Previously undiscovered fault found near Diablo Canyon

No clear-cut directions for campus in case of nuclear incident at plant

New Obama rules will transform US auto fleet

Students, community walk in memorial for Cal Poly student
the engine, saving fuel. Powered by electricity rather than by combustion engines and power steering pumps are eliminated, saving $4 a gallon last summer, people flocked to smaller cars. Gas is much cheaper now, and sales of hybrids have plummeted. The changes will start with smaller cars and trucks, and improvements to the internal combustion engine, Fedewa said. Automakers also already working on new technology, including direct fuel injection and high compression of the air-fuel mixture, that will make cars and trucks more efficient.

Car companies are reworking vehicles so components such as air conditioners and power steering pumps are powered by electricity rather than by the engine, saving fuel. And they're developing computer-controlled transmissions with six or more gears, adding efficiency, and rolling out more gas-electric hybrids — among the few cars sold today that meet the 2016 standards. Of course, developing the technology will cost money — billions of dollars — and automakers will pass that on to their customers. The Obama administration says the changes mean the average vehicle would cost about $1,300 more, although some private analysts say the increase will be much higher. The administration says gas savings will more than make up the difference in about three years. Automakers have said they need stable, relatively high gasoline prices to create a market for electric vehicles. General Motors fears rolling out its rechargeable Chevrolet Volt next year with gas at $3 per gallon. American consumers have already shown their car-buying habits can change rapidly depending on gas prices. When fuel cost $4 a gallon last summer, people flocked to smaller cars. Gas is much cheaper now, and sales of hybrids have plummeted. "The U.S. consumer has consistently chosen performance over fuel economy given the relatively low cost of fuel," David Leiker, senior automotive analyst for Robert W. Baird & Co. in Milwaukee, wrote in a note to investors.

The Volt is designed to run 40 miles on battery power when it is fully charged. After that, a small internal combustion engine kicks in to generate electricity to keep the car going. Other automakers are working on similar systems. But the Volt is expected to sell for $35,000 to $40,000, and buyers may be unwilling to pay that much for a sedan, even if tax credits help ease the burden, unless gas prices soar. Recarable electric vehicles, which under government calculations could get 100 mpg or more, would help automakers meet the standards and offset sales of larger, less-efficient models. Obama continued from page 1

Diablo continued from page 1

Diablo Canyon is not a primary concern among emergency personnel in case of a major earthquake, said Ron Aho, Emergency Services Manager for the County Office of Emergency Services. Dam failure and roadway damage are more pressing because of the immediate impact they have on the county's response, he said, adding that there are PG&E employees to work on any problems at Diablo Canyon immediately after they occur. When asked if the current fault mapping techniques were adequate to determine the safety risks, Aho said, "Yes and no.""It's adequate with what we know but the challenge is what we know is constantly being updated," he said, adding that the Office of Emergency Services was fully supportive of legislation that provides more information on faults near Diablo but throughout the county. Cal Poly is included in "protection action zone" which means that the state of California is primarily responsible for any emergency steps that would be taken, whereas zones one through five are the responsibility of FEMA. In the case of an emergency, Cal Poly takes direction from the county, said David Rapagede, Cal Poly's Manager of Environmental Health and Safety, adding that Cal Poly has plans in case there is a need to shelter or evacuate the students and faculty. The specifics of these plans are not available to the public because of safety concerns over allowing anyone to know where a large group of people would be evacuated. "Homeland Security has had us pull out of public information," Rapagede said.

Cal Poly has a text message alert system that notifies students of any kind of emergency affecting campus. The lack of information leaves Cal Poly students uncertain about what to do in case of an emergency at the plant. Rachel Ellis, animal science senior, said that if something happened at Diablo Canyon, she would probably call her mother. She did know that taking iodide could help to prevent some contamination. The Office of Emergency Services Web site states that "Potassium iodide protects the thyroid gland against exposure to radioactive iodine in the unlikely event of a radiation release from a nuclear power plant emergency." The Web site also said that the best protection against radiation is evacuation or sheltering. Cal Poly has a small supply of potassium iodide on campus for emergency personnel, Rapagede said. The Office of Emergency Services has two main factors in determining a course of action in the event of an emergency: The amount of radioactive material released and the speed and direction of the wind.

