Polyratings reopens

Polyratings.com, the site on which Cal Poly students can rate their instructors and view other students' ratings has been reopened at polyratings.com. The site was inaccessible starting in late summer.

The new site has a fresh slate for new teacher reviews, but still has the old reviews from bolyratings in an archive. It appears in the same format as the old site, so it is possible that the old domain expired.

The closed site caused a stir on message boards and Facebook. Students registering for classes were unable to use the tool to check out their possible teachers and were upstairs. They could not use the tool to check out new teacher reviews, but still has the thinking of shutting down the site.

J. Paul Reed, who managed a co-founder of the site, but they did not respond. Multiple students contacted the Mustang Daily and said what's going on.

The original site was opened in 2002 by two Cal Poly students.

The Mustang Daily tried to contact Reed and Forrest Lonning, a co-founder of the site, but they did not respond. Multiple students contacted the Mustang Daily and expressed an interest in taking over the site.

If two Taylor contributed to this report.

Lawyer becomes crusader for food safety

Maureen O'Hagan

THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE — You might say that E. coli has been very, very good to William Marler.

Ditto for salmonella, listeria, hepatitis and the like. If there's an outbreak of food-borne illness anywhere in the country — spinach, cookie dough, hamburgers, you name it — chances are Marler will be filing lawsuits.

"I love my job," he said from his Seattle law office. "I represent poisoned little children against giant corporations."

Talk about a winning formula: Marler, 52, say he and his firm, Marler Clark, have piled $500 million in settlements out of companies that have sickened customers. Depending on your point of view, making millions off sick people may be a good thing or it may be a bad thing. But right now, food safety is unequivocally a big thing.

In March, President Barack Obama said the nation's lax food-safety policies have created a "hazard to public health." He appointed a high-level policy group to "upgrade our food-safety laws for the 21st century." Then a major report warned it would be way too easy to terrorize to poison the food supply.

In the midst of all this, 80 people were infected with the bacteria E. coli after eating Nestle cookie dough.

This year, food-safety legislation was introduced in Congress — legislation that, for the first time in years, seems to have a chance of passing.

Now, Marler's not only trying to wring money out of food companies, he's trying to change the way our food is safeguarded in the first place. He's been lobbying his political buddies, arranging for clients to testify in Congress, and even sending them to reporters at The Washington Post and The New York Times, both of which put his clients in headlines.

"I'm impatient," he said. "For God sakes, get the bill out of the Senate."

And then, in early fall, he hit upon an idea: T-shirts.

"A meaningful food safety legislation before Thanksgiving," the drab gray shirts, sent to every U.S. senator, say. "Pass a trial lawyer out of business."

His smiling face, with a line through it, is emblazoned on the front.

It's funny. And it's serious.

Brianne Kiner was Marler's introduction. In 1993, when the 9-year-old Redmond, Wash., girl was hospitalized with E. coli infection, her kidneys failed. Her pancreas crashed. Her liver stopped working. She suffered seizures and was in a coma for 40 days.

When she came to, she had to refer to walk. To chew. To use the bathroom. Her health problems — and expenses — are lifelong.

All this from eating an undercooked hamburger from Jack in the Box. Three kids died in that outbreak, and another 500 Washington residents were sickened.

Brianne's family hired Marler, who then was with the Keller Rohrbach firm, to file suit. He had been out of law school for just 105 million shopped over Black Friday weekend. They knew they have their work cut out for them to keep people coming back through Christmas," said Tracy Mullin, NRF president and chief executive. "Shoppers can continue to expect retailers to focus on low prices and bargains through the end of December."

Almost half of holiday shoppers visited at least one department store over the weekend, which is up 13 percent from last year, above 43 percent headed to discount retailers and another 8 percent headed to outlet, the NRF said. More than a fourth of shoppers went online for their potential purchases.

More shoppers also started their expeditions early, with 31 percent in the doors by 5 a.m., as opposed to 23 percent who did the same last year. "High unemployment and a focus on price caused shoppers to visit stores early in anticipation of the best deals," said Phil Rist, executive vice president at BIGresearch, which see Shopping, page 2

MUSTANG DAILY

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Monday, November 30, 2009

President Obama expected to send 34,000 more troops to Afghanistan.

IN NEWS, 5

Visit mustangdaily.net for women's basketball scores from this weekend.

mustangdaily.net

Poly women split weekend games

IN ARTS, 11


IN NEWS, 5

More shoppers hit stores, but spend less than last year

SAN FRANCISCO — More Americans hit the stores during Black Friday and the rest of the holiday-shopping weekend, but they spent less than they did last year, a retail-trade group said Sunday. The National Retail Federation's survey, conducted over the weekend, found that 195 million shoppers visited stores and Web sites, up from 172 million last year, but the average spent was about $343, down from about $373 a year ago. For the weekend, the total spending figure is an estimated $41.2 billion.

"This year's results are encouraged by the number of Americans who shopped over Black Friday weekend, they know they have their work cut out for them to keep people coming back through Christmas," said Tracy Mullin, NRF president and chief executive. "Shoppers can continue to expect retailers to focus on low prices and bargains through the end of December."

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Polywomen split weekend games

The Mustang (3-2) lost 56-47 at Moss Gym Saturday, their lowest point total thus far. It was a completely different story Sunday. A 28-point outbreak by Kristina Santang and a career high-23 point contribution from Rachel Clancy helped lift the Mustangs over Cal State Bakersfield 89-80 at home Sunday afternoon.

SEMINARY

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**News**

**Mustang Daily**

**Monday, November 30, 2009**

**White House indicates world moving toward new Iran sanctions**

Margaret Taley and Nancy A. Youssef

WASHINGTON — The United Nations nuclear agency blunted Iran in a resolution Friday for obstructing investigations into its suspected nuclear weapons program and demanded that the Islamic Republic stop enriching uranium at a once-secret facility.

