Poly students changing house, changing lives

Mikaela Akuna

Every week people around the country watch "Extreme Home Makeover" to see Ty Pennington and his team recreate the home of a family in need. Viewers learn about each family's extraordinary stories, hear the infamously "Move that bus!" and watch the families' reactions as they see their home transformed into a more functional and livable space.

Now, thanks to a class at Cal Poly, a family equally in need in San Miguel is watching their home be renovated as well.

Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering 556, a class with a focus on project management, is currently renovating the home of Samantha Keuck, a 16-year-old girl who has been suffering from seizures all her life. Reuck's grandparents have adopted her and work hard to accommodate her special needs.

But as a growing individual, working with her has become more and more difficult as she's gotten older.

Reuck suffered complications during her last surgery and was in a coma for 12 days. Subsequently, she has become completely dependent on others, mostly her grandparents, to function.

"They were living in really poor conditions," industrial and manufacturing engineering graduate student and project manager James Pickering said. "When we first talked to them, Mrs. Reuck said that anything we could manage would be appreciated."

"They were living in really poor conditions," industrial and manufacturing engineering graduate student and project manager James Pickering said. "When we first talked to them, Mrs. Reuck said that anything we could manage would be appreciated."

The Poly House crew plans on putting in a roll-in, wheelchair accessible, shower. They're also expanding the doorway of the bathrooms so her grandparents can more easily carry her through the space. A new heating system is being put in the home to accommodate Reuck's sensitivity to temperature.

Poly House has extended the entire house two feet, despite early reports that it couldn't be done. The expansion makes it possible to see Poly House, page 2

Mental health care questioned after shooting

Robert H. Reid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) — The U.S. military command launched an investigation Tuesday into whether it of­ fered adequate mental health care to its soldiers, a day after a sergeant finishing up his third tour of Iraq allegedly shot and killed five comrades at a clinic on a U.S. base.

Sgt. John M. Russel, 44, of Sherman, Texas, was taken into custody outside a mental health clinic at Camp Liberty following Monday's shooting and charged with first counts of murder and one of aggravated assault.

Maj. Gen. David Perkins said:

The case, the deadliest of the war involving soldiers-on-soldier violence, has cast a spotlight on combat stress and emotional problems resulting from frequent de­ployments to battle zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Up to one-fifth of the more than 1.7 million who have served in the two con­flicts are believed to have symptoms of anxiety, depres­sion and other emotional problems. Some studies show that about half of those who need help do not seek it.

Russell's father said his son, who joined the Army in 1994 after a divorce and minor scrapes with the law, felt poorly treated at the stress center. He said he hopes "we find he snapped because of the pressure. He wasn't a mean person."

In Baghdad, Perkins told reporters that Russell, a communications specialist assigned to the 54th Engi­neer Battalion from Bamberg, Germany, was sent to the mental health clinic by his superiors, presumably because of concern over his emotional state.

He said the commander had ordered Russell's weap­ons taken away from him but somehow he got a new weapon, entered the clinic and opened fire.

Perkins declined to give a detailed account of the shooting, saying the matter was under investigation.

However, a Pentagon of­ficial said in Washington that Russell had been escorted to the clinic, but once inside argued with the staff and was asked to leave.

After he drove away, Rus­sell apparently seized his es­cort's weapon and returned to the clinic, the official said on condition of anony­mity because the investigation was ongoing.

The clinic was operated

see Soldier, page 2

This U.S. Army photo made available via the family on Tuesday shows U.S. Army Sgt. John M. Russell.
add another bedroom and create her roll-in shower. They will also be installing a track attached to the ceiling that will run from Reuck’s bedroom to the living room, where she spends most of her time. This way the family won’t have to push or carry her, but rather, they will be able to slide her along. They’re also widening the window in her room for better viewing.

Since Reuck’s grandparents own their home to be a safe haven for neighborhood children to play in, Poly House will be installing a large play structure, a half basketball court and a vegetable garden in the surrounding land.

Poly House has been an annual project that has been remodeling homes for local families since 2004. Planning on the Reuck house project started in mid-April and construction began last week-end and will finish up this upcoming weekend. This week will be used for progress analysis and status reports as well as any adjustments that might be needed.

Poly House is almost entirely dependent on sponsors and fund-raisers to fund the project and has benefited from the donations of over sixty local businesses. David Dynamic and Talton and Sons are just two local businesses that have donated over thirty thousand of drywall and other materials, while San Luis Marble and Granite donated granite tabletop for the kitchen.

