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

Joshua Ayers
MUSTANG DAILY

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She said that she had arrived at work at 7 a.m. — two hours after the store opened — and foot traffic to the store was not particularly heavy.

“There was a constant stream of people "but it wasn’t terrible," Acvees said. "It wasn’t insanely packed with people fighting each other for clothes."

She said her manager told her that there were a couple of people waiting outside when the store opened but that it was "just a handful."

Opening its doors around the time Acvees was arriving to work was neighboring business PetSmart.

“There was not a single customer at PetSmart at 7 a.m.,” store manager Chris Obispo said.

MUSTANG DAILY

If James Bond had a desk...

Student designs high-tech desk of the future

Lauren Rabaino
MUSTANG DAILY

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 finger print 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.

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mustangdaily.net
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

But there appeared to be little reason to believe that Republican lawmakers are any more likely to support Schwarzenegger's compromise appeal for program cuts and tax increases than they were when they rejected a Democratic proposal to do that last week.

Assembly Minority Leader Mike Villines, R-Clovis, said Republicans believe the problem can be solved in part by cutting wasteful spending, taxing offshore oil drilling, enacting a strict annual spending limit and approving an economic recovery plan.

"We know these are things that will help, and we don't know if it will solve the problem," Villines said in an interview in his office.

He said Republicans want Democrats to agree to long-term fiscal reforms such as the spending limit before they consider ways to solve the immediate cash crunch.

Democrats were expected to gain three seats in the state Assembly, but failed in the November elections to win a two-thirds majority in either house, which is needed to pass tax increases or a state budget.

Bill said she and incoming Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, planned to call a joint legislative session in the next week and a half to brief lawmakers about the extent of California's fiscal deficit. She hoped the Democrats' increased margin in the Assembly might help them win a few votes for a budget plan that includes increasing taxes.

In calling another special session, Schwarzenegger offered the same budget plan lawmakers rejected last month. His proposal includes raising the state sales tax by 1.5 percentage points — or 15 cents on the dollar — for three years, generating $5.5 billion in the current fiscal year. He also seeks to expand the sales tax to include more services, increase the annual fee for registering vehicles and tax oil extracted in California.

He proposed cutting K-12 education funding by $2.3 billion and funding for California's two largest college systems by $1.32 million, as well as reducing the state's welfare-to-work program, CalWORKS, by 10 percent. Schwarzenegger also wants to cut two paid holidays for state workers.

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, one addressing the budget deficit in the current fiscal year and another to consider an economic stimulus plan.

The stimulus session would focus on releasing infrastructure bond money, preventing more home foreclosures through loan modifications and preventing the state's unemployment insurance fund from sliding into insolvency, which is projected to have a $2.4 billion shortfall next year.

Schwarzenegger enacted the fiscal emergency under Proposition 8, the initiative approved by voters the year after he took office. It forces the Legislature to address the current-year budget deficit within 45 days or they would be prevented from acting 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 Young in Sacramento and Solaya Show in Los Angeles contributed to this report.
"Assimilating people's physical environment and their technological, computing environment hasn't happened yet."

— Bill Trammel

LAES senior


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N e w s

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

www.mustangdaily.net

Achievement House

Building Partnerships, Creating Choices

Attention Students!

Need that little extra something for your dorm or apartment? Achievement House sells brand name furniture at prices for student budgets. We offer an array of basic items from men and women clothing, house wares and kitchen appliances, furniture, books, CDs and more.

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Achievement House is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing vocational and community living services to adults with disabilities since 1957.

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www.achievementhouse.org

"Turning Disabilities into Possibilities"

Shopping

continued from page 1

"It was very unexpected for Costco to have any kind of line outside because I thought they were already 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 one 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, but not necessarily sales was Heine's.

"We had a lot of stop-bys," said Bev Mo's 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 their 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.

Japanese Restaurant

Sushi Bar | Teppanyaki Grill | Party Room | Karaoke Room

Sushiya

Always something new.

Breaking News

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Shopping

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Obama taps Clinton, Gates for ‘new dawn’ abroad

Liz Sidoti
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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 revamp 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.