In response, the Obama administration suggested that world powers might be moving closer to imposing international sanctions on Iran. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs called a 25-3 vote on the resolution by the International Atomic Energy Agency “overwhelming” and said it “demonstrates the resolve and unity of the international community with regard to Iran’s nuclear program.”

“Our patience and that of the international community is limited, and time is running out,” Gibbs said. “If Iran refuses to meet its obligations, then it will be responsible for the consequences.”

On Thursday, Mohamed ElBaradei, the outgoing head of the IAEA, issued an unusually blunt public statement, saying that Iran has refused to give his investigators information about its efforts to design a nuclear weapon and that the agency’s efforts to discover the truth had “effectively reached a dead end.” Although it can be difficult to distinguish Iran’s bottom lines from its bargaining positions, Tehran’s refusal to carry out a tentative deal in October to ship most of its nuclear fuel to Russia and France for reprocessing leaves other nations with two ways to try to ensure that Iran doesn’t obtain nuclear materials: tough sanctions and pre-emptive military action. Israeli officials have said that they consider a nuclear-armed Iran an existential threat, and Israel crippled Saddam Hussein’s nuclear program with an airstrike in 1981. However, it isn’t clear whether — without U.S. assurance — Israel’s military could deal a comparable blow to Iran’s nuclear facilities, which are farther away, more spread out and deeply buried.

It also remains unclear how far China and Russia, which joined in support of Friday’s resolution but have scuttled past attempts to sanction Iran, would go now — or whether sanctions could curb Iran’s nuclear activities.

Two senior Obama administration officials who spoke Friday from Vienna, where the IAEA is headquartered, emphasized that any decision on sanctions is weeks away. As for China and Russia, “We intend to deal with this very steadily,” said one of the officials, both of whom spoke only on the condition of anonymity as a matter of administration policy. However, “I think their commitment is clear.”

This was the IAEA’s first such vote against Iran in nearly four years. Cuba, Malaysia and Venezuela voted no, and six nations abstained.

Gary Sick, a Columbia University expert on Iran who once served on the staff of the National Security Council, said the vote could be significant enough to convince Iran to return to the table for renewed talks, despite a defiant initial response.

“I think the Iranians will hear this very clearly, the fact that both the Russians and Chinese voted yes, that you can’t just count on them to be your perpetual supporters,” Sick said. “It’s conceivable they might come back with a counteroffer of some sort. I hope very much that this will lead to another round of discussions.”

However, Sick said, “The vote by the Russians and the Chinese should not be taken as an indicator they’re now prepared to go really severe sanctions.”

Even if they are, and if all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus one — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the U.S. — do agree to any sanctions, Sick predicted that it “will after a lot of negotiation turn out to be a tightening of the financial screws. And if it’s simply a tightening of the financial screws, I don’t think it will make much difference. In other words, the hark is much worse than the bite.”

“The Iranians don’t like sanctions and they also don’t like being singled out for public criticism,” Sick said. “That doesn’t mean they’re going to turn around and change their whole policy.”

Iran’s nuclear facilities

Iran has revealed to the U.N. nuclear watchdog the existence of a second enrichment plant.

**Possible new enrichment site built inside a mountain**

During a meeting with six world leaders Oct. 1 in Geneva, Iran agreed to open its once-secret facility in Qom to IAEA inspectors and to send its partially enriched uranium from a Tehran nuclear reactor to France and Russia to be turned into fuel for medical research. So far, though, it’s refused a follow-up meeting.

Iran maintains that its nuclear program is peaceful in nature, despite its secretive attitude and hostility toward Israel. The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday through the Islamic Republic News Agency that the IAEA resolution was “shony” and “vain.”

One U.S. senior official said that any sanctions that might be considered would look to hurt the Iranian regime, not everyday Iranians, but he didn’t elaborate.

The administration said that Iran had until the end of the year to engage cooperatively; after that it may face “a package of consequences.”

**Iran’s nuclear facilities**

**Nuclear facility sites are approximate**

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Food
continued from page 1

five years. "Being extremely overcon- dent, 1 sort of volunteered to do everything and pushed myself to the top," he recalled. "Everything" includes not only legal filings but also lots of news conferences.

Some call him a publicity hound. Marler is fighting fire with fire. Jack in the Box had a media strategy, and so did he. He figured, the more public the out- break was, the more likely Jack in the Box would cave. With the family's blessing, he helped put Brianne's plight on the national news.

The firm was hired by 200 other families to file claims against Jack in the Box, too.

Marler got Brianne a $15.6 million settlement. Settlements for his other Jack clients ran into the millions. Generally, clients get 65 percent to 75 percent after costs, and the firm gets the rest.

After Jack in the Box, he went back to being a general-practice plaintiff's lawyer. Then, in 1996, came a turning point. The all-natural juice company sickened 66 people with its unpasteurized juice. Con- siderable, it was illegal. All natural. Jack in the Box, victims knew where to look. By this point, Marler knew the system to protect us from food-borne illness is full of holes. Regulation is illegal. The authority is scattered between the U.S. Department of Agriculture USDA, which covers meat and poultry, and the Food and Drug Administration FDA, which covers everything else.

Generally, the government deems it the food companies' responsibility to make a safe product. The Pew Charitable Trusts, which covers the mind. What is this illness? Of course, the law of "strict li- ability" is on his side. If a customer gets sick, whoever made the tainted food is financially liable, whether or not they were negligent.

"We have a lot of big cases, $7 million to $10 million cases," Marler said. "People don't just give you that kind of money unless you have your foot on their throat."

Of course, the law of "strict li- ability" is on his side. If a customer gets sick, whoever made the tainted food is financially liable, whether or not they were negligent. This, of course, strikes the food industry as unfair.

