A survival guide for Cal Poly students

Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India, is feeling the heat as growing numbers of security failures lead to a spiral of violence. In the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, a senior police officer said Sunday. A U.S. counterterrorism official had said some "signs of the attack" were consistent with Lashkar and Jaish-e-Mohammed, another group that has operated in Kashmir. Both are reported to be linked to al-Qaida. Lashkar, long seen as a creation of the Pakistani intelligence service to help fight India in disputed Kashmir, was banned in Pakistan in 2002 under pressure from the U.S. A year after Washington and Britain listed it a terrorist group. It is since believed to have emerged under another name, Jamaat-ul-Dawa, though that group has denied links to the Mumbai attack. Authorities were still removing bodies from the bullet and grenade scarred Taj Mahal hotel, a day after commandos finally ended the violence that began Wednesday night.

As more details of the response to the attack emerged, a picture formed of woefully unprepared security forces. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh promised to strengthen maritime and air security and look into creating a new federal investigative agency — even as some analysts doubted fundamental change was possible. "These guys could do it next week again in Mumbai and our responses would be exactly the same," said Ajit Sahni, head of the New Delhi-based Institute for Conflict Management who has close ties to India's police and intelligence. India's police commissioner Rakesh Maria said the only surviving gunman, Ajmal Qasab, told police he was trained at a Lashkar-e-Taiba camp in Pakistan.

India claims Mumbai gunman tied to Pakistani group

Ravi Nessay
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The only gunman captured after a 60-hour terroristic siege of Mumbai said he belonged to a Pakistani militant group with links to the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, a senior police officer said Sunday. The gunman was one of 10 who paralyzed the city in an attack that killed at least 174 people and revealed the weakness of India's security apparatus. India's top law enforcement official resigned, bowing to growing criticism that the attackers appeared better trained, better coordinated and better armed than police.

The announcement blaming militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, threatened to escalate tensions between India and Pakistan. However, Indian officials have been cautious about accusing Pakistan's government of complicity. A U.S. counterterrorism official had said some "signs of the attack" were consistent with Lashkar and Jaish-e-Mohammed, another group that has operated in Kashmir. Both are reported to be linked to al-Qaida. Lashkar, long seen as a creation of the Pakistani intelligence service to help fight India in disputed Kashmir, was banned in Pakistan in 2002 under pressure from the U.S. A year after Washington and Britain listed it a terrorist group. It is since believed to have emerged under another name, Jamaat-ul-Dawa, though that group has denied links to the Mumbai attack. Authorities were still removing bodies from the bullet and grenade scarred Taj Mahal hotel, a day after commandos finally ended the violence that began Wednesday night.

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President-elect Barack Obama plans on Monday to announce six experienced hands to fill top administration posts, among them a sharp leader named to guide his presidency through a time of war and recession.

His selections include long-serving aides and political foes alike, most notably Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state and President Bush's defense secretary, Robert Gates, staying in his current post. The two were among six who Obama planned to announce at a news conference in Chicago, Democratic officials said.

The officials said Obama also planned to name Washington lawyer Eric Holder as attorney general and Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano as homeland security secretary. He also planned to announce two senior foreign policy positions outside the Cabinet campaign Foreign policy adviser Susan Rice as U.N. ambassador and retired Marine Gen. James Jones as national security adviser.

The Democratic officials disclosed the plan Sunday on a condition of anonymity because they were not authorized for public release ahead of the news conference. Those names had been discussed before for those jobs, but the officials confirmed that Obama will make them official Monday in his hometown.

Obama has settled on former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle to be his secretary of Health and Human Services and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson to be Commerce secretary but those announcements are not yet official. Last week, he named key members of his economic team, including Timothy Geithner, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, as Treasury secretary.

The decisions mean Obama has half of his Cabinet assembled less than a month after the election, including the most prominent positions at State, Justice, Treasury and Defense. The team offers a mix of deep experience and proven ability to get things done, and it shares some characteristics with President Bush's first Cabinet choices.

For secretary of state, both went with big names that campaigned against them in their primary races, with Obama choosing Clinton and Bush going with former joint chiefs of staff Chairman Colin Powell. At HHS, both chose deeply experienced elected officials — Obama picking Daschle and Bush choosing Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson.

They also chose experienced Defense secretaries who had already served in the position — Gates for Obama and Donald Rumsfeld for Bush. And both put well-respected governors as their first picks at Homeland Security secretary — a position Obama created — with Obama picking Napolitano and Bush picking Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge.

In some cases, Obama is choosing even more experienced hands. Jones and Richardson have more government experience than Bush's first national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, and his Commerce secretary, Donald Evans.

Clinton's nomination is the latest chapter in what began as a bitter rivalry for the Democratic presidential nomination. After Obama defeated her, Clinton backed his general election campaign against Republican Sen. John McCain, and she has agreed to give up her Senate seat to be his top diplomat.

Democratic officials say President-elect Barack Obama will nominate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., to be his secretary of state on Monday.

More government experience than Bush's first national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, and his Commerce secretary, Donald Evans.

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At the Jewish center, commandos rappelled from a helicopter onto the roof and slowly descended the narrow, five-story building in a 10-hour shooting and grenade battle with the two gunmen inside.

From his home in Israel, Assaf Hefetz, a former Israeli police commissioner who created the country's police anti-terror unit three decades ago, watched the slow-motion operation in disbelief.

"The way Mumbai police handled the situation, they were not combat ready," said Jimmy Katrak, a security consultant. "You don't need the Indian army to neutralize eight to nine people."

Constable Arun Jadav, one of the wounded policemen, said the men laughed when they noticed the dead officers were bulletproof vests.

As the siege drags on, local police improperly controlled the windows and all the doors and create other entrances by way radios to communicate.

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Abroad continued from page 1

Difficult situations are most likely to occur while backpacking, riding on mass transportation or while in a large group of people according to Scott Leinweber, Cal Poly's study abroad student advisor. He remembers a trying six-hour bus ride on a scary rural road through the Andes in South America. "We were out in the middle of nowhere," Leinweber said. "There were no professors on the bus and one of the tires went out."

