Black Friday in SLO crazy at some places, calm at others

Joshua Ayers

The holiday shopping season kicked off last Friday with an estimated 25 million more consumers heading to the stores on Black Friday than last year, according to a National Retail Federation study and San Luis Obispo saw its share of shoppers lining up to get the first picks of this year’s hot items too.

“We had probably about 200 people,” said Micks Jolles, a sales and installation manager at Circuit City in the Irish Hills shopping center. “We were letting people in slowly but surely at about 25 people a time.”

Jolles said that the top items being sold at the San Luis Obispo store were the iPod touch as well as Hat-Sports Spa Mall Experience at the Westfield Valley Fair Mall in San Jose, Calif. In San Luis Obispo, some stores, especially electronic stores, were busier than others.

Two computer-generated prototypes show the eventual products that liberal arts engineering studies senior Bill Trammel plans to create and market.

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If James Bond had a desk...

Student designs high-tech desk of the future

Lauren Rabaino

Six years ago, before liberal arts engineering studies senior Bill Trammel became a Cal Poly student, he had an epiphany while sitting at his mahogany desk at home.

“What would this desk look like if Q from James Bond designed it?” he asked himself.

He pictured a desk with a sliding screen, a fingerprint recognition system and video conferencing — all from his single, sedentary unit of space.

“But the key point is that it would look like a completely ordinary desk,” Trammel said, and the idea for his senior project was born.

Now, years later, he’s finally turning his vision into a reality. Although something as high-tech as finger print recognition isn’t in his plans yet, the concept of an electromechanical desk controlled by buttons has kept Trammel and three classmates spending all their free time working out of a garage in San Luis Obispo for the past two months.

The team is designing furniture that treats computers as a crucial part of the structure, rather than an accessory to plop onto it.

Schwarzenegger declares fiscal emergency

Juliet Williams

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal emergency on Monday and called lawmakers into a special budget session, warning that California was in danger of running out of daily operating cash within two months.

The special session will force the new Legislature to get to work immediately and figure out a way to solve the $11.2 billion budget deficit in the current fiscal year. The governor’s declaration came just days after a previous special session with the outgoing class of lawmakers failed to produce a compromise.

Unless budget corrections are made quickly, the state is likely to run out of cash in February and see its revenue gap widen to $28 billion over the next 19 months.

Schwarzenegger said legislators so far have failed to grasp the seriousness of the crisis, which is growing worse by the day.

“Without immediate action, our state is headed for a fiscal disaster where everyone will be hurt,” Schwarzenegger said during a news conference in Los Angeles, where he signed three budget-related orders.

He warned of deep cuts that would have a “tremendously horrible effect on our school system” if the state were to run out of cash.

The Republican governor and Democrat in the Legislature have proposed a combination of tax hikes and spending cuts, but Republican lawmakers have remained steadfast in their refusal to raise taxes but so far have not released an alternate proposal to close the $11.2 billion shortfall.

Lawmakers failed to reach a compromise during the special session Schwarzenegger declared last month, pushing the problem to the new Legislature that was sworn in on Monday.

Schwarzenegger said their failure to act has cost California an additional $1.5 billion to $2 billion because the state continues to spend at the same rate even as revenue declines.

His projection assumes lawmakers act on the final day of the new session and implement all the governor’s recommendations. The figure could be lower if they act quickly, said his spokesman, Aaron McLeer.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, in accepting his nomination to remain head of the new Legislature that was sworn in on Monday, declared a fiscal emergency.

There are not ordinary times,” said the Los Angeles Democrat. “Our state continues to be rocked by the deepening national recession. Our projected deficit is growing, and the cash we need on hand is disappearing.”

see Schwarzenegger, page 2
Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signs declarations of a fiscal emergency and called lawmakers into a special session Monday to address California's $11.2 billion budget deficit as well as a special session to take up a package of economic stimulus proposals.

Schwarzenegger and other governors were expected to meet with President-elect Barack Obama on Tuesday at the National Governors' Convention in Philadelphia. Schwarzenegger said he will urge Obama to invest in infrastructure to stimulate job creation and boost the ailing economy.

Steve Levy, director of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy in Palo Alto, said a true economic stimulus for the state's economy requires a large infusion of money, something not available to Schwarzenegger or lawmakers.

None of the proposed deficit solutions would do much to boost the economy, he said. "If the choice is cutting programs or raising taxes to maintain programs, either way somebody's going to take a hit," Levy said.

Schwarzenegger called two special sessions on Monday, addressing the budget deficit in the current fiscal year and another to consider an economic stimulus plan.

The stimulus session would focus on reducing the state's unemployment insurance fund from $71 billion to $5 billion and on any other bills until the problem is solved.

Some lawmakers are skeptical the Legislature can put the state on track to financial health. Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, R-San Luis Obispo, introduced a resolution Monday calling for a constitutional convention to reform the budget process and tax code.

Associated Press writers Samantha Shank in Sacramento and Solley Snow in Los Angeles contributed to this report.
Assembling people's physical environment and their technological, computing environment has not happened yet.