"There's plenty of people in the meat industry who, if they looked in the rearview mirror and saw they accidentally ran over Bill Marler, they'd put the car in reverse and make sure," said David Thieno, a food-safety expert hired to revamp Jack in the Box after the outbreak.

Then, it should be noted, con- sider Marler a friend.

"He's been called an "ambulance chaser." A vulture who "thrives on miser­y."

"Have a bad day, you parasite," someone once wrote to him.

Marler loves it. Recently, a re­ porter asked him for names of sup­ porters and detractors. As to the former, he joked, "Do you want any mom's phone number?"

And the latter? He eagerly pro­ vided a long list of names.

"This guy will really tee off on me," he said of one food-industry insider. And another.

He likes to tell a story about a speech he gave before mem­ bers of the National Meat Asso­ ciation. "They introduced me," he wrote in a blog post, "and nobody clapped."

"I walked up and stood there for a while without saying any-thing. And then I said, 'You may now clap.'" He thinks it's hysterical. The task of finding real-live Marler haters, however, proved difficult. Some likely candidates, like people in the spinach indus­ try, who he's sued, declined to comment, others, like Rosemary McDowell, director-externus of the National Meat Association, have nice things to say, despite all the lawsuits (and the rank-and-file's failure to clap).

Which brings us back to his other repeated piece of good advice. "Out of business. What he really means is he's tired of seeing so many people get hurt so sick. He believes a lot of illness could be prevented with stricter food-safety laws, the sort Congress is considering.

Some time ago, he decided that just suing food companies wasn't enough. He travels across the country, and even the world, to speak about food safety to those who are in a position to do something about it — the farmers, pro­ cessors and officials in charge of it all.

He tells them about his cli­ ents: the children on ventilators; the once-vibrant men on dialysis; the moms who've lost their intesti­ nes to the ravages of food-borne pathogens. And he lets them know how a jury might view things, including Marler calls it the "You shouldn't poison people" speech. He's made it before several industry groups, including the musicians, with whom he used an E. coli outbreak in 2006. He does not get paid for these kinds of talks.

Be our GUEST!

The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest comments.

Send your comments of about 500 words (and on an original topic) to: MustangDailys opinions@gmail.com

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MUSTANG DAILY
NEWS

Monday November 30, 2009

W e ll Host Your Party or We'll Deliver!

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"Not responsible for memory loss.

California Polytechnic State University
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.

The Annual Audit of the Associated Students, Inc. and the University Union for FY 2007-2008 has been completed.

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Marler Kiner recovers after being in a coma for 40 days in 1993 when stricken with E-Coli from a contami­ nated burger. Her case was the first for attorney William Marler who now handles many tainted food cases.

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

"The Annual Audit of the Associated Students, Inc. and the University Union for FY 2007-2008 has been completed.

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"Not responsible for memory loss.
All Cal Poly gift merchandise
  Including: sweatshirts, tees, glassware, hats, scarves, beanies, license plate frames, jackets, ladies fashion and more!

All regular priced general books
  Including: holiday books, cook books, fiction, travel, journals, childrens, gift books and more!

All Holiday gift merchandise
  Including: figurines, ornaments, gift wrap, boxed cards, plates & mugs, stuffed animals, and toys!

All art, office, and student supplies

*Excludes: computer department, textbooks, photo department, special orders, magazines, rainbow sandals, food, health & beauty, graduation caps, gowns and tickets.

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One day only Thursday December 3
Obama finalizes plan to send 34,000 troops to Afghanistan

Jonathan S. Landay, John Walcott and Nancy A. Youssef

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama met Monday evening with his national security team to finalize a plan to dispatch some 34,000 additional U.S. troops over the next few years to what he's called "a war of necessity" in Afghanistan, U.S. officials told McClatchy Newspapers.

Obama is expected to announce his long-awaited decision Dec. 1, followed by meetings on Capitol Hill aimed at winning congressional support amid opposition by some Democrats who are worried about the strain on the U.S. Treasury and whether Afghanistan has become a quagmire, the officials said.

The U.S. officials all spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the issue publicly and because, one official said, the White House is concerned by leaks on its Afghanistan policy that didn't originate in the White House.

The plan is the commander of the U.S.-led international force in Afghanistan, Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, could arrive in Washington as early as Sunday to participate in the rollout of the new plan, including testifying before Congress toward the end of next week.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry also are expected to appear before congressional committees.

As it now stands, the plan calls for the deployment over a nine-month period beginning in March of three Army brigades from the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.; the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.; and a Marine brigade from Camp Lejeune, N.C., for as many as 23,000 additional combat and support troops.

In addition, a 7,000-strong division headquarters would be sent to take command of U.S.-led NATO forces in southern Afghanistan to which the U.S. has long been committed — and 4,000 U.S. military trainers would be dispatched to help accelerate an expansion of the Afghan army and police.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is expected to brief America's NATO allies after next week's announcement, and the allies are to meet again on Dec. 7 in Belgium to discuss whether some other nations might contribute additional troops.

The Monday evening meeting was the ninth Obama has held on the crisis in Afghanistan, where the worsening war entered its ninth year last month. This year has seen violence reach unprecedented levels as the Taliban and allied groups have gained strength and expanded their reach.

A U.S. military official stated the term "decisive" to describe Monday evening's meeting among Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Gates, Clinton, National Security Adviser Jon Jones, Eikenberry and senior military commanders. The administration's plan contains "off-ramps," points starting next June at which Obama could decide to continue the flow of troops, halt the deployments and adopt a more limited strategy or "begin looking very quickly at exiting" the country, depending on political and military progress, one defense official said.

"We have to start showing progress within six months on the political side or military side or that's it," the U.S. defense official said.

"It's not just how we get people there, but what's the strategy for getting them out," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Monday.