The warning sirens are the first notice to the general public of an emergency. When they go off, people are asked to go inside and turn on the radio and television to a local station. Information about evacuations will be broadcasted as part of the Emergency Alert System. If an evacuation is ordered, residents are advised to leave the protective action zones and to stay with friends or family that live over the grade. The general evacuation areas are north to Camp Roberts in Monterey County or south to the Santa Maria Foothills. Those without a car or a ride can go to one of three staging areas for Cal Poly students on the event of any campus evacuations, Alex G. Spanos Stadium, the corner of Mont Bishop and Highland Drive and in the G-1-R2 parking lot by Grand Ave. and Slack Street.

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WORD ON THE STREET

"How informed were you on the on the special election propositions?"

"Not very. I briefed through the article in the Mustang and got a packet in my mail at home, but I haven't really looked at it."

Jen Russell, business administration junior

"I know a little bit about the initiatives for funding on the state college level. It's really hard to get accurate information from people on campus because everyone has their own bias."

-Trevor Inglisham, art and design junior

"Not very much at all."

Chris Warmuth, business administration junior

"The only proposal I know about regards CSU fees." -Josh Jacobs, business administration senior

Big names and bucks back nuclear 'bank'

Charles J. Hanley

Buffett's bankroll, Obama's clout and the partnership of a savvy ex-Soviet strongman may turn the steppes of Central Asia into a nuclear megacell, a go-to place for "safe" uranium fuel in an increasingly nervous atomic age.

The $500 million idea, with seed money from U.S. billionaire Warren Buffett, must still navigate the tricky back nuclear 'bank' of the Manhattan Project, a Cold War-era creation designed to contain one of the world's most dangerous technologies. Obama's team is trying to make peace with the savagery of the past and the partnership of a savvy ex-Soviet strongman, which they hope will deliver a clean, safe, non-proliferative alternative to the world's nuclear arms.

This is not a new idea. Since the Manhattan Project was established in 1942, there have been efforts to create a "nuclear bank" to contain and secure the world's nuclear weapons. However, these efforts have been met with mixed success.

The idea gained momentum in the late 1990s with the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) to secure and destroy nuclear weapons. However, the efforts were not without controversy and setbacks.

In the early 2000s, the Bush administration proposed the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) to secure and destroy nuclear weapons. However, the GTRI was never funded and was eventually scrapped.

Obama has been more successful in pushing for nuclear security initiatives. In 2010, the United States and Russia signed the New START treaty, which would reduce the number of nuclear weapons each country could possess. Obama has also been a vocal advocate for the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has pushed for greater transparency in nuclear negotiations.

Obama's efforts have been bolstered by the support of key allies, including Buffett and Saudi Arabia. Buffett has been a vocal advocate for nuclear security and has donated millions to organizations working to secure nuclear weapons. Saudi Arabia, which has a significant nuclear program, has also been a vocal supporter of nuclear security efforts.

Despite these efforts, there are still significant challenges to securing the world's nuclear weapons. The ongoing nuclear arms race between North Korea and the United States is just one example of the challenges that remain.

Big names and bucks back nuclear 'bank'
Fossilized remains found

Scientists unveiled the skeleton of a 47 million-year-old creature from Germany, Tuesday that may help illuminate the early evolution of monkeys, apes and humans.

Nuclear

In a historic speech to tens of thousands in Prague, the Czech capital, Barack Obama detailed an aggressive plan for arms control, including setting up an international fuel bank, "so that countries can access peaceful power without increasing the risks of proliferation."

That's the fear: The centrifuges that enrich uranium with its fissionable isotope U-235, to produce power-plant fuel, can be left spinning to enrich it much more, producing fissionable, highly enriched uranium for nuclear bombs.

Only a dozen nations have enrichment plants, but ElBaradei's Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) foresees nuclear power use almost doubling in the next 20 years. More and more governments may want the fuel-making capability.

"The real risk is that highly enriched uranium could be acquired by terrorist groups," Russian government adviser Alexander Konovalov told a conference in Rome on nuclear dangers. "All they need is 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of enriched uranium. All the rest (to make a bomb) can be found on the Internet."

The IAEA's 35-nation board of governors is expected to address the issue at its June meeting. A raft of proposals has surfaced, including a German idea to build an IAEA enrichment plant on "internationalized" soil somewhere, to sell fuel to countries committed to nonproliferation.

"Assurance" is the buzzword — a desire to assure future Iran that won't be politically motivated cutoffs of nuclear fuel supplies, and so they needn't build, at huge cost, their own enrichment plants.