Bush administration covering US 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.

Winners of close California races take office

Steve Lawrence
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The winners of the closest legislative races on California’s Nov. 4 ballot were sworn in Monday after weeks of vote-counting gave 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 Seglock 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 termed out.

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.

“If 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

ASSOCIATED PRESS


Orphan of slain rabbi in Mumbai lands in Israel

Mark Levie

The cries of little Moshe Holtzberg echoed again Monday, as the world mourned the death of the 2-year-old killed in a suicide attack that claimed the lives of 91 people, most of them Jewish worshipers.

The young boy's parents and four other relatives who rescued him from the burning kosher supermarket in the Mumbai suburb of Nariman Point on Nov. 29 were among 10 people brought to the airport for the funerals of the victims and the return of the child.

On the charred street after the bombings, a U.S. military spokesman Maj. Gen. Qaisum al-Mousawi's office gave a slightly lower toll of 11 killed, while the U.S. military said 12 Israeli police were killed.

One wounded 22-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 Nasser said. "It seems that there is no security and terrorists will not stop."...
WORD ON THE STREET

“What was your reaction to the Mumbai attacks?”

“I'm surprised no one in the U.S. is talking about it. I'm disappointed with how much we were involved in global affairs during the election and how we became self-interested after it.”

-Paul Thomas, agriculture business junior

“It's pretty devastating. It's another sign that we really need another sign that we really need...”

- Mark Hudson, agriculture business senior

“...another sign that we really need another sign that we really need...”

- Anu Menon, 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

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

Seven members of the California 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 industry.

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 California systems have warned they plan to curtail student enrollment next fall if they don't get more state funding.

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

Monday's announcement comes more than a year after environmental groups filed suit to force the government to clean up toxic pollution caused by the decaying naval ships.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A 30-mile scar of debris along the Texas coast stands as a 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, residents say the federal government is taking too long to address the aftermath of the storm.

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**

Rice on a farewell tour, said there's a lot to recommend the U.S. system of four-year presidential terms, and thus relatively short tours of duty for Cabinet ministers.

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — An eclectic group of Hamas officials to a flag-waving scout troop showed up to greet a Libyan ship planning to float an Israeli blockade and deliver 3,000 tons of aid to this impoverished seaside strip. But they met only disappointment.

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 nations, while eager to end Gaza's isolation, won't risk military confrontation with Israel.

Orphan continued from page 5

Moshe Holtzberg, 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.

future of the orphaned Moshe.

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

Moshe's father, Rabbi Gabriol Noach Holtzberg, 29, and mother, Rika, 28, 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.

Moshe was spirited out of Chabad House on Thursday by11-year-old Samuel, a nanny who had worked at the center for years. She found him crying beside his pet rabbit, his pants drenched in blood...

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 780,000 Chinese have the virus.

The state of HIV infection in Europe almost doubled between 2006 and 2007, reaching the highest level ever recorded in the region, the health agencies of the U.N. and European Union said in a report.

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.

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-Msimang, openly discredited conventional AIDS drugs and instead promoted the value of lemon juice, garlic, beetroot and the African potato.

Researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health last month calculated that government delays to start-sharing AIDS drugs between 2000 and 2005 cost more than $30,000 lives in South Africa. "We have to mourn the lives of those we have not saved," said Barbara Hogan, the health minister who replaced Tshabalala-Msimang after Mbeki was ousted in October.

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Tuesday, December 2, 2008

MUSTANG DAILY NEWS

LONDON (AP) — Happily contemplating another woman at the top U.S. diplomat, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday 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. Hilary Rodham Clinton to be the next secretary of state. "I will certainly not make the effort to comment on everything that is done."

Rice, in London on a farewell tour, said there's a lot to recommend the U.S. system of four-year presidential terms, and thus relatively short tours of duty for Cabinet ministers.
Bush tells media that he's sorry about economic crisis

President George W. Bush expressed remorse that the global financial crisis has cost jobs and harmed retirement accounts and said he’ll back more government intervention if needed to ease the recession.