The approach is driven in part by concerns that Afghan President Hamid Karzai won’t keep his promises to root out corruption and support political reforms, and in part by growing domestic opposition to the war, the U.S. official said.

As McClatchy Newspapers reported last month, the Obama administration has been quietly working with U.S. allies and Afghan officials on an "Afghanistan Compact," a package of political reforms and anti-corruption measures that it hopes will boost popular support for Karzai and erase the doubts about his legitimacy raised by his fraud-tainted re-election.

The British government is offering to host a conference early next year to win international support for the compact.

Last week, Clinton suddenly adopted a more conciliatory tone toward Karzai, whom she and other administration officials had been pressing to clean up the rampant corruption and cut his ties to local warlords, some of whom traffic in opium.

In an interview with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, she said that Karzai had demonstrated "good faith" and added: "Well, there are warlords and there are warlords everywhere.

As part of its new plan, the administration, which remains skeptical of Karzai, will "work around" him by working directly with provincial and district leaders, a senior U.S. defense official told McClatchy Newspapers.

The plan adopted by Obama would fall well short of the 80,000 troops McChrystal suggested in August as a "low-risk" option that would offer the best chance to contain the Taliban-led insurgency and stabilize Afghanistan.

It splits the difference between two other McChrystal options: a "high-risk" approach that called for 20,000 additional troops and a "medium-risk" option that would add 40,000 to 45,000 troops.

There are 68,000 U.S. troops and 42,000 from other countries in Afghanistan. The U.S. Army's recently revised counterinsurgency manual estimates that an all-out counterinsurgency campaign in a country with Afghanistan's population would require about 600,000 troops.

The administration's plan is expected to encounter opposition on Capitol Hill, where some senior Democrats have suggested

Panel accuses governor of 37 ethics violations

Gina Smith

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Ethics Commission has charged Gov. Mark Sanford with breaking state ethics laws 37 times, including using state planes for family trips, spending campaign funds on a hunting trip and flying first class, instead of coach, while on state travel.

The commission, which last week wrapped up its preliminary, three-month investigation into allegations against the embattled governor, released the charges to the public Monday.

The commission's findings have been eagerly awaited by South Carolina's beleaguered governor, who is deciding whether to quit Sanford from office before his term ends in January 2011.

A subcommittee of the S.C. House will consider an impeachment resolution for the first time Tuesday.

The Ethics Commission charges allege:

- Sanford flew business or first class 18 times between 2005 and 2009 while on state business. Those trips included travel to Europe, Asia and South America. State law requires officials to choose the most economical fare unless there is an urgent reason to do otherwise.

- Sanford used state aircraft for personal travel nine times between 2005 and 2008, including a book signing, a birthday party for a contributor, a son's sporting event and a family getaway to Georgia.

- On 10 occasions, Sanford took money from his campaign account, donated by supporters, and improperly spent it on personal uses, including an Irish hunting trip and a GOP governors meeting in Miami.

- Sanford had beenpressing to clean up the rampant corruption and cut his ties to local warlords, some of whom traffic in opium.

- In an interview with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, she said that Karzai had demonstrated "good faith" and added: "Well, there are warlords and there are warlords everywhere.

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Governor
continued from page 5

state law, the commission said.

The charges against Sanford will be
aired at a hearing of a three-
member Ethics Commission panel
to be held sometime in January.

During that hearing, Sanford’s
attorneys will present his defense.

The governor’s lawyers have
classified the accusations as
technical and minor.

Sanford’s attorney, Butch Bow-
ser, said Monday, “We are confi-
dent that we will be able to address
each of these questions, none of
which constitutes findings of guilt
and none of which we believe reside
anywhere near to the traditional
standard of impeachment. We look
forward to working with the com-
mission and resolving this matter.”

Ultimately, the commissioners—
appointed by Sanford but con-
formed by the state Senate—will
clear whether Sanford is guilty of
the ethics violations. Sanford could
be cleared or fined up to $74,000.

Sanford also could face criminal
charges.

A spokesman said Monday that
S.C. Attorney General Henry Mc-
Master is reviewing the Ethics
Commission report to determine
whether charges can be brought.

The governor faces trouble on
another front as well.

Tuesday, a “subcommission” of
House lawmakers will hold their
first meeting to discuss impeach-
ing the governor.

Four House members intro-
duced a bill last week to oust the
governor from office, saying he
abandoned the state for five days
in June to secretly visit his lover in
Argentina.

Abandoning his duties is
 grounds for impeachment, no mat-
ther the ethics charges.

Rep. Greg Dellenby, R-Chester, S.C.,
said Monday, “What matters to me,” Dellenby
said, “is his absence from the state
without giving anyone notice and
being unaccountable for five days, leaving
no established chain of command or
protocol for the exercise of the executive
authority of the state and
his preconceived deceit and
cover-up of whereabout using his
staff who are state employees
to mislead public officials of
South Carolina and the public of South
Carolina. That coupled with the
shame and disgrace he brought to
the reputation of South Carolina.”

Sanford has brushed off calls to
resign from GOP House mem-
bers and senators, who control the
Legislature, saying he has not bro-
ken any laws and has been a good
steward of taxpayer money.

WORD ON THE STREET

“All my assignments are due next
week,” said Paul Walsh.

“Are you nervous for finals next week?”

“No, because I have a good
grade in the class,” said Sean Bayley.

“I’m a graduate student so I
don’t have finals. But I used
to be up to the last moment
(studying),” said Tom Gown.

“Not really, because I’ve done
pretty well with my classes so
far,” said Alex Halter.

“Are you nervous for finals next week?”

“No, I’m not nervous. I’m a
junior,” said Jordan Frank.

Paul Walsh
MCCLATCHY NORTHWEST

MINNEAPOLIS — Federal
described them in a state-
ment, said, “I hope that this sends a signal
Continental also provided a full
to the rest of the airline industry
of violations alleged by
federal authorities.