—Bill Trammel
LAES senior

The final prototype will be completed by Dec. 12 for a business plan competition.

“Getting people to use their desk, they usually have to move the keyboard and wires out of the way. If you have your computer always available, your productivity goes down about 50 percent, at least for me,” he said.

When a person can put the computer away, it doesn't damage your productivity,” Trammel said.

The final prototype will be completed by Dec. 12 for a business plan competition.

Shopping
continued from page 1

"It was very unexpected for Costco to have any kind of line outside because I thought they were already at rock-bottom prices," Williams said. "Costco was handing out a coupon book at the door. It was mostly plasma TVs that were being bought...a lot of electronics were going out the door, not necessarily food items or the bulk items that people normally purchase from Costco.

Williams wasn't surprised that Petsmart wasn't as busy as some of the other retail stores in the complex because he said that consumers tend to shop for other "human family members" before making purchases for their pets.

"I think people tend to spend a little more money on pets after the holidays," he said.

He added that the Irish Hills put out advertising a little late this year but that other stores didn't seem to suffer from it. Unfortunately, we just didn't see the traffic," Williams said.

One store that saw an increase in traffic, however, was Petsmart. "We had a lot of stop-bys," said Beverly assistant manager Steve Garcia.

Garcia said many people were in town for the holidays and that he noticed more families coming in to browse for non-alcoholic items such as gift cards, glasses and food items.

"They were probably getting ideas for dinner parties or Christmas parties," he said.

One popular item that Garcia said was requested more on Black Friday was a licorice-flavored drink called Absinthe.

"Absinthe has been a nice seller," he said. "People are looking for that warm drink for the winter."

Garcia added that big sellers for this time of year are gift cards to the store.

"That's a little more common now than the non-holiday (season)," he said.
Barack Obama promised "a new dawn of American leadership" in a troubled world Monday, announcing a strong-willed national security team headed by Hillary Rodham Clinton, who fought him long and bitterly for the presidency, and Robert Gates, the man who has been running two wars for George W. Bush.

The president-elect said he hadn't changed his mind about bringing most U.S. combat troops home from Iraq within 16 months but added a cautionary note — he'll consult with his military commanders first.

While his new team may be a bit more centrist — some war opponents might even say hawkish — than many Obama supporters might prefer, he said the withdrawal timetable he emphasized in the presidential campaign is still "the right time frame."

Clinton, as secretary of state, and Gates, remaining as defense secretary, will be the most prominent faces — besides Obama's own — of the new administration's effort to reinvigorate U.S. policy abroad.

At a Chicago news conference, Obama also tapped top advisers Eric Holder as attorney general and Susan Rice as ambassador to the United Nations. He named Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano to be homeland security secretary and retired Marine Gen. James Jones as White House national security adviser. The choices had been telegraphed days earlier but were remarkable all the same — still another major turn in Clinton's extraordinary career, a show of faith in Gates and action to support Obama's frequent talk of de-irregularizing diplomacy.

"The time has come for a new beginning," said Obama, flanked by flags on a stage with Vice President-elect Joe Biden and his six newest appointees. While Gates will stay at the Pentagon, Obama said the military's new mission will be "responsibly ending the war in Iraq through a successful transition to Iraqi control."

He said a newly completed agreement between Iraq and the Bush administration covering U.S. troops signals "a transition period in which our mission is changing." He added: "It indicates we are now on a glide path to reduce our forces in Iraq."

Obama has now selected half his Cabinet, including the high-profile jobs at State, Defense, Justice and Treasury. A week ago, he named his economic team, led by Timothy Geithner as treasury secretary. And soon he plans to announce New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as commerce secretary and former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle as health and human services secretary.

Obama's picks suggest he is mindful of his own relative inexperience; most of the appointees have decades more experience in government than he does as a former one-term Illinois senator. The selections also reflect his long-voiced desire to invite divergent viewpoints to chart the best course for the country.


The winners of the closest legislative races on California's Nov. 4 ballot were sworn in Monday after weeks of vote-counting, giving them razor-thin victories.

Democrat Alyson Huber, a Lodi attorney, joined the other 79 members of the Assembly to take the oath of office as the 2009 Legislature met to elect its officers, launch a pair of special sessions focused on the state's budget woes and begin introducing bills.

Huber beat former San Joaquin County Supervisor Jack Steglock by a little more than 500 votes out of nearly 176,000 cast. She won the seat formerly held by Republican Alan Nakanishi of Stockton, who was term-limited.

Huber's victory gave Democrats 51 of the Assembly's 80 seats, the most they've had in 30 years.

Meanwhile, Republican Tony Strickland, a former assemblyman from Thousand Oaks, was sworn into the state Senate, replacing termed-out Republican Tom McClintock, also of Thousand Oaks. McClintock claimed victory Monday in a Northern California congressional race.

Strickland beat Democrat Hannah-Beth Jackson, a former assemblywoman from Santa Barbara, by about 300 votes, or two-tenths of a percentage point.