Regional Transit Authority has also donated their services to help volunteers and workers to and from the site. "It’s an 80 mile roundtrip that they do for us twice a day," Steven Kilbert, the logistics project manager said. "It’s saved us a lot of money in gas now that we won’t have to try to transport all of these people everyday." San Luis Obispo County assisted in the project by approving their building permits in a day, a process that otherwise could take up to a year, and waived the fees for the permits.

The group hopes to continue fundraising for the project. Until next Sunday, portions of participants’ purchases at Jamba Juice on Foothill Boulevard will be donated. Panda Express, also on Foothill Boulevard, will donate a portion of their profits on Wednesday from 2 p.m. until close. A benefit concert will be held at the Carlton Hotel in Atascadero Thursday night. Guests need to bring the flyers that can be printed out from the Poly House Web site to ensure that proceeds go to the philanthropy.

It’s surprising how many people were willing to help, considering the economic climate," kitchen project manager Erika Miller said. "One of the donors told me that the only way a project like this could happen was because of our "Poly House magic," and that there’s no other way something like this is tangible."

Soldier

from page 1

by the 55th Medical Company; a Reserve unit headquartered in Indianapolis. Two of the victims were officers assigned to the clinic, and the three others were enlisted sol­

diers, Perkins said.

The Pentagon identified Cdr. Charles Springle, 52, of Wilmington, North Carolina, as one of the victims of the five killed. The mother of Michael Yates Jr. said two men from the Army came to her federally subsidized house early Tuesday to tell her her 19­

year-old son was killed.

A psychiatrist from Amarillo, Texas, Dr. Matthew Houseal, also was confirmed among the dead, according to the director of a Texas mental health clinic where Houseal worked. Bud Schertler said Houseal’s wife told him Tuesday that her husband was among the dead.

In addition to the ongoing criminal investigation, Perkins said the U.S. command had opened a formal inquiry into the "general availability" of health care for American service personnel in Iraq, "specifically the policies and procedures surrounding behavioral health services.

He gave no further details and did not say how the investigation was being conducted.

The U.S. military has become increasingly concerned about mental injuries among a steady rise in suicides — which the Army says have increased world­

wide from at least 102 in 2006 to 140 last year. As of April, the Army had reported at least 48 suicides.

Thousands of other veterans are believed to suffer flashbacks, nightmares or fits of anger as they attempt to readapt to civilian life.

"If we're going to win this war, we learned from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the previous wars, is not all physical injuries and physically," said Maj. Gen. Daniel P. Bolger, commander of Multi-National Division-Baghdad. In Sherman, William Russell, 73, said he believes counselors in the military stress center "broke" his son before the shootings.

The younger Russell was six weeks away from completing his third tour in Iraq before Monday's shootings, the father told reporters Tuesday in front of the suburban house his son is buying with his wife.

William Russell said his son was treated poorly at the military stress center. He said his son had e­

mailed his wife, calling two recent days the worst in his life.

"I hate what that boy did," the elder Russell said. "He thought it was justified. That's never a solution."

He said his son felt like "his life was over as a result of all this. He lived for the military."

John Russell began his active military service in 2001 and was a series of minor criminal scraps in his hometown, according to ac­

tions in Grooven County, Texas.

His ex-wife obtained a tempo­

rary restraining order against him this month. The order requires that he doesn't charge with misdemeanor assault but the matter was dropped, the records show.

A Pentagon official said Russell previously served two one-year tours of duty in Iraq, one from April 2003 and another begin­

ning November 2005. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak on the record.

Russell, who had also served in the Balkans, was due to leave Iraq within weeks. He was confirmed before, according to his current tour, Russell was arrest­

ed by a civilian to a cease-fire esc­

charge of security south of Baghdad.

To cope with the stress, the Army uses a wide variety of pro­

grams, including social workers and other special­

ists.

Commanders, chaplains and others take turns patrolling and now also trained to watch for signs of stress and refer soldiers to mental health professionals as needed. However, some officials believe soldiers are reluctant to take advan­

However, Bolger said the com­

mand was encouraging soldiers to take advantage of clinics if they feel under stress.

"We've encouraged people to do self-refer. But then we're saying, 'We've actually encouraged them to say, 'Hey, we're not going to hold this against you,' we're rather than you self-refer— than have an incident that would be tragic,'"

William Russell said his son's case was being followed in the Russell case, with the com­

mander removing his weapon and not reintegrating him back to mental health professionals.

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MUSTANG DAILY NEWS

mustangdailynews@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

The inside of the house shown here will be revamped to allow Reuck and her grandparents move around the house easier and accommodate her disabilities.