"I'm sorry it's happening, of course," Bush said in a wide-ranged interview with ABC's "World News," which was airing Monday. "Obviously I don't like the idea of people losing jobs, or being worried about their 401(k)s. On the other hand, the American people got to know that we will safeguard the system, I mean, we're in. And if we need to be in more, we will."

The U.S. economy fell into a recession in December 2007, the National Bureau of Economic Research reported on Monday. Many economists say the downturn will last until the middle of 2009 and will be the most severe since the 1981-82 recession. On the war in Iraq, Bush said the biggest regret of his presidency was not attacking Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. "I think I was unprepared for war," he said. "In other words, I didn't campaign and say, 'Please vote for me, I'll be able to handle an attack.' In other words, I didn't anticipate war. Presidents — one of the things about the modern presidency is that the unexpected will happen."

On the presidential election, Bush called Barack Obama's victory a "repudiation of Republicans.

"I'm sure some people voted for Barack Obama because of me," said Bush, who leaves office with low approval ratings. "I think most people voted for Barack Obama because they decided they wanted him to be in their living room for the next four years explaining policy. In other words, they made a conscious choice to put him in as president."

As he leaves office, Bush said he felt responsible for the economic downturn because it's occurring on his watch. But he added: "I think when 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 like to see "in- stant liquidity" in the markets given the extent of the financial rescue plan, yet he understands that fear has paralyzed the market.

"It is hard for the average citizen to understand how frozen the system became and how over-leveraged the system became," Bush said. "And so what we're watching is the de-leveraging of our financial markets, which is obviously affecting the growth of the economy."

Last week, the Bush administration and the Federal Reserve pledged $600 billion to break through blockades on credit cards, auto loans, mortgages and other borrowing. The latest moves raised U.S. commitments to contain the financial crisis to nearly $7 trillion — though no one thinks the government will actually spend that much.

The figures include loans that are expected to be repaid, loan authori- ties to back mortgages, purchases of stock in banks, guarantees to sup- port loan agencies and pledges backing other transactions.

"This economy will recover," Bush said in the interview conducted last Wednesday at the Camp Da- vid, Md., presidential retreat. "And when it recovers, many of the assets backed by the government now will be redeemed, and we will — could conceivably — make money off of some of the holdings."

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

The run-off between Chambidis and Martin will help determine the balance of power in Washington. Georgia is one of two undecided contests, with a recount under way in Minnesota in the tight race between Republican Sen. Norm Coleman and Democrat Al Fran- ken. All signs from early voting for the run-off point to a victory for Chambidis holding the seat.

The contest has attracted almost 50,000 early voters with 15 percent are white males, typically a solid Republican constituency in the state. In the weeks leading up to the general election, white males cast about 27 percent of the more than 2 million early votes. Less than 23 percent of the early voters for the run-off are black — a drop from the surge of black voters in the run-up to the general elec- tion. Black voters made up more than 34 percent of the 2 million early voters before the Nov. 4 con- test when President-elect Barack Obama won the state.

Bush cast the Georgia runoff as the first step in rebuilding the Republican Party, banded by losses in November including the defeat of the McCain-Palin ticket.

"It takes rebuilding and I say let that begin here in Georgia tomorrow," Palin said.

In Alaska, Democratic Party chairwoman Pat Higgins criti- cized Palin for campaigning in Georgia with problems looming at home, including gas prices that are among the highest in the nation and the falling price of crude oil, which drives the state's budget.

"It's one thing to run the state from a Blackberry when you're just troubleshooting and helping solve some problems, but where is she setting down with her staff, being proactive and trying to solve some problems that are on the horizon?" Higgins said.

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

Democrat Jim Martin staged a flurry of campaign rallies around the state, capping the day with a rancous event at the state Capi­ tol with hip-hop star T.I., Young Jeezy and Ludacris urging voters to return to the polls. "We're on the edge," 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 Chambidis — four total — were her first since she and Republican presidential nominee John Mc­ Cain stumbled on Nov. 4. Georgia Republicans clearly were looking ahead, with supporters watching the cold for more than an hour to attend the rallies. Vendors in Au­ gusta sold bright pink " Palin 2012" T-shirts and "Palin for President: You Go Girl" buttons. Chains of "Sarah Palin" went around the neck.