"I'm wishing it had been different," Jackson told The Associated Press on Monday in conceding defeat. "But somebody's got to win and somebody's got to lose."
French first lady joins global fight against AIDS

French's glamorous first lady threw her considerable star power behind the global fight against AIDS on Monday, as the world rallied the victims of the HIV virus that infects a new person every 15 seconds.

As ceremonies marked World AIDS Day, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy signed on to become a goodwill ambassador for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which said it has provided lifesaving treatment to two million people living with HIV worldwide.

"I think the world has become used to AIDS," the model-turned-singer told a news conference in Paris. "We no longer see it as a scandal or an emergency."

Bruni-Sarkozy, who lost her brother Virginio to AIDS two years ago, said her work will focus on helping women and children infected with HIV, the virus that causes the disease. She pledged to fight the stigma that is still attached to AIDS in many countries.

"There is no greater cruelty than to be excluded from your own family and your own community because you are infected with a deadly disease," she said.

Some 50,000 children are born each year infected with HIV and 20,000 of them die. If the trend continues, the result, the Global Fund said. With access to antiretroviral drugs, the risk of virus transmission from an HIV-positive mother to her baby can be slashed to less than five percent, it added.

Bruni-Sarkozy said she would divert the constant media attention she has attracted since her whirlwind wedding to President Nicolas Sarkozy this year toward the battle against AIDS. She also planned to tap her extensive contacts in the music and fashion industries for fundraising.

Irish singer and activist Bono called her appointment "a great coup" for the Global Fund.

An estimated 33 million people worldwide are infected with the HIV virus, the vast majority of them in Africa, but no country is spared. In a rare government disclosure, Iran said Monday it has registered more than 18,000 HIV-positive citizens and estimated the true number of infected to be as high as 100,000.

China — which for years also covered up the disease — vowed to see AIDS, page 6

Bombs kill more than 30
in Baghdad and Mosul

Kim Gamel

A suicide bombing tore through a line of recruits waiting to enter a police academy in Baghdad on Tuesday, in an multiple blast that killed and nearly 50 eaten and wounded, according to police

said. The cause of violence in Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul occurred as U.S. combat deaths for Na-

The two bombings occurred shortly after a roadside bomb elsewhere in Baghdad targeted Maj. Gen. Mustapha al-Mosul, a senior Iraqi military official overseeing affairs related to U.S.-called fighters who recently have been turned over to government control in the capital.

A body guard was killed, but al-Mosul escaped with minor injuries, according to the U.S. military.

Another roadside bomb struck a police patrol in eastern Baghdad, killing one officer and wounding four other people.

In Mosul, a suicide car bomber detonated his explosives as a joint U.S.-Iraqi convoy drove by in a crowded commercial area, police said.

"We started to close our shop and people were trying to flee when a U.S.-Iraqi convoy passed. One minute later, a big explosion took place," he said.

At least 15 people were killed and 30 wounded in that attack, officials said.

Bloodied police uniforms and combat boots were scattered with the crumpled metal hulk of the car that on the charred street after the bombings.

The Iraqi military spokesman Maj. Gen. Qasim al-Mu-

said his office had a lightly lower toll of 11 killed, while the U.S. military said 12 Iraqi police were killed.

One wounded 2-year-old recruit said he had been standing in line with other applicants at the time of the attack.

"We came today for an appointment at the academy and I learned later that some of my friends were killed in the second explosion," Ali Nour said. "It seems that there is no security and terrorists will not end."
WORD ON THE STREET

“What was your reaction to the Mumbai attacks?”

“It’s really tragic. I hate feeling to secure our borders and crack another sign that we really need

Paul Thomas, agriculture business junior

“It’s pretty devastating. It’s another sign that we really need to secure our borders and crack down on security.”

Mark Hudson, agriculture business senior

“As a country we should do more to solve it; it should get more at­

Trevor Baird, biology sophomore

“It’s really tragic. I hate feeling helpless but it feels like there is not much I can do.”

-Anu Menon, biology sophomore

State

SACRAMENTO (AP) - A group of Democratic state lawmakers is asking the federal government to provide more financial aid to the nation’s cash-strapped public col­

LEG

Seven members of the Califor­

nia Assembly introduced a non­

binding resolution Monday stating that higher education is critical to the U.S. economy and deserves a bailout as much as the banking in­

dustry.

The bill calls on Congress and President-elect Barack Obama to devote $70 billion toward creating a student loan forgiveness program and student grants modeled after the World War II-era GI Bill.

Leaders of the California State University and University of Califor­

nia systems have warned they plan to curtail student enrollment next fall if they don’t get more state

funding.

• • •

BENICIA, Calif. (AP) — The federal government has hired a company to remove toxic paint from dozens of mothballed war­dships anchored near San Francisco.

Monday’s announcement comes more than a year after environmen­tal groups filed suit to force the government to clean up toxic pol­t

tion caused by the decaying naval ships.