"Our son's case was being followed in the Russell case, with the command removing his weapon and not reintegrating him back to mental health professionals."
Obama at ASU: School's goals mesh with president's

Jacques Billeaud

The abortion flap over President Barack Obama's invitation to speak at Notre Dame's graduation is getting all the attention. But Arizona State — the mega-university where he'll speak at commencement Wednesday — says a lot more about his education goals.

Obama has called for all Americans to pursue at least one year of higher education, and places such as ASU will be at the forefront of efforts to expand college access.

In recent years, the sprawling university has felt more like a booming company than a college. There is a new campus in downtown Phoenix and a newly expanded campus in nearby Mesa, along with dozens of new programs and hundreds of new faculty. As the state population has exploded, enrollment has surged by a third in eight years to 67,000 students, among the highest in the country. There are plans for 10,000 more within five years.

ASU's president, Michael Crow, insists his university can be both great and big — with both world-class research and mass-scale teaching. He calls the experiment the "New American University" and it's being closely watched nationwide. "If there is a prototype school on track and designed to fulfill (Obama's) mission, we are it," said Crow, who became president in 2002. "We're open, we're accessible, we're high quality — all those things that he talked about."

But there are also cautionary tales in ASU's experiences. Some aren't persuaded high quality and rapid expansion are compatible. And after years of blistering growth, ASU has been hit hard by the economic downturn — a reminder that Obama's target will be hopeless unless the economy starts growing again.

In his address to a joint session of Congress in February, Obama called for every American to pursue some form of education beyond high school. Arizona State University is the largest public university in the state and one of the nation's largest, with more than 40,000 students. The university's top priority is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed. ASU is committed to providing a world-class education in a supportive atmosphere, where students can thrive and achieve their goals.

State Briefs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A helicopter pilot who was videotaped receiving oral sex from a woman as he flew her around San Diego acted so recklessly that his license must be revoked, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

The actions of David Martz were so dangerous, the NTSB concluded in a written ruling that they put the lives of everyone on his aircraft and on the ground below him in danger.

The agency's ruling, reached last week in Washington, D.C., was released Tuesday and upholds previous actions revoking Martz's pilot's license by the Federal Aviation Administration and an administrative law judge.

LAKEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Authorities say eight students at a Southern California high school have been hospitalized after taking pills that a student brought to school. Los Angeles County Fire Inspector Steve Zernieno says a 14-year-old girl came to the nurse's office at Mayfair High School in Lakewood on Tuesday and complained of feeling lightheaded.

Sheriff's Lt. Brian Proctor says the pills were identified as Ativan, an anti-anxiety medication. Zernieno says the students were taken to hospitals as a precaution but did not have symptoms. It's unclear if the student who brought the pills was among those hospitalized.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man accused of helping his wife flee the scene after their car hit two USC students in a crosswalk has been charged with leaving the scene of an accident.

Josue Luna was charged Tuesday with the felony and is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Police say Luna was a passenger in a car driven by his wife that ran a red light and struck the two students March 29 near the University of Southern California.

The accident killed 18-year-old Adrianna Bachan and injured 19-year-old Marcus Garfinke.

Sheriff's Lt. Brian Proctor says the pills were identified as Ativan, an anti-anxiety medication.

Zernieno says the students were taken to hospitals as a precaution but did not have symptoms. It's unclear if the student who brought the pills was among those hospitalized.

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Formerly: MEDIUMS
Swat Valley still dangerous

People from Pakistani Sikh community who fled their homes from the troubled Swat Valley wait for food after they take refuge at a temple in Hasanahdal near Islamabad, Pakistan Tuesday. Army helicopters dropped Pakistani commandos behind Taliban lines in the Swat Valley on Tuesday as part of a widening offensive against the militants, while U.S. missiles killed eight people in an attack on a suspected insurgent hide-out elsewhere in the northwest.

WORD ON THE STREET

“My show would be called, ‘Go For the Gold,’ where athletes compete for an Olympic medal.”

Casey Schwager, business administration junior

“Our reality show would be called, ‘Your Sorority Girls in a Really Small Apartment,’ recording the daily fights, drama and drapes of life.”

Ali Daganzo, English sophomore and Megan Oliver, recreation parks and administration sophomore

“My game show would be a version of the game ‘Assassins,’ with hundreds of people marking (each other) with a pen.”

Jordan Yerkes, business administration junior

“Really Small Apartment,” record what would the premise be?”

Allison Yu, business administration sophomore

WORD ON THE STREET

If you had your own reality show what would the premise and the name of the show be?”

