Separation of church and state tackled in tonight’s discussion

Matt Fountain
MUSTANG DAILY

Constitutional law scholar Philip Muñoz will visit campus tonight to engage students in a discussion on the boundaries of religious freedom and the role faith plays in American politics.

Muñoz will present "In God We Trust: Church and State," a discussion on the role religion plays in shaping American public policy. He will also review the current Supreme Court's decisions regarding religion and how it may change under the incoming Obama presidency.

The lecture is being sponsored by CAL Poly's religious studies program advisor Stephen Lloyd-Moffett. "On the one hand, we cherish the separation of church and state, yet on the other hand, we put 'In God We Trust' on our money and we put 'Under God' in our Pledge of Allegiance. So we have this tension inherent in America that we still haven't figured out. What role should religion play in society? It's one of those enduring questions in American history and one that is particularly pertinent now, because America is changing so much. We are becoming so religiously diverse. So I think the question of religious freedom is coming to the floor again," he continued.

One of the topics Muñoz will address is how President-elect Obama's appointments may affect the Supreme Court.

“Under Bush, (the Supreme Court) has become more conservative,” said Lloyd-Moffett. "There’s a question of whether the court's relationship to religion is going to be shifted because of the appointments of the last eight years and especially now with one to maybe three appointments with Obama."

"We’re at a time where every thing seems to be changing. And students aren’t real comfortable with how to feel about religion in the public square."

Political science professor Ron Den Otter, who encouraged his students to attend the lecture, agreed. "The place of religion in public life is not only an important political question but also an important constitutional question," he said.

Man accused of hitting guards remains in jail

Alisha Axsom
MUSTANG DAILY

The man accused of hitting two security guards with his truck early Sunday morning remains in San Luis Obispo county jail as he awaits word of what will happen next.

Police arrested the 19-year-old man after he reportedly hit two security guards with his truck at the Mustang Village student housing complex before abandoning it nearby.

Charles Dunham, of Victorville, was arrested on suspicion of felony drink driving and felony hit-and-run and was booked into the county jail, said the San Luis Obispo Police Department. He remains there on $100,000 bail.

Security guards Michael

see Arrest, page 2
It seemed like people were out more after Christmas than they were before.

- Larry Redd

“Christmas seemed to be completed down to three days,” Redd said. “That was pretty odd. It was up until about a week before Christmas. It felt like we were waiting for people to come in and then they finally were over.” Redd said that sales picked back up immediately following Christmas and that the foot-traffic into the store increased.

“He did really well after Christmas,” he said. “It seemed like people were out more after Christmas than they were before.” Aside from the retail angle, the current market also has had an impact on local construction contractors. Brian Fisher, a painting contractor based out of Grover Beach, has seen his fair share of hit-and-miss for his business Painting Please.

“For me, it’s not that bad,” he said. “We’ve got about six jobs lined up right now and I was starting to worry about it because I was having to pay my own bills plus all my employees I was thinking I was going to have to lay guys off so I could pay my bills cause the phone wasn’t ringing. Come Monday (Jan. 5) I got three calls. ‘I’ve already been accepted.”

A business like Painting Please requires a lot of overhead costs including purchases of equipment and supplies, while making payroll for a staff and keeping up with bidding opportunities, Fisher said.

Fisher purchased the business several years ago. It was at the start of the economic downturn but primarily as a result of less-than-aggressive membership sales by the organization.

According to Iloyil-Moffett, the cost from $200-$2,000 depending on membership from its peak of about 1,550 members in mid-2008 to the present figure of 1,300, Garth said.

He attributed the decline in memberships, which cost from $200-$2,000 depending on the size of the business, partly as a result of the economic downturn and partly as a result of less-than-aggressive membership sales by the organization.

Crime

The security guards had been trying, to flag Dunham down using flashing lights because he was driving dangerously through the parking lot at the Foothill Boulevard and Santa Rosa Street complex, police said. Dunham allegedly drove away after the collision and left the vehicle at an adjacent housing complex where it was discovered by a San Luis Obispo police officer.

Dunham fled on foot to a nearby creek bed, but with the assistance of Cal Poly Police he was found and arrested in the creek bed near the 1000 block of Foothill, police said.

According to police, Dunham is not a student at Cal Poly or Cuesta College and he was not a resident at Mustang Village. He reportedly had been staying in San Luis Obispo for a few weeks but is not considered a resident.