Briefs

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A teenager and her housemate killed in her home had been sexually assault­

ed and beaten so badly in a suspected burglary that her jaw shattered and she broke a hand while trying to fend off her attacker’s blows, her parents said Monday.

“This monster stole my daugh­

ter’s innocence,” said Patti Cannady, the mother of Anne Presley, on NBC’s “Today.”

“He took her life. He took her identity. He took our lives,” she said.

• • •

SMITH POINT, Texas (AP) — A 30-mile scar of debris along the Texas coast stands as a festering testa­ment to what state and local officials say is FEMA’s sluggish response to the 2008 hurricane season.

Two and a half months after Hurricane Ike blasted the shoreline, alligators and snakes crawl over vast piles of shattered building materials, lawn furniture, trees, boats, tanks of butane and other hazardous sub­stances, thousands of animal carcasses, perhaps even the corpses of people killed by the storm.

State and local officials complain that the removal of the filth has gone almost nowhere because FEMA red tape has held up both the cleanup work and the release of the millions of dollars that Chambers County says it needs to pay for the project.

Orphan

AIDS

continued from page 5

do more to tackle the stigma. The government promised to strengthen education about AIDS prevention, increase condom distribution and do more to reach high-risk groups.

An estimated 700,000 Chinese have the virus.

The rate of HIV infection in Eu­

rope almost doubled between 2001 and 2005, reaching the highest level ever recorded in the region, the World Health Organization said in a report released Monday.

Africa has an estimated 3.5 million people living with the HIV virus — the highest total of any country. About 1,000 South Africans die each day of the disease and complications like tuberculosis.

Even more become infected be­cause prevention messages have not worked.

Yet for years, the South African government of former President Thabo Mbeki played down the extent of the crisis Mbeki himself doubted the link between HIV and AIDS. His health minister, Manto Tshabalala-Msimine, openly mis­trusted conventional AIDS drugs and instead promoted the value of traditional healers and the African potato.

Researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health last month calculated that government delays in introducing AIDS drugs between 2000 and 2005 cost more than $30,000 lives in South Africa.

“We have to measure the lives of those we have not saved,” said Bar­bara Hogan, the health minister who replaced Tshabalala-Msimine in March after Mbeki was ousted in October.

The Israeli air force landed at Israel’s international airport just before midnight and Israeli officials joined relatives and friends of the vic­tims.

Moshé’s father, Rabbi Gabriel Nechuch Holberg, 29, and mother, Rikki, 26, ran the headquarters of the ultra-Orthodox Chabad-Lubavitch movement in Mumbai. They were among six Israeli citizens killed at the center during the city’s three-day ter­ror siege.

Moshé was spirited out of Cha­bad House on Thursday by Rabbi Samuel, a nanny who had worked at the center for years. She found him crying beside his parents’ bodies, his pants drenched in blood.

future of the orphaned Moshé.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moshé Holzberg, the 2-year-old orphan of the rabbi and his wife slain in the Mumbai Jewish center, cries during a memorial service at a syna­gogue in Mumbai, India, Monday.

International

LONDON (AP) — Happily contemplating another women’s victory at the top U.S. diplomat, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Mon­

der she will offer advice, privately, and then get out of the way.

“She won’t — and you won’t — hear from me again,” Rice said on the day President-elect Barack Obama named Sen. Hillary Rod­ham Clinton to be the next se­

cretary of state. “I will certainly not make effort to comment on ev­

erything that is done.”

Rice, in London on a farewell tour, said there’s a lot to recom­

mend the U.S. system of four-year presidential terms, and thus relative­

ly short tours of duty for Cabinet ministers.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — An eclectic group from Hamas officials to a flag-waving scoop mob showed up to greet a Libyan ship planning to flout an Is­

raeli blockade and deliver 3,000 tons of aid to this impoverished seaside strip. But they met only disappoint­

ment.

The freighter was turned back Monday by the Israeli navy, ending the first high-profile attempt by an Arab country to break the blockade of Gaza. Analysts said the incident showed that Arab and Muslim na­

tions, while eager to end Gaza’s iso­

lation, won’t risk military confronta­tion with Israel.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bush tells media that he's sorry about economic crisis

Shannon McCall of the Air Force Academy and Greg Bluestein (Associated Press)

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin urged Georgians to back Sen. Saxby Chambliss in his runoff, in an election that exposed a rift in an already divided Republican Party and the GOP's efforts to shore up erosion of its shrinking Senate numbers.

"Loosing an election doesn't mean we have lost our way," the former vice presidential candidate told a cheering crowd of 2,500 Monday morning in the central Georgia town of Perry. "If we are to lead again, we have lots of hard work ahead of us. Let it begin here tomorrow in Georgia."

Democratic Jim Martin staged a flurry of campaign rallies across the state, capping the day with a raucous event at the state Capitol, with hip-hop stars T.I., Young Jeezy and Ludacris urging voters to return to the polls.

"We want to win the race," said Young Jeezy, referring to President-elect Barack Obama's victory. "Now it's time we win the war. Vote Jim Martin."