“I don’t mind driving this far for smaller classes,” he said. But this year he had trouble getting into the courses he needed because they filled up so quickly.

In conjunction with Obama’s visit, ASU is expanding a key financial aid program and renaming it for the president, who has also called for the United States to have the world’s highest proportion of college graduates by 2020. The level of family income needed to qualify for ASU’s program will go from $25,000 to $60,000, and the number of Arizona freshmen who will benefit next fall will more than triple.

Meanwhile, ASU has risen into the top tier (No. 121) in the U.S. News & World Report College Rankings. The school has lured dozens of big-name faculty and lavish resources on a honors college that has attracted 674 National Merit Scholars during its first year.

For students, ASU offers endless choices, including more than 250 programs and majors. But personal attention is a challenge. The latest federal figures show ASU’s six-year graduation rate is about 56 percent — about the national average.

Colin Miller, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering, lives in Tempe but likes to take classes at a campus 25 miles away.

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Prom with a cause
dance aims to aid Alzheimer’s organization

Bridget Veltri
1l-vail ,

Seniors and students will have a chance to experience prom another time around at the third annual Senior Prom on Sunday.

Unlike your average high school prom, this one raises money for a good cause, all of the proceeds from Senior Prom go to the Alzheimer’s Association.

“We are trying to reach out to the community,” business junior and Sigma Kappa sorority's vice president of philanthropy Heather Raymond said. “It’s for anyone who wants to re-live their prom and help raise awareness.”

In previous years, the prom was planned and organized by agriculture business senior Brandon Styles.

“It was kind of a lot work doing it by myself. I have always done a lot of community service work,” he said.

This year Styles teamed up with the women of the Sigma Kappa sorority to put on the event. He says he hopes that the sorority will continue the event in future years since he is graduating in spring.

Sigma Kappa seemed like the logical choice, since they already have a connection with the San Luis Obispo office of the nationwide organization.

“I wanted to do something that could be institutionalized at Cal Poly after I leave, and their philanthropy is Alzheimer’s Association,” Styles said. “This is kind of the marriage I wanted to make with them (Sigma Kappa), so they could carry this on in years to come.”

According to Raymond, the sorority is likely to continue the event in future years.

“This is kind of the marriage I wanted to make with them (Sigma Kappa), so they could carry this on in years to come.”

Sigma Kappa is likely to continue planning the event in the future.

“We have never put on an event like this before and it has been really fun,” she said. “We have had a ‘prom planning’ committee that...”

see Prom, page 6

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Retcon has staying power

I think it's time we have a little chat about my favorite mainstream superhero, Green Lantern.

Before we dive into the realm of Hal Jordan, I have to say a few words about a recent comic book method. In more officious circles, the term is known as "retcon." For all you Liymen out there, the term is short for "retroactive continuity." In more officious circles, such as their motivation for becoming a superhero.

In theory, retcons could be a good thing. They could modernize an already established character, give them new stories to be written. And they give opportunities to read awesome comic books.

However, the process is not always smooth. There are countless examples, but I'd say that DC is especially guilty of really awful retcons. Just look at "Infinite Crisis," a particularly guilty of really awful retcons.

As I grew up, I started to realize that this guy was much cooler than the fact that he wears green. Hal Jordan is part of a universe galactic power, force known as the Green Lantern Corps. Each of the many corps members polices a section of the universe, encompassing their own home world.

Their powers all come from a very special technology, their power rings. Powered by their own willpower, their ability to overcome fear, each Green Lantern Corps member can create constructs..." with their ring. Basically, with their willpower, each member can create anything. They love with their ring, from a sword or shield around their body, to more elaborate devices like a gun. The only limit is their own cleverness.

You would understand that, to me, I think it's time we have a little discussion. Hal Jordan was eventually killed off in the early '90s. Basically, Hal Jordan went AWOL and killed pretty much all of the Green Lantern Corps, and eventually was brought down himself. The DC powers that be brought in a new Green Lantern, Kyle Rayner, who was a bit more hip for the times, but was never as cool as his predecessor.

Originally, each Green Lantern had a laughably terrible weakness...the color yellow. In the 1960s, many superheroes had some awful weaknesses, but for the times they weren't too awful. However, as time progressed, writers have retconned this pretty lame weakness as being an impurity in the central power battery where all members recharge their rings. But I don't want to bore you with the details.

More recently with the series "Green Lantern: Rebirth," Hal Jordan has finally come back from the dead. Now I am not usually one to buy into these kinds of stories, where it almost seems like writers are dying for comic book sales, but it was actually pretty awesome. Not to mention they have brought back my favorite superhero ever.