Anyone with information about the incident should call the San Luis Obispo Police Department at 781-7317 or Crime Stoppers at 541-STOP.

Religion

Iraqi voting rules raise concern about challenges

Kim Gansel

The elections law says that for every four winners there is a woman, but the commission had another way to make sure voters couldn’t appeal the quotas. They decided that some male candidates will feel that some women have won despite the fact that they had fewer votes, he said.

The electoral commission also said it had taken measures to minimize confusion at the polls since voters for the first time will be allowed to choose candidates instead of just political parties. Officials decided not to include names of candidates on the ballots because some male candidates will feel that some women have won despite the fact that they had fewer votes, he said. The electoral commission also said it had taken measures to minimize confusion at the polls since voters for the first time will be allowed to choose candidates instead of just political parties.

The issue could prove problematic.

"I think this process will create problems on the ground because some male candidates will feel that some women have won despite the fact that they had fewer votes," he said.

The electoral commission also said it had taken measures to minimize confusion at the polls since voters for the first time will be allowed to choose candidates instead of just political parties.
Israel forces storm Gaza
City neighborhood

Terrified residents ran for cover Tuesday in a densely populated neighborhood of Gaza City as Israeli troops backed by tanks thrust deeper into the city and sought Hamas fighters in alleys and cells.

On the diplomatic front, Egyptian mediators pushed Hamas to accept a truce proposal and, in a hopeful sign, Israel sent its lead negotiator to Cairo for “decisive” talks on a cease-fire. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also headed for the region to mediate.

The enforcement order announced by Bredesen and Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke reaffirms and formalizes that process.

“TVA has been cooperative up to this point and we are hopeful that this continues under the order,” Calbres-Benton said.

The order requires the federal agency’s full cooperation in assessing the mishap and developing a corrective action plan within 45 days to “ensure safe operations in the future.” The order also says TVA will reimburse the state for overseeing the cleanup and could be subject to fines later.

“TVA is committed to cleaning up and restoring this site, and managing all of its facilities in a manner that will prevent a similar situation,” according to statement from TVA, which operates 11 coal-fired plants, including eight in Tennessee. “TVA agrees with the (order’s) priorities and is working hard to achieve them.”

In a second incident, about 1.5 billion gallons spilled from a gypsum waste pond at TVA-Wilkins Creek power station in northeastern Alabama on Friday. Initial tests found drinking water still safe in the area.

Tenn. presses TVA for details of ash spill cleanup

Duncan Mansfield
UTK

The state of Tennessee demanded answers and cooperation Tuesday from the nation’s largest public utility in the aftermath of a massive coal ash flood that is costing the utility $1 million a day to mop up.

“TVA was committed to making sure this spill is cleaned up and doing everything we can to prevent any similar situation in the future,” Gov. Phil Bredesen said in a statement. “TVA is also committed to making sure Tennessee taxpayers don’t foot the bill.”

Bredesen promised greater state oversight when he visited the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Kingston Fossil Plant shortly after the Dec. 22 spill sent 1.1 billion gallons of ash and sludge into a rural neighborhood surrounding the plant, about 40 miles west of Knoxville.

The enforcement order announced by Bredesen and Environmental and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke reaffirms and formalizes that process, Fyke spoke.

Little Love Notes

Your message will run in a special section of the Mustang Daily on Friday, February 13.

Deadline for all submissions: Monday, February 9 @ Noon

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State

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A California man has been arrested for arranging for his 14-year-old daughter to marry a neighbor in exchange for $16,000, 100 cases of beer and several cases of meat, police said.

Authorities in Greenfield, a farming community on California's Central Coast, said they learned of the deal after Marcelino de Jesus Martinez, 36, asked them for help getting back his daughter after payment wasn't made.

Martinez was arrested Sunday.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The state Senate leader is shuttering committee chairmanships and has removed a Republican who complained about lawmakers taking per diem payments during the budget crisis.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, a Democrat from Sacramento, named Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez, a fellow Democrat, to head the Committee on Food and Agriculture.

Gaza

continued from page 3

cautions, they are being more careful than the army has ever been before in any war," he said. "Soldiers shoot at anything suspicious, use hits of fire onto Israeli military and carry out suicide bombings.