Palin's campaign appearances for Chambliss -- four total -- were her first since she and Republican presidential nominee John McCain stumbled on Nov. 4. Georgian Republicans clearly were looking ahead, with supporters waving placards or holding the cold for more than an hour to attend the rallies. Vendors in Augusta sold bright pink "Balin 2012" T-shirts and "Palin for President: You Go Girl" buttons. Chants of "Sarah, Sarah, who do you pick?"

Palin highlighted Chambliss' conservative record of supporting gun rights and opposing abortion. Faced with the prospect of Democrat candidates winning their Senate numbers, Chambliss said the 60 needed to thwart Republican filibusters, Palin told the crowd it was time to elect the first Republican lawmaker.

"Losing a race does not mean we have lost our way," the former vice presidential candidate Allen King, who drove all our money off of some of the holdings,"

Later in the interviews, he said: "I can't guarantee that "we'll get all our money back, but it's conceivable we could."

"And so what we're watching is the leveraging of our financial market, which is obviously affecting the growth of the economy."

This economy will recover," Bush said in an interview conducted last week. "We're making progress."

"I think the history of this period is written, people will realize a lot of the decisions that were made on Wall Street took place over a decade or so before he became president."

He said he would unite to see "insatiable" in the markets given the extent of the financial rescue plan, yet he understood that fear has paralyzed the markets.

"It is hard for the average citizen to understand how frozen the system became and how over-leveraged the system became," Bush said.

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"It is hard for the average citizen to understand how frozen the system became and how over-leveraged the system became," Bush said.
A less-gory version of the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, "Sweeney Todd," will slice its way through the Central Coast with a new minimalist interpretation of Stephen Sondheim's Tony Award-winning Broadway musical this Thursday night at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"This is the kind of show that can turn people who do not normally attend musicals into fans of musical theatre," said Steven Lerian, director of Cal Poly Arts.

Director John Doyle's total re-invention of Sondheim's now classic tale of justice has brought rave reviews from The Wall Street Journal, who called it "The greatest musical of the past half-century... a staging of the utmost force and originality."

When the curtains open at 7 p.m., a talented collection of 10 actors and musicians will take center stage with Merritt David Janes as Sweeney Todd. Janes' role as the demon barber will sure to please those who saw Janes star as the easygoing Jersey boy Robbie Hart in last season's musical "The Wedding Singer."

Sweeney Todd is based off of the 19th century legend of a London barber who turned to a life of crime after a malevolent judge took his wife and child from him. Sweeney takes his rage out on his wealthy customers by killing them and taking their valuables. To dispose of their bodies, he partners up with a businesswoman, Mrs. Lovett, played by Carrie Cimma, who bakes the human flesh into her meat pies.

Many students will most likely recognize "Sweeney Todd" from the Tim Burton's 2007 movie adaptation, starring Johnny Depp. However, the musical first premiered on Broadway in 1979 with a 27-piece symphonic orchestra and 30-member cast.

In this adaptation, John Doyle takes the giant Broadway show and cuts it down to its fundamentals with less gore than audiences might be used to. The actors never leave the stage because, when they are not the focus of the scene, they perform all of the music composed for the musical.

The forebodingly plain set is stripped to the bare essentials and the actors utilize only a few essential props to bring the audience to the different locations of 19th century London.

Following a highly-successful London engagement, Doyle's production of Sweeney Todd opened on Broadway in 2005 to universal critical acclaim where it won the Drama League, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for "Best Revival of a Musical," and was awarded a Special Citation by the New York Drama Critics Circle.

"I think it going to be one of the most fun and interesting show of the year. This show just wows people in New York. For students it should be a slice break before finals," said Lerian.

Student and adult tickets for the performance range from $44 to $68 and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center ticket office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this week. However, students from all locations with valid identification are eligible for $10 at-door rush tickets one hour prior to curtain. Cal Poly faculty and staff may also purchase any available at-door rush tickets at a 20 percent discount with Cal Poly identification at the door.

Due to content, the performance is recommended for adults and students over the age of 14.
Bonds of friendship, family put to the test in Morrison's "Mercy"

Chelsea Bicker
Mustang Daily

I first discovered Toni Morrison by chance when a friend lent me "The Bluest Eye." I did not expect to be completely enraptured by the writing. In fact, I put off reading it for a few weeks. I am glad that I uncovered it later though because it proved to be one of the most powerful novels I have ever read. This year, I have been fortunate enough to be a part of Kegulus Allen's African American literature class, in which we are currently reading Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning fifth novel, "Beloved." It is because of my previous exposure to this Nobel Prize-winning author that her latest novel, "A Mercy," caught my eye.

Skip ahead to her novel "Beloved," and turn away all of the ideas that slavery and its aftereffects have on the reader, as well as a historically riveting view of the time. New York farmer Jacob Vaark is a simple man, but after a trip to Maryland to seek the fulfillment of a debt owed to him, he finds himself yearning for the same luxury he has in his life. Thinking that she could serve as a companion to develop his character into something more than a figure of the book, Lina finds a deep bond between them.