So here we are in 2009, and the Green Lantern series is really getting awesome. It is written by Geoff Johns who is in my opinion the best mainstream comic book writer in the business.

In the summer of 2007, Johns started the "Sinestro Corps War," series, which was pretty epic, and set the stage for this summer's event, "In Blackest Night." Oh man, my nerd senses are tingling. I really think you should check out this series because it is freakin' sweet. I'd start with "Green Lantern: Rebirth," but if you are too impatient, the "Sinestro Corps War" trades are a good start as well.

Jon Monteith is a history senior and Mustang Daily's comic book columnist.
Big name comic brings comedy to Cal Poly

Zach Lastiz  
MUSTANG DAILY

World famous and award-winning comic Ralphie May brings his highly-anticipated comedic performance to Mustang Auditorium tonight.

“I definitely think that this will be one of our more higher attended comedians of the year,” Associated Students Inc. Program Coordinator Michelle Curro said.

May, who got his big break as runner-up for “Last Comic Standing” in 2004, is possibly the most accomplished performer to ever come to Cal Poly. May has produced three hour-long Comedy Central specials including Birth of a Nation, Prime Cut and Austin-tatious.

The buzz around campus has been big leading up to today and that excitement is felt by the staff who put it together.

(“We wanted) name recognition that would be seen throughout campus” recreation administration junior and ASI Special Events Coordinator Dana Matteson said. “I feel like the event is going to be a success.”

The selection process for picking a comic is a long one and the staff here at Cal Poly went through a lot of research in terms of watching YouTube, Saturday Night Live and late night talk shows.

“We have a group of students that get together every quarter...and their sole job is to do research on up and coming entertainment that they feel would be a good fit for Cal Poly students,” Curro said.

“It’s completely student driven.”

The staff of ASI started doing research on May and other possible comics in January. “They go out and immerse themselves in pop culture by talking to students, doing surveys and other events,” Curro said.

After the research is done, the student-led team submits their top selections for artists they want to see come perform. May and Justin Blue are the two comics that were approved. Both will be performing this month.

May’s southern drawl adds to his observational style of comedy, which covers pop culture issues and sometimes is controversial. His first CD “Just Correct” went platinum in 2004 as May went on a one-man mission not to be “politically correct.”

The staff that invited May is aware of the possible offensive nature of his jokes and urges students to research him before coming tonight.

“I think every comedian has their niche as far as what their jokes are in reference to,” Curro said referencing May’s no holds barred comedic style.

“I always suggest looking (the comedian) up on YouTube and doing a little bit of research for yourself to see if this is a type of comedian that you find funny.”

Still, she seemed sure that students would show up for the event.

“All of the events (that we put on), you can’t appease (everyone),” Matteson said. “People can make their own decisions where (or not) to come to the event.”

Ralphie May performs tonight at 8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium. Blue, who was the winner NBC’s season four of Last Comic Standing will also perform there on May 21.

Both performances are open to the public and free with a PolyCard. Admission is $10 without.

6 landscape paintings stolen from Dutch museum

Arthur Max  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Thieves pried open the emergency door of a small Dutch museum with an iron bar and made off with six 17th- and 19th-century landscape paintings — the second major art heist in 10 days in the Netherlands.

The break-in at a 3 a.m. Monday set off an alarm that summoned police within minutes but the burglars already had fled, leaving behind two paintings that they dropped in their haste and damaged, Mark de Kok, a spokesman for the city of IJsselstein, said Tuesday.

The paintings included three by Jan van Goyen, a prolific contemporary of Rembrandt who died in 1656. The others were a 17th-century painting by Pieter de Neuw and 19th-century pieces by Willem Roonbos and Adrianus van Everdingen. The damaged works were by Salomon van Ruysdael and Salomon Rombouts.

The paintings, on loan from the Dutch government, were mostly river scenes set in the flat countryside typical of northern Holland, a specialty of the IJsselstein City Museum. The town is a suburb of Amsterdam.

Security expert Lon Cremers, of Museum Security Network, a private company that advises museums on security, and urges museums to research him before coming tonight.

Both performances are open to the public and free with a PolyCard. Admission is $10 without.

Goodies from Japan and France

The paintings “River view with passengers in a carriage” by Salomon Jacobus, van Ruysdael (above) were stolen from City Museum IJsselstein, Netherlands on Tuesday.