The bus driver fixed the tire with a spare, and the group continued down the narrow road only to have a second tire fail. The bus driver, who only spoke Spanish, wanted to continue traveling with only five tires. The Spanish-speaking students told the bus driver that they weren't comfortable driving on five tires and the pickpocket had altered his wallet and the pickpocket had already disappeared into the crowd.

Survival tip No. 4: Keep your money and passport under your clothes with a money belt and passport holder. Traveler's checks are another good option as long as the traveler knows how to cash them. Purses and backpacks make stealing easy for thieves. If the thief can see your wallet, they can take it, Reinhold said. Also, avoid handling your money in public places because thieves can see exactly where you are placing your potential loot, advises Reinhold.

Most students who study abroad are required to take language classes during their stay. However, many students still experience culture shock from the lack of familiarity with the country. Art and design senior Lauren O'Donnell studied in Florence, Italy for one year. While there, she attended an Italian art school where classes were taught entirely in Italian. She found the language barrier challenging, but "character building" and classified it as one of the first experiences where she felt like a minority.

Survival tip No. 5: To cope with culture shock, realize that the shock originates from a lack of understanding of the other people's cultural background and the difficulty of communicating in a foreign language, according to the Consortium for International Education in National Studies. When a student realizes that he or she can gain an understanding of the culture and language through daily interactions, avoid handling the money in public.

Similar to other students, O'Donnell said she faced reverse culture shock after returning to the U.S. To handle this after returning from Wales, Jeanette Lydon recommends befriending a person who returns to the U.S. at the same time. Lydon still calls her friend when she feels like a minority.

"The real key to re-entering your home culture is to realize that there may be frustrations with readjusting to life in the U.S. and that the frustrations are a normal part of the total learning process, and an on-going part of your cross-cultural experience."

A great campus resource for everything study abroad related is the International Education Programs Office located in building 38, room 108. The International Education Program Director, John Battenburg said the study abroad experience is "the best time of students' lives." He encourages students to travel in order to experience both "personal transformation and professional opportunities."

Battenburg identifies the common reasons why students don't study abroad to include: cost, insufficient language skills, and a misconception that the program will lengthen their time to college. He finds that financial aid covers most expenses, some countries speak English, and with proper planning no extra time will be spent in the airport, the check will be an easy process.

Survival tip No. 7: relax the experience. Despite the challenging situations Reinhold encountered, she accomplished her goal to "see through the eyes of a resident." She surpassed the tourist experience and found the residential experience "ten times more fulfilling."
John Antczak

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Space shuttle Endeavour and its seven astronauts safely returned to Earth on Sunday, taking a detour to sunny California after storms hit the main landing strip in Florida. Endeavour wrapped up a 16-day trip that left the international space station freshly remodeled and capable of housing bigger crews.

The shuttle dropped off all kinds of home equipment and capable of housing bigger crews. The space station additions — and a few more scheduled to go up on the next shuttle flight in February — should enable NASA to double the size of the space station crew by June.

On Sunday, NASA ordered the detour to California after dangerously high wind and a stormy sky prevented a Florida landing. "Welcome back. That was a great way to finish a fantastic flight," Mission Control radioed.

"And we're happy to be here in California," shuttle commander Christopher Ferguson replied.

Congratulations also came down from the space station. "Wow," said skipper Mike Fincke, who watched the landing broadcast live. "Returning home from a six-month mission was fantastic."

The space shuttle's journey, short by comparison, spanned 6.6 million miles and 250 orbits of Earth.

After landing, the astronauts inspected the shuttle's underbelly. Accompanied by three crew members, Ferguson spoke briefly on the tarmac. He said Endeavour's landing was "pretty well" and called the mission extremely successful.

He noted that Chamitoff wasn't present because it takes longer for a person who has been in space so long to reacclimatize to gravity, and said the other two astronauts — Stefanyshyn-Piper and Donald Pettit — were just keeping an eye on him.

"The crew members who are not with us are doing just fine," he said.

NASA always prefers to land the space shuttles at their home base in Florida. It takes about a week and costs $1.8 million to transport a shuttle from California to Florida, atop a modified jumbo jet.

The astronauts also had been testing for a Florida touchdown; that's where their families were waiting.

As Endeavour soared over Houston, home to Mission Control, Ferguson could see all the bad weather in Florida. "I think you made a good call," he radioed. "I think you made a good call," he radioed. It was the first space shuttle landing at Edwards in more than a year. When Endeavour hurtled over metropolitan Los Angeles, fire-fighters responded to a report of an explosion that turned out to have been the spacecraft's signature sonic booms.

Ferguson landed on a temporary runway that's shorter and more narrow than the Kennedy landing strip. Edwards' main runway — which parallels the temporary one — just underwent maintenance and upgrades, and has yet to be equipped with all the necessary navigation equipment.

NASA officials said both Ferguson and his co-pilot, Eric Boe, had practiced on the temporary runway in training aircraft. Endeavour's crew members were expected to be reunited with their families on Monday in Houston.

Early Sunday morning, a Russian supply ship arrived at the space station with Christmas presents, food, clothes and other items. -AP, Associated Press
Food crunch opens doors to bioengineered crops

Elaine Kurtenbach
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zeng Yexin's outdoor laboratory in the terraced hills of southern China is a trove of genetic potential — rice that thrives in unusually cool temperatures, high altitudes or in 30-degree rice fields redolent of a fever.

"See these plants? They can tolerate the cold," Zeng says as he walks through a checkered board of test fields sown with different rice varieties in the outskirts of Kunming, capital of southwestern China's Yunnan province.

"We can extract the cold-tolerant gene from this plant and use it in a genetically manipulated variety to improve in cold tolerance," Zeng says.

In a mountainous place like Yunnan, and in many other parts of the developing world, such advantages can tip the balance between hunger and a decent living. And China is now ready to tip that scale in favor of genetically modified crops.

Surging costs, population growth, drought and other setbacks linked to global climate change are pressuring world food supplies, while soaring prices on the street have triggered a run and raised the number of people going hungry to more than 923 million, according to U.N. estimates.