Only one proposal has upfront money behind it, however — the idea advanced by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), a Washington-based organization founded by philanthropist Ted Turner and former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn.

Calling it an "investment in a safer world," investor and NTI adviser Buffett, considered America's richest man, pledged $50 million to such a bank, provided governments put up an additional $100 million. That threshold was passed in March, most of the money coming from the U.S. and the European Union.

The $150 million would buy enough low-enriched uranium to fuel a 1,000-megawatt power plant, jump-starting a constantly replenished fuel stockpile that would be owned and sold by the IAEA at market prices and on a nondiscriminatory basis.

On April 6, the day after Obama's address, another piece of that puzzle fell into place nearly 3,000 miles (5,000 kilometers) from Prague, when another president spoke at Astana, capital of the ex-Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

"If a nuclear fuel bank for nuclear energy was created, then Kazakhstan would consider hosting it," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced to reporters.

Nazi Sayeed, a former president of that nation and Kazakhstan's large uranium deposits, Nazarbayev regularly reminds the world that he gave up leftover Soviet nuclear weapons in 1992.

"It has a lot of qualifications," Nunn said of Kazakhstan. "It would be highly symbolic to put the fuel bank in a country that got rid of nuclear weapons."

The NTI co-chairman told The Associated Press he first approached the Kazakh leader about hosting a fuel bank "a couple of years ago." By this May 5, Nazarbayev's foreign minister was in Washington discussing the plan with Gen. James Jones, Obama's national security adviser.

Most intriguing, perhaps, was the fact that Nazarbayev's announcement came with Iran's visiting president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, standing at his side. The Iranian called the fuel bank "a very good proposal." In fact, Tehran has suggested that an international fuel bank, which some fear could lead to an Iranian bomb. But Nunn said a Kazakh or other multinational fuel bank, by involving Iran in an enterprise with international oversight, "could be a very useful tool, not the whole answer but part of an answer." He called it "the Iranian challenge."

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Wednesday, May 20, 2009
A New Hope for Star Wars fans: Comics!

I have to say that my first step into the world of nerdly things was Star Wars. I first saw "Episode IV: A New Hope" when I was about four or five. There were a few years during my childhood I remember watching all of George Lucas’ original trilogy on the original, not special edition, VHS at least once a week. I was hooked.

As time went on, I found myself in a bookstore with my parents and stumbled upon a new drug, if you will: Star Wars fiction, better known as the “Expanded Universe.” My senses were tingling.

My first glimpse into the Expanded Universe was “Shadows of the Empire,” a pretty epic story that takes place between Episode V and VI, the Empire,” a pretty epic story that is one of the most watched annual television events in the world, despite being written off by some as an “Expanded Universe.” I was well versed in Star Wars lore that I could pretty much name most species, vehicles, characters, and in all the movies.

Then the second trilogy came out.

Due to my disappointment with the new trilogy and my continuing love for Star Wars even though I felt George Lucas had missed it, I began during the last few years of the Expanded Universe.

I am going to assume that most people have heard of Dungeons and Dragons. For those of you who haven’t, basically it is a game where you get together, make characters, roll dice, have fun and let their darkness run wild. Don’t confuse this with LARPing, however. Live action role-playing is a entirely different class of dark, where guys and the occasional girl dress up and act out a role-playing game. I’ve never actually done it myself, but sadly, I’ve always wanted to try.

So in high school my friends and I began to play Star Wars RPG. Let me tell you, it was awesome. Most of the time we would play in our friend’s garage, drink a lot of soda, eat a lot of chips and roll a lot of dice. And I know what you’re thinking, but I did have a girlfriend back then and she was cute too. Thank you very much.

However, these last few years my interest in Star Wars has waned. I’ve sort of moved on to newer nerd things, like comic books, and I don’t really think I’ll ever read another Star Wars novel. However, to my rather recent discovery, there are some fairly decent Star Wars comics.

Dark Horse, the wonderful comic book publisher, has put out Star Wars comics for the last few years. The biggest two are “Legacy” and “Knights of the Old Republic.” I myself have just read the first story arcs of both of these series, and I must say, they’re really good.

“Legacy” takes place in the future, some 100 plus years after episode VI, with the main character being a descendent of Anakin Skywalker. “Knights of the Old Republic” is the complete opposite, taking place thousands of years prior to Episode I. Each book is full of the force, droids, lightsabers, blasters and general awesomeness.