Palin highlighted Chambidis' conservative record of supporting general welfare and opposing abortion. Facing with the prospect of Demo­ cratic pacts in their Senate numbers — there are two votes shy of the 60 needed to thwart Republican filibuster — Palin said it was important for policymakers to elect the first-term Republican lawmaker.

"We need to send Sarah back to the United States Senate," Palin told the crowd in Augusta. It's the general election. Chambidis fell short of crossing the 50 percent threshold in a three-way race against Martin and a Libertar­ ian candidate, Allen Blackey, who drew 3.4 percent of the vote. The Fix
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 nice 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 entranced 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 the most powerful novels I have ever read. This year, I have been fortunate enough to be a part of 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 ninth work of art; here we find many themes common in her other works. Dealing with a shameful period in America's past, Morrison takes us on a journey to the late 1600s where we become entangled in the lives of four women, who against all odds are able to form a sort of family structure under the burden of skin colors that divide them.

Interestingly, Morrison chooses to develop the main white male character into something more than a depiction of the rash and abusive slaveholder that is common in that time. New York farmer Jacob Vaark says outright that he prefers to not do business in "Pitch," and turns away all of the ideas that slavery stands for.

Vaark is a simple man, but after a trip to Maryland to seek the fulfillment of a debt owed to him, he is thwarted by the elaborate mansion that Seaborn D'Ortega lives in with his decadent wife. Although repulsed, he finds himself yearning for the same luxury.

It is here he discovers that, for all of D'Ortega's superficial possessions, he has no real money to offer her life. Thinking that she could serve as a companion to his wife, Vaark does not feel bad about his decision and brings her back to his farm. Vaark is a simple man, but after a trip to Maryland to seek the fulfillment of a debt owed to him, he is thwarted by the elaborate mansion that Seaborn D'Ortega lives in with his decadent wife. Although repulsed, he finds himself yearning for the same luxury.

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, Patricia.

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. 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 ninth work of art; here we find many themes common in her other works.

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West relies heavily on the auto-tune effect. This may easily push listeners away, as the T-Pains and L'Wynes of the world have already saturated the mainstream with the effect. However, West hopes to achieve something completely different. He created a voice deemed "Heartbreak." Something West refers to as a "mixed drink with auto tune, distortion and a little bit of delay on it." He uses this voice as a tool, not a crutch, to express the tribulations he's faced within the past year, including the death of his mother and the break-up with his fiancée, who is the subject of the bulk of the album.

I 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.

Kayne departs, evolves with new hip-hop album

Roshan Bhatt
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

If anyone in hip-hop was going to put out "90s and Heartbreak," it's Kanye West. West has been known to meddle with hip-hop, manipulating sounds and styles that are out of the ordinary and giving it that mainstream appeal. He intertwined orchestral arrangements with hip-hop on "Late Registration," soul samples on "The College Drop-out" and electro and pop on "Graduation." So when he premiered "Love Lockdown" at the MTV VMAs this year, everyone knew he was cooking up something different with "90s and Heartbreak."

It's no secret that West's lyrical ability has seemed to dwindle over the years, but is easily overlooked due to his immeasurable production talent and the fact that he knows how to put songs together. Using only the TR-808 drum machine, West has created some of his most ambitious songs to date, abandoning the standard hip-hop beat and rapping for singing and tribal drums, which might be his biggest antithesis to hip-hop yet.

On "90s and Heartbreak," West relies heavily on the auto-tune effect. This may easily push listeners away, as the T-Pains and L'Wynes of the world have already saturated the mainstream with it.
the placement, it's one of the highlights of the album. Carrying on this very consistent theme, "Amazed" and "Streetlights" are also slow burners, which will definitely be a change of pace for the standard West fan.