In Europe, Africa and Asia, governments that have resisted imports of genetically modified foods and fodder are growing such crops are loosening those restrictions. Meanwhile, they are pushing ahead faster with their own research, despite lingering questions over the safety of such technology.

"Influential voices around the world are calling for a re-examination of the GM debate," says C.S. Prakash, a professor of plant molecular genetics at Abdul Kalam University. "Bio-technology provides such tools to help address food sustainability issues."

Genetic modification to insert desired genes or accelerate changes traditionally achieved through crossbreeding can help make crops resistant to insects and disease or enable them to tolerate herbicides. Livestock can similarly be altered by inserting a gene from one animal into the DNA of another. Many researchers believe such methods are essential for a second "green revolution," now that the gains from the first, in the mid-20th century, are tapering off.

Bioengineered crops are widely grown in Canada, Argentina and the U.S., where nearly all soybeans, most cotton and a growing proportion of corn are designed for tolerance to herbicides or resistance to insects. A virus-resistant GM variety of papaya is commercially grown in Hawaii and China.

Biotechnology is bound to play an important role in the agriculture of the future, Robert Zeiger, director of the International Rice Research Institute, said in an interview with The Associated Press at IRRI's headquarters south of Manila in the Philippines.

Such crops "bring tremendous power and advantages to producers and consumers," Zeiger said, noting the potential savings from reduced use of farm chemicals and of feed for the animals.

After delaying the long-expected commercialization of GM grains for years, China's lead-eader in July endorsed a 13-year, $2.9 billion program to promote use of genetically altered crops and livestock. Beijing is on the verge of releasing as insect-resistant rice variety, Zeiger said.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is a champion of the new agriculture.

"I strongly advocate making great efforts to pursue transgenic engineering. The recent food shortages around the world have further strengthened that belief," Wen recently told Science magazine.

He praised the benefits — higher farm incomes and reduced use of pesticides — from widespread use of so-called Bt cotton engineered to prevent bollworm infestations.

The trend extends beyond China. Worldwide, cultivation of bioengineered crops has expanded by over 10 percent a year for a decade, although by 2007 it still had reached only 282 million acres, an area about the size of Cuba, in 22 countries.

Vietnam is pushing ahead with an ambitious program to develop commercial GM crops to reduce reliance on imports. In May, South Korea, which already imports GM soybeans, began importing bioengineered corn to help bridge shortfalls of conventional corn after China began limiting its exports.

Last month, Brazil's National Biosafety Commission approved two new varieties of genetically modified corn seeds, after giving the green light two years ago for GM varieties of soybeans. India has followed China's example, relying on engineered GM cotton, the only bioengineered crop it allows.

In Africa, where governments have sometimes rejected food aid shipments containing GM crops, South African scientists have completed field tests of a potato developed to fend off tuber moths. They also recently approved trials of sorghum genetically enhanced to improve the digestibility and nutritional content of the coarse grain, which thrives in arid soils.

European countries face growing pressure, under World Trade Organization rules, to open their markets to GM products. Many among the EU's 27 member nations remain wary and, backed by consumers opposed to what some call "Franken-foods," are fighting to keep genetically altered crops out of their fields and supermarkets.

"Why should we change what nature has given us, when it is everything we need?" asked Filippo Di Angelis, selling newspapers at a kiosk in Rome. "I don't think we can solve the problem of world hunger through genetics."

Even in China, despite hefty investments in the research, few are familiar with genetic modification. Some who have heard of it remain cautious.

"It is impossible to know if it's harmful to the body," said Zheng Wencai, a retired architect in Kunming shopping for soybeans in a downtown market. "There is still a global debate on this. So basically, I don't use it."

Associated Press writer Paul Alexandre in Manila and All researchers J. Chen in Shanghai contributed to this report.

Specter: 'I’ll be prepared' for 2010 race

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., says he's ready for a tough re-election battle in 2010, whether it's against MsNBC pundit Chris Matthews or someone else.

Specter, 78, declined to speculate on whether he would face Matthews, who reportedly met with Pennsylvania Democratic Party leaders last week about a run. But the GOP moderate said he expected challenges "from the first, in the mid-20th century, are tapering off."

"I never look over my shoulder, never look behind me," the six-term lawmaker said later.

"Other workers were knocked to the ground as they tried to rescue Damour, and customers simply stepped over him and kept shopping even as the store announced it was closing because of the death, police and witnesses said.

At least four other people, including a woman eight months pregnant, were taken to hospitals for observation or treatment for minor injuries. The store, about 20 miles east of Manhattan, closed for several hours but reopened Friday afternoon.

Sought: Wal-Mart shoppers who trampled NY worker

Colleen Long
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police are reviewing surveillance videos of a post-Thanksgiving shopper stampede that trampled a suburban Wal-Mart worker to death, but they acknowledge it may be difficult to bring criminal charges.

Nassau County police and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said no new information was available Saturday on the employee's brutal death, which rattled shoppers even as they flocked to the Valley Stream store a day later.

"It felt like a freakish," customer Elizabeth Bethun, 48, told the Daily News. "Some man lost his life because a VCR was on sale? Please. It's just too sad for words."

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ANDREW WONG ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker uses a machine to cut rice on a test field sown with different rice varieties in the outskirts of Kunming, capital of southwestern China's Yunnan province, Tuesday.
Is the AIDS crisis overblown? Some dare to say it is

Maria Cheng

As World AIDS Day is marked today, some experts are growing more outspoken in complaining that AIDS is eating up funding at the expense of more pressing health needs.

They argue that the world has entered a post-AIDS era in which the disease’s spread has largely been curbed in much of the world, Africa excepted.

“AIDS is a terrible humanitarian tragedy, but it’s just one of many terrible humanitarian tragedies,” said Jeremy Shifter, who studies health spending at Syracuse University.

Roger England of Health Systems Workshop, a think tank based in the Caribbean island of Grenada, goes further. He argues that UNAIDS, the U.N. agency leading the fight against the disease, has outlived its purpose and should be disbanded.