So if you’re like me and you miss Star Wars but don’t really know how to get back, then give Dark Horse’s Star Wars comics a try.

Bryony Norwegian wins Eurovision Song Contest

Peter Leonard

MOSCOW (AP) — A boisterous, fiddle-wielding Norwegian singer won the Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow on Saturday night, his bouncy ditty the highlight of the musical bonanza stacked with pyrotechnic artistry and stunning electronic visuals on an epic scale.

Twenty-five performers from across Europe competed in Moscow in a musical bonanza that is one of the most watched annual television events in the world, despite being written off by some as an “Expanded Universe.”

“Fairytale,” penned and performed by 23-year-old fiddler Alexander Rybak, blew away competition from Iceland’s Yohanna, who finished second, and Azerbaijan’s

Peter Leonard

in Russian from the stage after the result was announced. “You are the greatest people in the world,” he proclaimed, before launching into a repeat performance of the winning entry.

Russia was trying to capitalize on its Eurovision success.

Peter Leonard

see Eurovision, page 7
Cal Poly education helps Hollywood writer

Jennifer Titcomb
MUSTANG DAILY

Jim Kouf may have left San Luis Obispo's laid-back lifestyle for the fast-paced Hollywood scene, but he took with him the love for writing he developed while attending Cal Poly. Since graduating from Cal Poly in 1974, Kouf has become a screenwriter, director and producer for film and television shows. Some of his credits include writing screenplays for "National Treasure," "Rush Hour," "Snow Dogs," "Stakeout" and episodes for the TV shows "Ghost Whisperer" and "Angel.

Kouf returned to his roots last week, as part of the College of Liberal Arts' distinguished speaker series. He discussed his career path, the TV shows "Ghost Whisperer" and "Angel," for "National Treasure," "Snow Dogs," "Disorganized Crime," "Stakeout," "Ghost Whisperer" (2006, 2007) and "Angel" (2001-2002).

His history background came in handy when writing the script for "National Treasure," a film filled with historical landmarks that the main characters encounter as they embark on a hunt for treasure.

Kouf said discovering he had the ability to write well was the most important skill he learned at Cal Poly.

"It was when I took play writing that I discovered I could do this and get As and it wasn't that difficult and I really enjoyed it," he said. "Everyone was suffering with their senior projects and I wrote a play. It was really then that I discovered I could maybe do this and make a living at it."

After graduation, Kouf moved back home to Burbank, Calif. for a few weeks before moving in with friends in Casmag Park, Calif.

"I didn't want to leave San Luis Obispo. I was living the life, there was no traffic, the weather was good. I was right next to the beach," he said. "That was a hard, hard transition, I didn't know what I was going to do."" Kouf worked jobs selling paint and driving a truck while writing in his spare time. Two years, 11 TV and six feature scripts later, he had his first success. He gave the script to his future agent, who was working in the mainroom at the time and who then forwarded it to his mother, a producer at the time.

"Mom liked it enough that she paid me $500 and made me rewrite it about 10 times," Kouf said. "It took me awhile to understand that you really need to go over it again and again and again to make sure it's right, but that script got me into such great shape that the script then started to get me work."

His script "Whitewater" was later renamed "White Water Rebels," and appeared as a made-for-TV movie. And he's been working in the industry ever since.

Kouf met his wife on the Paramount Pictures lot. She is a producer and was working on "Airplane 2" while he was working on "Airplane IV." He said in his presentation. The couple have four children and have worked as business partners for the past 20 years.

"We're always around our offices at home; he's in one room and I'm in the other," Lynn Kouf said. "There at six o'clock, sort of when it's all over, then we are parents and husband and wife. It's great, I think work really well together."

Their most recent film, "A Fork in the Road," cost $1 million dollars and was filmed in Montana where they live sporadically throughout the year.

"We cast this movie out of our living room, it was great. We had all these actors showing up at our house and the kids kept peaking around the corner while they were reading," she said.

The movie's fate is unknown. It is currently with a sales agency that will try to find buyers worldwide who then sell it to distributors.

Kouf described the film as a classic farce.

"The basic idea was what if a guy escapes from prison, hits up in a house and sees something that will ultimately change his life! That was the basic beginning of that," Kouf said. "I don't know how my mind keeps coming up with new ideas for scripts, only that it does.

