Economy brings less recruiters to job fair

Matt Fountain
MUSTANG DAILY

Students have the opportunity to meet with recruiters from over a hundred companies today and tomorrow at the Winter 2009 Job Fair. The two-day event, which seeks to connect job-seeking students with prospective employers, will be held in the Chumash Auditorium. The open session will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., when students can browse booths and drop off resumes, while interview sessions will be held from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"This is an excellent opportunity for all students looking for jobs to meet many potential employers, all under one roof," said Industrial and manufacturing engineering graduate program coordinator Unny Menon.

"Students are also able to meet alumni and interact with both (human resources) folks, as well as technical managers from companies. Our students really enjoy the career fair for job search and the one-on-one interaction." For students, the fair offers an opportunity to see hiring companies and meet a large number of representatives in a short amount of time. For employers, the benefits are just as good.

"For employers, it can be a one-stop kind of thing," said Career Services Director Martin Shibata.

"Over the last five years, employers have shown a preference for the job fair format. They can come in one day, meet students, interviews, leave, and have some viable candidates to hire. It's that versus coming here on campus, setting up a room, building a schedule, interviewing students, coming up the evening before, that sort of thing."

In the turbulent economic climate, employers are looking for ways to reduce the cost of finding qualified candidates. According to Shibata, effects from the current recession are visible in this year's turnout.

"We have 135 (participating companies) this year; in the fall we had 185," he said. "So there has been a drop-off in the number of employers. Because of what happened in the 'dot-com' era, when they were kind of hiring indiscriminately, employers, as a result of that, have been a little more conservative. They're being a little more careful in their recruitment."

For example, when seeking interested companies in the fall, Shibata said the fair filled up in just 24 hours. "A lot has changed in three years," see Fair, page 2

Device gives visitors virtual glimpse of Poly

Cassandra Keyse
MUSTANG DAILY

A new Global Positioning System (GPS) self-touring device called the GPS Ranger has been introduced by the Cal Poly admissions department as a supplement to the Poly Reps tour. Cal Poly is the first college or university in the nation to use GPS Ranger technology to provide campus tours to the public.

Campus visitors who either miss the daily 11 a.m. tour or would prefer to look around campus on their own can rent the Ranger from the admissions office for no charge. The device senses where the visitor is walking on campus and provides a virtual host to inform the visitor about the location.

"We wanted to provide options for when we don't have tour guides available to students," said James Maraviglia, assistant vice president for admissions, recruitment and financial aid. "When we don't have the people to provide tours, we just wanted another tool set. That's what the GPS Ranger is, it's another tool set that we have here that, if you think about it, could be available 24/7, 365 in the future."

The new technology, which boasts a touch-screen menu to navigate a campus map, delivers short informative videos about various buildings throughout campus. BarZ Adventures Inc., creator of the GPS Ranger, usually provides this technology to national parks, zoos and historic cities.

The planning for the tour system began spring quarter of last year. Al Noura, associate director of communications, said the planning process took four to six months to prepare for the debut in fall of last year. The project was very "student-centric," said Students from the Admissions Media Development Team, a student-run program, decided everything from which buildings would be included to cut and style the hair.

Stylin’ for a good cause

RACHEL GLAS MUSTANG DAILY

Students and community members donated their hair in the University Union Plaza yesterday as part of a ponytail drive to benefit the American Cancer Society. The event, hosted by the Cal Poly Community Services Office, asked people to cut off at least eight inches of hair to be used to make wigs for cancer patients suffering hair loss from chemotherapy.

San Luis Obispo-based Bluebird Salon donated their time to cut and style the hair.

OMAR SANCHEZ AND LAUREN KABANG MUSTANG DAILY GRAPHIC

The GPS Ranger offers visitors a virtual tour of the campus. Eventually, the school will customize tours to the visitor's area of interest.
coHlhiui'fi from ptige 1

...included in the tour to filming and editing of the video footage, Nunez Jr. said. "In a lot of things we do, we want to make sure that the information going out to prospective students has a student perspective," Nunez said of the student involvement in the project.

Even the host of the video tours was a Cal Poly student. Cal Poly alumni Michael Leaky was chosen to be the face of the GPS Rangers because of his active involvement in Poly Reps and campus promotional materials while a student at the university.