The Vaark family is a tragic one and Rebekka seems to be cursed when it comes to childbearing, as all of her children die young. After she becomes severely ill, it is Lina who realizes that without her, the slave women will be unsafe in the hands of Vaark's mother and the break-up with his mother, and the break-up with his mother, the Vaark's and her young daughter, Patrician.

The book's end is the most powerful, told through the unsuspecting eyes of Florens' mother. As with Morrison's other novels, do not expect to come out of reading this unscathed. Her talent is abundant; the way she is able to paint a picture of that time period with vivid descriptions and acute characterization is simply amazing. I loved Flow she persuaded her brother. Seeking praise wherever she goes and through everything she does, Florens proves to be eager to please as well as eager to love. After falling madly in love with a free African Blacksmith, she indulges himself in the romance of it all and sees her genuine perspective come through in the pages. My favorite parts of this novel were when Morrison would write using the voice of Florens.

Lina, an Indian woman, whose tribe was plagued by disease, also inhabits the farm. She proves to be an insightful, interesting perspective throughout the novel. As the mother figure of the book, Lina finds a deep friendship with Vaark's wife, Rebekka, as well as their young daughter, Patrician.

The Vaark family is a tragic one however and Rebekka seems to be cursed when it comes to childbearing, as all of her children die young. After she becomes severely ill, it is Lina who realizes that without her, the slave women will be unsafe in the world.

The book's end is the most powerful, told through the unsuspecting eyes of Florens' mother. As with Morrison's other novels, do not expect to come out of reading this unscathed. Her talent is abundant; the way she is able to paint a picture of that time period with vivid descriptions and acute characterization is simply amazing. I loved how she was able to weave this relatively short tale through the eyes of many, to create a powerful impact on the reader, as well as a historically riveting view of the time.

I was completely immersed in Morrison's writing, and although consisting of at times disturbing material, "A Mercy," displays what is at the heart of human nature, crossing the divides of race, providing a thunderous conclusion.
Kanye continued from page 9

that will undoubtedly be stuck in your head for weeks. Other highlights include the Chromeo-esque "Paranoid," and "See You in My Nightmares," which features Lil Wayne, who sings what might be one of the best hooks he's ever worked on.

There are a few problems with "808s and Heartbreak." Lil Wayne's verse, much like his verse on "Barry Bonds" on "Graduation," falls flat, complete with boring metaphors and trite writing, despite how good the hook is. Young Jeezy is the only other guest rapper on 808s, and his verse on "Amazin'" is completely out of place and awkward, shuffling the overall theme of the album.

Minor gripes aside, "808s" is a fantastic album, and Kanye West has yet again proved that he is an artist with many talents. This is unquestionably his most polarizing release, and he will alienate a large part of his fan base. However, West doesn't seem to care, and this further proves that he is in it for the music. His production continues to test the limits of hip-hop transcending genres and breaking from the mold of your typical producer. This may not be his best album, but it is by far the most consistent and thought-provoking album he's released. If worst comes to worst and you don't enjoy the album, sit tight. He'll be back with a hip-hop release in the summer of 2009.
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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.

Name: ____________________________  Address: ____________________________  Telephone: ____________________________  Email: ____________________________

Turn in entire page anytime at our office, building 26 room 226 or at our booth during UU hour on 10/23, 11/13, 12/4.

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Like countries before it, India's dreams live on

I've yet to visit Mumbai, but I've heard it's an invigorating, bustling city of street vendors and flashy cars, a colorful metropolis where artists and business suits rub shoulders and where Indians and foreigners alike come to have their fortunes told and made.

India is a fascinating modern success story. Just a few years ago, it made leaps and bounds in the past two decades to become the world's largest democracy and one of the fastest growing economies. It is a model for any aspiring, democratically run country, unapologetically branding itself a brand of booming capitalism. Since 1991, India has encouraged a free-market economic policy, privatizing businesses focused on deregulation and lower taxes and welcoming foreign investment and trade. Its financial and technology hubs, including Mumbai and Bangalore, produce engineers, doctors and scientists on par with America's best. It's hardly ironic that Mumbai's famous film industry, "Bollywood," takes its name from America's counterpart and churns out stories, however melodramatic, of love and self-made success by the thousands. It's as if these films represent the dreams of so many within the nation, so Mumbai sits as a beacon of South Asian optimism.

Yet sadly, it seems that it is precisely for that — for unashamedly working to assert itself alongside the world's most admired cities — that Mumbai had its 26/11 list week. The attacks were a sad and sobering reminder for us all that there are still those in this world that can't stand freedom or peace. They hate Mumbai for its cosmopolitanism, understated success and nonchalant attitude towards its median of cultures and religions. After Sept. 11, 2001, the United States has given almost $8 billion to Pakistan as aid intended to go towards fighting Islamic extremism, yet we've received next to nothing in return. In fact, the Kashmiri guerrilla group alleged to have carried out the Mumbai attacks, still operates training camps within Pakistan, the Washington Post reported last week. And Ajmal Amir Kasab, the single suspect caught, told interrogators that 10 of the estimated 15 men involved in the Mumbai operation, according to the Times of India, were trained in Pakistan and specially picked for the Mumbai operation, according to the Times of India. So why is America so timid to take a stand and hold Pakistan accountable for what happens within its borders and with our billions?