There's very little rapping on the album. However, it's still prevalent in songs like "Heartless" and "Welcome to Heartbreak," the latter of which features up-and-coming Cleveland rapper Kid Cudi. Together, the two sing a handful of melodies that will undoubtedly be stuck in your head for weeks. Other highlights include the Chronicle-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 "Amazing" 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.
Like countries before it, India's dreams live on

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

India is a familiar modern success story: just perfect. It has 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 developing nation, unapologetically brandishing itself with its own identity, brand of booming capitalism. Since 1991, India has transformed itself into a free-market economic policy, privatizing businesses, focusing 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 in American counterpart and churns out stories, however melodramatic, of love and self-made success by the thousands.

There is a sense in Mumbai that the desire to become the world's fifth premiere city has nearly been achieved. Mumbai's famous film industry, "Bollywood," takes its name from its American counterpart and churns out stories, however melodramatic, of love and self-made success by the thousands. Mumbai is the heart of a five-market economy that went into production in the face of terror attacks. Mumbai had been a successful city, with its_open_ economic policies, privatization and welcoming foreign investment and trade. Its financial and technology hubs, including Mumbai and Bangalore, produced 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 its American counterpart and churns out stories, however melodramatic, of love and self-made success by the thousands.

The attacks were a sad and sobering reminder that there are still those in this world that can't stand freedom or peace. They hate Mumbai for its optimism, understood success and nonviolent attitude towards modernity of cultures and religions.

There's something about this island-state that appeals to religious extremists. Hindu and Muslim demagogues want the Hindus to be converted to Islam and Muslims to be expelled. They want temples bombed. They want Mumbai to go out of India. They want Muslims to be expelled. They want India to get out of Kashmir. They want mosques torn down. They want temples bombed.

"Bollywood," as Suketu Mehta wrote in _Bombay, Mumbai, Mumbai_, has become a beacon of modern success and one of the fastest growing economies. It is a model for any aspiring developing nation, unapologetically brandishing itself with its own identity, brand of booming capitalism. Since 1991, India has transformed itself into a free-market economic policy, privatizing businesses, focusing on deregulation and lower taxes and welcoming foreign investment and trade. Its financial and technology hubs, including Mumbai and Bangalore, produced 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 its American counterpart and churns out stories, however melodramatic, of love and self-made success by the thousands.

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Making 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.

—Suketu Mehta

journalism professor, New York University

Martinez von Rohrburg is the Mustang Daily editor in chief and a journalism senior.

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reason why Prop 8 is a justified separate but equal situation. This nation was not founded upon the flimsy will (or Will, for that matter) of the voters. Instead, this nation was founded upon the ideals of reasoned political philosophizers who valued individual liberty and limited government. One of our greatest strengths as a Federal government is the notion of a Democratic-Republican. Historically, popular democracy has allowed the legislature to violate the rules of justice in our society. Luckily, the Founding Fathers took this into consideration in Article III of the Constitution. The Supreme Court is to be disconnected from the arbitrary political whims of the voters to properly construct the rules of due process and to correct the wrongdoings of the legislature (and of the voters) against our Constitution. Whether or not Prop 8 will endure to discriminate will be at the discretion of the high court of California. I can only hope they will recognize Prop 8 as an example of the tyranny of the majority that James Madison fiercley warned us about. In Federalist 10 (...continued online).

Mike McNair
Response to comment on letter to the editor "Protects don't prove Prop 8 will be overturned; majority rules"

California's rebel plumbers

Joel Allen, 32, a elementary school teacher who devotes much of her free time to spreading the greywater gospel. "We talk about water saving when we actually have a lot of water that we're just dumping in the bay."

Allen is a co-founder of Greywater Guerrillas, a group dedicated to distributing the plans and information that residents and experts need to install effective, low-cost, safe but mostly very low-tech greywater solutions that will help them conserve and re-use water around their homes. The group's Web site offers instructions for building systems that require only a few hundred dollars' investment and minimal time compared to the thousands of dollars and months of permitting work required for code-compliant systems.