"There is drama going around every day all around, and some of it's funny and some of it is not," he said. "You get an idea and you write it down and my feeling is that if the idea sticks with you long enough, it is worth pursuing and some ideas you look at it the next day and think that's the dumbest idea I've ever heard."

He explained his thought process when writing the script for "Stakeout."

"I wanted to do a movie about two guys stuck in a room, that was it, that was my basic concept. Two guys stuck in a room, why are they stuck in a room? Who gets stuck in a room?" he said. "Well cops can get stuck in a room during a stakeout. Well now I have two cops stuck in a room, now what can they do?"

The movie won an Edgar Allen Poe Award for Best Motion Picture in 1988.

Kouf said his proudest accomplishment is his family. Professionally, however, "I have had three movies in the top 10: "Stakeout," "Rush Hour" and "National Treasure" have all been in the top-10 money makers for their respective years," he said. "There is a movie called 'The Hidden' and my name on it is Bob Hunt because at one point in my career I had a science fiction side and a regular side and that happened to go into the science fiction side and that became a cult movie.

In the future he has no plans of retiring or to stop what he loves best; Writing

"I don't think this has ever been a job because I've never not wanted to go to work and my hours are never set so I could work a five-hour day or a 14-hour day, you never know," he said.

He compares his line of work to a circus with constant travel. Kouf's films have taken him to France, England and Morroco. Currently, he is developing several different projects and will go to Italy for five weeks to teach a writing class for New York University.

"My advice is find whatever you are passionate about and do it," he said. "If you're passionate about it that's what you're going to want to do and you're not going to object to going to work."

"Follow your passions because money doesn't matter," he added. "If you love what you are doing, you don't care, you really don't care."
Eurovision

continued from page 7

on the prestigious event to showcase the nation's hospitality and growing role in modern society, but those efforts were undermined several hours earlier when riot police attacked gay pride rallies in the capital.

Gay rights activists sought to use the international competition to draw attention to what they call widespread discrimination against homosexuals in Russia. No injuries were reported.

Police hauled away around 40 demonstrators, including British-based activist Peter Tatchell and American activist Andy Thayer of Chicago, co-founder of the Gay Liberation Network.

"Today's arrests go against the principles of Eurovision, which are about peace, harmony, cooperation and unity between all the peoples in Europe," Tatchell told The Associated Press after being released by police.

Rybak criticized the protesters for choosing the same day as the contest — which has a large following in European gay communities — to vent their frustrations.

"I think it is a little bit sad that they chose to have (the protests) today ... They were spending all their energy on that parade, while the biggest gay parade in the world was tonight," Rybak said at Eurovision.

Minsk-born Rybak, who left Belarus when he was four years old with his musician parents, earned the minimum number of points from several of the participating former Soviet satellite countries.

His performance was greeted by rapturous applause from the spectators thronging the Olimpiisky Sports Complex in central Moscow. The crowd heard a wide array of songs, ranging from traditional cheesy pop to tear-jerking ballads and ear-piercing operatic melodies.

Norway list won the competition in 1995 and will host the show next year.

Russia was pinning its hopes on "Mano," an overweight ballad composed by a Georgian songwriter and partially performed in Ukrainian by a Ukrainian-born artist Anastasia Prikhodko, but she could only muster 11th place.

U.S. burlesque artiste Dita Von Teese, ex-wife of rocker Marilyn Manson, spiced up Germany's act by straddling a shiny lip-shaped black plastic sofa. In an apparent concession to the organizers' sensibilities, Von Teese toned down her initially planned performance, which involved her stripping off her top down to just sparkly nipple warmers.
War on drugs puts the fight in otherwise peaceful exchange of goods

By Jeremy Hicks

I submit that men prefer to settle scores with other creatures that actually have an appreciation for the concept of a scoring system, that is, other men. You can beat a tree all day with your fists and it probably will take very little offense and will, no matter how ferociously you beat, refuse to show remorse for any wrongdoing.

There is a very famous scene in literature in which the dauntless Don Quixote rushes the windmills. Miguel de Cervantes, the author of this classic, entertainingly illustrates the striking and comedic contrast between the windmills and their desirous assailant. Quixote is an animate being, alive and invigorated, drenched in the perspiration that comes before victory, who feels wounded. History, with its countless scores of bloody wars, testifies loudly to the fact that man has very little qualms about his emotions and quick to seek retaliation when he feels wronged. History, with its countless scores of bloody wars, testifies loudly to the fact that man has very little qualms about his emotions and quick to seek retaliation when he feels wronged. History, with its countless scores of bloody wars, testifies loudly to the fact that man has very little qualms about his emotions and quick to seek retaliation when he feels wronged.