Van Gogh, with an estimated value of up to $90 million, were stolen from the Kroller-Muller Museum in a park in the eastern Netherlands. Police later recovered all three paintings.
Property rights are imperative to free speech

by Jeremy Hicks

Of all the rights embraced by Americans, free speech is probably one of the most sacrosanct and revered. Today I have the rude and unpleasant task of telling you that such a reverence is misplaced. For there is no such thing as free speech. Not in the absence of private property that is. Property rights are the means by which speech is secured and thus liberated. In the absence of property rights, free speech is greatly impaired. It’s been long been a source of amusement and annoyance to me that libertarians are so often decided for their enthusiasm on property rights as though their bias makes them fearful materialistic cretins and perhaps most cruelly, “closet Republicans.” Let’s it (would be a tragic misuse of language to call them liberals) appear to believe that they are special cretins graced with the capacity to speak at the party and elemental fact that it is property rights while endlessly praising the more intangible rights like freedom of speech.

Given this climate of debate where the notion of property rights is seen as a class and unwelcome facet, it is quite a natural regression for society to steadily decline into endless bickering about what can and can’t be said.

Sadly, this decline is nowhere more evident than at the center stage of academics, the university. At Cal Poly, as is in other universities, the eggheads are increasingly devoted, not to curing cancer or AIDS, but to the exciting new task of creating censorship, impressive, and thoroughly restrictive speech codes. CABLE-Net, the now Cal Poly speech police threat to existence by the incident involving a moose at the T. C. Andrews House, is a clear indication of the time and resources that are being devoted to this new mission.

Despite the endless debate that certain types of speech and expression proscribes, the vital consideration that remains woefully neglected is not so much what one says but where one says it.

The latter question recognizes the importance of property rights and preserves free speech to its fullest extent while confirming it to the limitations imposed by property ownership. The former leads inevitably to restrictive and controlled speech, with the controller usually being the government.

The strongest defense of free speech, especially in the political realm, is the right to property, the right to rent an apartment and live in it to one’s heart’s content. In this climate, speech, along with all other forms of expression, is granted a special security that simply impossible absent property rights.

Consider the alternative, which is usually public property. Free speech on public property is really an illusion that the term “public property” is in fact a euphemism for a practically a pseudonym for government property and the government always seeks to control what it claims ownership to.

Take the roads. They are “public” but essentially controlled by the government, from the speed limits to the type of asphalt to the width of the lanes. Or consider Cal Poly, where last year during the 2008 election, the Students for Obama group attracted some unwelcome attention to themselves for chalkling their candidate’s slogans all over campus. Unfortunately for the club, the fun did not last and they were sternly ordered by university officials to cease and, in so many words, clean up their scrawled messes. The club protested, citing a right to free speech which they believed was unduly restricted.

Naturally, the club’s free speech was being limited because there really is no such thing as free speech in the public sphere: it is only free as the government allows. (In this case, the Cal Poly administration allows.)

In a free society, there is a nearly unlimited ability to chalk as many presidential slogans as one wishes in one’s own house, that is, on one’s own property.

This is the reason libertarians place such an emphasis on private property. It is the only right that makes all the other rights possible. Without private property, free speech is limited to whatever the government considers acceptable. This is a frightening possibility, no matter what one’s political party.

Speaking of free speech, the Mustang Daily will be looking for someone to take over the editorial column for next year. This year I have had the honor of establishing a precedent that even small and neglected schools of thought deserve a role in the public forum. It has been a distinct pleasure to write in this capacity and I sincerely hope that the vacated space which I leave at the end of this year will be replaced by someone who can improve upon my humble beginnings.

I might also add that, despite my clumsiness and general inadequacies as a writer, this column has been one of the most well-read columns this year. I believe this speaks to the importance and appeal of the ideals and applications of the libertarian school of thought which, though almost honorably counterintuitive, are decidedly unconventional and radical given the primitive and backward setting in which we find ourselves.

This is an open casting call to any writer that might be up to the challenge. I encourage you to apply to be a columnist when the Mustang Daily announces next year’s columnist vacancies.

Jeremy Hicks is a 2008 political science graduate, the former editor of the libertarian Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.
Time served, time to play again

Baseball isn't the only sport having problems dealing with infamous character issues. Football has its share of problems that need addressing this off-season as well. One in particular is of great concern as it has the ability to taint the image of the sport for the entire year.

It wasn't more than two years ago that Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick was arrested to 23 felony charges for funding and operating a puppy mill. This was more than two years ago that dog lovers across the nation were calling for the maximum sentence for Vick. Pick's signs and protests surrounded the courtroom. The same man who was once the face of football, scoured his name and defiled the game along with it. He went from fan favorite to public enemy number one.