"He was a very natural choice," Nunez said. "We just thought he created a lot of personality and represented the university well."

Not every building is included in the tour. The team initially chose a number of buildings that would be easily recognizable to members of the outside public. In the future, they hope to expand the tour.

"We went through and chose major landmarks, buildings that are most recognizable," said Nunez. We are going to be expanding the tour for different areas and we'll be diversifying the tours so maybe one tour will be for a specific program or a college or a specific program area of the university."

Nunez speculated that the specialized tours could be available within the next six months, but added that other recruitment initiatives could delay the appearance of the new tours.

Kristen Calderwood, Poly Rep and graphic communications senior, thinks the GPS Rangers are a good addition to the admission's department.

"I think that the devices are a great idea," she said. "It's sometimes hard for people traveling to make it to the 3:15 a.m tour, and we're not like other campuses that give tours all day. So it's a great innovation that takes the stress off of Poly Reps to give tours all day and lets people explore the campus on their own, even as an addition to a Poly Rep tour."

So far, the public response to the GPS Rangers has also been positive.

"We've had some great responses from the public," Nunez said. "People appreciate the fact that they're still going to be led by a live body there. There is still a GPS Ranger helps Poly Reps as well.

"You should try walking backward for 90 minutes on our campus. Doing that once or twice a day is all I can do," she said.

Fair

continued from page 1

...effect of the uncertain economy is a more competitive job market. Some teens to get ahead of the competition include visiting the Mustang Jobs Web site, from the My Cal Poly portal, where participating companies post available positions and criteria. The site also contains links to the different company Web sites, enables students to research and contact employers.

Students should dress in business-casual attire for the open part of the fair, however, if called back for an interview, one should dress more formal.

According to a poll from the Career Services department, these fairs are becoming more effective for job seekers in finding stable employment. During the 2007-2008 reporting year, job fairs surpassed Internet listings as well.

Students should try walking backward for 90 minutes on our campus. Doing that once or twice a day is all I can do," she said.
U.S. pays $40,000 after 15 Afghans die in raid

Jason Strauszoo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. commanders on Tuesday traveled to a poor Afghan village and distributed $40,000 to relatives of 15 people killed in a U.S. raid, including a known militant commander. The Americans also apologized for any civilians killed in the operation.

The issue of civilian deaths is increasingly sensitive in Afghanistan, with President Hamid Karzai accusing the U.S. of killing civilians in three separate cases over the last month. Karzai has repeatedly warned the U.S. and NATO, saying such deaths undermine his government and the international mission.

In Washington, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates echoed Karzai’s concerns, telling a Senate committee that “civilian casualties are doing enormous harm in Afghanistan.”

As U.S. commanders paid villagers near 15 newly dug graves, Karzai met Tuesday in the capital with relatives of some of those killed. He told the villagers he has given the U.S. and NATO one month to respond to a draft agreement calling for increased Afghan participation in military operations.

Karzai said if he does not receive a response within that time, he would ask Afghans what he should do about international military operations. The statement from the presidential palace describing the meeting did not elaborate.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban and other insurgents have a strong presence in the region. Last year, 151 U.S. troops died in Afghanistan, the most in any year since the U.S. invaded the Taliban-ruled country in late 2001 for sheltering Osama bin Laden.

Col. Greg Julian, the top U.S. spokesman in Afghanistan, led Tuesday’s delegation into the village of Inzeri, a small collection of stone and mud homes set high in a steep, rocky valley. Insurgents have a strong presence in the region just 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Kabul.

A raid the night of Jan. 10 killed 15 people in Inzeri, including a targeted militant commander named Mullah Patang.

Afghan officials admit that Patang was killed, but villagers say civilians also died and have pressed their complaints with U.S. officials and Karzai.

The U.S. regularly makes payments to Afghan relatives of those killed in operations, but the payments are rarely publicized.

The villagers met the U.S. delegation about 100 yards from 15 newly dug graves. American officials asked for a list of the dead, but villagers said no one was there.