Continental Airlines and Express
Airlines were fined a to-
tal civil penalty of $190,000 by
the U.S. Department of Trans-
portation for their roles in
providing ground handling for the
flight.

Continental also provided a full
refund to each passenger and also
offered each passenger additional
compensation for their time and
distress.

A total of 47 passengers spent
the night inside the small
airport, complete with crying ba-
bies and the aroma of overused
towels.

These “precedent-setting en-
forcement actions,” as the depart-
ment described them in a state-
ment, follow a settlement by the
carriers of violations alleged by
federal authorities.

Along with these being the first
time carriers have been punished
for extended tarmac delays, the fine
for Mesa reflects the first time a
carrier acting as a ground handler
for another airline has been pun-
ished for failing to properly help
passengers leave an aircraft dur-
ing “an unreasonably long tarmac
delay,” the department statement
said.

“I hope that this sends a signal
to the rest of the airline industry
that we expect airlines to respect
the rights of air travelers,” said
Transportation Secretary Ray La-
Hood. “We will also use what we
have learned from this investiga-
tion to strengthen protections for
airline passengers subjected to long
tarmac delays.”

The federal investigation found
that all three carriers violated the
law that prohibits unfair and de-
ceptive practices in air transporta-
tion for their respective roles in
see Airlines, page 7

3 airlines fined $175,000 for
stranding passengers on tarmac

Paul Walsh
MCCLATCHY NORTHWEST

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tarmac delays.”

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that all three carriers violated the
law that prohibits unfair and de-
ceptive practices in air transporta-
tion for their respective roles in
see Airlines, page 7

Continental Airlines grounded after making an emergency landing in
Miami, Aug. 3.

A Continental Airlines flight grounded after making an emergency landing in
Miami, Aug. 3.

A Continental Airlines flight grounded after making an emergency landing in
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A Continental Airlines flight grounded after making an emergency landing in
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A Continental Airlines flight grounded after making an emergency landing in
Miami, Aug. 3.
Troops

continued from page 5

that the administration may need to raise taxes in order to pay for the additional troops.

Obama campaigned saying that he'd fund the Iraq and Afghanistan wars from the defense budget, but Mullen has said that the Afghan war — which some administration officials privately concede could cost $700 billion to $1 trillion over 10 years — might require supplemental funding bill next year.

The administration’s protracted deliberations have escalated into an open warfare between McChrystal and his supporters and advocates of a more limited strategy led by Biden and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel that often played out in dueling leaks to news organizations.

Airlines

continued from page 6

the incident, in which a Continental Express flight from Houston to Minneapolis/St. Paul operated by Expressjet was diverted to Rochester due to bad weather in Minneapolis.

The aircraft reached Rochester about 12:30 a.m. and the passengers were stranded aboard the aircraft until about 6:15 a.m., when they were finally allowed into the terminal.

By about 9:30 a.m., the passengers were told that the flight would not be permitted to leave the terminal. In response to this and subsequent inquiries, the captain was told that passengers could not enter the terminal because there were no Transportation Security Administration screeners on duty, even though TSA rules would have allowed the passengers to enter the airport as long as they remained in a secure area.

Expressjet spokesperson Kristy Nicholas said late Tuesday morning that her airline settled with federal officials “in order to avoid costly litigation.” Nicholas added that Expressjet’s $50,000 fine can be cut in half if that amount is spent on extra training.

Nicholas emphasized that Tuesday’s federal action “makes clear that ... Expressjet consistently requested to deplane customers into the closed airport terminal building” and that it was the Mesaba ground handler who should be blamed for mistakenly keeping the passengers aboard.

Briefs

State

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) — Tenants of Sunny Acres ranch, which houses the homeless, applauded Monday in support of ranch owner Dan DeVaal, who was handcuffed and led away to County Jail after being sentenced to 90 days behind bars for refusing conditions of probation.

DeVaal, 46, would not agree to terms of probation offered by Judge John A. Trice that would have allowed him to bring his property up to code and not go to jail.

DeVaal was convicted in September of building safety and vehicle storage violations. As part of his sentence on Monday, DeVaal was fined $1,000.

... STOCKTON (MCT) — The state and foreign export pumps near Tracy are subject to constant scrutiny: How much water is Southern California taking?

But those on the receiving end of that water say Delta farmers, who also draw from the entwined drought and rivers, should answer the same question.

Another leg of California’s new water wars may require Delta farmers, with some exceptions, to file water diversion reports.

In addition to the giant export pumps, there are about 1,800 straws in the Delta from farms, cities and industry.

International

STRAISBOURG, France (MCT) — Global warming cannot be reversed unless the United States and China commit to meaningful cuts in their greenhouse gas emissions, the EU said Saturday.

With two weeks to go before a global climate conference, the EU urged Washington and Beijing to come to the Copenhagen event with meaningful plans to slash carbon dioxide emissions.

“Without a bid from the USA and China, the emissions are covered” by a global deal, Swedish Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren, whose country holds the EU presidency, told the European Parliament.

SANA’, Yemen (MCT) — A Japanese building construction engineer and his Yemeni driver were released unharmed Monday night, eight days after they were abducted by armed tribesmen in Aribah, a northeastern suburb of the Yemeni capital of Sana’a.

According to Japan’s Foreign Ministry, the abduction — comprising an unspecified number of local tribesmen, only half of the ransom was paid — and his driver at about 8 p.m. Monday.

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"Gifts" embraces dear diary lyric style

Livejournal launched in 1999 and enabled a disgusting narcissism that would eventually lead to the emotional instability that is updating your Facebook status and tweeting messages about funny bumper stickers and the close proximity of your ex. Somehow, every 19-year-old girl became Aria Nin, one person who was worthy of having a sexual diary "published" for the perusal of friends.