India too will have a lot of finger pointing to do within its own government over the coming weeks. A score of top Indian officials have already stepped down amid criticisms of their handling of the attacks, and more resignations are likely to follow as the country's people seek accountability from their government. But ultimately, the battle against global terrorism is exactly that: a war between the civilized world and the ruthless extremists who wish to destroy it. As individuals, we cannot let terrorists succeed in their campaign by letting ourselves be terrorized. Mumbai would only be further punished and the battle against global terrorism would only be further stymied if the city were to see a decline in tourism or foreign investment. As Melha said in her column, "The best answer to the terrorists is to dream bigger, make even more money, and visit Mumbai more than ever... Make a killing not in God's name but in the stock market, and then turn up the forbidden music and dance; work hard and party harder."
California's rebel plumbers

Before the arrival of Linking, a"A" Plumbing, the community was generally satisfied with the service provided by "A" Plumbing. A few homeowners, however, found the quality of service to be lacking due to delays in response and the high cost of repairs. Many homeowners resorted to communting the plumbing code, leading to a decrease in water efficiency and an increase in water bills. In response, a group of innovative homeowners, termed "Greywater Guerrillas," came together to promote the use of greywater systems in their homes. Greywater systems, which process and reuse the water from sinks, showers, and washers, offer a sustainable alternative to the traditional plumbing system. Despite the benefits of greywater systems, regulatory hurdles and public resistance have hindered their adoption. The Greywater Guerrillas have been instrumental in educating homeowners about greywater systems and advocating for policy changes that would facilitate their widespread implementation. Their efforts have garnered the support of environmental organizations and local governments, with some jurisdictions providing incentives to encourage greywater adoption. The Greywater Guerrillas' story is an inspiring example of how community-driven initiatives can bring about positive change in the face of regulatory obstacles and public skepticism. Their persistence and creativity have paved the way for a more sustainable future, encouraging others to think critically about the systems we rely on and to seek out more environmentally friendly alternatives.
Fictional narrative

Until that fateful moment in the library, Sir Mix-a-Lot had never believed in love at first sight.

Non-fictional narrative

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Cal Poly running back James Noble, another graduating senior, runs against Weber State on Saturday at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Barden could be back

An NFL executive told Newsday on Nov. 3 that Barden was one of a couple of players the Miami Dolphins could prospect who could go on the first day — or even in the first two rounds.

"If I’m guessing, I think he can get into the second round," Ellerson said.

Barden, who will play in the East-West Shrine Game on Jan. 17 on ESPN, finished fourth in the voting Monday for the Walter Payton Award, given to the FCS’s best offensive player.

"He’ll likely be invited to the scouting combine in Indianapolis from Feb. 18-24, when he’ll look to put to rest questions about his straight-line speed, agility and route-running.

"He’ll have a line of about 15 scouts walk up to him and press him because everybody wants to see how tall receivers are going to run. I’m sure he’ll do fine there," Ellerson said. "Really, the ticket will be how he runs that 40. Unfortunately, you can do so much and then have a couple of ticks on the clock make you do something really badly."

Barden might not be the only graduating Mustang with a professional football future. Dally received two write-in votes for the Walter Payton Award.

"It’d be a shame if Jonathan Dally didn’t find a new home," Ellerson said, who coached in the Canadian Football League for a couple of years. "There’s a possibility of a gay card in the CFL."

Running back James Noble and Barden both are comfortable with the arrival of Stephen Field, among others, all have a "legitimate chance," but will face competition about which is best suited for their respective positions.

"All those NFL guys come through and they recognize that guys can play, but it’s like they have a backup plan anyway," Ellerson said. "It’s like he’s trying to join the Navy or something — it’s like he’s full enough."

Taylor a dark horse to take over at quarterback

While Ellerson said the coaching staff’s work in "decompression mode," he named a possible surprise back into the competition to take Dally’s place under center next year.

Redshirt freshman-to-be Andre Bond and Doug Shires, as well as redshirt junior-to-be Tony Smith, figure to be the favorites at quarterback, but it was Taylor — (to-foot, 180-pound) prep school label who was projected as a red­shirt freshman receiver next year could be a "wild card" at the position Ellerson said.

"We’ll see which of those, dare I say, dally-queasy, Ellerson added. "He could be a spectacular receiver, he could be the best quarterback in the program."

Linebacker Asa Jackson and linebacker Quentin Greenlaw were the only true freshmen to play this year, but running back Ryan Solo­mon often practiced with starters, Ellerson said.

"Most of the solutions, most of the answers, are here right now," he said.

Spring practice starts in 11 weeks.