Julian told villagers that U.S. forces did not come Jan. 19 intending to fight, but opened fire after villagers fired on them. Many Afghan

Companies on Wednesday, January 28:

ADOBE SYSTEMS INCORPORATED
ADCON
AERONORAMENTS, INC.
AFFILIATED ENGINEERS, INC.
AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
ALCON LABORATORIES, INC.
ANHEUSER-BUSCH COMPANIES
APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES ASSOCIATES
AUSTIN COMPANY, THE
BRINDESON
BROCADE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS
CAPITAL GROUP COMPANIES, THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
CLOROX COMPANY
COMMUNICATIONS & POWER INDUSTRIES, INC.
CONSOLIDATED GRAPHICS
DIRECTV
E & J. GALLO WINERY
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE
EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES
EMC CORPORATION
ENTERPRISE
EPIC SYSTEMS CORPORATION
ERNIE BALL
FACILITY ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES
FASTENAL COMPANY
FEDERATED INSURANCE
FLUOR CORPORATION
FORMATCOR
GEORGE B. WOODCOCK & CO.
GRANITE CONSTRUCTION, INC.
HNTB ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS & PLANNERS
IBM
INTEL
JISC
L-3 COMMUNICATIONS
LEVEL STUDIOS
LINCIN ELECTRIC COMPANY
MARX, INC.
MEAD & HUNT, INC.
MICROSOFT
NETAPP
NEWS AMERICA MARKETING
NOLTE ASSOCIATES, INC.
NORTHERN GRUMAN
ORACLE
ORBITAL SCIENCES CORPORATION
OWENS CORNING
PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY (PG&E)
PAPER MACHINERY
PEPSI BOTTLING GROUP
PLATINUM PERFORMANCE
PROTHVIT
RANCO POWER SYSTEMS, INC.
RAKETHEIN COMPANY
SALESFORCE.COM
SANDISCK CORPORATION
SANOFI AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS
SEIBERG MANNING
SOUTHERN WINE AND SPIRITS
SUN LIFE FINANCIAL
TARGET STORES
TASCO ENERGICAL
TOYOTA MOTOR SALES USA
TRAINE COMPANY
TRICOM, INC.
US DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
US MARINE CORPS OFFICER PROGRAMS
WALGREENS
WEBER METALS, INC.
WELLS FARGO BANK NATIONAL
WESTERN DIGITAL
WORKDAY

Companies on Thursday, January 29:

ACCO ENGINEERED SYSTEMS
AOP (AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING)
AEREO
ALFA TECH CAMBRIDGE GROUP
AMGEN, INC.
APPLE, INC.
ARGON ST.
BAE SYSTEMS
BAY AREA CHEMICALS
BLACK & VEATCH
BOLTON COMPANY, THE
BOSTON SCIENTIFIC
CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS)
CHEVRON CORPORATION
CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.
CITIZEN FIELD MECHANICAL, INC. (CMI)
DESIGNED METAL CONNECTIONS
DREYERS GRAND ICE CREAM
E & J. GALLO
ESYS
FM GLOBAL
FORT DEARBORN COMPANY
FOSTER FARNS
FRITO-LAY OPERATIONS
GENERAL ATOMICS AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS, INC.
HBE CORPORATION
HILLARY CHEESE COMPANY
J. M. SMUCKER COMPANY
JOHN BEAN TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION
KENDALL-JACKSON WINE ESTATES
L-3 COMMUNICATIONS
LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY
LINDQUIST, LLP
LOCHHEAD MARTIN
MAXIM INTEGRATED PRODUCTS
MAZZETTI & ASSOCIATES
NASA Ames RESEARCH CENTER
NAVITAR WEAPONS DIVISION
NEC ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC.
NUVasive, INC.
PACIFIC SCIENTIFIC EMERGENT MATERIALS CO.
PARKER AEROSPACE
PEACE CORPS
PRATT WHITNEY ROCKETEYNE
REAL SOFTWARE SYSTEMS
SAN FRANCISCO, CITY & COUNTY
SHAMMICK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.
SIEMENS BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Edison COMPANY
SOUTHERN WINE AND SPIRITS
STRYKER ENDOSCOPY
SYMANTEC
TAYLORER PARTNERSHIP
TERADYNE, INC.
TIGRA CONSULTING GROUP
TRUE PARTNERS CONSULTING
US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
VISAAT, INC.
WINZLER & KELLY CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Career Services
Division of Student Affairs
Cal Poly, Building 124
805.756.2501
www.careerservices.calpoly.edu
A U.S. soldier gives $1,500 to Asadullah, an Afghan villager elder for repairs for village homes in Inzeri village in Kapisa province in the Tagab Valley, Afghanistan, Tuesday.