“The global HIV industry is too big and out of control. We have created a monster with too many vested interests and reputations at stake,” he said in a recent statement.

Paul de Lay, a director at UNAIDS, disagrees. It’s valid to question AIDS in the world’s priorities, he says, but insists the turnaround is very recent and it would be wrong to think the epidemic is under control.

“We have an epidemic that has caused between 55 million and 60 million infections,” de Lay said. “To suddenly pull the rug out from under that would be disastrous.”

U.N. officials roughly estimate that about 33 million people worldwide have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Scientists say infections peaked in the late 1990s and are unlikely to spark big epidemics beyond Africa.

In developed countries, AIDS drugs have turned the once-fatal disease into a manageable illness.

England argues that closing UNAIDS would free up its $200 million annual budget for other health problems such as pneumonia, which kills more children every year than AIDS, malaria and measles combined.

“By putting more money into AIDS, we are implicitly saying it’s OK for more kids to die of pneumonia,” England said.

His comments touch on the bigger complaint: that AIDS has hogged money and may damage other health programs.

By 2006, AIDS funding accounted for 80 percent of all American aid for health and population issues, according to the Global Health Council.

In Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and elsewhere, donations for HIV projects routinely outstrip the entire national health budgets.

In a 2006 report, Rwandan officials noted a “gross misallocation of resources” in health: $47 million went to HIV, $18 million went to malaria, the country’s biggest killer, and $1 million went to childhood illnesses.

“They need to be rational about how to apportion scarce funds,” said Helen Epstein, an AIDS expert who has consulted for UNICEF, the World Bank, and others.

AIDS advocates say their projects do more than curb the virus; their efforts strengthen other health programs by providing basic health services.

But across Africa, about 1.5 million doctors and nurses are still needed, and hospitals regularly run out of basic medicines.

Experts working on other health problems struggle to attract money and attention when competing with AIDS.

“Diarrhea kills five times as many kids as AIDS,” said John Oldfield, executive vice president of Water Advocates, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that promotes clean water and sanitation.

“Everybody talks about AIDS at cocktail parties,” Oldfield said. “But nobody wants to hear about diarrhea,” he said.

These competing claims on public money are likely to grow louder as the world financial meltdown threatens to deplete health dollars.

“We cannot afford, in this time of crisis, to squander our investments,” Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO’s director-general, said in a recent statement.

Some experts ask whether it makes sense to have UNAIDS, W.H.A. UNICEF, the World Bank, the Global Fund plus countless other AIDS organizations, all serving the same cause.

“I do not want to see the cause of AIDS harmed,” said Shifstman of Syracuse University. “For AIDS to crowd out other issues is ethically unjust.”

De Lay argues that the solution is not to eschew resources but to boost them.

“To take money away from AIDS and give it to diarrheal diseases or onchocerciasis (river blindness) or leishmaniasis (disfiguring parasites) doesn’t make any sense,” he said. “We’d just be doing a worse job in everything else.”
WORD ON THE STREET

“Did you take part in Black Friday?”

“No, I had to work. I don’t usually go... it’s too crowded.”

Addie Pitts, agriculture business senior

“I did. I went to Costco in Torrence, Calif. It wasn’t too chaotic.”

JD Gill, electrical engineering junior

“I did. I went to Best Buy in Sunnyvale, Calif. It was pretty low key.”

“I went to Cars, Boots, and Western Wear in Santa Maria and got a deal on some boots.”

Erik Lahr, agriculture business senior

“I went to Costco in Sunnyvale, Calif. It wasn’t too chaotic.”

-State SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — About 300 people, carrying signs reading “Democracies against terror” attended a San Francisco vigil for the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai. About 30 speakers from a diverse array of groups spoke. The crowd of mostly Indians and Jews included the nearly 200 victims killed on Wednesday in attacks by suspected Muslim militants in India’s financial capital.

One of the speakers, Rabbi Peter Mochkin, says he was childhood friends with two of the victims, Rabbi Garret Holteberg and his wife Rekiah. Mochkin told the crowd that their mission was “not to fight back with hatred.” An organizer of the event Khandera Kund, an architect, called on President-elect Barack Obama to take a lead in a concerted international action to combat terrorism beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

-SAN DIEGO (AP) — A spokeswoman for San Diego International Airport said thick fog disrupted several dozen flights. Spokeswoman Diana Lucero says the Federal Aviation Administration issued a “ground stop” for about 45 minutes Sunday morning because of the souvenir conditions that caused air traffic to back up and created a long security line at one of the airport’s two terminals.

Lucero said planes in the air that were scheduled to land in San Diego were diverted.

-Addie Pitts, agriculture business senior

Briefs

State

BERWICK, Pa. (AP) — Fans of Penn State can smell like the school for just $10. A fragrance developer out of State College, Pa., created a perfume and a cologne inspired by Pennsylva­nia State University’s blue and white colors and its campus vegetation. Monk Collegiate Fragrances says the perfume for the school in State College, Pa., smells of vanilla, lilac, rose and white patchouli. The cologne smells of blue cypress and cracked pepper.

The company’s president says the 3.4-ounce bottles of fragrance should appeal to Penn State’s vast alumni and football fan base. Monk has also captured the smell of the University of North Carolina, and plans to offer scents for six other universi­ties next year.

-JOS, Nigeria (AP) — After two days of mob violence, an uneasy calm returned Sunday to this central Nigerian town. Women with plastic buckets ventured out in search of water and many of the dead were buried.

Troops on foot and in armored personnel carriers appeared Sunday to have quelled two days of ethnic and religious rioting that left more than 200 people dead in Jos, appar­ently ending the worst violence in the West African nation since 2004.

Seemingly well fed, but hungry and thirst forced some residents out of their homes for the first time since the rains began Friday after a disputed election.

Wellness Directory

The student’s guide to mind + body health

Heather from Paso says, “Fetal Exposure to alcohol is the number one cause of preventable birth defects”

NineZerØ

Nine Month Alcohol and Drugs

To place an ad in this directory please contact
805-756-1143 or mustangdailiesadsgmail.com

International

GENEVA (AP) — The world’s most comprehensive legalized heroin program became permanent Sunday with overwhelmingly ap­proval from Swiss voters who sim­ultaneously rejected the decrim­inalization of marijuana.