Vick has served nearly 22 months of his sentence that ends June 29. He will be released to spend the remainder of his sentence under home confinement starting May 20. As his release date creeps closer, a tough decision is weighing in the back of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's mind.

It's serious: The NFL has a reputation to uphold in society, but it also has a responsibility to do what is fair for the player. And no matter what decision Goodell makes, it is guaranteed to be the wrong one.

During a panel discussion at Washington and Lee University, Goodell said that Vick would have to show "genuine remorse" for what he has done in order to return to the NFL.

So, say Goodell can discern "genuine remorse" and does decide that he will reinitiate Vick. What then? A daily mob in front of the arena where he plays in every Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Saturday (how many days a week do they play again?)?

In the eyes of some people, nothing he ever does will ever be good enough. He could wear a "ETA" shirt every day, Monday, Thursday, Saturday, but they would still see the persecutor. He could walk around with a chihuahua, dressed in his favorite outfit. He could be Paul after Saul and people will still see the persecutor.

In an interview with Fox Sports, retired defensive linemen Michael Strahan said that Vick "could go out and do some of the greatest things mankind has ever seen and I still don't know if it would be good enough for people not to protest his getting a job in the NFL."

— Michael Strahan

Ryan Moriarty physics senior

We're finally "there"!

In response to Mary Vance's letter to the editor: You know what? Fine. You win. I'm all for allowing underrepresented groups to have a voice within the Mustang Daily. In practice, the policy allows us to have a newspaper with a colorful writing staff that tackle a wide range of often overlooked social and political issues. Such reasoning has given us the privilege to enjoy two weekly libertarian columns, a comic book column, a "hipper" column, and now a bisexual sex column. So, congratulations, Jenny Ray, you and your bisexual ilk now share ranks with Ron Paul supporters and would-be Pitchfork reviewers. Nevermind that Prop 8 passed: we're finally "there."

Mercedes Rodriguez journalism freshman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mustang Daily made right decision not to endorse a candidate

Dear Mustang Daily,

I applaud your decision to remain neutral when it came to endorsing a candidate. Contrary to Monday's Letter to the Editor, your decision to not back any of this year's contenders did not reflect badly upon our student population. It is not the job of the media to endorse candidates, only to inform the public of the options available to them. Failing to do that properly, which includes giving one potential ASI president more coverage than the rest, is partisan and cannot truly reflect the opinions of the student body at large.

DEAN ROHRER

find out what our reporters & editors are thinking

blogs.mustangdaily.net

prison, about rebuilding his life and finding his purpose. This meeting with Dungy can only make the decision easier for the commissioner.

What should Goodell do?

Reinstate Vick and let him play. Let him make a statement. Let him be the great comeback story that only he can be. Let him be an inspiration for others who are sitting at rock bottom, looking for a way out.

Clinton McGee is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily sports reporter.
NBA
continued from page 11
it happens.
As far as anyone knows it’s not predetermined. But from the All-Star break on it sure has seemed preordained.
Kobe versus LeBron. Could it ever be anything else?
No, and nothing that has transpired so far in these playoff series suggests that we won’t get the final matchup that everyone outside of a few select cities wants. That includes the little hiccup the Lakers suffered in Houston when Bryant and his teammates found out Yao Ming was gone and simply didn’t show up to play on Mother’s Day.
That was so embarrassing that the Zen Master himself, Phil Jackson, uttered a naughty word on national television. But Jackson hasn’t needed to as Cleveland hasn’t needed to as well.
He hasn’t needed to as well.
We’re playing for a championship. An advance is an advance. It doesn’t matter if you win in four games or you win Game 7. We’re happy that we’re playing great basketball … but we’re not taking for granted what we’re doing right now.”
While Stern and company have to be salvaging over a Lakers-Cavs finals, they have to be happy with the undercard so far. TV ratings have been up and there have been some good upsides from the overtime excitement in Boston and Chicago to Cuban’s buffoonery in Dallas.
But it’s all little more than filler before the main event begins.
Officially it will be the Cavs against the Lakers, but anyone who pays any attention to the star hierarchy of basketball knows it’s much bigger than that.
Last year’s MVP against this year’s MVP. One of the greatest players of his time versus a player who someday could become the greatest of all time.
The Nike marketing machine will kick into overdrive. Beautiful people will be at courtside, even in Cleveland.
And network television will suddenly become relevant once again.