Afghans continued from page 3

families are armed. "Perhaps there may have been some people accidentally killed," Jawhan said as he looked at a mud-brick home where villagers said some Afghans died. "If there was collateral damage, I'm very sorry about that."

The village elder, a man named Asadullah who goes by one name, showed Julian a picture of men in Afghan army uniforms. Asadullah said they were the sons of the militant Paktia.

On the back of an Afghan army truck, U.S. officials paid $40,000 in Afghan currency to representatives of the 15 people killed — $2,000 for each death plus $500 for two individuals from the village. So by this payment they will understand it's not the U.S. that innocents were killed.

"It's a condolence payment," he said. "The villagers said none of them were in the Taliban, just peaceful individuals from the village. So by this payment they will understand it's not our goal to kill innocent people. This man helps them understand we're here to build a safer and more secure Afghanistan."

When asked if the U.S. was paying money to relatives of people that the U.S. had wanted to kill or capture, Weir said: "If we did accidentally shoot someone, we want to make that right, and if we have to pay money to someone who didn't deserve it ... it's kind of like it's better to let nine guilty people go free than to jail one innocent person."

"If students can't get the money they need for school then they won't be able to afford it. One of my good friends is paying for Cal Poly through grants and working and if she didn't get that money she wouldn't be here."

"I wouldn't get my grant money but I would still be able to attend school because my parents would help me."

Lauren Watrhop, kinesiology freshman

"My dad's a state worker and if he didn't get his paycheck that would mean I'd have to pay over $2,000 more a year for school because he pays for part of my schooling."

Alaa Shaban, biology senior

"I wouldn't get the money but I would still be able to attend school because my parents would help me."

-Bond Walker, graphic communications junior

WORD ON THE STREET

"How will you be affected by the possibility of Calif. state IOUs?"

"Well I wouldn't get the money that I've been working for. As long as that's what the state needs to get back on its feet then I'm OK with it as long as I get the money back within a reasonable amount of time."

Lysia Porter, ethnic studies sophomore

"My dad's a state worker and if he didn't get his paycheck that would mean I'd have to pay over $2,000 more a year for school because he pays for part of my schooling."

-Asa Shaban, biology senior

"I wouldn't get my grant money but I would still be able to attend school because my parents would help me."

-Bond Walker, graphic communications junior

State Briefs

SAN LUIS OBISPO (AP) — One of the two reactors at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant has been shut down for a two-month project involving refueling and replacement of four steam generators.

Pacific Gas and Electric, operator of the Central Coast nuclear power plant near Avila Beach, shut down the Unit 1 reactor Sunday.

Utility spokeswoman Emily Christensen said Monday that refueling outages usually last about a month. A third of the unit's fuel rods are being replaced.

But replacement of the steam generators — which weigh 350 tons each — will require more time.

• • •

LOS ANGELES (AP) A man who fatally shot his wife, five young children and himself Tuesday had earlier fired a note to a TV station claiming the couple had just been fired from their hospital jobs and together planned the killings as a final escape for the whole family.

"Why leave the children to a stranger?" Ervin Lupoe wrote, according to KABC-TV.

The 33-year-old police officer after receiving the fax, and a police dispatcher center also received a call from a man who stated, "I just returned home and my whole family's been killed."

• • •

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — A 28-year-old San Jose man has been jailed for allegedly punching a stranger who was speaking on a cell phone in Spanish.

San Jose police spokesman Jermaine Thomas says Scott Ponzonius was booked on suspicion of assault and committing a hate crime after a 33-year-old man reported being attacked on the street.

• • •

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — A California appeals court has ruled that a private Christian high school has the right to expel students because of an alleged lesbian relationship.

The 4th District Court of Appeal in Riverside on Monday upheld California Lutheran High School's right as a private, religious organization to exclude students based on their sexual orientation.

