Hoffman, Cameron Diaz, Daniel Washington, Annette Bening, Jim Carrey, Minder MacLaine, Rita Moreno and Keene Reeves - will share some of their most famous films with their fans next month at "Target Presents AFI Night at the Movies." The one-night-only event is set to take over the ArcLight theater in Hollywood on Oct. 1, the American Film Institute announced Wednesday. The idea is to bring filmmakers and fans together to celebrate American movies, said AFI chief Bob Gazzale.

"It is a throwback show of American film," he said, "and AFI's honor to celebrate the artists and their contributions to the rich cultural legacy of our nation."

Tickets are $25 and will be available beginning Sept. 17.

The complete list of stars and films:
- "Connery, "The Man Who Would Be King"
- "Bening, American Beauty"
- "Carrey, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"
- "Diaz, "There's Something About Mary"
- "Foster, Silence of the Lambs"
- "Hoffman, "Tootsie"
- "MacLaine, "The Apartment"
- "Martin, "The Jerk"
- "Moreno, "West Side Story"
- "Myers, "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery"
- "Reeves, "The Matrix"
- "Washington, "Glory!"

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(Hey, it'll give you something to talk to Mom about.)

NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS: BEST IN THE BIZ

NEW YORK (AP) — Bar-
ney Rosset, the publisher of
First Amendment defender
whose battles on behalf of
Henry Miller’s “Tropic of Can-
cer” and other explicit works
helped overturn U.S. censor-
ship laws, has won an honor-
ary National Book Award for
“Outstanding Service to the
American Literary Commu-
nity.”

Maxine Hong Kingston,
the Chinese-American author
best known for “The Woman
Warrior,” her autobiogra-
phy that became a model for
other immigrant writers and is
taught on campuses nationwide, was
awarded a medal for “Distinguished Contri-
bution to American Letters.”

The prizes were announced Wednesday by
the National Book Foundation, a nonprofit
organization that presents the
National Book Awards.

“This year’s distinguished honorees broke new ground in
American literary publishing,”
Foundation executive director Harold Augenbraun said in a
statement.

“Rosset exposed the
great story of American immi-
gration to a new, rich blend of
fiction, memoir, folklore and
political ideas. Rosset opened a
door to the concept about
writing in America, letting
controversial literary work
work for itself.”

Rosset, 86, and Kingston, 67, will collect their prizes
Nov. 19 at the 50th annual National Book Awards cer-
emony. Nominees for competitive categories will be an-
nounced Oct. 15 in Chicago by novelist Scott Turow.

Rosset, a Chicago native who in the 1950s and ’60s
ended arrest and financial hardship to win landmark
court decisions and publish the full editions of Miller’s
“Tropic of Cancer” and another erotic text, H.H. Law-
rence’s “Lady Chatterley’s Lover.” A leading advocate
of avant-garde and politi-
cal writings, he also released
work by Malcolm X, Céline Guevara and Jean-
Paul Sartre among others.

Kingston, the daughter of Chinese immi-
grants, was born in Stockton, Calif., and
has written often about her
early years and her parents
“Woman Warrior,” a
debut work published in
1976, won a National Book
Center Little prize. Five
years later, she won a Na-
tional Book Award for the
memoir “China Men.” She
has also written “The Fifth
Book of Peace,” “Trampster
Monster” and “Through the
Black Curtain.”

Past winners of Hon-
orary National Book Awards
include Arthur Miller, Nor-
man Mailer and Philip Roth.

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Brenda always got the last word in arguments and never backed out of a fight. Silver looks like she carries her brass knuckles in her pencil pouch. Both the girls also seem to be OK with being out of the crowd.

Differences: So far, Silver doesn't seem to be the type to mourn the break-up with a boyfriend for more than a few episodes. Brenda, on the other hand, mourned the end of her relationship with Dylan for two seasons. In the end, while Brenda was rule, she never insured trouble that wasn't necessary. Silver loves to stir the pot with her blog.

Be our GUEST!
The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentaries.

Contributions should be about 500 words long and on an original topic. Send with your name and major to mustangdaily@otpcolumns.com

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Today's Solutions

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Welcome back students!
Steve Lampiris (Contributing Writer) 

The best way to move past a mistake is to just pretend that it didn't happen.

Certainly, this is the road Metallica has taken. 2003's "St. Anger" has all but been forgotten by everyone including the band, as it's dropped its songs from its set lists in recent performances. Five years later, Metallica is back to help people forget that blunder with "Death Magnetic," an album which marks Metallica's attempt to prove that they can still knock you out on your ass. The key word is, of course, attempt.

"Death" finds Metallica in the middle of self-reflection, looking in the mirror in an attempt to convince itself that it still has 'it.' all the while ignoring the deep wrinkles and the bad left knee.

The album may be what singer-guitarist James Hetfield and company consider a 'return' to their '80s sound, but it's more or less Metallica trying to record a sequel to "Justice" using its twin albums "Load" and "ReLoad" as a prism.

That being said, it is no surprise that one of the best tracks here, the single "The Day That Never Comes," is a song where thrash is the bitter half of the song, after a long, slow build. A quasi-retread of classics "Fade to Black" and "One" — the eight-minute beast — plays out as the result of those two filtered through "Bleeding Me."

While the slower-tempo songs are the most listenable, there are still moments of Metallica's heyday lurking in the famous cuts in "All Nightmare Long" and "My Apocalypse." Both prove that, if pushed in the right direction, Metallica can still rip your face off. Sadly, these are about the only standouts in an otherwise astoundingly slapdash record.

Despite the ups and downs of the album musically, the words coming from Hetfield's mouth are sometimes stupid, sometimes terrible and always lame. Lyrically, Magnetic is plenty of suck, a damn shame considering Metallica used to be a great source of socio-political cynicism.

It really doesn't get any dumber than when Hetfield wails "Love is a four-letter word" during the aforementioned "The Day."

What appears to be no reason. It really means an otherwise OK song lyrically. Also see par with that lameness is "Suicide." I've already died. "You're just the funeral I've been waiting for." The song about suicide, living dead inside. The problem overall is that this collection of lyrics is being written and sung by guys who, at half their current ages (besides Rob Trujillo aside), were writing biting social commentary on topics like addiction, the death penalty and war. Now, these guys are churning out phrases that a 16-year-old would scream at his/her parents if they took the ear away. This has defied the notion that music comes with age.

Metallica may have recovered from the aftermath of the mess that was "St. Anger," if only to a degree. If Metallica could find a decent source for lyrical inspiration, then it would have a real comeback album. But, as it stands, "Death Magnetic" perpetuates the argument that the foursome will never grow up.

Metallica's "Death Magnetic" proves they're still got it.

"Death Magnetic" proves they're still got it.

Day one
and you're already number one

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Psychedelic ministrel Trailblazer of zyde folk, Serenity-shade basking Natalie Portman. A library of persona, one artist Devendra Banhart.

The native Venezuelan's recent offering, "Smokey Rolls Down Thunder Canyon," is a clear culmination of musical growth born amid his experimental albums "Cripple Craw" and "Requiem in the Hands."

From audacious eight-minute suite "Seahorse" to church organ soaked "Save," Banhart delivers an eclectic blend of then and now, mixing retro '60s folk rock with digestible 21st century licks. Equally a synthesizer and an innovator, the artist's trippy vibe enables flawless execution of genre-transitions that fall flat on most records. Here, the soft-serve-smooth Banhart pulls it off. Proof? He and Natalie P spent the bulk of her Harvard reunion tapping out behind the catering tent.

"Seahorse" begins as a calming folk song, discerning preconceived tensions with a deconstructed acoustic guitar. High, happy and free, Banhart glides toward heightened self-actualization, sowing the internal nature of peace. Like Dylan's plea to the tambourine man "four decades earlier, "Seahorse" explores an eloquently theoretical yet surprisingly developed existence wherein he is at peace and free to explore an infinite inner labyrinth.

The tempo kicks into gear as a stiff piano and punctuating drum push to the surface. Hanhart plays glue for an ambitious instrumental carnival as Banhart trades fulfillment for desire, echoing a Gregorian: "I want to be a little seahorse." An incendiary electric guitar bursts forth, forcing a vocal shift from McCartney to Morrison. The Door's frontman must be crying happy tears as the melody channels "Lover" and "The Other Woman" are easily among the elite tracks of our decade — yes, I said "our," step up and own it — while "Shubey Shaboom" showcased a quint Donovan-esque narrative and refined satirical wit. You deserve to hear this album before you throw Crosby, Stills & Nash on the turntable for another spin.

Everybody knows song-by-song reviews are a drag, so let's not. By the way, half the tracks are in Spanish. That shouldn't bother you. If it does, you're probably a philistine.

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Mark Wahlberg in "Max Payne."

Comings and goings:

David Germain

Harry Potter pulled a disappearing act from Hollywood this fall and holiday schedule, his sixth big-screen adventure basking there until November into next summer.