Tillman
continued from page 11
award citation for their speeches. In 2007, the Army overrode a Pentagon recommendation that McChrystal be held accountable for his “misleading” actions.
In a book published last year, Mary Tillman accused McChrystal of helping create the false story line that she said “diminished Pat’s true actions.”
Her one-sentence e-mail to the AP on Tuesday said, “It is imperative that Lt. General McChrystal be scrutinized carefully during the Senate hearings.”
Last year, however, the Senate unanimously approved promoting McChrystal from a two-star general to a three-star general as director of the Pentagon’s Joint Staff.
Similarly, this time around, Senate Armed Services Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., “does not foresee any problems with Gen. McChrystal’s confirmation” with the committee, a Levin aide said Tuesday.
Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the committee’s top Republican, backs the decision to change leadership in Afghanistan and will support McChrystal’s nomination, said Brooke Buchanan, a McCain spokeswoman.
McCain was highly critical of the Army’s handling of the Tillman investigation, and in April 2007 he called the service’s actions “inexcusable and unconscionable.”

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS

BASEBALL

VS. SANTA CLARA
MONDAY, MAY 18, 6:00PM
BAGGEY STADIUM

Adam Buschini
San Ramon, CA

Adams Meller
Claremont, CA

Former NFL star and Army Ranger Pat Tillman, shown above, was killed by friendly fire in Afghanistan in 2004.

BUSINESS

www.mustangdaily.net

SPORTS designer: Kate Nickerson

TODAY’S SOLUTION

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Emphasis on solving problems...
SPORTS

MUSTANG DAILY

Sports psychology helping Cal Poly athletes

Clinton McGeue

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all of fame catcher Yogi Berra said it best. "A percent of the game is mental, the other half is physical."

Well, maybe he didn't say it best, but the meaning is understood. Contrary to popular belief, physical ability is trumped by a player's intelligence, confidence and attitude in the world of sports.

That's why sports psychologists are in high demand among athletes playing at the collegiate and professional levels. Jeff Troesch is one of them and has been working in close quarters with Cal Poly coaches and athletes for the past five years.

He has worked with every Mustang team, with the exception of football, helping student athletes balance their lives on and off the field. He advises them on how to develop a plan and maintain a healthy balance between life and athletics.

Generally speaking, the main goal for a sports psychologist is to help players maintain an even keel and handle them hiccups in specific skills that produce high levels of confidence and low levels of anxiety, Troesch said.

"I want them to really focus on developing their skills and getting better as an athlete, rather than focusing on the outcomes," Troesch explained. "If they worry about the outcome, they are distracted from being competitive."

Troesch is currently working with the baseball and softball teams at Cal Poly. He also works with teams from UC Berkeley and U.C. Los Angeles. Despite living away from most of his work, he keeps busy through his part-time job.

He has many high-profile athletes that come to him for advice. He even works with athletes that he has never met in person.

"There are some clients that I've worked with and have no idea what they look like," Troesch said. "For the most part though, it's helpful for me to be on site, in the dugout or on the sideline." On site is how Cal Poly's baseball head coach Larry Lee likes it. Troesch can be seen in the dugout out of either the softball or baseball team during this time of year, talking with players after games and giving his two cents.

"As a coach I tend to work on the physical aspect of the sport," Lee said of Troesch's importance to the team. "But Jeff can add to mental part that the coaching staff neglects."

According to Lee, sports psychologists are especially important in adjusting a baseball player's mindset when playing the game.

"Baseball's a game of failure," Lee explained. "So, helping players respond positively is very helpful."

Troesch's services extend beyond the just the players' needs. He also helps the coaches to connect with their teams based on the different personalities that make up the two parties.

"Players open up more to someone on the outside than someone on the inside," Lee said. "We don't know everything that is going on in our players' lives and what they are dealing with. And as the head coach I'm usually the last to know."

Troesch originally became interested in the profession after working as a public relations specialist for the Seattle Supersonics. During his time there, he realized there was a dire need for sports psychology in the professional arena. So he went back to school to work on his graduate degree at Washington State University, where he got his first true taste while working with athletes and academia.

Since then he has worked as for the NBA as a part of the psychological team and provided his services for some accomplished franchises in the MLB such as the Seattle Mariners and Detroit Tigers. He also works on an individual basis with some high-profile athletes.

Despite working with teams and players all over the nation, Troesch has found a home in San Luis Obispo. In what may sound like an ideal location for a person in his profession, Troesch would rather sacrifice face time with his clients than face time with his family.

"It was a family decision," he explained. "This is a great place to raise my kids and I can do what I do from anywhere."