"He's going to talk about his difficult decision to choose the right side, and there are guarantees the militant group will stop smuggling weapons through the porous Egyptian border.

"We will not allow our enemy to get away with fighting them, of any deal."

International

TORONTO (AP) — Canada's prime minister said Tuesday that energy and the environmental impact of Alberta's massive oil sands operations will be priorities when Barack Obama visits Canada on his first foreign trip as U.S. president.

The timing of the trip has not been announced but Prime Minister Stephen Harper told a Calgary radio station he's been in touch with members of Obama's incoming government as the president-elect prepares to officially take office Tuesday.

"We want to work together with the United States on environmental and energy issues," Harper said.

"I hope he says sorry for everything."

-Katie Egeland, nutrition senior

"Forgive me."

-Logan Hunt, general engineering senior

"He's going to talk about his difficult decision to choose the flight suit over the white bell bottoms."

-Jennifer Carr, earth science senior

WORD ON THE STREET

“What do you think President Bush will say to the nation during his farewell address this Thursday?”

“He will end up trying to defend his presidency.”

-Carl Pearl, nutrition senior

“Forgive me.”

-Logan Hunt, general engineering senior

“I hope he says sorry for everything.”

-Katie Egeland, nutrition senior
When we started, my hope was that we get five people... (and) it has been growing little by little each time.

*Maara Johnston

Assistant director of the Art Center

Chelsea Bieker

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

It is Saturday night and I am seated in the exhibition space at the San Luis Obispo Art Center awaiting the arrival of my fellow students. Splendid Splinters is a Montague Story. The low hum of small talk dies down as attendees get adjusted, sipping glasses of wine provided by the Art Center. Assistant director Maara Johnston begins to speak about the night’s features and also previews a few upcoming films to be shown in the gallery. I have no idea what to expect, but after looking at the beautiful woodwork on display I can imagine that the film may offer explanation to a world I previously knew nothing about. It is not the only feature of the night, though, because the Art Center. Assistant director Muara Johnston begins to elaborate on her goal.

Johnston. Filmmaker Bob Staller, 81, said that he and his wife knew about the movie night from the San Luis Obispo Art Association. Staller found a personal connection within the short film on male knitting, because he recalls knitting in high school for the Sullivan School for the Severely Handicapped. He said that although he probably won’t knit again anytime soon, it is something that he very much enjoyed.

“It was quite a treat,” Staller said of the night. “The kind of movie we see, having to do with the sculpture of human figures out of wood. It thought it was an amazing talent.”

On track with Staller, I have to say that I will also be attending future movie nights, and due to the upcoming film topic, in February, Cal Poly students may see if it is an opportunity to get involved in an ever-growing social issue: food.

Sounds simple, but it really isn’t. The Hungry Planet exhibition will focus on “what the world eats,” by taking a look at food consumption around the globe and what our intake and food choices really mean for the environment. According to Johnston, the film and display will be “more interesting than scars,” but will be an eye-opener for all.

“For the Hungry Planet show we have “The Future of Food,” a documentary by Deborah Koons Garcia, which is a remarkable film about genetic engineering about how it is not only affecting the growth of food sources but also how it affects our bodies. It is a really, really challenging, interesting documentary.”

“It discusses the global impact of how food is transferred all over the world,” she goes on. “And it talks about the nutritional content of food. We live in a world that it so different, but the one thing we share in common is that we have to eat. It looks at the differences, and it looks at the place of food in the global context. Something like 46 photographs will be in the main gallery, along with text, they will give insight to this issue.”

In the center of the Hungry Planet exhibit there will be a canned goods drive, and an artist will be on location creating a sculpture out of the cans people bring in, giving the community a chance to be a part of the art. The cans will be donated to the Food Bank Coalition, and Johnston said that they would really like to see student involvement in their endeavor.

Karen Kile, executive director of the Art Center said that the Hungry Planet exhibit deals with issues that everyone has to think about and that the topic was a natural choice for the difficult times.

“At the year ended and harder economic times hit, people’s needs increased for basic everything,” she said. “It was easy to show a nice photographic exhibit that’s well done, but we thought how can we add some layers to this so that people can say when they are seeing it, ‘What can I do? What can I buy and serve to my family?’ We have all had to make some cutbacks to purchase foods, etc. It is the right time to do it.”