The novel, a little more than $1 million or the box office for the likes of James Bond, a vampire bloodstream ("High School Mus­
cial") kids and all those cartoon critters studios are about to unleash.

The season offers action (Bond’s latest, "Quantum of Solace"); family flocks (the animated sequel "Madagascar Escape 2 Africa"); fantasy romance (the best-selling adaptation "Twilight"); and seri­

ous stuff lining up for the Academy Awards, from Nicole Kidman’s epic "Australia" to Bond star Daniel Craig’s war saga "Defiance.”

Brad Pitt reunites with old pal George Clooney and Cate Blanchett in two films, Clint Eastwood does his own two-fers by directing Angelina Jolie in one drama and himself in another, and Oliver Stone takes on his latest president with a George W. Bush biopic.

Highlights of what Hollywood has in store:

The World at War: "World War II is huge this season, with Cruise, Craig and director Spike Lee all offering drama-touching on little-known aspects of the conflict," said director Bryan Singer’s "Valkyrie," Cruise stars as German Col. Claus von Stauten­
berg, who led a group of Nazis and set up a community of resistance fighters in Eastern Europe.

Spike Lee directs "Miracle at St. Anna," starring Derek Luke, Michael Ealy, Liz Alonso and Omar Benson Miller as members of the all-black "Buffalo Soldier" outfit fighting in Italy.

The film dramatizes the valor of troops whose heroism amid bigotry on the homefront is unknown to many Americans today.

Lee said, "These guys are true American patriots. They were fighting two wars." Lee said: "They were fighting the Nazis, the fascists in Europe and fighting the Japanese in the Pacific, and they were fighting Jim Crow racism, prejudice in the United States of America at the same time.”

License to Avenge: "When we last saw Mr. Bond, the super-spy in the making was out of prison but looking for payback over the death of the love of his life. "Quantum of Solace" picks up when "Casino Royale" left off, putting Bond against a phenom environmentalist trying to monopolize the water supply.

The title comes from a phrase in an Ian Fleming short story, where someone describes to Bond a relationship that unraveled and what measure of devotion is required to keep love alive. "I love the idea of it. It applied to where Bond was at the end of the last movie," Craig said.

"The one thing he didn’t have with the relationship was that quantum of solace.”

Also on the action front: "Hear” co-stars Robert De Niro and Al Paci­
cino reunite for "Righteous Kill," playing cops tracking a vigilante serial killer; Mark Wahlberg stars in a cop片 as he team up with his father and partner in the video-game adap­
tation "Max Payne;” Ed Harris and Viggo Mortensen are hired killers in the Western "Appaloosa, directed by Harris and featuring Renée Zell­
weger; and Leonardo DiCaprio and Russell Crowe team for Ridley Scott’s "Body of Lies," about a CIA hunt for a terrorist mastermind.

"It’s rare where you get a piece of material that’s politically pertinent like this but also sort of non-preachy and engaging enough for an audience," DiCaprio said.

Love at First Bite: "Twilight" is the good-girl, bad-boy romance based on the first book in Stephenie Meyer’s series about a awkward teen (Kristen Stewart) who falls for a dazzling, etern.illy young stud (Robert Pattinson). OK, so he’s a vampire, but a nice vampire, from a family of bloodsuckers who eschew gnawing on human necks. "He doesn’t want to be a monster, he doesn’t want to kill people;" said "Twilight" director Catherine Hardwicke. "He loves her, but if he get too passionate, he will want her blood. He will want to kill her.”

Other odd romances include "Ghost Town," a comedy with Ricky Gervais, Tea Leon and Hong Kimkar, about a renaissance dentist able to see ghosts who fall for the wife of one of the dead guys haunting him; and "Zack and Miri Make a Porno," directed by Kevin Smith, tale of doomed teen pub (Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks) who do a skin flick to raise cash comes undone as they seek meaning amid thestoffe conformity.

see Movies page 42
"Burn After Reading" 

Coming from the quirky minds of the directors of "O Brother, Where Art Thou?", this dark comedy involves a CIA agent who loses the manuscript for top-secret memoirs. Two gym employees (one played by a comedic Brad Pitt) find it and hope to profit from their unlikely discovery.

"The League" 

This steeply-controversial film, based on the novel by the same name and directed by the creator of "American Beauty," centers around an abusive father and a bigoted next-door neighbor who she becomes sexually obsessed with.

"Righteous Kill" 

Al Pacino and Robert De Niro play New York City detectives on the trail of a serial killer who may be connected to a murder case from fourteen years ago and now have to reunite to make sure they didn't put the wrong man behind bars.

"The Duchess" 

Benedict Cumberbatch stars in this period piece about Georgiana, the Duchess of Devonshire, following her extramarital rise and fall — complete with gambling, drinking, scandal and wit.

"The Soloist" 

A homeless musician on Skid Row looks to fulfill his dream of playing at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

"The Road" 

Release date: November 26

Genre: Drama

Bottom line: A post-apocalyptic drama about a father and son walking alone through the burned and ravished landscape of what used to be America. They have nothing except a pistol in hand, the clothes on their backs, and each other as they attempt to escape the increasing cold in their southwest migration.

"Australia" 

Based on actual events, Valkyrie tells the story of Nazi Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, by San Francisco Supervisor Dan (played by San Francisco Supervisor Dan (played by Miguelito et. al) and his team of plotters who tries to assassinate Hitler, seize military control, and then force up with a stock-man to drive 2,000 head of cattle across the unforgiving landscape, only to face the bombing at Darwin.

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" 

Benjamin Button (Brad Pitt) proves the curious case of a man born old who ages in reverse. Based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's short story, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button", it features Cate Blanchett (played by Cate Blanchett) but continues to gross $700 million and many years after the release.

"Quantum of Solace" 

Daniel Craig as Bond — James Bond — is back in full force in this follow-up to "Casino Royale" and this time he's out to avenge the death of Vesper Lynd and combat an environmental terrorist looking to take over a country's water supply.

"The Informant!" 

This drama about three Jewish brothers (played by Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber and Jeremy Irons who escape from Nazi-occupied Poland and leads a guerrilla war against the Germans is certainly a box office worth cheering for.

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Movies
continued from page 44

Lee and Kate:
Their epic love was giddy, passionate, unbreakable — until the day he left for the army and died. The stars of "Titanic," Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, share a different love story in "Revolutionary Road," playing a couple whose marriage conspires to keep them together amid the stifling conformity of the 1950s. Good pals in real life, DiCaprio and Winslet had some awkward moments in their love scenes for her husband, "Revolutionary Road" director Sam Mendes, was looking on and giving them pointers.

How weird was it?
"No more than any other situation like that," DiCaprio said. "Doing those type of scenes is always a bit strange, never mind a husband but an entire crew watching you."

Among other big-screen reunions: Brad Pitt reunites with "Ocean's Eleven" accomplice George Clooney for the wartime black comedy "Nine Ball Reading," which Joel and Ethan Coen (who are reuniting themselves with Clooney and co-stars Frances McDormand and Richard Jenkins) Pit against "Babel," directed by Cave Blanchett for Fraud Fischer's "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," based on an F. Scott Fitzgerald story about a man who ages backward toward infancy and Nicole Kidman is back with "Milk," directed by Gus Van Sant, co-starring with Heath Ledger in "Australia," a tale of a British aristocrat and a rugged driving, safe across the comment amid a Japanese attack during World War II.

Double-Barreled Clint:
One of Hollywood's most efficient filmmakers, perpetual Academy Award contender Clint Eastwood again cranks out two movies in short order. First, he directs Angelina Jolie in "Changeling," the story of a single mom coping with a corrupt police officer who returns the wrong child in place of her kidnapped son.

Then, Eastwood directs himself in "Gran Torino," playing a veteran whose prejudices are challenged in encounter with his immigrant neighbors.

Awards season is crowded with other serious films featuring past Oscar winners among them "Milk," starring Sean Penn as slain gay political pioneer Harvey Milk; "The Soloist," with Jamie Foxes as a schizophrenic movie pagne, befriended by a journalist (Robert Downey Jr.); and "Double," with Meryl Streep as a woman who suspect a priest (Hugh Laurie) of abusing a boy.

Nixon/Booth:
Three decades ago, Richard Nixon faced the scrutiny of David Frost in what became a television event for the ages. As the British TV personality delivered a remarkably candid interview with the fallen president,

"This was two lone wolves. It's a duel. Two complicated, frightening, really brilliant people," said Ron Howard, who directs "Frost/Nixon" adapted from the play about the TV showdown. Reprising their stage roles, Frank Langella stars as Nixon opposite Michael Sheen as Frost.

"For me, with their histories, their intelligence, their egos, a context like this, really did become kind of life and death," Howard said. "They say it in the piece: There can be only one winner."