Two teen filed a lawsuit claiming they were discriminated against after they were expelled from the Wildwood school in 2006 because of an alleged lesbian relationship.
Chelsea Bieker

Entering Phoenix Books in downtown San Luis Obispo is like walking into book heaven, where everything, right down to the smell that only good old books have, is perfect. The two-story space is a collage of artifacts that lend the feeling of being inside an antique shop of sorts rather than just a bookstore. It would seem to be possible to spend a day in the book palace and still not see everything. Between unique sections like "Bohemians," and "music," the fun is in the search at this grotto of words.

Bruce Miller, owner of Phoenix Books, grew up in San Luis Obispo but learned the business of book selling in Berkeley, Calif. After working there for about seven years, the writer decided to come back to his hometown and build his own used book legacy. In November of 1984 the shop made its first appearance on Broad Street next to Big Sky Café before moving to its current location at 990 Monterey St. Adorned with large green canopies shading the front door, the store feels separate from its surroundings, and it is that uniqueness that keeps people coming.

Miller said that he got started in used books "a little bit by accident." As an aspiring writer and painter, he needed a way to be able to create while also making a gainful employment.

"Used books seemed like a pretty good idea and I ended up liking it quite a bit," Miller said. "I seem to like to hunt, either for information, or in this case for books. When you consider the history of the book business or civilization, all the best books are the used books."

Used books indeed, but it is important to note that Phoenix also sells new titles along with the unusual. The inventory is kept completely in Miller's head, and he shuffles through some boxes that a customer has brought in for appraisal and trade, it is easy to see he has his own systems. He separates the sellable from the non-sellable quickly, as if he had done this a few times before. He said that his knowledge comes from experience.

"We are reality based, we go look on the shelf," Miller said when asked about the store's catalogue. "I think it's important to be present to the shelf, see if the book is there, then answer the question."

Asking the ability to go straight to what you are looking for allows the customer to stumble across something he or she may not have previously been aware of. The sense of a "hunt," in Miller's mind, makes the experience unique.

"A lot of people come in and they say, 'Is this a library?' They don't recognize it, they don't know what it is because they are used to corporate stores," he said. "They look at the art on the wall and all of the knick knacks, and it confuses them for a minute — which is a good thing because when you sort of shake people out of their normal sense, maybe they open up and think about what's going on right there instead of walking around in a perfectly groomed atmosphere that the corporate stores tend to have."

Miller describes the store as a "general used book store," but behind the scenes at this small local store is a treasure trove of used books.

The Internet has basically devastated the used book business, but it is the way things go. The mechanism of selling has changed. With the confluence of high real estate prices and high rents versus the low rent of the virtual bookstore, we drop all of our books into Amazon.

Miller is not the only one in town who considers Phoenix Books to be a rare gem. At 10 a.m., not a moment after the doors have been opened to begin the business day, a woman is waiting patiently with a large cart full of books. Her name is Andarcia Spierling and she is a self-described book aficionado. She has been anxious to trade the books in her cart for ones that she has not previously read. Spierling has been staying alive on re-reads alone, and it is time she makes her regular visit to the shop to reimburse her collection.

"I've been going to this one for about seven years," she said. "They have a pretty good selection and the clerks are really nice." The doors open and Spierling begins her own hunt, a process that many others must have penciled into their agendas as well, looking at the sudden rush of customers invading the shop. Some are here to trade, others just to browse. Arroyo Grande resident, Larry Turner is selling back some of his wife's books. He has about five large boxes of them that Miller, undaunted, attacks right away.

"I've been coming to Phoenix books since they opened," Turner said. "I think this shop is pretty unique in the area, and I like the feeling and the atmosphere. The people are nice and it's got a local feel.

Miller finishes looking through Turner's selection and hands over the worth. "After doing this for over 35 years I still see books I've never seen before," he marvels. "A used bookstore is different than other stores. You can bring stuff in here and walk out with money. It goes both ways here; we're a little bit like a pawn shop."