I'm not a total hater, though. For every 1,000 or so self-absorbed college students that blog about their one-night stands in the most clichéd and uninterest-

ing ways (a number I don't exclude myself from), one person somewhere is making an actual significant artistic statement that on some level balances the scale. For some artists, the diary format and the immediacy of the diary can provide enlightenment and beauty in ways that artistic refining could never do.

Cole is one of these individuals. His new tape, "Gifts," the first release of fledgling label Life's Blood Flows, embraces the album as a sketchbook. He dives around and experiments, sometimes only half-forming songs before dumping them to jump to the next tune. At times, he provides un-craft experiments, but other songs are confessional acoustic...
### Petras Pizza

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### Croce's Pizza

**Please Enjoy Responsibly**
Rene Rodriguez
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2009
MIAMI — Halfway through the press conference, director John Hillcoat made a difficult decision: No matter what, he was going to remain faithful to Cormac McCarthy’s novel, about a father and son traveling across a post-apocalyptic landscape — even if such a promise meant shooting a seemingly unflinching scene involving cannibals and a baby.

“I fought like tooth and nail to not put that scene,” Hillcoat recalls. “I argued this is what we’ve signed on for, and we’re not going to shy away from a single thing. And I won. We shot the scene. I even kept it in an early cut of the film. And then I fought like hell to take it out. How ironic is that?”

During editing, a tricky, lengthy process that caused the film, which opened Wednesday, to miss its release date of November 2008 — Hillcoat discovered that transplanting the essence of McCarthy’s novel to the screen was much more complicated than simply treating it as a script, the approach Joel and Ethan Coen used when adapting “No Country For Old Men.”

If you visualize some of the stuff in the book and put it up on the screen, the movie takes on a different dynamic,” Hillcoat says. “My goal was always to stay focused on the father and son, and the more of that horrific stuff you have the more you take the spotlight off their emotional journey.

“I think it’s true of all films: You have to work with restraint,” Hillcoat says. “It’s so easy to get carried away. Actors love to chew up scenery sometimes, and directors get lost in special effects and big action scenes. Film is a powerful medium, and I’m always bunting to find the right balance and rein it in. At the end of the day, the movie still has enough of those chilling things. The cannibal house, the road gangs, the collapsing trees. That’s enough. I think. To have any more, the movie would have become about something else.”

Hillcoat had interpreted “The Road” as a love story between father and son from the moment he first read the novel in galley form. Producer Nick Wechsler (“Drugstore Cowboy,” “The Player,” “The Time Traveler’s Wife”) sent the Australian filmmaker the book on the strength of his previous film “The Proposition,” a violent and searing Western set in the Australian outback that Hillcoat made, in part, as homage to an earlier McCarthy novel, “Blood Meridian.”

“I didn’t know about the connection to ‘Blood Meridian’ until much later,” Wechsler says. “But the ‘Proposition’ very much had a Sam Peckinpah quality, and I saw ‘The Road’ as a Peckinpah movie — men and women surviving under difficult circumstances, struggling between being civilized and being outlaws. Good versus evil. Very primal stuff. The examination of humanity and morality in ‘The Proposition’ was very applicable to what I thought we needed for ‘The Road.’”

Hillcoat says he felt the mounting pressure of doing justice to McCarthy’s novel after the book won the Pulitzer Prize and caught the attention of Oprah Winfrey, whose recommendation turned it into a bestseller. Indeed, after the original release date had come and gone, rumors swirled the movie was in trouble and its relatively auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less than auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving — a less auspicious date than Thanksgiving.

“My job was to stay focused on the task at hand and concentrate on making the best film we possibly could,” Hillcoat says. “We could have released the film earlier this year, but it’s really not a summer movie. And I can’t think of a more auspicious date than Thanksgiving for this film. We’re getting something fully realized as opposed to rushed and half-assed.”

Hillcoat found his ideal actor in 11-year-old Kodi Smit-McPhee. For the role of his father, Hillcoat turned to Viggo Mortensen, another hardcore McCarthy fan who from the outset understood the project’s challenges.

“This is the most faithful adaptation — not just in spirit, like ‘Lord of the Rings’ was, but also in word and emotion — that I have ever seen,” Mortensen says. “The challenge for me was to convey the man’s interior monologue as it is described in the book without words, because film is a visual medium. You have to trust that if you feel it as an actor, and you’re living those thoughts, they will come across to the audience.”

“The man is thinking about his wife all the time and living with the accumulated regret of his life experience,” Mortensen says. “Kids tend to accept where they are more than adults do, no matter how hard their circumstances are. Adults regret and fret about the future. To get all that stuff across was much harder than the physical demands of shooting in the cold and the wet.”

For Hillcoat, the McCarthy novel presented the chance of a lifetime.

“To have this kind of material land on your lap was an amazing stroke of luck,” he says. “And when I read it, I wasn’t prepared for the emotional impact it had on me. The incredible visualization and authenticity of the apocalypse was something I would have expected from McCarthy. But the story was also so poignant and real and profound. The only thing that gave me pause was the practicality of finding a young actor who could play the son — a boy who had a maturity and openness and didn’t have any kind of show business precociousness, because that would be the kiss of death on this material.”

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Viggo Mortensen and Kodi Smit-McPhee star in John Hillcoat’s “The Road,” based on Cormac McCarthy’s “The Road.”
Michael Harrington
THE FREELANCE COLUMNIST

When a renowned author dies, two critical processes begin: first, placing the writer in the pantheon; and second, digging out every jot, every piece of juvenilia, every previously unseen word the deceased wrote.

Kurt Vonnegut's place in American literary history is secure by virtue of the novels that earned him cult status in the 1960s: the science-fiction send-up "The Sirens of Titan" (1959); the political satire "Cat's Cradle" (1963); and his masterpiece, "Slaughterhouse-Five" (1969), one of the great works to come out of World War II.