The current president, George W. Bush, comes under the scrutiny of director Oliver Stone, who previously took on White House matters with "Nixon" and "JFK: Stone's "— due out right before the November elections — chronicles Balls' life from his Yale days through the Iraq War.

"We're telling it while he's still in office, which has never been done," said Elizabeth Banks, who plays Laura Bush. "The Bush family is a political dynasty. In America, it's the closest thing we have to a political dynasty. Other than John Adams and John Quincy Adams, we've never had father-and-son president like this before."

U. Southern Mississippi peddles out free bike program

Lesley Walters
THE SOUTHERN REPORTER (U. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI)

Students frustrated by limited parking and a long trek to class finally have an alternative means of on-campus travel.

U. Southern Mississippi's Office of Sustainability rolled out its new bike loan program Wednesday, allowing a row of 17 single-speed bicycles in front of the Thad Cochran Center and encouraged students to make use of the free service.

When Kryoner Russell, a fresh- man from Union, saw the row of distinctly-colored Eagle Bikes, he asked Larry Lee, chief officer at the Office of Sustainability, "How much?"

"It's free," Lee explained to the theater major. Lee then told Rus- sell how the program is intended to work. When a student arrives at the intended building, park the bike on a rack, unlock, so someone else can use it for further travel.

"Man, that's cool," Russell said with a smile. He was the first stu- dent to make use of the EcoEagle free-share bikes.

The bright yellow and black Eagle Bikes were purchased from a local retailer for about $300 each, including maintenance fees, Lee said. Ten of the 17 bikes are also equipped with a basket to hold brownies or backpacks.

"We want to see everybody riding (Eagle Bikes), not just stu- dents," Lee said. "Faculty and staff should feel free to ride them."

For details, call 232-3152.

Student participants,

Glen Davis, Elyse Rinehart, Tyler Embry,

Lesley Walters

September 20, 2008
Dressing up isn't something just to do on Halloween night anymore. No, here in San Luis Obispo, students love costume parties and some of them get pretty creative. A costume is pretty much required. Sure, you could go in a tank top and jeans, but what's the fun in that? This is college, after all. But never fear, there are some items that work for many different themes, so you can pay tuition and still attend costume parties dressed to the nines!

1. Cowboy hats
San Luis Obispo, cowboy hats work for any country or western-themed bash, as well as any sports parties. They're also great for line-dancing at The Graduate on Thursday nights!

2. Boas
Whether made of real feathers or polyester, these are great fun to jazz up any outfit. They come in a variety of colors and work especially well for decades parties (come dressed in the era of your choice) and '80s prom (exactly what it sounds like.)

3. Cat-eye glasses
These are a sexy staple for many theme parties. It works great for office parties (as a sexy secretary or corporate ho), decades parties, celebrity parties and nerd costumes.

4. Aviator sunglasses
These are an easy way to give off a “hot stuff” vibe. Great for celebrity, army and Eurotrash themes. Plus, who doesn’t love “Top Gun”?

5. Fishnets/leggings/knee socks
These are one of Costume Capers’ most popular items, according to employee Keith Wetzel. They are cheap, come in assorted colors and can accessorize any outfit. They’re good for things like W TF parties (wear the most random stuff possible), ‘80s prom, Eurotrash and Red light/Green light (dress up in a color that corresponds to your relationship status).

6. Bling
These flashy, rhinestone encrusted dollar signs are surprisingly versatile and are the top-selling item at Costume Capers for men, Wetzel said. Whether you’re a Mafia man, gangster, pimp or big-time CEO, this item is sure to enhance your outfit.

7. Bandanas
This is another basic accessory that enhances many outfits. Particularly good for any western/country theme, gangster theme or sports theme.

8. “Wife-beater” tank tops
White shirts are particularly useful for highlighter parties, but can be used for sports or gangster parties as well.

9. Camouflage-printed clothing
Whether you’re off to the jungle, going on a safari or heading out to an army party, having something in this print is very useful. It can be anything, from a shirt to pants or even just a bandana.

10. Crazy dress or shirt
Flashy and wild, colorful and crazy, these will come in handy whether you need an '80s prom, decades, or W TF outfit. If it's crazy enough, you can twist it to fit any theme.

Rachel Glas

Aviator sunglasses a la “Top Gun,” cowboy hats and fishnet tights are some accessories that can cross party lines and be reused for different themes.
Lee said he would rather see members of the faculty and staff riding Eagle Bikes than golf carts, which are sometimes powered with gasoline.

Lee said the free-share system is the first phase of three for the bike loan program. The second phase will be a lease program that allows any member of the campus community to lease an Eagle Bike for personal use throughout an entire semester for a low fee. In the third phase, students, faculty and staff can rent an Eagle Bike for a shorter period of time - a day or a week, for instance - for an even lower fee.

In each case, bike chains will be distributed along with the bicycles to provide security. Lee said, "I'm pretty sure they're probably going to go missing." Kyle Laylor, a freshman international business major, added, "I think any time you deal with an honor system with the public, there are certainly concerns," Carino said. "But we're hoping that students will recognize it as a service to them and act on their good will to keep the bikes on campus."

Lee said while the issue of theft is a real threat to the program, the Office of Sustainability has taken several precautions to lessen that threat. "It's a very unique bike ... If they show up off campus, we're going to do what we can to mitigate that," Lee said. Lee said each bicycle has a sticker with a serial number, a USM bike permit and an EcoEagle sign attached to the frame which explains what to do if it needs repairs and where it should be parked.

The sign also urges riders not to remove the seat, lock up the bike or take it off campus. Lee said he is considering the use of a Global Positioning System, or GPS, to keep track of Eagle Bikes.

Student Government Association President Melissa Carino said USM administration officials and everyone involved in the project know there is the threat of theft in providing bicycles for public use.

"It is an honor system, and I think any time you deal with an honor system with the public, there are certainly concerns," Carino said. "But we're hoping that students will recognize it as a service to them and act on their good will to keep the bikes on campus."

University President Martha Saunders said in a news release the Eagle Bikes should be "very popular." There are only 17 Eagle Bikes in use so far this semester, and that popularity might lead some students to complain, "We need more!" said Keira Lawson, a sophomore library science major from Brandon. "There were only two bikes at the LAB. We need more."
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Ten Cal Poly athletes to watch this fall

Scott Silvey

Women's volleyball — KYLE AHERSTON
The senior opposite is possibly the most decorated vet-

see Athletes, page 47

Football — RAMSES HARDEN
A likely NFL draft pick, the 6-foot-6 senior wide receiver was named to every pre-season Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) All-America team and is cur-

rently on the watch list for the Walter Payton Award (given to the FCS best offensive play-

er). Harden became Cal Poly's all-time leader in receiving yards in the second week of the season.

Women's basketball — MEGAN HARRISON
The 6-foot-1 senior forward was named to the All-Big West Conference First Team after aver-

aging 13.3 points and 6.9 rebounds per game in leading the Mustangs to the Big West semifinals last season.

Cal Poly senior opposite Kylie Atherstone (5), shown Nov. 16, 2007, is a two-time Big West Conference Player of the Year.
Continued from page 4

Icyball player in Cal Poly history. She was an American Volleyball Coaches Association All-America Third Team selection last year after helping lead the Mustangs to the regional semifinals. The two-time defending Big West Player of the Year is trying to become the first three-time winner of the award since Olympic gold medalist Misty May.

Men's tennis — Andre Dome

An incoming freshman for Coach Justin McGrath, Dome was rated the 16th-best tennis prospect nationally by TennisRecruiting.net and was pursued by many powers, including USC, which even tried to lure Dome by introducing him to football coach Pete Carroll. Ultimately, the Arroyo Grande native decided to play his college tennis closer to home, at Cal Poly.

Men's basketball — Trae Clark

A 5-11 senior point guard, Clark has improved his scoring average in each of his first three seasons as a Mustang. Along with junior shooting guard Lorenzo Keel, Clark led the team in scoring last season by averaging 10.3 points per game. He also distributed a team-high 5.4 assists per game.

Women's soccer — Carrie Andrews

The junior defender was named to the All-Big West First Team for the second time last season. She scored two goals and was third on the team with 29 shots. A year prior, Andrews was also named the co-Big West Freshman of the Year.

Cross country — Daniel Gonia

A junior transfer from San Diego Mesa College, Gonia earned Big West Runner of the Week honors after his first race as a Mustang, the UC Santa Barbara Lagoon Open on Aug. 30, when he broke the course's 8K record in 24 minutes, 25 seconds. Gonia won the 2007 California Community College State title, claiming the 5K and 10K races.

Wrestling — Chase Pasi

As a sophomore last season, Pasi entered the NCAA Tournament as the No. 9 137-pounder in the country. He was the Pac-10 Conference champion in that class.

Swimming and diving — Peter Kline

Kline took part in Olympic qualifying in June, where he raced against swimming icon Michael Phelps in the 400-meter individual medley. Not only does the sophomore already hold three individual school swimming records, but he was also a member of two record-breaking relay squads, as well.