Throughout muriel history there have been many occasions where armies have fought against each other to gain supremacy of a certain advantageous hilltop. But, correct me if I am wrong, there is no single instance of which I am aware where a man has fought with a hill. Men may fight for hills, but men do not fight against hills. We, the hills and humans, have enjoyed an unbroken peace since our first encounter.

Looking about me, I am delighted to see that man enjoys peaceful relations with a number of inanimate objects. Still, on some days I fear this peace may be in jeopardy. Each day, across every landsman, a cruel and bloodthirsty army of countless insolent rocks position themselves to stub the toes of hapless passersby. But even such offenses as these do no me not even provoke more than a swear word or a wink. Certainly, it is a rare instance when the person with the bleeding toe seeks to even the score with the rock by stooling it, spitting on it, or (most ill-advisedly) kicking it with his other toe.

Why does man display such sufferance and mercy towards the rock which stubs his toe? We all know that man is a passionate creature, prone to his emotions and quick to seek retaliation when he feels wronged. History, with its countless scores of bloody wars, testifies loudly to the fact that man has very little qualms about going about to battle. So why the uncharacteristic forbearance towards rocks?

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Customer service: Want manners with that?

Have you ever seen that obnoxious lady in Starbucks complaining to the barista about her soy chai tea late not being exactly 180 degrees? What about the man who storms out because he'll have to wait two more minutes for his coffee to brew? Have you ever been that person? Well, you might not have been, but I am that barista.

It's astounding how many people come in each day that seem to think my name is "grand mocha" when I say hello to them at the register. A friend of mine used to work at a clothing store downtown and she guessed people who went in there thought her name was "how much." I often find myself wondering why people like to be rude to those in customer service. At my job, I have little control over what they receive at the end of the bar. At most I can give someone decaf espresso in their latte so that they're falling asleep in their cubicle later. The same goes for the people you're often dealing with when buying food or clothing; they often don't have as much power as you may think.

I got to thinking about it the other day while getting yelled at by a girl because I didn't put the whipped cream that she didn't order on her valium latte. And I thought that maybe people just don't realize how rude they really are.

So in an attempt to improve society and the common consumer, at least the ones who read this article, I compiled a pretty basic Do's and Don't list that I often find myself wondering why people like to be rude to those in customer service. At my job, I have little control over what they receive at the end of the bar. At most I can give someone decaf espresso in their latte so that they're falling asleep in their cubicle later. The same goes for the people you're often dealing with when buying food or clothing; they often don't have as much power as you may think.

I got to thinking about it the other day while getting yelled at by a girl because I didn't put the whipped cream that she didn't order on her valium latte. And I thought that maybe people just don't realize how rude they really are.

1) Don't: Forget to not speak like a caveman.
Do: Say "hello" back to the person behind the counter.

Indeed these petty phrases called "greetings" have been invented in the last 2,000 years or so. Generally one person will greet another at the beginning of a conversation. More than likely they have already said hello to a hundred people that day but still enjoy hearing and returning that greeting one more time around.

2) Don't: Reference the person helping you as the item that you're trying to purchase.
Do: Acknowledge that the person behind the counter is a human being and not named "tall coffee" or "for here."

3) Don't: Neglect the three most important words you can say to someone you don't know.
Do: Remember that the words "please" and "thank you" are welcomed. I don't think elaboration is necessary.

4) Don't: Forget that neatness is nice.
Do: Remember what a trashcan looks like.

Although they're generally in uniform, the employees of whatever establishment you are in are probably not your maids. Trashcans and recycle bins are plentiful in Sac, Luis Obispo and can be found on most sidewalks as well as inside stores. The counter of a food place and the floor of a dressing room are in fact not trashcans and not where you should put things you no longer want.

5) Don't: Get too upset by small things.
Do: Realize that most employees are truly trying to do their best and be as helpful as they can be.

Whether it's more free peanuts on your flight home, another pants size or even the paint color for the walls of your new apartment, the staff of the store can probably help find just what you're looking for. And if they can't, well, remember that sometimes stock just runs out and there's not always anything anyone can immediately do.

Now that I've shared a few quick tips on how to act and not act towards the people that are merely doing their jobs, I hope you think about this the next time you walk into your favorite downtown boutique, Home Depot or even Starbucks.