Buying and selling aside, the reason Miller sticks around this business goes back to his love for town treasure lies an international business. Miller sees the Internet as a "wonderful source of information, and he recognizes the changes it has forced upon the book business. Some not so positive, but others have allowed Phoenix Books to be a supplier to anyone in the world. Miller said he gets orders from places like Japan, Australia and England weekly, as he is now able to use Amazon.com as a selling device.

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"We don't try to be everything to everybody, but we try to present a little bit of atmosphere," he said. "I think it's one of the ways going forward that used bookstores will be able to survive. I don't want to do anything else, so it's a little bit of a nap... but it's sort of a wonderful nap of my own device."

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Phoenix
continued from page 5

reading. Hearing him explain why reading is important makes it seem very sad that people are reading less and less.

"Reading is the sort of activity that helps your brain develop," Miller said. "It's different than being on a computer. I think reading can develop your imagination, and the more you do the quicker you can understand narrative. It makes a connection between the real life events that can be humb, and you can discern when things aren't necessarily true."

Miller said that if you are good at narrative due to avid reading, then you have some foundation of understanding when certain narratives goes off track.

"It helps you understand the flow of life," he said. "You read a lot of novels and you realize sometimes marriages end and new love is found. When you break up with your girlfriend or boyfriend you can think, well, you know, in Charles Dickens' 'Great Expectations,' he didn't get the girl till the very end. I think reading is really important; it can humanize you."

Miller encourages people to search out used bookstores when they go on vacation, as he said that many of his customers are tourists who have lost their own local stores.

"I want to think of the store as a more vibrant place rather than just people coming in with cash and buying a book," he said. "Maybe they can make their own library a little more lively."

Library hosts science discussion

Krizia Torres

Cal Poly and the Central Coast will see its first-ever Science Café in the Robert E. Kennedy Library this Wednesday afternoon.

Several of these discussion cafés have already sprung up in coffee houses, bars and other libraries around the Bay Area, Los Angeles and the rest of the country, but none in the Central Coast until now.

This informal discussion series will feature conversations with a scientist and 10-minute presentations from four different Cal Poly contributors — including electrical engineering department Chair MacCarles, Electric Vehicle Engineering club, Cal Poly Rose Float and Human Powered Vehicle — centering on the theme of "Impossible Vehicles."

According to John Dunning, who has a doctorate in электрохимическая engineerring, "It helps you understand the flow of life," he said. "You read a lot of novels and you realize sometimes marriages end and new love is found. When you break up with your girlfriend or boyfriend you can think, well, you know, in Charles Dickens' 'Great Expectations,' he didn't get the girl till the very end. I think reading is really important; it can humanize you."

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"It is sort of the anti-lecture. The goal is to encourage the community, including non-scientists, to participate in a science forum," Dunning said.

"Here's your chance to participate. But it is part of your responsibility to come and share your vision! Share your ideas and share what you think might happen. How can you have a conversation about anything if you're not there?" asked Scaramozzino.

Science Café will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the second floor of the library, right next to Julian's Pastries. Snacks will be served.

There are different themes for each month's discussion. The next Science Café session will be Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. and will be an ode to Darwin's birthday. This birthday tea party will feature birthday cake and biology faculty member, Christie Strand, as she talks about her work in Galapagos Islands.

Science Café is the library's program and is sponsored by the College of Engineering and supported by the College of Math and Science.
A memoir in little pictures

I have a bit of a problem. I really like to spend money on things I shouldn't, like comic books. For instance, last week I was at a bookstore with no intent of buying anything, and of course I had to check out the graphic novel section. I stumbled upon something I just had to have. Jeffrey Brown's "Little Things: A Memoir in Slices."

I've read some of Brown's work before, and I'm a big fan. For those of you that don't know, Brown is an indie "graphic memoirist" from Chicago, whose work mostly consists of autobiographical stories, told through little pictures, about his many failed relationships with girls.

Jeffrey Brown certainly isn't limited by that, however, for he really has a great knack for observing the world, remembering it, and then bringing it to life through his drawings. Like in his adorable little book, "Cat Getting Out of a Bag and Other Observations" in which he illustrates his love for his cats by showing the shenanigans they get into around the house, such as getting caught in a bag and getting out. It's great!