Athletes

Walt Kline

Cal Poly senior forward Megan Harrison (right) is coming off a season in which she was named to the Big West Conference First Team after averaging 13.3 points and 6.9 rebounds per game.
Sarah Hammer tried her best to ignore it, wanting desperately to shut the whole thing out of her mind. That proved impossible, when just a trip to the dining hall at the athlete's village in Beijing drew stares and comments from other athletes.

"Hey, where's the mask?" they would shout out. "Is the air OK to breathe today?"

There were days it wasn't, but by then that wasn't Hammer's biggest concern. She had come to China thinking she was going to win a gold medal for her country. Now she was branded as one of the masked four, not sure what she should think anymore.

One walk through the airport changed everything. There would be no gold, just the realization that an opportunity that may never come again was lost forever.

"It really hurt me a lot," Hammer said. "It still hurts me."

Catching a scene was the last thing Hammer and three other cyclists had in mind when they got off their international flight at the Beijing airport, eager to embark on their Olympic journey. Escaping Beijing's polluted air was, though, and for that reason the four walked through the airport wearing the custom black face masks that U.S. Olympic officials had handed out.

For months they had heard stories about how bad the air would be. For months they had listened to warnings that they should have their masks ready.

"We figured there would be hundreds of others there with masks on, too," Hammer said. "There weren't, and that's where the trouble began.

Photographers waiting for more famous athletes to arrive began taking pictures. Video crews moved in to show the Americans picking up luggage while wearing the masks.

By the time they had taken the bus to the athlete's village, they had created an international incident. The videos were on CNN International, while the photos were seemingly everywhere.

They had embarrassed their hosts. And there would be a price to pay.

The next morning Hammer was awakened by a phone call telling her to be downstairs in 15 minutes along with fellow cyclists seeing Beijing, page 49
Beijing
continued from page 48
Michael Friedman, Bobby Lea and Jennie Reed. She says the tour were lectured by Steve Roush, the USOC’s chief of sports performance, and told they had two hours to apologize or risk being kicked out of the games.
A statement later was crafted in their names saying they “deeply regret the nature of our choices” and praising Chinese officials for doing everything they could to clean up the air.
I lammer never saw it, but she wasn’t seeing much. She stopped looking at e-mail and didn’t watch TV. The only way she could prepare for her races was to put herself in a bubble and try to block everything out.
It didn’t work.
I lammer had won two of the last three world championships in the individual pursuit, but could do no better than fifth in her specialty race. She got another chance in the individual points race, but crashed, breaking her collarbone when someone fell inches from her front wheel.
And now she can only wonder about what could have been.
“I don’t see how anyone can say it didn’t affect me,” Hammer said. “The Olympics are a very intense experience just by themselves and then when you add that stress that happened to us — the worst thing was we didn’t feel any kind of support. Here we are representing the United States and I was so proud to do that. I was so excited, and it just changed everything. I felt like I didn’t have any support.”
They’ve asked the USOC for an apology, and a statement exonerating them for doing anything wrong in Beijing. They were, after all, wearing masks issued by the USOC with the instructions they could wear them as they saw fit. Most of all, they want to make sure other athletes have to be put through what they went through.
USOC chief executive Jim Scherr denied earlier when the apology was issued that the cyclists had been forced into it. Scherr said the athletes did it on their own after realizing how much they offended the Chinese.
USOC spokesman Darryl Seibel said Monday the organization plans to hold a conference call with the cyclists this week and “listen to any concerns they have and answer any questions they have.”
Hammer wishes that would have happened earlier in Beijing. She still might not have won gold, but she surely would have had a better chance at it.
“I just have a lot of sadness that it had to happen and now I’m trying to make sure it won’t happen to another athlete,” she said. “For me it’s just so hard to imagine even now. It’s like a dream sometimes.”
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ARMY ROTC. START STRONG.
Must-see Cal Poly sports events this season

Until the end of time, coaches will always harp the cliché that the most important game is the next game. But we all know that’s not really true, right? Everyone circles one date or another on the calendar, depending on what they’re looking for. Here are 10 such dates in Cal Poly sports for the rest of the fall season that we at the Mustang Daily recommend circling, in chronological order:

1. Men’s and women’s golf at the Coast BMW Intercollegiate at Monarch Dunes Golf Course in Nipomo, 8 a.m. Oct. 6 to 7
   This will be the men’s only local play of the season, and one of just two for the women. The men will have to fill the voids of last year’s senior leaders in Brycen Wagner and Michael O’Brien, while the women’s squad returns all but one player from last season.

2. Men’s soccer vs. UC Santa Barbara, 8 p.m. Oct. 17
   This rematch of last year’s 2-1 Cal Poly win (before a record-shattering crowd of 7,143 at Alex G. Spanos Stadium) is not only aptly on its one-year anniversary, but also in a month where the Mustangs' closest win (before a record-shattering crowd of 10,000 people. Clark led the Mustangs with 10.3 points and 3.4 assists per game last season.

3. Football vs. UC Davis, 4:05 p.m. Nov. 15
   How big is this rivalry between half of the state’s Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) foursome? Just walk into Mott Gym, look for the trophy cases, and find the Golden Horseshoe Trophy — shaped like a giant horseshoe, naturally.

4. Women’s tennis at Cal Poly Invitation—al, Nov. 14 to 16
   The Mustangs, in their only home action of the season, figure to be led by juniors Brittany Billock and Steff Wong, who advanced to the NCAA Championships last season as a doubles tandem — a first for Cal Poly.

5. Men’s tennis at UC Santa Barbara Invitational, Nov. 9 to 11
   While not technically a home match, this is the Mustangs’ closest game, 36-33 in 2004, its trophy was chosen as the lone representation of victory and has been traded between the schools since. The past two years, however, it’s resided in San Luis Obispo. In the latest installment of the series (which UC Davis leads 8-6-15-2 all-time), Cal Poly roiled in Davis, 63-28.

6. Women’s volleyball vs. Long Beach State, 7 p.m. Nov. 8
   Although the Mustangs have run roughshod over the Big West in recent years, the 49ers pose the conference’s toughest challenge. They went 14-2 in conference play last year (to Cal Poly’s 15-1), posting a 26-7 overall mark, and earned 68 points in the Big West preseason coaches poll to come in second.

7. Men’s soccer vs. UC Santa Barbara, 5 p.m. Oct. 19
   The Gauchos were voted first in the Big West Conference preseason coaches poll.

8. Women’s volleyball vs. Long Beach State, 7 p.m. Nov. 8
   This will be the men’s only home event this fall.

9. Men’s basketball vs. Fresno State, 7 p.m. Dec. 29
   Last year, the Mustangs lost 76-70 to the state’s Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) foursome?

10. Women’s soccer vs. UC Santa Barbara, 5 p.m. Dec. 29
   How big is this rivalry between half of the state’s Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) foursome? Just walk into Mott Gym, look for the trophy cases, and find the Golden Horseshoe Trophy — shaped like a giant horseshoe, naturally.

In 2003, the Mustangs Maniacs and the Aggie Pack agreed to symbolize the fray through a trophy, UC Davis was to build its base, while Cal Poly would construct the horseshoe itself. Both, however, in their engineering prowess, built the entire trophy itself. Because UC Davis won the inaugural game, 36-33 in 2004, its trophy was chosen as the lone representation of victory and has been traded between the schools since.

This rematch of last year’s 2-1 Cal Poly win (before a record-shattering crowd of 7,143 at Alex G. Spanos Stadium) is not only aptly on its one-year anniversary, but also in a month where the Mustangs’ closest win (before a record-shattering crowd of 10,000 people. Clark led the Mustangs with 10.3 points and 3.4 assists per game last season.

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Cal Poly senior guard Trae Clark (0) will look to lead the Mustangs past Fresno State on Dec. 29 at Mott Gym. The Bulldogs beat Cal Poly 76-70 in Fresno last year before more than 10,000 people. Clark led the Mustangs with 10.3 points and 3.4 assists per game last season.
Games

continued from page 51

Bulldogs at the Save Mart Center before a crowd of 10,431 — easily the biggest they played in front of last season. It will also be something of a reverse-homecoming for Cal Poly senior center Titus Shebon, a Fresno native, and Mustangs assistant coach Wil Hooker, who from 1988 to 1992 scored 1,739 points for Fresno State — second in
Bulldogs history.

1. Women’s basketball vs. UC Santa
Barbara, 2 p.m. Feb. 14

The Gauchos eliminated the Mustangs in the semifinals of the Big West tourna-
ment last season and are led by senior cen-
ter Kat Suderman, who played at Mission
Prep High School in San Luis Obispo. UC
Santa Barbara will be guided by first-year
head coach Lindsay Gottlieb, an assistant at
Cal last year.