With just a little common sense and manners, you can avoid awkward stares from other customers for being the man who is way too upset that his iced coffee is too cold or the woman who couldn't find those perfect shoes in her size. Moreover, you'll make the person behind the register's day a little better and in doing so, probably send some good karma your own way too.

O, and before I forget: Thank you for reading.

Mikaela Aikoia is a journalism sophomore and a Mustang Daily reporter.
The Cal Poly women's water polo team successfully defended its national title by winning the water polo collegiate club championships for the second straight season with a 6-4 victory over Notre Dame in the national championship game on May 3 at the UC Davis Schaal Aquatic Center.

"We take it very seriously, always been known as a powerhouse, this is our fifth national championship (in eight years)," environmental and protection management senior Cireta Carroll said.

The women's water polo team, one of the most dominant clubs at Cal Poly, starts their season as soon as they get back from winter break and go through the end of April.

"We're gone 80 percent of the weekends that we have," head coach Dirk Camilli said. "We leave (most) Friday mornings."

Their weekly schedule involves practice every night from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and then two individual swimming sessions a week to make sure they stay in shape for their hectic schedule in what Camilli calls "one of the toughest leagues in the nation."

"We go to tournaments down south, up north, UC Davis, San Jose and we go to a tournament in Ohio," Carroll said.

The national tournament is the culmination of the club season and is a dream only realized by a few teams. With so few teams playing out of their league due to travel constraints, the seeding of the tournament is based off the results from last year. After clinching a birth by winning at regionals, Cal Poly, still carrying the target of defending champs on their back, was awarded the No. 1 overall seed.

Also going against Cal Poly was the curse of the number one ranking. With seeds determined by the results from last year the teams would gun for the No. 1 ranked team not just the No. 1 seed. The players were all aware of the fact that it had been a long time since the team ranked No. 1 won the tournament.

"We were the first team ever to be ranked No. 1 coming into (the tournament) and win the national title," Carroll said. "That was the biggest thing ... we were ranked No. 1 the whole season except for two weeks."

Despite the supposed curse, the team still had confidence in its chances to be victorious.

"Going into the tournament I was very confident in our team," Carroll said. "All year we had been playing for this tournament; we wanted to go in seeded first we wanted to be first in the polls."

Cal Poly made quick work of most of their tournament opponents en route to the championship. They beat Chico State 13-5 in the tournament's first round. After defeating Michigan 9-7 in the next round, they trounced Penn 14-4 in the semifinals.

With successfully completing their title defense the team already has its focus on next year.

"What's going to be important for us is to stay humble and make sure we keep working hard for this and not take anything for granted," biomedical engineering sophomore and MVP of the tournament Sarah Ur said.

"It's kind of a legacy we're building right now."

Zach Lantz
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly women's water polo team won their second-consecutive national championship on May 3.

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Barden and Pura honored at award banquet

Although they are already two of the most accomplished athletes in Cal Poly history, Melissa Pura and Ramona Barden grabbed one more honor Tuesday evening when they were named Cal Poly's 2008-09 Athletes of the Year at the annual Mustang banquet and awards ceremony Tuesday night at Embassy Suites.

Barden became the fourth football player to win the award in the past ten years following his senior teammate Chris Goering (2006), linebacker Jordan Beck (2005) and comeback David Richard­son (2004).

Pura became just the second softball honoree in 11 years. Outfielder Lisa Meddlin won in 2002.

Both players helped bring their teams to their highest point at the Division I level. Barden caught 67 passes for 1,297 yards and 18 touchdowns (tying his own school record) last season. He caught at least one touchdown in all 11 games this season, tying an NCAA mark for consecutive touchdown catches in a single season set by Randy Moss.

Barden was named offensive player of the year in the Great West Conference for the second straight year and was named to the All-Great West first team four times. He finished fourth in the balloting for the Walter Camp Player of the Year award, giving Cal Poly the nation's best offensive player.

He helped lead the Mustangs to an 8-3 record and a program-high No. 3 ranking in the FCS polls. The Mustangs were within seconds of an undefeated regular season losing to both Montana and Big 10's Wisconsin in the final two weeks.

Pura went on to Cal Poly's career leader for home runs (32), RBIs (135) and slugging percentage (.616).

She had one of the finest single seasons in program history this year as she finished as the only conference player to rank among the top 10 performers for batting average (.370), slugging percentage (.831), home runs (32), runs (33) and total bases (88).