The heroin program, started in 1994, is offered in 23 centers across Switzerland. It has helped eliminate scenes of large groups of drug users shooting up openly in parks that marred Swiss cities in the 1980s and 1990s and is credited with reduc­ing crime and improving the health and daily lives of addicts.

The nearly 1,300 selected addicts, who have been dubbed other the drug program, visit one of the centers twice a day to receive the carefully measured dose of heroin produced by a government-ap­proved laboratory.

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — A sex offender whose lenient sen­tence for molesting a child led to a crackdown on punishment for sexual predators in Vermont will likely be released from prison next month if he commits another offense.

Mark Hollet is due for release in January, but will remain under the state corrections official’s supervision if he commits another offense or violates conditions of his release.

Judge Edward Cashman was criticized by lawmakers and Gov. Jim Douglas when he sentenced Hollet, then 34, to 60 days for sexual­ly assaulting the daughter of a fam­i­ly friend numerous times during a four-year period beginning when she was 6.
The students of the poinsettia agriculture enterprise project will be spreading holiday cheer across Cal Poly in the form colorful poinsettias.

The poinsettia agriculture enterprise Project poinsettia sale will begin Dec. 1 at the Poly Plant Shop and continue through the middle of the month, featuring 30 varieties of plants.

Environmental horticulture senior Lisa Segler is one of the poinsettia project's six members. She does marketing for the project.

"This enterprise project has been a popular annual project for over 40 years," she said. "It provides many unique challenges that must be overcome for crop success."

Segler explained what makes these poinsettias special.

"Our crop is unique because we have many colors not commercially available," she said. "I really like the strawberries and cream variety, I like the variegated leafy leaves."

In addition to the traditional red and white poinsettias, the project will offer a variety of options like pinks, oranges, marbles and maroons.

To put a spin on the traditional holiday classic, the project will offer painted and glittery "blinged-out" poinsettias. Painted poinsettia color options include blues, purples and yellows.

The size of the plants vary and prices range from $6 to $60.

During previous holiday seasons, the Poly Plant Shop has relied on poinsettias to deck its halls, project employee and former manager Tracey Waples said.

"In the past we definitely have planned our decorations around the poinsettias plants in previous years," said Waples, an environmental horticulture senior. "We would fill the shop top to bottom and the lab next door."

The Poly Plant Shop's holiday open house on Dec. 5 will feature music and refreshments as well poinsettias.

From Dec. 6 through the 13, attendees can have their picture taken with a poinsettia instead of Santa. A photo backdrop will be set up for those who want a holiday picture. Poinsettia project representatives will be available to advise customers about their purchases.

The Poly Plant Shop is located at the top of hall on Via Carta and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Club President Noe Gonzalez Jr. first came to Cal Poly through the 26-hour program.

"They come to Cal Poly for two days and we take them through a tour through the college of agriculture and the math and science department and we show them, the engineering department, agricultural business, agricultural science and education to give them a feel for Cal Poly," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, a bioresource agricultural engineering junior said he wanted the program and the club to inspire the next generation of Latinos in agriculture club members.

"I am living proof that the program works," he said. "I want to promote overall leadership with them and hopefully as they get older, they want to take my spot and keep the 26-hour program running."
Sydney Opera House darks in mourning

Rehan Sullivan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY, Australia — The distinctive white sails of the Sydney Opera House will dim Sunday to mourn the death of Joern Utzon, the creative mind behind the globally recognized landmark.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd led praise for the Danish architect, whose most distinctive creation had a troubled birth in Australia but is now held dear as perhaps the country's most recognized icon.

"Joern Utzon was a visionary architect whose legacy includes one of the world's most spectacular and inspiring buildings, the Sydney Opera House," Rudd said in a statement. "In the great sweep of history, what we're left with is a beautiful building. Sydney's symbol to the world, Australia's symbol to the world and owed in large part to this great man — a son of Denmark but I've got to say in terms of his spirit, a son of Australia as well," Rudd said.

Flags over the city's other landmark, the arch-sydney Harbour Bridge, would be lowered to half-staff on Monday to honor Utzon, the Sydney Opera House Trust said. Flags on the world's most spectacular and iconic white sails of the Sydney Opera House will darken Sunday to mark Utzon's death, the Sydney Opera House Trust said. Flags on the world's most spectacular and iconic white sails of the Sydney Opera House will darken Sunday to mark Utzon's death, the Sydney Opera House Trust said.

The feature-length film was written, produced and narrated by Madonna (directed by Nathan Rossman). It consults experts including President Bill Clinton and Architect-occurring Turn.

But the film's real power is its images, which are often stunning but, here and there, reflect hope and a remarkable will to survive.

"I had many goals" said Madonna during a phone conversation from her Manhattan home a few days ago. "I did get to a point where I thought, I'm being overwhelmed, I'm trying to say too much, I'll never accomplish it. But I feel proud of the fact that I did get to make all my points." Among her points: an insistence that any crisis comes with solutions, however hard won and piecemeal.

"The film offers an audience a menu of constructive responses. "If all you can do is live your life in YOUR world in a way that shows you are responsible for the people around you, that's a course of action," she said. Madonna.

"People can be of service in large ways and small."

The first wide exposure of "I Am Because We Are" may be coming at a propitious time, which benefits the pop superstar who made it, with her knack for anticipating and identifying cultural trends.

On the eve of a new presidential administration, Americans seem set on a more idealistic path, however alarmed they may be by economic trends along the way.

"People really are going, 'Wow! I can no longer ignore what's going on around me.' There are changes in the air," she said. Madonna's busy schedule continues apace. But the artistic life that drives it "is a world you create and you inhabit, to express yourself and to inspire and reach out to other people," she explained. "It's also a consolidation, a place you go to to protect yourself." That's true now, in particular, during her highly public split with Guy Ritchie, her husband of eight years, which she described as "not easy, I'm not going to lie."