Concerns over potential health and environmental risks means that many jurisdictions demand such intensive treatment systems for legal reuse of greywater that is higher than for fresh water. However, with water conservation now becoming a necessity, business, political and community pressure has made regulators seriously reconsider the actual risks against actual benefits. It is now recognized and accepted by an increasing number of regulators that the microbiological risks of greywater reuse at the single dwelling level are in reality an insignificant risk, when properly managed without the need for complex and expensive red tape approval processes. If collected using a separate plumbing system to Blackwater, domestic greywater can be recycled directly within the home, garden or agricultural company and used either immediately or processed and stored.

Because greywater use, especially domestically, reduces demand on conventional water supplies and pressure on sewage treatment systems, its use is very beneficial. In times of drought, especially in urban areas, greywater use on gardens or in toilet systems helps to achieve more sustainable development.

According to the article, quite a few professionals and policy makers in the state are critical of the code. And although those who earn their living as plumbers may be reluctant to risk breaking state rules, it seems that few officials are truly interested in cracking down on H2O conservation. But changing laws is a slow and frustrating process, and none of the relevant depart­ ments seems willing to shoulder the responsibility of changing the status quo.

Oakland resident and licensed plumber Christina Berteza offers some input on the situation:

"I understand the mindset of formal training about follow­ing the code, but in this case it is more important to be reus­ing the water." With reasonable standards, she added, local utility districts could educate their clients on how to safely recycle greywater. "This precious thing, clean potable water at our tap, that much of the world wished they had, we use it once and dump it. We need to rethink our whole relationship to water."

It takes courage to challenge the system, particularly when doing so could threaten your professional license; but it's important to do so. Throughout history, groups of concerned and passionate citizens like the Greywater Guerrillas have often provided slow-moving governments with the momentum necessary to create real change.

Ben Eckold is a business senior, the president of the Empire Poly Coali­tion and a Mustang Daily columnist.
Cal Poly running back James Noble, another graduating senior, runs away with Weber State on Saturday at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Football continued from page 16

John McGrath, writing Ellison at Washington's head coach should be "as mouth-watering a proposition as Huskies fans as the sight of Costco's straight winning seasons and unique systems, but also because of his recruiting success on the West Coast and his knowledge of the Pac-10 Conference (in which he was an assistant at Arizona from 1992 to 1995 and 1997 to 2000)."

Klinow said getting the Huskies "back into the national scene" may not require someone with a Pac-10 pedigree.

"Whether a person has Pac-10 experience is not going to be one of the characteristics we're looking for," he said. The main thing is for to get it right," he said.

Barden could be a fit

An NFL executive told Newsday on Nov. 3 that Barden was one of the few "guys worth picking" in the first round. "If my guy gets by, he's the last one to be drafted."


Football first up on tall radio

Rod Bower's college football for USA Today and Fox Sports

Wednesday, December 2, 2008

Corliss, featured in the San Diego Tribune on Nov. 8, was one of two true freshmen to play for Poly this year.

Fullerton continued from page 16

University at the start of the semester. Their task is to gather all the necessary information and present it to the vice president of Student Affairs, Robb Palmer.

"We are putting together a report that we will present to Dr. Palmer within the next couple of weeks," said Palmer. "What are the facts about Titan football? What are the numbers?"

Don Bower's college football for USA Today and Fox Sports

The enrollment of 26,000 students at Georgia State is comparable to the 35,000 students who attend CSUF. They used a student fee increase to bring football to their campus for the first time. Georgia State coach was in May 2007, with the initial announcement efforts starting back in 2001. The Phoenix Thunderbolts played their first season in 2008 and finished 4-6. Georgia State, who will play their games at the Georgia Dome, is breaking ground on their future complex that will include a new weight room, training room, locker room, a 100-yard artificial field, and a technology center for the team's equipment.

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Franks said. "The increase is that amount for tuition, but the additional infrastructure needed for a team would be still a major factor. Franks spoke in a department meeting on the lack of space.

It was a meeting recently and I was kind of joking, but at the same time serious. We would need a four-story building on top of the locker room at the south end of the stadium to fill all the needs that football program will have," he said.