As for writing left behind at his death, here we have "Look at the Birdie," a collection of previously unpublished works that Vonnegut wrote in the 1950s or thereabouts, when he was working in public relations for General Electric in Schenectady, N.Y., and as a car dealer on Cape Cod while writing for the slicks.

What are the slicks? you ask. Well, boys and girls, as difficult as it may be to believe, as difficult as it may someday be for later generations to believe, that information was delivered on paper and produced in printing plants; there once were shiny magazines with names such as Collier's, the Saturday Evening Post, and Ladies' Home Journal that regularly featured fiction and paid by the word, often very well.

In his middlebrow stuff, seemingly — the kind of formulaic but thought-provoking writing that found its way on to TV after the slicks withered, and still occasionally lifts a sit-com now and then.

Vonnegut was no hack, but he needed to make a living, and so he became a staple of these publications (in good company that included the likes of Louis L'Amour and Elmore Leonard, among others). In a 1951 letter included in this book, Vonnegut observes: "Of course, if you appear in the Atlantic or Harper's or the New Yorker, by God, you must be a writer, because everybody says so. This is poor competition for the far checks from the slicks. For want of anything more tempting, I'll stick with money."

So he did, but his work both faithfully followed pop formulae and subverted them, as he showed in his 1968 collection of stories written for the slicks, "Welcome to the Monkey House." One piece in that collection, "Harrison Bergeron," dly questioned 1950s conformity while "Report on the Barnhouse Effect" delivered an indictment of kinship.

One would expect that this collection would have few stories to equal those, since none of this batch was ever published; but there are a few standouts.

In "Confidence," an eager inventor working as a lab rat at a huge hearing-aid manufacturer comes up with a device that offers sym­ pathetic words through an ear­ piece. "The voice was tiny and high, like a child's voice through a comb with tissue paper stretched over it."

The inventor's wife discovers that the gizmos taps into our baser impulses, whispering words of self­ pity, envy, and anger. In the age of the Kitchen of Tomorrow, technolog­ ical advances did not necessar­ ily represent human improvement (a lesson he learned with our touting, emoticon times).

The charming "FUBAR" de­ velops a relationship with the imag­ ination man, but offers the hope that human kindness and love can triumph at last. "Four Little, a PI­ man for GFE, has a career that seems to consist of being tempo­ rarily relocated to buildings away from the main campus, each more distant and emptier, where he has less and less to do. When he is sent a selection from the "golf pool," a perky and positive-thinking secre­ tary who is "a twinkling constella­ tion of costume jewelry," he begins to see where true value lies."

In "The Nice Little People," a downtrodden cuckold discovers a knife that may be a spacecraft containing tiny astronauts. Oh he may be crazy. The story works either way.

The other stories are melodra­ mas, shaggy-dog stories, warnings about the dangers of Stalinism and home-grown fascism. Some don't really work, some do. As usual with this kind of posthumous book, it's likely to be of interest mostly to those devoted to reading every word the author wrote.

For the less fanatical, there are still those marvelous novels, in which Vonnegut took his middlebrow pop lessons and bent high­ brow literature to them.

Photo of Kurt Vonnegut, pictured here in a 1998 file photo from the Miami Her­ ald, died in 2007 from brain injuries.

Monday, November 30, 2009

www.mustangdaily.net

ARTS

Vonnegut's unpublished stories emerge after death
Random acts of kindness will keep planet green

In our daily actions as citizens of the world, there are countless contributions in which we can take part through random green acts of kindness. Although there are many major global challenges facing the world in which we live, collectively, we can all play a part in enriching our lives and those that surround as through much smaller, more personal “green” decision making, which will ultimately create change worldwide.

Random green acts of kindness are simple actions that can be executed in a day, hour, minute or even seconds. They might even be acts that we don’t think about while they happen. In defining an act of random kindness, I would say that it is something that you are 100 percent willing to participate in, a decision that is made on behalf of pure devotion for the cause, or in other words, it means being a green Samaritan.

Random green acts of kindness make you feel good about yourself. Imagine how you feel when someone gives you a sincere compliment; when someone lets you cut in line at the grocery store or when someone is courteous for sake of being compassionate. These are the acts of kindness that I am speaking about, but with a green twist.

So what exactly is a green act of kindness? It could mean dedicating a day of the weekend to a beach cleanup, donating your clothing to charitable organizations to re-emphasize re-use and recycle or even choosing to ride your bike instead of driving to work or school. Kindness is the key ingredient, and should be the root cause of your actions that you are “actively” giving and later “passively” receiving from your efforts.

The act of kindness could be as simple as making a split-second decision to pick up a piece of litter while you are on your way to class. These small acts of kindness, while seen by others, may be adopted by passerby as they see your act of greenness. One good act leads to another.

When I bring my reusable bags to the grocery store, I am not trying to feel good about what I am doing on my behalf, but rather I am looking at my contribution as a part to the whole. I realize that I myself am not the total resolution in bringing my green bags, but only a piece of a much larger puzzle.

For several years, my family has been giving our holiday gift to World Vision, an organization that sponsors families and communities around the world, providing them with gifts, such as food, clothing, school supplies, animals, farming equipment, seeds, trees, clean water supplies and much more. After donating a goat last year, we received a letter 10 months later stating that that goat had five kids, and therefore five more families were able to have their own goat, and their own supply of goat milk. I see this as an act of green kindness.

In a given day, there are dozens of green decisions that can be made by each and every one of us. With any action that you encounter within your day-to-day lives, choose an option that least impacts the environment, encourages sustainable economy and promotes socially just practices. It is in this that we will all be participating in random green acts of kindness, by leading the world in a greener and more compassionate direction.

Pay the random green act of kindness forward. The future simply cannot wait.