Through a brief New York break from her concert tour, Madonna said the day's long-to-do list called for this AP interview to be followed by interviews she would be conducting herself with prospective head mistresses for the girls school she is building in Malawi.

"We're all going there together at the end of March," she said, referring to David, 8-year-old son Rocco and 12-year-old daughter Lourdes.

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The Sydney Opera House is a national and cultural icon in Australia. It was designed by Danish architect Joern Utzon who was about the creation of the building. The Opera House is a national and cultural icon in Australia. It was designed by Danish architect Joern Utzon who was about the creation of the building.

Despite the name, the club is open to all students, regardless of major or ethnic background. It provides them with internship opportunities as well as the chance to compete in public speaking and essay contests.

Agriculture

usually followed by a guest speaker, a professor or an industry professional. Latinos in agriculture also attend the conference, held in India.

And she has told Malawi's hard-pressed African nation how she adopted one of those orphans, a 3-year-old son David. She is building a school there.

"We're all going there together at the end of March," she said, referring to David, 8-year-old son Rocco and 12-year-old daughter Lourdes.

"Many checks your card coming in to see what your ethnicitv' is." Flores said. "A couple of the officers are not Latinos and for various reasons just enjoy being a part of a service-oriented organization that provides social and then also academic support for students too."

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It's the start of the holiday season. Time to plan trips home, study for finals, and most importantly, figure out what awesome video games you're going to put on your Christmas wish list.

This is making increasingly difficult by the fact that more games were released in the past couple of months than Santa could possibly fit in his sleigh — and December promises at least a few more.

But never fear! With this guide, it is my intention to at least help you get your gaming hands started. Ignoring most games that came out much earlier in the year — really, people, you should have bought "Grand Theft Auto IV" and "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" already — here are some of the biggest and best games this holiday season, separated by categories better to suit your playing style.

**The Strategists and Puzzle-Solvers**

"Professor Layton and the Curious Village": Exercising your brain is rarely as fun as it is when solving mysteries with Prof. Layton. In a great, stylish murder mystery in which players have more than 100 touch-screen puzzles to solve, this game should be on the wish list of anyone who likes to use their brain. For the DS.

"Space": From the creator of "The Sims," "Space" gives you the task of creating a creature and guiding it through all the stages of evolution — from simple organisms to space-faring powerhouse. The creature creator alone will be enough to satisfy, as it allows for next-generation creativity. For the PC.

"World of Goo": As a $10 downloadable title, this is an outstanding value in "World of Goo" which players can use the "Wii's Touch" feature. For the DS.

**The Action Gamer**

"Call of Duty: World at War": Unlike "Call of Duty 4," which brought the series into modern warfare, "Call of Duty: World at War" goes back to the early 1940s, immensely fun and popular, delivering immensely fun and popular, delivering
timeless realism. For the Xbox 360, PS3, and PC.

"Geas of War 2": "Bigger, better, and more bad-ass" than the original, "Geas of War 2," combines action-adventure, puzzle-solving, and fast-paced gameplay with excellent graphics, a great story, and outstanding multiplayer modes. For the Xbox 360.

"Prince of Persia": Coming in early December, "Prince of Persia" promises to build on everything that made the "Prince of Persia Sands of Time" trilogy on the last generation试卷．an absolute hit. For the Xbox 360, PS3, Wii, and PC.

"For Cry 2": Set in Africa, this open-world first-person shooter is packed with action, mercenaries, guns and grenades. While it may look

**The Horror Fan**

"Dead Space": Taking the best aspects of classics like "BioShock" and "Resident Evil 4," "Dead Space" is an extremely good and immensely terrifying survival horror game in which you have to cut the limbs of undead aliens and discover the shocking fate of Planet Cracker class ship USG Ishimura. For the Xbox 360, PS3, Wii, and PC.

"Left 4 Dead": It's zombies vs. humans in this multiplayer game for. A band of four human players must work together to survive hordes of human-controlled undead with explosive results. The game is a blast when played with friends, but avoid it if you never intend to play online with others. For the Xbox 360 and PC.

**The Role-Player**

"Chrono Trigger": On the downside, this is the same adventure you enjoyed on the SNES 13 years ago. On the upside, it is the same adventure you enjoyed on the SNES 13 years ago. It's got the same amazing plot and timeless gameplay that fans remember and love. For all versions.

"Final Fantasy 2": This fantasy epic lets you become the hero of a big, fast-paced action game. It is the third game in the "Final Fantasy" series and includes a new version of the original game. For the DS.

"Fallout 3": In this post-apocalyptic open-world role-playing game (ROG), players are given absolute freedom to do whatever they want — even if they never want to follow the game's main storyline. For all versions.

"Fable 3": Features that are not present in the original, and includes the ability to explore the entire town and save or kill a NPC. For the Xbox 360.

**The Sports Enthusiast**

"Animal Crossing: City Folk": While the newest game in the "Animal Crossing" series doesn't change much and adds little, it's still as addictive as ever. Players live in a town full of animal residents where they can catch bugs, fish, interact with neighbors, decorate a house and try to escape an impending debt to Tom Nook. Perfect for those who want to get away from it all but still be connected to their friends and family.

**The Sports Enthusiast**

"Music Nation: Pictorial": Continuing in the tradition of the gorgeous graphics of the PlayStation 3's launch title, "Functional Art: Pictorial" takes things out of the desert and somewhat more lush scenery. With twice as many tracks as the original and great multiplayer, off-road racing fans should enjoy this one. For the PS3.

"Tecmo Bowl Kickoff": "Remember Tecmo Bowl" back when you were on Nintendo's 64? It's back, and provides the beloved over-the-top, all-American football experience you want. Easy to pick up and play — both alone and with friends — in style. For the PS3.

**The Toe Tappers**

"Guitar Hero World Tour": "Guitar Hero" is not just a game; it's a lifestyle. Its name is a little less appropriate now, as "World Tour" follows in "Rock Band's" footsteps and adds drums and vocals to the mix. Along with a song creator, fans of the series will find a lot to love with this new addition. For the Xbox 360, PS3, Wii, and PC.