“We are an art center that wants to present lots of free exhibitions,” she said. “We have to field her goal. It is not the only feature of the night, though, because the Art Center. Assistant director Muara Johnston begins to elaborate on her goal. She said that although he probably won’t knit again anytime soon, it is something that he very much enjoyed.

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So I'm probably going to nerd out on you right now but don't worry. I probably already know that I'm pretty into comics, and if you don't, you do now. I've read quite a few of them in my day (probably an understatement) and I try to let people know which ones are good and which ones are crap. When I went home for Christmas, I had to keep my load of comics to the bare minimum, because you know, I had to socialize with my family and stuff. So I decided to take only my favorite comic series ever: "Hellboy!"

My guess is that most people at least know of Hellboy by name, most likely from the movies, the first of which came out a few years back, and the follow-up, "The Golden Army," which came out last summer. Honestly, I really enjoyed those films. They were a blast if only for the fact they portrayed pretty much the most badass character ever.

Little may you know, however, that "Hellboy" has been out for about 15 years now. In that time, creator Mike Mignola has churned out some eight trades (or "graphic novels" if you prefer that term) not to mention a whole wealth of related stories, such as "B.P.R.D." by borrowing everything from Irish and Russian folklore to the hard-hitting action of 1930s and 40s pulp fiction, all through a unique modern perspective that make up the Hellboy universe.

Where do I even begin describing Hellboy? Well, let me start by asking a question: what more could you want in a comic, or any story really, than for a huge red half-demon creature who was brought into this world to bring about the apocalypse but rather chooses to do good and eat pancakes, fighting off hordes of evil with his "Right Hand of Doom"? Honestly, I can't think of anything more I could ever want. I mean, after reading "Hellboy," I just don't appreciate a comic as much if I don't see a robotic ape, created by a Nazi scientist, whose head is preserved in a jar, getting punched in the face. To top it all off, "Hellboy" is full of strange and loveable characters, like Abe Sapien, a weird but articulate fish-man found preserved in a jar, getting punched in the face. To top it all, "Hellboy" is full of strange and loveable characters, like Abe Sapien, a weird but articulate fish-man found preserved in a jar, getting punched in the face. To top it all off, "Hellboy" is full of strange and loveable characters, like Abe Sapien, a weird but articulate fish-man found preserved in a jar, getting punched in the face. To top it all off, "Hellboy" is full of strange and loveable characters, like Abe Sapien, a weird but articulate fish-man found preserved in a jar, getting punched in the face. To top it all off, "Hellboy" is full of strange and loveable characters, like Abe Sapien, a weird but articulate fish-man found preserved in a jar, getting punched in the face.

There is just so much more to say about "Hellboy," but honestly you just need to stop being a wimp and go out and read the comics. As with anything, it's best to start at the beginning, which would be "Hellboy: Seed of Destruction." You won't be disappointed. Don't miss next week's article because I'm talking about arguably the best piece of fiction to come out in 2007, namely comic book history: DC's Identity Crisis. It's a wondrous thing that even people who aren't dorks can appreciate, at least in theory.
"Defiance" is a muted telling of great story

Christy Lemire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

If only "Defiance" were as spirited and feisty as the title suggests. It held such promise, too.

The real-life story of brothers who lead their fellow Jews into the forest of Belarus during summer 1941 to fight Nazis and form their own community offers a glimpse into a facet of the Holocaust we might not have known about before. Such a new angle is hard to find, especially recently, when there's been a slew of films with Holocaust themes including "Valkyrie," "The Reader," and "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas."

But director Edward Zwick's movie never finds a way to grab you emotionally, despite typically strong performances from Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber as two of the Bielski brothers, Tuvia and Zus. It's as if Zwick was more concerned with making sure we know the movie is about something important — which should be obvious based on the subject matter alone — rather than taking any narrative or aesthetic risks or delving into the complexity of the characters.

Tuvia is the stoic leader and protector; younger brother Zus is the bloodthirsty rebel; Jamie Bell, as the youngest of the three, is caught somewhere in the middle. Women who've shown up from various villages and walks of life become their "forest wives," their primary function apparently being to fawn over them and then worry about them when they head off into potential danger. Naturally, Craig gets the most beautiful forest wife of all: the mysterious, blue-eyed Lilla (Alexa Davalos), with whom he shares a tastefully liturgical tumble in a bundle of furs. (He is James Bond, after all.)