George State University and Colorado State Pueblo have recently brought football to their campuses in two entirely different ways. Colorado State Pueblo, with a student enrollment of more than 9,000, had football in 1984. They have re-instated their program through fund raising provided by the private sector. Sports Information Director Anthony Sandstrom of Colorado State Pueblo points to the school's former football players as the driving force behind the movement.

A group of the guys who were on the last couple of teams pushed the university to bring the program back. They told us that if we can't take care of the governmental portion of the program, we can raise the funds ourselves, that's the world, but it will. But I have great confidence he'll do just fine in that regard."

Barden said, "As a young man I was a huge Mustang with a professional degree, I'd love to have football, but I could be a spectacular receiver."

Nick CAMACHO NIKE SHOE DESIGNS PHOTO

"Football has allowed us to create more of a campus atmosphere. We are bringing in our biggest and smartest freshmen class academically of 2,900. New dorms are going up all the time. We have the largest dorm building in America at 2,000 rooms, and football all contributed to that," Curry said.

If the Titan Football program is to make its return, it is going to take a great plan and great performance -- just like in football. The game is played by three different units working towards one goal: offense, defense and special teams. While each unit works independently from the others, they all have one goal in mind: win the game. The same sort of effort will need to be made by the three units that will determine if CSUF gets football back the students, the administration and fans. But the students don't need to win the game - they need to raise some money.

"If there is no money attached to the report, it's not going to be positive. Without a guarantee of the money, we can't do it. We 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 said, "Our team is in a perfect position with a lot of new players. The student body is very excited about football. The team is very young and very aggressive. We have a few seniors who are very good players and we have a lot of young players who are very talented. We have a lot of potential for a future football program."

"The students were asked to consider increasing the student athletic fee, which is $89 per semester. The fee might be increased to $99 per semester.

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Ellerson reflects, prepares to move forward

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

Sensor All-American receiver Rameses Barden set Cal Poly career marks for catches (206), yards (4,203) and touchdowns (30), broke Larry Fitzgerald's all-time NCAA record for career receptions with a touchdown catch (20) and tied Randy Moss' all-time FCS standard of single-season consecutive games with such a reception (11). Sensor all-conference quarter-

Several graduating seniors could continue careers in pro ranks; program seeking one more game to fill out next year's schedule

Two days after his team's season came to an end, Cal Poly football head coach Rich Ellerson voiced appreciation for what he praised as an extraordinary senior class.

Cal Poly linebacker Fred Hives II (left) — one of 17 departing seniors — holds the Great West Conference trophy Nov. 15.

Donovan Aird

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The Mustangs, who were ranked in the Great West Conference trophy Nov. 15.

Seven of them were starters on an offense that entered the game leading the FCS in points and yards per game.

Ellerson said he "certainly" felt the class was the best he's coached at Cal Poly. "I'm not talking about necessarily their athletic process — just the quality of the men, how much they've accomplished, how hard they've worked, how much they overcome and how much they meant to each other," he said. "I was jealous of what I was seeing. The experiences they were sharing and the fun they were having was really something."

While winning the Great West Conference championship, the Mustangs set numerous school and NCAA records.

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Sensor all-conference quarter-

Next year's schedule features two FBS opponents

Cal Poly athletic director Alison Cone said Monday that the school has secured 10 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 alluded off a column in Monday's Tacoma (Wash.) News Tribune strongly suggesting him as a candidate for Washington's head coaching job.

Money, facilities stand in way of football's return at Cal State Fullerton

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.

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. A Division I football program is the most expensive athletic program a college can carry, and with the current economic crisis, 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.

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Associate athletic director Steve DiTolla echoed Franks' concern with the state budget, pointing to the changes that the athletic department

Harrison named Big West Player of Week

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Cal Poly forward Megan Harrison, shown against Idaho on Saturday, was named the Big West Conference co-Women's Basketball Player of the Week on Monday. For previews of the men's and women's basketball Wednesday doubleheader, please see Wednesday's Mustang Daily.

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