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Faculty housing complex filling up fast

Camas Frank

Location, location, location... the real estate mantra seems to have worked for Bella Monta­
tana, the Cal Poly Housing Corporation's faculty housing development just west of campus.
With 81 percent of the two and three-bedroom homes now sold, the development at the in­
tersection Highland Drive and North Santa Rosa Street is meeting its original goal, 20 months
after sales first started.

"This project has allowed a lot of Cal Poly faculty and staff to buy a home at a price that's
way below market," managing director of the CCHC Jim Reinhart said. "It's saving them
money. It allows homebuyers to buy a home with zero money down, at a
below market 30 year fixed rate mortgage."

With remaining two-bedroom homes selling from $323,000 to $337,000,
residents have found it to be affordable when compared to other local hous­
ing options. The CCHC guarantees the cost of the units at 20 percent below
their appraised value, making the homes a desirable alternative to local con­
dominiums being sold as high as $300,000 to $400,000.

"In terms of professors at Cal Poly that have housing in the City of San
Luis Obispo, you often find that those were people who were able to acquire
their housing in the '60s or even late '70s, before things really went off the
map in terms of price," said Michael Cashen, the city's housing programs
manager.

"This kind of project is intended to allow (Cal Poly) to be more comp­
etitive in hiring new qualified faculty and staff," he explained. "It is cer­
tainly something that we encourage and will be following to see what kind
of lessons can be learned."

Despite criticism of the project for not taking into account a comu­
nity-oriented design model, at about eight minutes away from campus by
bicycle, convenience and price have proven to be the selling points that
CICPH intended.

"The big thing for me is I wanted to be able to ride my bike to school
and just sort of realized that even if housing goes down 10 or 20 percent,
I'm still going to buy a condo so it might as well be close and I might as
well be able to ride my bike every day," physics professor Chance Heallworth
said.

The project's exclusive customer base has fostered a close-knit sense of
community among many of the faculty living there.

"Out of the eight units in our buildings, six of us regularly get together
and the only reason we don't with the other two is that they only moved
in three or four weeks ago," chemistry professor Philip Costanzo explained.

"It's a really good environment."

Two of the three-bedroom homes in Costanzo's building have families
in residence, presenting an interesting transition period early on, but resulting in a more diverse
environment for the community.

"It feels pretty full now. The only units remaining now are the two-bedroom ones. So there
are a lot of families with kids around. I've noticed that it's a very kid-friendly kind of place
now," architecture professor Don Choi said.

Staff with families have found Bella Montana a convenient choice in terms of commute and
proximity to desirable elementary schools, but some point to the development's lack of play­
ground and park facilities.

"We don't have a community center, there's no swimming pool, there's no park. There are

Housing, page 56

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Students returning from summer vacation might find a few unexpected changes on campus this fall, the largest of them being related to the opening of the brand new Poly Canyon Village.

To accommodate the foot traffic of thousands of new residents, Via Carta, next to the Campus Market has been permanently closed to vehicle traffic, or as Mark Hunter, Cal Poly's executive director of facility services, prefers to call it, "the opening of a new pedestrian mall and bikeway."

"We still have the rest of the project to complete, but hopefully we've taken care of everything in advance of the move-in and we can move forward with the rest of the project," executive director of university housing, Preston Allen said.

The change is also intended to alleviate intersection congestion to and from parking lots on the east side of campus.

The move-in date for the Village is on Sunday, Sept. 14 to avoid congestion on the preceding Saturday. The retail and food spaces will be open for students and visitors on Saturday, however.

Phase 2 of Poly Canyon Village will end in Fall 2009.

In addition to the new neighbors, Peet's Coffee & Tee, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Jamba Juice and Village Market all located in the Village Plaza will welcome returning students.

In the heart of campus, the slope of Poly View Drive headed towards Dexter lawn was repaved with bricks to improve aesthetics and reinforce the area's pedestrian-only nature. Curbs were also eliminated to improve accessibility for the disabled.

In addition to the closure of Via Carta to vehicle traffic, the redesigned pedestrian mall features similar brick-paving, expanded seating at Campus Market and a space for public events.

"We're pretty excited about that," Hunter said. "That whole area in front of the Campus Market is now open for student-driven events, so we hope it's well used."
NEW BUILDINGS & BIG EXPANSIONS

#6

What? Center for Construction Excellence
Where? Located on the former Air Conditioning building site
How Much? $25,441,053
Date Complete? Completed summer 2008

Student Impact? The building will house the university's architecture and construction management programs with 58,000-square-feet, of offices, student labs and classrooms. The turquoise paneled building continues the university's mandate of LEED-certified building projects, with an energy efficient lighting, skylights and large windows for enhanced lighting.

#3

What? Synthetic fields replacement
Where? Sports complex
How Much? $3,200,000
Date Complete? Available for play in the second week of October

Student Impact? The previous grass fields in the complex did not drain well, forcing the fields to be closed after rainfall. Thus, mud puddles have been the bane of sports teams for the last six years. Grading and drainage work for new synthetic turf fields is currently being conducted and the turf will be laid down in September. When completed, the project will allow more playing time for students by lifting the maximum playtime caps required by natural grass.

What? Expansion of existing Rec Center Facilities
Where? ASI Recreation Center
How Much? $51,089,000
Date Complete? Summer 2011

Student Impact? The Rec Center Expansion passed with 75 percent approval in a student body vote last February. A fee increase of $65 per quarter will be assessed when the renovated facility is complete. The new center will be designed to be LEED silver level compatible due to student government initiatives.

"It's a very exciting time for ASI and the students because this is a huge opportunity for growth and the students have been asking for a larger rec center for some time now," ASI marketing coordinator Michelle Broom said.

"This next academic year, students will be slowly hearing and seeing more things coming out of the Rec Center. So as they start doing floor plans and thinking about putting in a leisure pool, we'll have pictures and images so that students can see that firsthand," she said.

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Housing
continued from page 33
There are only two-bedroom units still available in the popular faculty housing complex on Santa Rosa Street and Highland Drive.
a couple of lawn areas. But (these facilities) are an amenity that the owners would like to have,” Keen said.
The Bella Montana homeowner’s association and the corporation are looking into developing a suitable area once funding is found.
“Being a new faculty member, I really couldn’t afford anything else in San Luis,” Constantino said. “This is brand new and it has a brand new warranty... that was really attractive.”
“I’ve got a number of friends, people I know before. I moved in here who I’ve gotten to know better, and also some other people who I didn’t know at all. So that and the commute are the best things about living here,” Chet said.
Updates

What? UU Plaza renovation
Where? In the UU Plaza
How Much? $4 to 4.5 million, budget to be updated Fall 2008
Date Complete? September 2010

Student Impact? Beginning next June, ASI will begin knocking down walls and planting trees in the UU Plaza in order to improve the feeling and utility of the area. The main improvement will be a larger stage and area for entertainment. The old stage, long deemed too small to accommodate a band with more than five members, will be moved and expanded to improve seating and venue arrangements.

What? UU Interior Renovation
Where? In the UU Plaza
How Much? Approximately $2 million, budget to be updated Fall 2008
Date Complete? September 2010

Student Impact? Also beginning in June, work will get started on a new floor plan for the University Union's second floor. Plans include improvements to the lounge areas to ensure maximum possible occupancy, upgraded conference rooms to improve lighting and a new information desk layout. There are no changes in the works for office space but ASI's energy use will may be lowered through the installation of new energy efficient windows.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES
Bible Studies, Theology Sessions, Retreats, Social Events, Spiritual Direction, or hang out at Newman!

Congratulations to Megan Barton, Dana Olson, Nick Galletta, & Pooja Patel on their completion of Grant Thornton's Summer 2008 Internship Program! Grant Thornton would also like to congratulate the following students on the completion of the Grant Thornton Summer 2008 Footsteps Program:

Melissa Cvitanovich
Nathan Hall
Jonathan Levy
Jeanna Oosten
Rachel Wieczorek
Travis Viera

Dustin King
Amanda Mullen
Hera Ng
David Pochowski
Nikole Mackenzie

Attention seniors interested in a full-time position or winter internship position: Please submit your resume and application through Mustang Jobs by Sunday, October 5, 2008 for consideration. On-campus interviews will be held on Monday, October 20, 2008.

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Zoologists capture first photos of okapi in wild

Nancy Zuckerbrod

Zoologists have captured the first photos of the okapi in the wild, setting Thursday they offered evidence that the animal once mistaken for a unicorn has managed to survive war and poaching in a park in a lawless swath of Congo.

The docile animal, which can be found in most worldwide, is a relative of the giraffe but has zebra-like stripes on its legs and rear.

The species was unknown to European scientists until a century ago. It is thought to have inspired claims of unicorn sightings by Victorian-era explorers, said Nicole Kumpel, a conservationist with the Zoological Society of London, which released the photos.

The male has two horns on its forehead, but they can look like one horn if glimpsed from the side. "Stories arise back of the medieval era, and the fact that it might be a unicorn," Kumpel said.