But the Bielskis also get help, as their ranks grow, from refugees from all over who've heard about their hidden village and want to hide, forge a new life and, eventually, fight back — everyone from carpenters to intellectuals. The rare moments of comic relief come from their attempts to fool nearby villagers out of their food.

Otherwise, there's something too muted, too respectful and, ultimately, too didactic about Zwick and Clayton Frohman's script, based on the book by Nechama Tec. It's a great story told in a remarkably unremarkable way.

You're more likely to walk away feeling wowed by the romantic cinematography from veteran Eduardo Serra (who also shot Zwick's "Blood Diamond"), with its lush green meadows that give way to blinding whites at winter envelops the ever-growing encampment. Snow delicately falling on a makeshift huppah during a young couple's wedding is one moment that springs to mind.

Beautiful as "Defiance" is, though, it almost makes you long for a documentary on the subject instead. You might actually get some meat and grit with your history lesson.

"Defiance," a Paramount Vantage release, is rated R for violence and language. Running time: 137 minutes. Two stars out of four.
Don't use my tax dollars to fund your weather predictions

I wrote about the global warming (AGW) debate last week, evoking the predictable feedback and flack, some of it apt and intriguing, some of it silly and sophomoric.

I dare say that it seems to ruffle the feathers of many when a lowly, non-scientist half-wit commentator hazards an opinion on this issue. While I humbly admit to fitting the description, describing my glorifying qualifications would be a tragic degradation and likely an unnecessary one at that.

The more obvious matter that deserves consideration is, why does the lowly, non-scientist, half-wit commoner even bother with trumpeting his two cents worth? You do not find debates about the veracity of quantum mechanics theory spilling into the public papers and inciting the same spirited, if generally hopelessly uninformed, debate that scientific debate proceeds in such an unscientific spirit, even sentimental, causes, like children yet to be.

At this point, it becomes quite obvious why the debate is as inflammatory as it is. If the world is warming, we must (so we are told) spend billions and trillions to repulse it for both posterity and our sake. If the globe is not warming, I'm sure I'm not alone in expressing the sentiment that we'll be happy to keep our money, if you please.

The world has not enjoyed such a debate since Don't Tread on Me. Whether they believe the world is melting or freezing, or turning somersaults, is much more likeable for it does not demand the public's money.

But wait, the nation that actually recognized constraints on the government must have been that of my forefathers. Now, we live in Obama's nation so I suppose we should all cheerfully get along with the plan. On the sunny side, at least we're promised a job or two out of the agenda. Magically though it is.

I, for one, do not live in a nation whose government is authorized to deal with taxpayers' money to try to predict tomorrow's weather or implementing grand schemes to avert those predictions. Point out the provision in the Constitution that allows for that!

The world is warming or it is freezing; either way certain disaster looms. In other scenarios, the convicted catastrophist might insist, even demand, that the government is authorized to take whatever means necessary I disagree. But even so, the certainty of the disaster as well as the efficacy of the means to modify it must both be established prior to making demands on the public treasury. Sarch, nobody contends this elementary step. And only a true zealot consciously avoiding any inconvenient facts would claim that both requirements have been met.

But do it on your own time, with your own money.

Write a letter to the Mustang Daily daily to the editor, in 250 words or less, to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com.

by Jeremy Hicks

Please include your name, year and major!
wouldn't pay the same amount for half a sandwich as you do for a full one. You wouldn't amount for half a sandwich as you do for a full one. You wouldn't buy paper towels, you scanned the aisle for the lowest price. Know what I mean? Manufacturers scan the aisle for the lowest price, yet prices have skyrocketed. The American consumer didn't consent to having the wool pulled over her eyes. According to Nielsen, 47 percent of American consumers would prefer to buy larger products for more money than having their normal portions downsized, while only 9 percent of surveyed Americans showed support for downsizing.

Manufacturers are thus not only miniaturizing their products, but also minimizing the consumer's influence in the marketplace by forcing us to compete with a price-increase tactic that we would otherwise oppose.

Downsizing is more of a downside than just being deceptive. It produces "upside" waste. With fewer plastic baggies in a box, there is more waste per biggie as the box is more quickly emptied and discarded, and a new box is purchased just to reach the same fate. Downsizing also leads to bungled recipes. A recipe that calls for a can of Starkist tuna will now come out less fishy due to the shrinken can content in the can.