"Little Things" is a really great combination of the entirety of Brown's talents. It is made up of, as the title gives away, short stories about the little things in life. From friends, to work, your favorite coffee shop, buying CDs or getting your gall bladder taken out. Brown describes the interconnectedness of the little things in life and what they mean to us. How seemingly mundane objects or events, taken in context, can take on a very personal and important character, which would otherwise be devoid in an individual's life.

For instance, the first story in the book describes how the music of artist Andrew Bird has affected Brown over the period of his life. At first, and of course, Andrew Bird's music was associated with a girl, but when that relationship ended, so did his love for the music. However, after time passed and new experiences accumulated, Brown finds a new love for Bird's music.

A bit of warning for any of those out there that may be looking for a continual narrative when they pick up Brown's work. Most often than not, the stories are true to life and do not have any definitive ending, that wraps the story up in a neat little package. Brown's stories don't follow a traditional plot line either. There have been numerous times while reading his work that I was positive that the story was going to turn out a certain way, but it didn't. And hey, that's kind of refreshing when you think about it. Moreover, that's kind of how life works and Brown knows how to capture that.

It's getting to be about that time in the quarter where midterms are quickly creeping up. I wear I'm starting to smell the stress in the air. So if you need a break from those studying blues and maybe want a bit of reassurance in the little things in life, then you should pick up a copy of Brown's "Little Things: A Memoir in Slices."
The job market’s tough — deal with it

The US Bureau of Labor statistics announced an increase in the national unemployment rate from 6.8 percent in November to 7.2 percent in December.

CNN reported that more than 11,500 jobs were cut on Jan. 27 alone adding to the nearly quarter-million jobs cut so far in 2009. Planning on graduating soon?

College seniors will soon graduate and move into a job market that doesn’t want them.

With the potential skyrocketing costs of college tuition looming on the horizon, school may not be the best place to be either. It’s not the end of the world though.

Surviving during unstable economic times is difficult but do-able if you are willing to make some minor sacrifices.

Here’s a suggestion: Grow up.

It’s time to face the reality that a job with a 40-hour work-week, a respectable salary, benefits and a retirement plan is not going to fall in your lap.

These types of jobs are the ones currently getting cut.

Having a back-up plan means mentally preparing yourself to take on the task of working 50 to 60 hours a week at two to three different jobs to afford to make payments on those towering student loans, car payments, bills, rent... well, you get the idea.

Think like an employer.

In this economy, would you want to pay someone a full-time salary benefits and retirement, or would you rather find a few part-time, lower-paid people to fill the position?

Whether applying for a job in your field or not, a willingness to work part-time and forgo benefits for a few years has the potential of making you a much more appealing candidate than a seasoned veteran demanding a hefty salary and all the extras.

Make it a must to save. Even if you’re only putting $25 a month into a savings account do it. The time after rent is paid, bills are taken care of and the loan payments are sent is the perfect time to look at your checking account and realistically determine an amount to transfer to savings.

If your spending is up a lot one month, resist the urge to spend the next and put it away immediately. You’ll thank yourself later.

The second and probably most important suggestion for surviving in the tough times in your post-college era is to make it essential to rule out the non-essential.

Know your skills — all of them.

Some homeowners, business owners and other entities are willing to sacrifice the craftsmanship of licensed contractors for small jobs around their homes and offices and are willing to pay well above the state’s minimum wage — and tax free.

Listings on Craigslist and the Mustang Jobs Web site are perfect for finding temporary work that can almost always appeal to your little-known trade skills. If you are handy with a hammer, help the Mr. So-and-so household build a shed for $12 an hour some weekend. Walk people’s dogs, hoe a flowerbed. Enjoy your hobbies get exercise, and most of all, enjoy getting paid for it.

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Protect your hard earnings by learning to eliminate needless spending.

If you’re not good at balancing your checkbook, consider at least making a daily list of what you purchased and at the end of the month evaluate where your hard spending habits are.