The photos were taken by cameras set up in Virunga National Park by the zoological society and conservationists in Congo after okapi tracks were spotted there a few years ago, see Okapi, page 60.

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Get a look that’s hard to resist.
Facebook unveils new look with a new approach

Michael Liedtke

Since he started Facebook in college 4 ½ years ago, Mark Zuckerberg has learned — sometimes painfully — that he can't make significant changes to the popular online hangout without triggering an uproar among indignant users who preferred the status quo.

But Zuckerberg, still only 24, is hoping he has found a way to ease the journey down a different road so he won't have to issue public apologies like he did in each of the previous two years after springing new products on users.

His theory will face a major test Wednesday when Facebook will begin forcing its 100 million users to adapt to a redesigned Web site, whether they like the new look or not.

Since unveiling the makeover seven weeks ago, Facebook had left it up to users to decide whether they wanted to switch over.

If they didn't like what they saw, the converts could just click on a link to switch back to the old format.

But that option will be taken away from all users by the end of the week, a shift that Zuckerberg already knows will alienate some of Facebook's audience and raise the risk of driving more traffic to rival social networks like MySpace and Bebo.

"Any change can be a big deal to our users because this is how they connect with their family and friends," Zuckerberg said. "So when you move things around, it can be perceived as being not a positive thing even when it's a positive change."

About 40 million users already have checked out the new design and about 30 million embraced it without reverting to the old look, Zuckerberg said.

Facebook product manager Mark Sise shows off the site's new look during product announcement meeting at Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif. The popular online hangout forced users to adapt to a redesigned Web site, whether they like the new look or not on Sept. 10.

But the seeds of an uprising already have been planted on Facebook's own site, where several groups and petitions have cropped up to protest the change.

"It's not that we don't want change, period, it's that we don't like these particular changes," said Scott Sanders, 19, an Austin Play University student who started one of the petitions opposing the redesign. "You have to navigate more and you have to click more to get to personal profiles. It's too much effort to get to basic information."

Facebook's facelift separates users' personal profiles into different areas of the site and provides more tools that are meant to make it easier to share information and photos.

The revisions also shift various applications to the bottom of a person's home page and cut up more white space — a move that Sanders worries will lead to more intrusive advertising on the site, although Zuckerberg says that won't happen.

Hoping to minimize the sting of the anticipated backlash, Facebook announced the planned makeover in May and then waited until July to take the wraps off. The transition period since then was aimed at giving users time to make suggestions and get used to the change.

The gradual approach differed from how Zuckerberg and the rest of Facebook's unusually young management team have handled past revisions to the site.

see Facebook, page 64

WORD ON THE STREET

"What will you miss most about summer?"

"The warm weather and being able to sleep in. No homework, finals or tests!"
Will Hurley, business senior

"Lack of traffic and good weather. I'm looking forward to school."
Charles Wier, architecture engineering senior

"Working out outside, physical activities."
Kirk Stern, parks and recreation lecturer

"Being able to drive around campus easily, as well as the sunshine and golf."
Sean Leahy, ITS

"Getting enough hours at work so I can do stuff I want to do."
Aaron Harry, biomedical sophomore

"Doing nothing, not a whole lot of responsibilities."
Kyle Bentz, chemistry senior

"Having free time to do whatever I want. To have days where I can go to the beach and relax or work and not have to do homework."
Heather McGuire, nutrition senior

"Going to the beach and not going to school. I'll miss my free time."
Chris McCann, business senior

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"She was wearing a really short skirt."
"She danced like she wanted it."
"We were drinking all night."
"Nobody forced her to come to my room."
"After all, I paid for everything."
"Hey, she asked for it."

Okapi

continued from page 58

The animal's stripes are sometimes called "cows follow me stripes," because their bold pattern is believed to help young ones follow their mothers through the forest. Each animal's stripes are unique, like fingerprints.

The okapi is only known to exist in Congo, primarily further north in Ituri province's Okapi Wildlife Reserve. There, they are difficult to spot because they are shy and usually only move around in couples.

Virunga officials say before the okapi was captured on camera, it was not known whether it still roamed the park.

"We are encouraged by the evidence that okapis have survived in Virunga, despite the years of conflict," Virunga National Park Director Emmanuel de Merode said in an e-mailed statement to The Associated Press. "Park rangers have only recently regained control of this area that was formerly occupied by armed militias. But while it is positive that the okapi population remains, we are aware of their vulnerability to intense levels of poaching."

The photos also indicate the animals are more widely distributed in the park than was previously believed.

"We've managed to get pictures of three different individuals, and we've also got a picture of one roaming around at nighttime and actually foraging, which is the first evidence of this behavior," said Kumpel. Scientists previously believed okapis fed only during the day, she said.

Virunga, near the Rwanda and Uganda borders, is also home to some of the world's last remaining mountain gorillas. Part of the reserve is still occupied by Congolese and Rwandan rebels, who have hidden in its dense forests for more than a decade and used parts of it as bases to launch attacks.

Kumpel said the one other known photograph of a wild okapi showed only a leg.

The okapi is threatened by poachers who want to sell its meat, Kumpel said. The okapi could become extinct in the park soon because of poaching and the effects of the fighting between rebels and government forces on conservation efforts, she added.

Earlier this year, the Zoological Society photographed another shy mammal, a pygmy hippopotamus, in Liberia. That animal had not been photographed there before, scientists said.

But while it is positive that the okapi population remains...we are aware of their vulnerability to intense levels of poaching.

—Emmanuel de Merode
Virunga National Park Director

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Boston U. study links juice to diabetes in women

Lisa Merolla

Certain women who drink "nutritious" fruit juices could put themselves at as much risk as those who gulp sugary sodas, according to a recent Boston University study.

The study, which only examined black women, suggested a link between drinking fruit juice and Type-II diabetes. Though the fruit juice drinkers sampled tended to exhibit healthier behaviors than soda drinkers, the risks remained the same, according to lead study author Julie Palmer, a researcher at BU's Stone Epidemiology Center.

"That tells us that people who are trying to have a healthy diet perhaps don't realize that drinking these drinks as alternatives to soft drinks isn't very helpful," Palmer said.

The study, published July 28 in the Archives of Internal Medicine, found women who drink at least two sodas a day were 24 percent more likely to develop diabetes compared to those who had fewer than one a month. Women who drink two or more fruit drinks a day were 31 percent more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes.

Palmer said the study's findings only apply to black women because the data came from questionnaires filed under the Black Women's Health Study, a survey of 59,000 women started in 1995 to look for type II diabetes diagnoses and dietary risk factors. They found 2,713 participants developed diabetes, she said.

In boon to citrus fans, however, researchers found an exception to the results in some who regularly drank orange or grapefruit juice.

The study associated most of the increased risks with weight gain from the sugar-filled drinks. Soft drinks and fruit drinks both cause weight problems because they provide calories without satisfying hunger, study co-author Martha Singer said.

It also matters where sugar comes from, Singer added. A piece of whole fruit causes less damage because it makes people feel full, while fruit drinks make them want to consume more, she said.

"It's almost a stealth food in people's perception," Singer said. "They don't understand what they are getting."

Christine Hunter, a diabetes specialist at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, said diabetes alone cannot explain such high numbers — another unknown factor must also be at play.

"There's something going on with fruit juice, even if you control for weight, that increases the risk of diabetes," Hunter said. "We don't know what that mechanism is. I think that needs to be studied more."

The study is helpful for its focus on African-American women, who statistically run a higher risk of developing diabetes, she said. BU's study could help develop prevention treatments for black women because the data is "directly relevant to them," she said.

BU Nutrition and Fitness Center nutritionist Sarah Butler said students should recognize that fruit drinks are not a healthy alternative to soda. Fruit drinks are "hidden calories," and also high in added sugar, she said.

"They really should be a treat," she said.

Sweetened fruit juice has serious health risks just as soda does, study says.
Youth vote energizes campaigns but turnout unknown

In the Chinese zodiac, this is the year of the rat, a sign of impending trouble. In American politics, this could be called the year of the youth, a sign of a generation rising.

As Barack Obama and John McCain battle for the White House, each having received strong support from youths in the primaries, their advisers are left wondering: "Is this a story that's been told before — the 'youth vote' as a fickle group of largely untested and untrustworthy teenagers and 20-somethings, a demographic that may be passionate but won't show up at the polls. But in the current election cycle, this mentality, maintained for years by pragmatic politicians, shows signs of crumbling. Both campaigns are making overtures to young voters in ways never done before, and those voters in turn are finding new ways to engage in the political process and shape it to their liking.

Through dozens of interviews with students, politicians and academics, the same refrain continues to be raised: Young people are becoming and getting involved in unprecedented numbers.

But the reality appears more complicated. The youth are proving to be a difficult group to pin down.