Breaking the main myth of the Israel/Palestine conflict

One of the main criticisms of Israel is that Jews stole the land from the Palestinians. Never mind that there was no official nation called Palestine before Israel declared independence in 1948. Never mind that there were Jews living in the region far before the great migration after the holocaust, or that much of the land was bought by Jews since 1880.

Arabs accepted the plan, a Palestinian and a Jewish state would be living side by side today. Occupation is a result of wars started by Arabs and the refusal of Palestinians to live in peace with Israel. If Palestinians want a state, they must demonstrate that they oppose the harsh terrorism tactics threatening Israel since 1948.

Today, the extreme Muslim ideology of hate being supported by the Arab community that threatens the only Jewish state, they must demonstrate that they oppose the harsh terrorism tactics threatening Israel since 1948.

In 1947, UN resolution 181 declared a partition plan to declare a state to Jews and another to Arabs, which Jews accepted and all Arab states rejected. Arabs accepted the plan, a Palestinian and a Jewish state would be living side by side today.

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Announcements

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Henderson

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either too blind to see his name on the ball or were New Yorkers who still held a grudge against him for playing poker in the clubhouse while the Mets were attempting to hold on to a one-run lead in Game 6 of the 1999 National League Championship Series.

His talents were so immense that in his prime it seemed like he could steal a base or hit a home run any time he felt the need. His performance was so great that he stole more bases and scored more runs than any other player, had the highest batting average of his career almost always did it while referring to himself. He addressed the crowd, which included a classic Rickey Henderson moment in 2007 when Henderson, sitting in the stands at AT&T Park, caught a foul ball and refused to give it up to a nearby kid despite calls from his fellow spectators.

“Everybody was asking me for the ball,” Henderson said. “I said, ‘You’re not getting this ball. This is always wanted to get a foul ball. This one’s going on a shelf at home.’” Just Rickey being Rickey.

Lowe

continued from page 12

spent his entire big-league career with the Braves but was coming off major shoulder surgery.

The signings of Lowe and Kawakami should take some of the heat off the front office, though Atlanta is still in the market for a power-hitting outfielder.

“They’ve done a good job of staking it out and having some patience,” Cox said. “There’s a lot of teams involved, especially when it comes to the free agents. There’s always six or seven teams going to be disappointed when they don’t land the guy. That’s what happened up with Burnett and Fister, but that’s the nature of free agency.”

With Kawakami and Lowe, the Braves would have the makings of a solid rotation. They previously acquired Jovar Vasquez to hold over Jar Jurrjens, the team’s top starter last season as a rookie with a 13-10 record and 3.68 ERA. Another rookie, Jucy Campillo, was 8-7 with a 3.91 ERA.

Vazquez was acquired from the Chicago White Sox for a package of minor leaguers after going 12-16 with a 4.67 ERA.

Kawakami is not overpowering, but he has good control, an effective cutter and a slow, sweeping curve that reminds the Braves of the way he pitched in the Mexican League last season.

With Kawakami and Lowe, the Braves would have the makings of a solid rotation. If it was up to Henderson he’d have the platform to complain that no one will go to the Hall of Fame, when pontificating on the object of his greatest love — himself.

His place in the Hall of Fame was always assured, though Henderson would have been the one to pop the champagne. To his greatest of all time.”

Lou Brock was the symbol of base stealing,” he said, microphone in hand. “But today, I am the greatest of all time.”

When the 2009 senior class! Last home meet for the 2009 senior class!

Senior Night

Wednesday

Mott Gym

6PM

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Lowe finished last season with a 14-11 record and 3.24 ERA. He would join Lowe in New York and AP Sports Writer Charles Odum in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Associated Press file photo

Lowe finished last season with a 14-11 record and 3.24 ERA. He would join a revamped Braves starting rotation that includes Kenshin Kawakami.

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Rivalry Night

Saturday

Mott Gym

7PM
SPORTS
MUSI AN DAILY
Wednesday, January 14, 2009
MUSI AN DAILY
SPORTS REPORT

Mustang Dally

The Cal Poly wrestling team will take the mat for the final home dual of the season when they meet Pac-10 rival Cal State Fullerton at 6:30 tonight in Mott Gym.