Cutting back on that $2-a-day coffee habit will save you more than $50 a month. Extend the life of your leftovers. Stop buying new items and buy in bulk. If you are in the market for affordable trade skills. If you are handy with a hammer, help the Mr. So-and-so household build a shed for $12 an hour some weekend. Walk people’s dogs, hoe a flowerbed. Enjoy your hobbies get exercise, and most of all, enjoy getting paid for it.
Obama's presidency brings realistic optimism to the White House

President Barack Obama has been criticized by the press for not being strong enough, demanding enough, or even mean enough. These critics continue to find certain flaws, searching for anything and everything to prove that he can't be perfect. It is all too good to be true that we finally found a man with such brilliance, sincerity, determination and impeccable manners?

Some may think he is too naive, over confident or perhaps compliant. But his inaugural address, spoken in front of millions of people, with billions more watching on TV, was anything but naive. He addressed the nation sincerely, making sure to acknowledge the hardships we are currently facing.

As millions crowded the National Mall, their new president spoke words of courage and honesty.

"Home’s have been lost, jobs shed, businesses shuttered. Our health care is too costly, our schools not good enough, or even mean enough. These critics consider the stimulus package that has soared well beyond $700 billion, and wants to direct billions of dollars in helping our struggling healthcare and social security systems. The new plan will reduce foreclosures, revise the bailout program and issue regulations on investments. Obama has even ordered the supposedly "difficult task" of shutting down Guantanamo Bay.

A proposed $825 billion package of spending programs and tax breaks will be used to lower energy bills, protect workers from losing health care, improve roads and utilities and lower the cost of education so students can afford college. The new initiative is designed to ensure that workers will not lose their healthcare, the fear of many who have lost jobs already.

Obama assured citizens that "this is not just a short-term program to boost employment; it’s one that will invest in our most important priorities like energy and education, health care and a new infrastructure that are necessary to keep us strong and competitive in the 21st century."

We must acknowledge that now is the time to unite as a nation, and believe our own responsibility for this country is of the utmost relevance to the state of our world. Countries throughout the world have never praised a man as highly as they have Obama. This is what has given the hope I deserve as an American.

When all appears to be lost, and no crisis has seemed greater, the light at the end of tunnel has finally arrived for the future of my generation.

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Help Wanted

STAYING IN TOWN THIS SUMMER AND LOOKING FOR A GREAT JOB ON CAMPUS? Conference and Event Planning is hiring 10-20 for summer conference season. Paid training begins in late April. Seeking hardworking, responsible and positive individuals who enjoy working in a fun, fast-paced team setting! Customer service and cashier experience preferred. Optional on-campus summer housing at highly reduced rate. Flexible hours. PT/PT available. $8.00-$10.00/hour. Great internship opportunity. Applications and job descriptions available in bldg 170G (Cerro Vista Apartment Admin. Bldg) M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or on Mustang Jobs online. Completed Apps. and resume due by 2/25/09. Call (805)756-7600 for detailed job description to be emailed to you.

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

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© Puzzles by Pappocom
James
continued from page 12

march: Having them spot you while
bench-pressing a 400-pound barbell?
Not so much.

But James laughed off the idea
that could be dangerous. "Everybody
knows me because I'm around so much.
Racking weights, spotting me, doing the
things I need is not a problem.

Neither, apparently is finding a
meal at that hour.

Toward the end of his appearance
at media day, a reporter from a chil­
dren's TV network asked James to list
what comprised his own nutritional
meal at that hour.

"Uhhh, I don't eat breakfast," he
said. "Everything."
Rachel Clancy brings the luck of the Irish

Cal Poly sophomore guard Rachel Clancy passes to an open teammate in the Mustangs' 64-60 win over UC Davis on Saturday night in San Luis Obispo.

Alisha Atem
Mustang Daily

S he has played for the Republic of Ireland National basketball team since age 13, captained the national team at the U-16, U-18 and U-20 levels and received Basketball Ireland's National Under-20 Player of the Year award two seasons in a row (2004-2005 and 2005-2006). Now exhibit sophomore Rachel Clancy, 20, is playing in her initial season for Cal Poly after transferring from Duquesne University in 2007. She sat out last season due to NCAA rules regarding her transfer but this hasn't stopped her from competing in every game for the Mustangs this year.

Awards and recognition on Jan. 18 in Glendale, Ariz.

Edgerrin James celebrates his career trip. Clancy wrote in a blog about her trip. "I'm hoping to pursue an MBA so I'd let that dictate where I'm going to be next season."

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