The millennial generation


Many of these millennials were in Denver for the Democratic National Convention last month, often skipping class or pre-senior events to get there. Arthur Leopold picked the convention over high school, he skipped his first week of school to go to Denver to protest. He and eight other student supporters of McCain traveled through the country, "McCain for President," he said, "We've got to make things interesting for the Democrats." Streater said, as he protested a press conference held by Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Energized and determined

Replicants and Democrats alike note that this year has seen an unprecedented level of involvement from young voters.

"I think either way you slice it, this is such an important election for our country. There are people from age 15 to 25 to 80 getting involved, and they all want to make sure their choice is elected president," said Lynn Keogh, president of the New York Young Republican Club, the largest and oldest young Republican group in the country.

Clarion McIvor, a professor of mass communication at Steinhardt School of Education, Culture and Human Development, said: "It's very clear where the loyalty is, and it's certainly here with Obama and his campaign."

Democrats say that's part politics and part successful campaigning.

"The youth are sick of the politics of the Bush administration. They're sick of seeing financial aid cut, and they're sick of seeing their peers killed in Iraq," said Jason Rae, who is at the party's youngest superdelegate. A senior at Marquette University in Wisconsin, Rae said the youth have realized they want to see a change in the policies, and Obama is their best option.

McIvor said a lot of the momentum comes from Obama's open campaign structure.

"The way political candidates have treated young people a lot of times in previous campaigns is, 'We'll take the tiny bit of money you have, we'll take your free labor, but ultimately, we know you won't show up on election day. We've been through this before,'" he said. "I think a lot of young people see a different kind of campaign with Obama where there's little but more openness and access and I think they see that as a sign of him being different."

The level of youth support for Obama has drawn criticism and ire from Republicans.

"He's a celebrity," said Peter Feldman, McCain's regional communications director. "There's a lot of hope on the Obama side, and a lot of these numbers you see are what you'd expect from a celebrity."

But Steinhardt senior Sara Hale-Mariam, who was in Denver last week for the New York delegation, said the rock-star attack misses the mark.

"I can watch celebrities on TV," she said. "I'm not going to go out and plan fundraisers and make YouTube videos for them."

A challenge for conservatives

While the youth momentum is most often portrayed as behind Obama's campaign, conservatives are quick to point out that McCain campaign has a strong youth following as well.

See Youth, page 63
Fewer U.S. med students choosing primary care

Carla K. Johnson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Only 2 percent of graduating medical students say they plan to work in primary care internal medicine, raising worries about a looming shortage of the first-stop doctors used to be the backbone of the American medical system.

The results of a new survey being published Wednesday suggest more medical students, many of them saddled with debt, are opting for more lucrative specialties.

Just 2 percent of nearly 1,200 fourth-year students surveyed planned to work in primary care internal medicine, according to results published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. In a similar survey in 1990, the figure was 9 percent.

"I didn't want to fight the insurance companies," said Dr. Jason Shipman, 36, a radiology resident at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., who had to carry $150,000 in student debt.

Primary care doctors he met as a student had to "spend too much time trying to get patients to keep their medications or go to an urgent care center," Shipman said.

Dr. Karen Hauer of the University of California, San Francisco, the study's lead author, said it's hard working care of the chronically ill, the elderly and people with complex diseases — "especially when you're doing it with time pressures and inadequate pay." But students agree.

The salary gap may be another reason. More pay in a particular specialty means more U.S. medical school graduates fill residences in those fields at teaching hospitals, Dr. Mark Ellin of the University of Georgia found in a separate study.

Family medicine had the lowest average salary last year, $186,000, and the lowest share of residency slots filled by U.S. students, 42 percent. Orthopedic surgery paid $436,000, and 94 percent of residency slots were filled by U.S. students.

Meanwhile, medical school is getting more expensive. The average graduate last year had $140,000 in student debt, up nearly 8 percent from the previous year, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Another likely factor: Medicare's fee schedule pays less for office visits than for simple procedures, according to the American College of Physicians, which reported in 2006 that the nation's primary care system is "at grave risk of collapse."

Lower salaries in primary care did not deter Dr. Alexis Dunne of Chicago, who is in 31 and carrying $250,000 in student debt.

"I got a part of residency specialists couldn't solve the mystery of her mother's weight loss, fevers and severe anemia. Finally, an intern-diagnosed a rare kidney infection. The kidney was removed, and Dunne's mother has felt fine since. Watching her mother go through the health crash affirmed her decision to go into primary care. She also enjoys being "the point person" for her patients. "You become so close to them you're almost like a family friend," said Dunne, who completed her residency at Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital in July.

She also found inspiration from the doctors she met during training. "They were the ones who would sit at a patient's bedside and spend more time with them rather than running off to surgery."

A separate study in JAMA suggests graduates from international medical schools are filling the primary care gap.

About 2,600 fewer U.S. doctors were training in primary care specialties — including pediatrics, family medicine and internal medicine — in 2007 compared with 2002. In the same span, the number of foreign graduates pursuing those careers rose by nearly 3,300.

"Primary care is holding steady but only because of international medical school graduates," said Edward Saffrey of the Association of American Medical Colleges, a co-author of the study. "And holding steady in numbers is probably not sufficient when the population is growing and aging."

And as American students lose interest, teaching hospitals will probably become less interested in offering primary care programs, said Dr. David Goodman, associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research at Dartmouth Medical School.

In a JAMA editorial, Goodman called on Congress to create a permanent regulatory commission to encourage training for needed specialties. U.S. teaching hospitals now receive $31 billion a year from the government to train doctors "with virtually no accountability," he said.

The coordinated care provided by primary care doctors can keep costs down by preventing harmful drug interactions, underused medical procedures and fragmented specialty care, Goodman said.

The Web-based survey was done at 11 medical schools with demographics and training choices similar to all U.S. medical students.

Calif. unemployment fund running out of money

Steve Lawrence
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As California's unemployment rate hit a 12-year high, the state program that pays benefits to the jobless is facing a severe money shortage and a huge backlog of unresolved appeals.

The unemployment insurance fund, which paid out almost $662 million in checks in July as California's jobless rate reached 7.3 percent, is expected to have a deficit of $1.6 billion at the end of 2009.

That shortage will force it to borrow from the federal government for only the second time since the program was established in the 1930s. If no steps are taken to increase the fund's revenue or reduce its costs, its deficit projected to hit $3.5 billion by the end of the 2010.

Interest on the federal loans could reach nearly $91 million by September 2010 and total millions more before the debts are paid off, adding to the state's fiscal problems as lawmakers grapple with a seemingly endless series of budget deficits.

Since 2002, eight other states have had to borrow money from the federal government to shore up their unemployment funds, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

More appeals are also coming in.

The National Employment Law Project, a New York-based advocacy group for the unemployed, said in May that as many as 18 states, including California, could have trouble maintaining the solvency of their unemployment funds in a recession.

Unemployment funds in New York, Ohio, Michigan and Missouri were most at risk of insolvency, according to the report.

Michigan's unemployment fund had $225.3 million in outstanding federal loans at the end of August. Officials there blame the red ink on an unemployment rate that has risen to 8.5 percent and an earlier decision to cut employer taxes.

New York has taken out short-term loans every year since 2002 when tax revenue is slow coming in during spring. But officials there are growing increasingly concerned that they could be forced into additional borrowing if there is a flurry of new unemployment claims later this year.

They also blame their funding problems on an outdated tax system.

California, meanwhile, has the largest backlog by far of pending unemployment eligibility appeals. It also has the third slowest record in the country of processing those cases, according to the Department of Labor.

Appeals are typically filed by workers who have been denied unemployment benefits for one reason or another. California had 42,230 appeals pending in July in Florida was second with 14,219.

Federal standards require states to issue decisions in 60 percent of their appeals within 30 days after they are filed. They must reach decisions for 80 percent of appeals within 45 days.

In California, 36 percent of appeals are pending.

See Unemployment, page 66

A Store For All Seasons

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snowboarding • skiing • hiking • ski and snowboard rental and repair • plenty of free parking
Facebook

dealing with 100 million people," he said. "No one cared as much when a bunch of students from a few colleges were complaining about some changes to some Web site." Although he still hoping to persuade Zuckerberg to retreat from some of the changes included in the redesign, Sanders suspects resistance might be a little too late. "People will probably protest the changes in the beginning, but then they will just get used to them," Sanders said.

"It's going to find a home," said the potential national candidate who, on one cold dawn in December 2006, climbed up the oak grove near UC Berkeley's Memorial Stadium and launched the longest urban tree-sit in history. "Another one, another movement."

The movement that inspired the banner and drew national media attention ended on Sept. 9, as four activists descended from a lone redwood. They and other tree-sitters spent nearly 21 months protesting the $124 million athletic center proposed by the campus, which finished removing all but one tree yesterday.

For a few individuals throughout the campus and city who were involved from the start, they are now reflecting on those 648 days as exciting, frustrating at others and, above all, exhausting.