The Mustangs began their conference schedule dropping a 24-10 decision to Cal State Bakersfield. Cal Poly head coach John Azevedo said that the conference schedule is filled with difficult matches no matter who the Mustangs face.

"There's a lot of parity in the Pac-10," Azevedo said. "It's a tough conference and it's not going to get any easier."

The Titans are coming off a home dual win over Air Force and San Francisco on Sunday.

"Fullerton is a solid team," Azevedo added. "We're just keeping our guys positive to go out and wrestle their best."

The Mustangs wrestled a competitive non-conference schedule that included deals with Oklahoma, Missouri and Oklahoma State. Azevedo said the experience will help his wrestlers get better.

"When you keep losing and some of our guys are losing (to the top guys) a lot, it's hard to keep them bouncing back," he said. "We hope it builds some confidence in that they're competing against the best in the country and have been close at times."

The Mustangs won three individual matches against Bakersfield, including wins by Filip Nowacki (141 pounds), Eric Maldonado (149 pounds) and Chase Parni (157 pounds). Nowacki (3-3 overall, 176 at 141 pounds) and Parni (14-6, 9th at 157) represent the Mustangs ranked in the Top 25 by the Amateur Wrestling News.

Injuries have forced Azevedo to reshuffle some of the weight classes, but he said that the experience should help his team in the long run.

"We have some weights where we're changing up a little bit," Azevedo said. "But some of it's been because of injuries. There have been a couple weights where we have tried other guys and see how they do under the lights. Sometimes the guys can't beat their opponents in a wrestle-off, but under the lights they perform better."

Former Dodger Lowe on verge of joining Braves

Paul Newbery

ATLANTA— The Atlanta Braves reached a preliminary agreement Tuesday on a $60 million, four-year contract with Japanese all-star pitcher Kenshin Kawakami, but the deal had not been completed.

Atlanta also finalized a three-year contract with Japanese all-star pitcher Kensei Kawakami, but the 35-year-old Lowe is the big catch. A 14-game winner for the Dodgers in 2008, Lowe visited the Braves last week after longtime Atlanta pitcher John Smoltz agreed to a $5.5 million, one-year deal with the New York Mets.

The Braves were confident they'd be landing a pitcher who would be a welcome addition to a rotation devastated by injuries last year. As an added bonus, Atlanta would be landing a pitcher who also was being sought by the rival New York Mets.

"We wanted to get back to being a pitching-oriented team," Wren said. "If we can do another couple of moves, we can get back to that point."

Smoltz, Tim Hudson and Tom Glavine all went down with season-ending surgeries, and the Braves were determined to rebuild their staff with pitchers who have been largely healthy through their careers. Glavine has yet to resume his pitching from a ruptured leg, and called Towers, who would take a chance on his surgery after turning down a chance to return to the team, signing instead with Houston.

In an interesting twist, the Braves reached the preliminary agreement with Lowe and held an afternoon news conference with Kawakami at Turner Field on the same day Smoltz was being introduced in Boston.

"It's different, it's hard, but the game goes on," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "You pick up the pieces and get going." It goes something like this; John Olerud had joined the Seattle Mariners, one of many teams Henderson pined to have his trade with, and one day Henderson asked Olerud who he was a batting helmet while playing first base.

Olerud explained that he once had an aneurysm and wore the helmet for protection. "Uh, Rick," Olerud said.

That was me."

The story probably isn't true, but does it really matter? So many things about Henderson blur the boundary between reality and fiction that one day they'll all probably be accepted as fact anyway.

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"That was me."

"This story is true, and San Diego Padres general manager Kevin Towers got the voice mail to prove it.

Late in his career, Henderson was shopping around for a team who would take a chance on his aging legs, and called Towers, who signed Henderson twice, to see if the Padres had any interest.

"This is Rickie calling on behalf of Rickie," Henderson said. "Rickie wants to play baseball."

And then there's the one about Henderson waiting several months to cash a $100,000 bonus check. His reason? He wanted to wait and see if interest rates would go up.

Long before Manny ever thought of being Manny, Rickie was being Rickie. Arguably the greatest lead-off man ever, no one would ever argue that he wasn't one of the great characters of the game.

Henderson won election to the Hall of Fame on his first try Monday with 94.8 percent of the vote, missing perfection only because there were 28 writers who were