"Rock Band 2": Rock Band 2" addresses a lot of the problems that fans encountered in the original, making it even more of an absolute blast to play both alone and with friends. For the PS2, PS3, Xbox 360, and Wii.

**Fun for All Ages**

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Vote for your favorite in each category. The results will be published in our Best For Cal Poly Edition in February.
The California State Legislature and the California State University system have set the stage. Since 2000, our student fees have doubled. What that means for those of you who are on the eight-year plan is that you are paying for three college educations with little to no help from Uncle Sam.

A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from a student asking me what it would take for Cal Poly to become part of the University of California system. I spent some time thinking about that and even asked some of the administrators. The answer comes down to a few different things, namely, maintaining and teaching vs. research perspectives, not to mention the fact that UC students pay twice as much as we do to attain an undergraduate degree.

In case you were wondering, the infant stages of the CSU began in the late 1800s at what is now San Jose State University, Nearly 150 years later, 23 campuses and 450,000 students make up today's California State University system.

To me, the greatest thing about the CSU system is its fundamental belief in providing and promoting access to education for all Californians. But somewhere along the road we lost that ideal to the struggles of the working class and the misinterpretations of financial needs within the state. How is it that we have accepted the idea that the prison system is better funded than the education system?

The issue we are facing is that lack of financial support from the state, and in today's econo, the trustees are more worried about their holiday trip to Bermuda than re-investing in the state's future. Let me rephrase that to mention the fact that only 9 percent of Californians see education as a top priority for the state, according to a recent poll conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California. Is anyone else worried about getting a job after graduation?

A couple of weeks ago I drove down to Long Beach to meet with the chancellor and my fellow ASI presidents regarding student-led statewide initiatives, organizations and budget issues. During our interactions with Chancellor Charles Reed and a few of the trustees, one thing was made clear: The chancellor's office blames "it" on the tax payers. On Nov. 18, a few hundred CSU students and faculty members paid Charles Reed a visit, shouting, "They say cutbacks, we say fight back!" Is anyone listening? Or did Reed forget to mention the fact that he handed $31 million back to the governor? In case you think that dollar amount isn't that detrimental in the whole scheme of things, $31 million is half of CSU Monterey Bay's annual budget and 75 percent of CSU Channel Island's annual budget. Yikes! Is it possible to make student access to the CSU system more difficult? I bet I can name a few people who are going to try.

Where did we go wrong? Why do we allow state financial struggles to burden the backs of those with limited funds or applying pressure on the state legislature? The point is that the CSU needs to become more Aggie and we need to stand up to the governor and the state.

The California Faculty Association has developed a new campaign following their "CSU is the Solution" efforts called "Cut's Have Consequences?" Ask any new faculty member about her starting pay rate and pay scale. Tell them that it's in the $35,000 range. Factor in the debt that these new Ph.D.s have accumulated, and it's back to Top Ramen and quarter for laundry.

It's time for the students to take a stand and fight for their faculty. Check out the www.allianceforcsu.org Web site for more information on how we as students can take back the CSU — not only for ourselves but for those who strive to follow in our footsteps.

Angela Kramer is Cal Poly's Associated Students Inc. president and a political science senior.
**Opinion**

**Marriage and Uncle Sam: a divorce waiting to happen**

The fury over Prop 8 involves two equally estranged, equally passionate camps; one that wants government to define marriage to allow people of the same sex to marry and another that seeks to restrict marriage. But then again, most people never really give the blue and white arguments on both sides and there may not be. I'll not give adequate consideration. To these people, government does not have in defining marriage?

Furthermore, it would seem that the best one could hope for is that the government would simply step out of the marriage business and leave people free to live as they see fit. Nonetheless, many seem convinced that something as important as marriage is best entrusted to the government's safekeeping.

Now, I don't mean to marginalize anyone's strong convictions whether they mean it matter of fact or subjectively hilarious is it to trust something that one holds dear to the government? Need elaboration. Just look what the government's done with your tax dollars lately. Liberals, do you enjoy financing the Iraq War?

Conservatives, how fond are you of funding abortion?

So what's the solution? Strangely, it's the same whatever your stance, we demand the government when it comes to marriage. You want traditional marriage? Well, marry your reproductive opposite and stick to the churches that respect your definition on marriage. (For commoner's sake, avoid that one)

Trust your individual rights to the most powerful bureaucrat fellow in the world, and that the programs are done by humans and that the programs are created by humans which can lend themselves to be extremely fallible. Please read this article which received zero mainstream media coverage but is extremely important to consider before the government begins banning we live certain ways: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main/

Jason is right on and it brings joy to my heart that some students actually can think for themselves instead of being lemmings and following the other lemming student off the cliff of ignorance. Of course, the fact that their article was written by an impassioned English major and not by a critical thinker must be obvious to all by now.

— Rob

Response to letter to the editor "Liberals come across fairly hard" Will, are you saying that black people having their own water fountains or their own schools is equal? They had the same fountain and the same water. To take away a fundamental right from someone just because they're gay is wrong. Do you think it's right to impose the Bible on the entire nation? Just to let you know, this country also has Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, etc. (religions)

The Webster dictionary says marriage is also between two people of the same sex, so why can't we go with the dictionary? Let parents deal with any religious issues in their own homes.

— Tsubasa

Response to comments on letter to the editor "People don't prove Prop 8 will be overruled, majority rules" It's your turn to read and respond mustangdaily.net

By not eating meat, you do more to help the ecology of the planet and protect against global warming than doing anything else including switching to a hybrid car. In a groundbreaking 2006 report, the United Nations said that raising animals for food generates more greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) than all the cars and trucks in the world combined.

**Anonymous**

Response to "Climate change summit calls for thinking globally, acting locally"

Before you go and start talking about how global warming is such a big problem and that the computer models are predicting the end of times in 100 years (even though they can't predict the weather tomorrow), please consider that all inputs to these models are done by humans and that the programs are created by humans which can lend themselves to be extremely fallible. Please read this article which received zero mainstream media coverage but is extremely important to consider before the government begins banning we live certain ways: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main/

Jeremy Polsky is a 2008 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarians Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Don't Tead on Me" usually appears on Wednesdays. However, due to the fact that there was no Mustang Daily last Wednesday with the Thanksgiving break, the column appears today and again on Wednesday this week.