"We all lost something today," said RunningWolf, the protest's unofficial leader, as he gazed at the newly cleared ground. "These trees had 21 days of being lived."

Further down Piedmont Avenue, which for now remains lined with makeshift tents and the activists who built them, UC Berkeley staff member and longtime tree-sit supporter JamiReed stood with tears in her eyes. "There will be other cases in the future," she said, but she poured her time, energy and money into this one in particular.

"I reconnected with activists and new people of all ages," she said of the nearly two years she spent cooking and caring for the protesters. "I treasure all this."

Many ground supporters will probably leave the sidewalk in the coming days, said Erik "Art" Eisenberg. He emerged as the protest's only official spokesperson, often facilitating communication between police, campus officials and the tree-sits.

For Dan Mogolof, UC Berkeley's executive director of public affairs, the protest's end yesterday comes as huge relief.

"The media really focused on and had an almost insatiable appetite for what they saw as a possibility for conflict," he said. "There was never as much attention to the underlying conflict-who we wanted to build, where we wanted to build it." With the tree-sit in the past, UC Berkeley officials are adding up their costs for the past 21 months.

In total, the campus invested $5.1 million in protest security efforts, and has yet to release its legal expenses. Its proposed $124 million for a conflict they said was a possibility for building it was cut, from an estimated $1 million to zero, and the protest, which was funded by the city of Berkeley, the Panoramic Hill Association and the California Oak Foundation.

"It is a shame we had to utilize so many resources to deal with this," said UCPD Assistant Chief Mitch Celays. "We had a lot of other things going on like football games, violent crime and the day-to-day duties we're responsible for keeping the campus safe and secure. I am happy, so to speak, that we're now hopefully moving beyond this."

But for UC Berkeley student Matthew Taylor, there won't be a conclusion until he writes it down:

"The peace and conflict studies major was heavily involved in the negotiations between the campus and tree-sitters that unfolded in the protest's final days. Now he is writing his senior thesis about the conflict, he said, and will begin listening to hundreds of hours of interviews with the people who made it all happen.

"The story isn't totally over," he said.
The foundation has already built the Oak County Clinic near Dan's home village in May 2007, Royce said. "Lopez is in a tremendous position to bring attention to resources for the cause," Royce said. "They would be a very good match because it wouldn't be feasible for Lopez to start his own foundation right now, considering he's getting paid by night to travel the world."

Lomong's story goes beyond the concept of the "American dream" — something he feels he's fulfilled. As one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, his connection with more than 28,000 others who were displaced like him or orphaned prompted the 23-year-old track and field athlete to pledge his support for the John Dau Sudan Foundation.

"We are doing anything that we can afford to do," Dau said. "I stressed the importance of donors, both group and individual, in helping provide critical health aid to the Sudanese, and said it is through "kooy muioc" — or "generous persons" — that the foundation finds its funding to start a nation still recovering from a 21-year-long civil war."

After discussing the JD SF's goals and some of these potential projects in a phone conversation Thursday, Lomong told Dau to keep in touch not only for the sake of the organization but also for the two of them to never lose touch again.

"Thank you, brother."
Youth

continued from page 62

Not only are young profes-

sionals and college students get-
ing involved with the campaign,

but high school students are as well, Feldman said.

"Every day in our office, I'm seeing new faces of volunteers that are getting in long, hard hours to help get John McCain elected," Feldman said. "There are the volunteers that are shoul-
dering the hard work that you need to do in a campaign. There are the folks that have the ener-
gy that you need to get out and knock on doors and get out the voters."

Kough said the media has been blaming Obama's way over the youth out of proportion.

"There are certainly reports in the news (about how) Obama is getting young people excited, but that doesn't mean it isn't happen-
ing for McCain as well," she said. "Even in the blest of blue states, we've been very active and par-
ticipating heavily." From the convention hall in St.

Paul, Minn., Republican delegate Saul Farber, who at 22 is cam-
paigning to become the youngest member of the State Assembly in New York, said while he recog-
nizes Obama’s appeal, he looks deeper at candidates before mak-
ing decisions.

"On the façade, Obama is a very progressive candidate, and I see that," said Farber, who gradu-
ated last spring from NYU.

Peaks were being decided within 30 days and only 20 percent within 45 days, according to the Department of Labor’s July figures. Failure to meet those requirements could cost the state federal grants to help support its unemployment insurance program.

John Hagan, the acting executive director of the state’s Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, conceded that the state’s record in processing appeals is "actually pretty literal." But he said the federal government rates the quality of those decisions — when they finally do get made — as "quite high."

"We just haven’t done well historically," she said. "When you talk to employees about it, you get a lot of reasons for the backlog. Some of them include being short-staffed."

She questioned that explanation, however, noting the department had a hiring binge 10 years ago when it added judges to hear appeals.

Laura Fournier said she waited six weeks for a hear-
ing after she was denied unemployment benefits follow-
ing a fruitless search for a job in the computer industry when she moved back to California in May from New Mexico.

"I’ve been in turmoil... waiting for someone to hear my appeal," she said after getting a hearing at the board’s office in San Diego. "It’s been a long, tedious thing that I didn’t think would take that long. I don’t understand why it had to take so long."

She was told to expect a ruling within two weeks.

In July, the board voted 4-1 to fire Jay Ancillana, who was serving as both its executive director and chief judge, because it doubted his ability to eliminate the back-

log, said Paul Fent, a spokesman for the state Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

He said the board already has taken some steps to reduce the backlog, including assigning more judges to the initial level of the appeals process.

The state also is working with the federal government to determine the reason for the backlog and devise a plan to reduce it.

In addition, officials need to consider changes in the way California pays for unemployment benefits, said Deborah Bronous, a deputy director of the Employment Development Department. The schedule of employer taxes set up 24 years ago to pay benefits hasn’t kept up with the need, she said.

"This financing structure has lost its elasticity," she said.

California lawmakers approved legislation in 2001 that raised weekly unemployment benefits from a maxi-
mum of $230 to a top scale of $450 but did not adjust employer taxes to make up for the additional cost.

The department testified at the time that the unem-
ployment fund eventually would go broke without an increase in revenue. But raising employer taxes would have required a two-thirds vote and almost certainly would have been blocked by Republicans, who are a minority in the Legislature but whose votes are needed to reach the necessary threshold to pass tax bills.

A dozen states had higher average weekly unemployment benefits in the first quarter of 2008 than the $307 paid the typical out-of-work Californian, according to Department of Labor figures.

Unemployed California workers who qualify for benefits typically get checks equal to half their wages up to the maximum of $450 a week. State benefits last up to 26 weeks, although some of the unemployed qualify for another 13 weeks paid for by the federal government.

There were 1.3 million Californians looking for work in July, about half of whom qualified for unemployment benefits, the Employment Development Department said. Others included new entrants to the workforce, such as recent college graduates who had yet to find a job, and people whose benefits had expired.

The insurance fund was forced to borrow $234 mil-

lion in 2004, but the state's economy rebounded enough that it was able to stay in the black until the recent down-
turn hit. It will have enough money to make it through the rest of this year, but will have to begin borrowing again from the federal government next spring, Bronous said.

California employers pay unemployment taxes based on a percentage of the first $7,000 of an employee’s an-

nual wages, minus the maximum amount paid into the federal govern-
ment. Their tax rates vary depending on the stability of their workforces, with the maximum rate — 6.2 percent — generating $434 a year per worker.

Emily Clayton, policy coordinator for the California Labor Federation, said the fact that employers pay taxes on the first $7,000 in wages is one reason the state’s fund is unable to offset reforms, the fund just can’t take it."

"In 1963, that $7,000 represented about a third of the average wage," she said. "Today that represents about an eighth of the average wage. It’s clearly not kept pace with wages and inflation in the state."

"By all rights, the employers should be paying enough into the fund to make the fund solvent."

States that have the highest unemployment rates have unemployment funds that are in financial trouble, while California’s is in far better shape, she said.

"The whole idea behind unemployment insurance is that when the economy’s down, people have money in their pockets to continue spending," she said. "But at the same time, there’s ways to tighten up what we’re paying out in California. ... When you double benefits without offsetting reform, the fund just can’t take it."
Girls & Sports by Justin Bonus and Andrew Feinstein

HOW'S THE NEW GIRLFRIEND? I HOPE YOU'RE WEDDING PLANNING.

IN THE ONE WEEK I'VE KNOWN HER, SHE'S INTRODUCED ME TO HER PARENTS, PICKED OUT WEDDING INVITATIONS AND NOW WANTS TO HAVE CHILDREN WITH ME.

JUST RANG IN THERE FOR ANOTHER WEEK AND THEN YOU CAN GET DIVORCED.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0712

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Don’t eat the pies: “Sweeney Todd” is one of many performances in this year’s lineup for the on-campus Performing Arts Center — page 34

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