Fullerton

"We’re putting together a report that we will present to Dr. Palmer within the next couple weeks — What are the facts about Titan football vs. the community, how do we logically reinstate the program?" DTolla said.

The report will show various related indirect costs of bringing the program back and address the pros and cons that accompany reinstatement.

CSUF President Milton Gordon has heard of the report that will be presented, but is not committed that even a positive report will be the catalyst for reinstatement.

"If there is no money attached to the report, it’s not going to be positive. Without a guarantee of the money, I can’t do it, won’t do it. I spent three years with people telling me they would raise the money and they never did, they didn’t even come close to the amount of money a successful program would need," Gordon said.

Gordon came into office with a program that was averaging some of the lowest attendance figures in the nation.

"Over the two or three years we had the program while I was here, we usually had some of the lowest attendance in the United States for Division I football program. Even with the money, our stadium is inadequate to support the attendance requirement that we need," Gordon said.

Gordon said the Titans drew an average of 4,800 fans per game in 1992. The NAIA average attendance of 15,000 people per game causes me to meet with the current seating of Titan Stadium, which was around 16,000 people, according to Titan Media Relations.

A stadium renovation would cost upwards of $30 million, according to athletic director Bruce Quinn.

The amount of stories, articles and rumors related to our coaching staff are numerous, but the simple fact is the athletic director and president are conducting the search silently and effectively," he added.
Ellerson reflects, prepares to move forward

Conference championship, the Mustangs set numerous school and NCAA records.

Senior All-American receiver Rameses Barden set Cal Poly career records for catches (206), yards (4,203) and touchdowns (50), broke Larry Fitzgerald’s all-time NCAA record for career receptions with a touchdown catch (209) and tied Randy Moss’ all-time FCS standard of single-season consecutive games with such a reception (11).

Senior All-conference quarterback Jonathan DiTolla’s career passing efficiency rating of 183.82 would be an FCS record if he had enough completions to qualify, and his 293.23 rating during a 69-41 win over Southern Utah on Oct. 25 (when he was 22-of-26 for 410 yards and six touchdowns) is the best single-game mark in FCS history.

As a team, the Mustangs, who finished 8-3, broke school season records for first downs (262), first downs by rushing (162), points scored (486) and touchdowns (67).

“This feeling will fade and all the wonderful experiences and accomplishments that this group has had while they’ve been here will shine through and dominate their memories,” Ellerson added.

Next year’s schedule features two FBS opponents: Cal Poly athletic director Alison Cone said Monday that the school has secured 19 games for next year and is seeking one final game that needs to be at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

The slate will feature two Football Bowl Subdivision (I-A) opponents, neither of which are from Bowl Championship Series conferences, Cone added.

Last year’s schedule was announced April 3. It also featured two FBS foes — San Diego State, which Cal Poly defeated 29-27, and Wisconsin, which the Mustangs never trailed before the final play of a 36-35, overtime loss.

“I don’t think this year helped anybody be anxious to return our calls,” Cone said.

Ellerson scoffs at Washington speculation

Ellerson refused to rule out any coaches, including Damon Allen, the brother of Mar- cus Allen and a future CFL Most Outstanding Player, poses at Cal State Fullerton in the early 1980s. A 1983 graduate, he was a candidate for Washington’s head coaching job.

The timing for bringing the program back couldn’t be worse. With the state budget crisis, it will extremely difficult to bring a program back in this climate,” Franks said.

CSF is Big West rival of Cal Poly but dropped its football program in 1992

Raj Modha

Money: That’s what the Cal State Fullerton football program is going to come down to as Division I football program is the most expensive athletic program a college can carry, and with the current economic climate, the program could be making its push at the wrong time. While schools like Georgia State and Colorado State Pueblo are on the road to the gridiron, the CSUF football program is at a crossroad.

Mel Franks, the athletic department’s media relations director, was with the university when the program was cut in 1992. He cites the economy as a major factor.

"The timing for bringing the program back couldn’t be worse. With the state budget crisis, it will extremely difficult to bring a program back in this climate," Franks said.

"The state budget has a lot to with us bringing back a football team. The state of California is experiencing serious financial difficulty. This current year, we have had to reduce $325,000 out of our athletics department budget," DiTolla said.

Supporters for the program have indicated that if it was to make a return, it would compete with schools like UC Davis and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Currently the Big West Conference, which CSUF is in, does not offer football. If the program was reinstated, it would have to find a conference, in addition to finding a way to fund the many financial obligations the university would be saddled with. DiTolla gave an indication on what a football team might cost.

"To add a competitive football team like that of San Luis Obispo and UC Davis, it will cost the university a "ball park" figure of about $5 million annually. That includes the $2.5 million to run the football program, and about $2.5 million for the programs that the school would have to add and the infrastructure to support an additional 160 student-athletes," DiTolla said.

While support for the program is at an all-time high, support is not going to put forth the thread of cash that will be needed to run a successful program. DiTolla is part of the working group that was assembled by seeing football, page 15