**Don't Read on Me**

by Jeremy Hicks

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by Jeremy Hicks

Furthermore, it would seem that the best one could hope for is that the government would simply step out of the marriage business and leave people free to live as they see fit. Nonetheless, many seem convinced that something as important as marriage is best entrusted to the government's safekeeping.

Now, I don't mean to marginalize anyone's strong convictions whether they mean it matter of fact or subjectively hilarious is it to trust something that one holds dear to the government? Need elaboration. Just look what the government's done with your tax dollars lately. Liberals, do you enjoy financing the Iraq War?

Conservatives, how fond are you of funding abortion?

So what's the solution? Strangely, it's the same whatever your stance, we demand the government when it comes to marriage. You want traditional marriage? Well, marry your reproductive opposite and stick to the churches that respect your definition on marriage. (For commoner's sake, avoid that one)

Trust your individual rights to the most powerful bureaucrat fellow in the world, and that the programs are done by humans and that the programs are created by humans which can lend themselves to be extremely fallible. Please read this article which received zero mainstream media coverage but is extremely important to consider before the government begins banning we live certain ways: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main/

Jason is right on and it brings joy to my heart that some students actually can think for themselves instead of being lemmings and following the other lemming student off the cliff of ignorance. Of course, the fact that their article was written by an impassioned English major and not by a critical thinker must be obvious to all by now.

— Rob

Response to letter to the editor "Liberals come across fairly hard" Will, are you saying that black people having their own water fountains or their own schools is equal? They had the same fountain and the same water. To take away a fundamental right from someone just because they're gay is wrong. Do you think it's right to impose the Bible on the entire nation? Just to let you know, this country also has Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, etc. (religions)

The Webster dictionary says marriage is also between two people of the same sex, so why can't we go with the dictionary? Let parents deal with any religious issues in their own homes.

— Tsubasa

Response to comments on letter to the editor "People don't prove Prop 8 will be overruled, majority rules" It's your turn to read and respond mustangdaily.net

By not eating meat, you do more to help the ecology of the planet and protect against global warming than doing anything else including switching to a hybrid car. In a groundbreaking 2006 report, the United Nations said that raising animals for food generates more greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) than all the cars and trucks in the world combined.

**Anonymous**

Response to "Climate change summit calls for thinking globally, acting locally"

Before you go and start talking about how global warming is such a big problem and that the computer models are predicting the end of times in 100 years (even though they can't predict the weather tomorrow), please consider that all inputs to these models are done by humans and that the programs are created by humans which can lend themselves to be extremely fallible. Please read this article which received zero mainstream media coverage but is extremely important to consider before the government begins banning we live certain ways: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main/

Jeremy Polsky is a 2008 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarians Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Don't Tead on Me" usually appears on Wednesdays. However, due to the fact that there was no Mustang Daily last Wednesday with the Thanksgiving break, the column appears today and again on Wednesday this week.
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Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Everyone froze—no one had ever ordered a certain appetizer when a certain friend was present.

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94ers’ defense stymies Bills in 10-3 win

John Wastrow

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — If there is one thing the San Francisco 49ers can be proud of when they finally play their home opener next month, it is that their defense has shut down the Bills in the past two games. The 49ers have the league’s best defense, and they proved it yet again in a 10-3 win over the Buffalo Bills.

Coach Jim Harbaugh was pleased with the performance.

“I thought our defense was fantastic,” Harbaugh said. “They got after the quarterback, they got after the running back, they made it difficult for them to get anything going.”

The Bills’ offense was held to just 132 total yards, and they managed only three first downs.

“We really put the pressure on them,” Harbaugh said. “We played good football and didn’t turn the ball over.”

Kicker Robbie Gould kicked a 40-yard field goal in the second quarter to break a 3-3 tie, and the 49ers never looked back.

The Bills were unable to score on their final drive of the game, and the 49ers will take this victory into their bye week.

“We’ve got a lot of work to do,” Harbaugh said. “But we’ll take it and move on.”

THE START

The 49ers were not expected to win this game, but they did it anyway. The Bills were favored by 10 points, but the 49ers were able to play their best game of the season so far.

“I’m just proud of the guys,” Harbaugh said. “They played hard and bought into the system.”

The 49ers’ defense held Buffalo to just 132 total yards, and they managed only three first downs.

“I thought our defense was fantastic,” Harbaugh said. “They got after the quarterback, they got after the running back, they made it difficult for them to get anything going.”

In the first half, the 49ers’ defense was particularly dominant, allowing just 20 yards of offense and forcing three turnovers.

“I’m really proud of our defense,” Harbaugh said. “They did a great job today.”

On offense, the 49ers were led by quarterback Alex Smith, who completed 20 of 30 passes for 275 yards and a touchdown.

“She’s not a easy one to block,” said Bills coach Rex Ryan. “He’s a physical guy and he’s got a strong arm.”

In the second half, the 49ers continued to dominate, scoring two field goals and a touchdown to put the game out of reach.

“I’m really proud of our defense,” Harbaugh said. “They did a great job today.”

The Bills were unable to score on their final drive of the game, and the 49ers will take this victory into their bye week.

“We’ve got a lot of work to do,” Harbaugh said. “But we’ll take it and move on.”

THE END

The 49ers won their second straight game and moved to 2-1 on the season.

“We’ve got a lot of work to do,” Harbaugh said. “But we’ll take it and move on.”

The 49ers will now prepare for their Week 3 matchup against the Dallas Cowboys.
For months, defenses had tried to get the ball out of the hands of the Cal Poly football team's offense. To say they failed would be something of an understatement.

Cal Poly's first pick of the season, fourth-year defensive end Nick Canacho, took away Weber State's second pick of the season, quarterback Cameron Higgins. Higgins, who threw for 578 yards and six touchdowns but was intercepted twice, was picked on his final pass attempt.

"They failed on their final pass attempt," Canacho said. "It was a great job of anticipating us."