Pura was at her best in dangerous situations. She hit a team-high five home runs in scoring position and six (32-for-89) with runners on base while 20 of her 32 RBIs occurred with two outs.

Barden and Pura also drew praise at the professional level. The New York Giants took Barden in the third round of the NFL draft while Pura was taken with the fourth round of the National Pro Fastpitch Senior Draft by the Akron Racers.

Other male athletes nominated for the award of the Year were baseball second baseman Adam Barchi­chini, basketball forward Tino Shelton, cross country runner Daniel Gonta, golfer Geoff Gonzalez, soccer goalkeeper Eric Bratton-Francois, swimmer Peter Kline, tennis player Drew Jacobs, track and field decathlete James Nunzi and wrestling Chris Pane. Female athletes nominated for the award were basketball forward Megan Harrison, cross country runner Brittany McCaffrey, golfer Stephanie Yacoma, soccer defender Carte Andrews, swimmer-Lacey Back, tennis player Brittany Blakock, indoor and outdoor track and field thrower Julie Daneo and volleyball opposite Kyle Atchookse.

Other athletes honored at the banquet included baseball senior outfielder Ryan Lee and junior women's tennis player Serhiy Wng who were named Cal Poly's Big West Conference scholar-athletes. Cal Poly's Scholar-Athletes for the 2008-09 school year are teammates Andrew Blady, track and field and Caitlin Lee of women's swimming; Andrew is a biomedical engineering junior while Lee, a distance freestyler, is a kinesthesiology sophomore.

Cal Poly's nominations for the NCAA Leadership Confer­ence were swimmer Eric Maldonado, men's soccer centerback Josh DiDonato, volleyball defensive specialist Cafiro Smith and women's basketball guard Tamara Wells. Maldonado has been re­ominated to represent Cal Poly at the conference level.

The baseball team was also recognized by the Big West Conference, earning a team sportsmanship award.

Chavez has hemiated disk

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Oakland Athletics third baseman Eric Chavez has a herniated disk and could be facing career-end­ing surgery if he injures his back again.

Chavez, rehabbing in Arizona, was moved from the 15- to 60-day disabled list Tuesday. He was placed on the DL May 1 with a strained right forearm, a move retrospective to April 25. He experienced back spasms May 10 and underwent an MRI exam one day later.

“We’re at a pretty serious point,” Athletics assistant general manager David Forst said before Tuesday night’s game against Tampa Bay. “We’re doing everything we can medically to get him back on the field.”

Chavez was limited to just 113 games over the 2007-08 seasons due to back problems, and was recently informed about the herniated disk. He was told the disk could cause pain anytime, which would require a spinal fusion procedure.

“Pretty much game, set and match,” Chavez told The San Fran­cisco Chronicle. “It’s disheartening. It was kind of the worst-case scenario. I’ve just got to be careful now. It goes beyond baseball.”

Chavez is hopeful of returning from this surgery, but it will be at least five weeks before that might happen.

“He’s optimistic,” Athletics manager Bob Geren said.

“We’re at a pretty serious point.

We’re doing everything we can medically to get him back on the field.” —David Forst, Assistant general manager

Chavez has three hits in 30 at-bats over eight games this season.

“He needs to recover from this in order to play,” Forst said.

Also, injured infielder Nomar Garciaparra, out since April 29 with a strained right calf, could be activated from the 15-day disabled list Wednesday.

“It is getting better,” Geren said. “He’s close.”

The Athletics made several other roster moves on Tuesday, in­cluding purchasing the contracts of right-handers Edgar Gonzalez and Chris Schneider from Triple-A Sacramento. Pitchers Sean Gai­lagher and Greg Gonzalez were op­tioned to Sacramento.

Edgar Gonzalez could take Gallagher’s spot in the rotation and start Saturday’s game against Arizona.

Minor league outfielder Javier Herrera was released to make room on the 40-man roster. Oakland plans to try and re-sign Herr­era, who will likely undergo sea­son-ending shoulder surgery shortly, to a minor league deal.

Backup catcher Landon Powell, who hurt an hamstring run­ning out a ninth-inning grounder Monday night, was sore but avail­able at the bench.

Minor league catcher Travis Thigpen, sidelined by a back in­jury, is set to join Oakland’s ex­tended spring training team, while Sacramento catcher Joel Gallar­ega went on the DL with a right shoulder strain.