Tyler Harris is a city and regional planning senior, Emperor Poly Coalition vice president and Mustang Daily columnist. If you would like to contribute to "The Green Spot," please e-mail mustangdaily@gmail.com.

In response to "BLOG: Cal Poly Band brings energy to the courts." Budget cuts on this campus affect everyone, not just minorities and females. While I understand these cuts obviously have a greater impact on socio-economic groups with lower incomes, the fact that someone is a white male, or a black female, or an Asian transsexual, or any other combination in race and sex you could come up with does not assume an economic status. The issue at hand is funding, not race, not gender, not diversity. The funding should go to those who need it and deserve it most. The best way to do this and ensure unbiased distribution of funds is to make the allocation as representative of the student demographics (which Cal Poly does).

—David

In response to "BLOG: Pressure threatens non-existent diversity!" NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject.
Sept. 11 mastermind should not be unfairly tried on U.S. soil

The fact that al-Qaeda terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-described mastermind of Sept. 11, and four other alleged co-conspirators are being brought to the United States to be tried in a civil court is foolish to say the least. I'm all for trying these men for the crimes they claimed to have committed, but it would be a mistake to try them in civilian court, only a short walk away from Ground Zero.

It is also a sad attempt by the Obama administration to make an example of the supposed terrorists. Either convictions or acquittals of the alleged terrorists would be counterproductive to the Obama administration's goals, as it would glorify the five men. Furthermore, the trial will only fuel the fire of remaining al-Qaeda members.

Civil law is intended for the citizens of the United States, on U.S. soil, under normal circumstances. In no way does this apply to the situation in which Mohammed was apprehended. The evidence and his capture were all in a war scenario. Sept. 11 was certainly an act of war. To say that the United States is not at war is a contradiction to our presence in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have taken over other governments and are applying our rule in their lands. That is war. Mohammed should be tried in a military tribunal where the laws of war apply. The evidence found in 2003 when Mohammed was captured in Pakistan would normally not be admitted in a civilian court (I say this because this trial could see some strange processes).

For instance, there was no search warrant, and if you look at it from a legal aspect, Mohammed was basically kidnapped. If the evidence found there is not allowed because of these discrepancies, the trial against Mohammed would become almost unwinnable.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder recently commented on the situation, saying, "I would not have authorized the prosecution of these cases unless I was confident that our outcome would be a successful one."

With this statement, Holder basically guaranteed a conviction, making a spectacle of the trial that is to come. His statement does not point to the fair and just trial that the U.S. Constitution promises. If the Obama administration can't or doesn't want to give the four alleged terrorists a fair trial, it should have gone with a military tribunal, in which all evidence could be used.

To al-Qaeda sympathizers, this view mocks them and will further their dislike for Western ideas of justice and freedom. I can understand why Holder would say this and why the trial would be brought to the United States; the Obama administration wants to make an example of this guy and show that they are strong. But it also gives the terrorists a chance to portray themselves as martyrs.

Outside the fact that this will make a conviction more difficult if these men are indeed guilty, but there is a question of safety in bringing five potential terrorists to American soil. "The attacks of September 11th were an act of war," U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas said on CNN.com. "Reverting to a pre-Septem­ber 11 approach to fighting terror­ism and bringing these dangerous individuals onto U.S. soil needlessly compromises the safety of all Americans."

Out of 593 individuals tried for terrorism-related offenses since September 11, 523 have been convicted, according to Center on Law and Security. And the District Court in Manhattan if allowed to proceed, the trial will backfire and cause more deeply rooted dislike for Western ideals, even if voters in the U.S. approve of the move. And it's almost impossible to see the long-term politics of that move working out well.

Will Taylor is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily reporter.
Injuries

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ing care of her injuries, there is always the possibility that she will become too disabled to play.

"This happened last year when they had to keep me out for a couple of games and players from the second string had to step up," she said. "This year, we don't re-

ally have set roles yet, so I don't know who would fill my spot if I wasn't able to play."

Though Santiago has been able to play in the first several games, other players have not been so lucky.

Senior guard Tamara Wells is officially out for the season due to a hip injury. She underwent sur-

gery on earlier this season.

"I only half expected Tamara to be out. We didn't have any verdict until recently," Mimnaugh said.

Two freshmen players are also suffering injuries. Nikel Allison, a 6-foot-2 forward, is set to be out for the season due to a broken foot. She had surgery on her foot, but nobody likes to be sidelined," Wells said.

Mimnaugh said that despite the injuries, with 18 players, the team can fill the missing spots.

"We carry a very large squad anyway because it's expected that there we are going to have players out with injuries," she said.

The difficulty lies in moving players to positions they do not typically play. In early season games, Mimnaugh had to move players who typically play guard positions into forward positions.

"The challenge came in learning how to guard someone who is 20 to 30 pounds heavier than you. Girls were giving up based on sheer size. From a defensive standpoint, we are definitely strug-
gling," Mimnaugh said.

At 6-foot-3, Bloetscher said that it has been a challenge to put other players in her place.

"I'm the tallest girl on the team so I'm a pretty big presence on the court. People had to play the ball or give the other girls advice. It actually really helps when they give insight to the girls on the court from the sidelines," Mimnaugh said.

In addition to the two new ad-

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ditions to the team, returning play-

ers Christine Martin, who joined the lineup this year as a guard from being a redshirt last year and Colleen Garrett, a sophomore for-

ward, are also currently unable to play due to a back injury and a torn calf muscle, respectively.

Mimnaugh said that despite the injuries, with 18 players, the team can fill the missing spots.

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【C A L  P O L Y  B A S K E T B A L L】

Women's Basketball vs. University of San Diego
Saturday, December 5th
2 p.m.

Home Opening Weekend
Men's Basketball vs. Seattle University
Thursday, December 3rd
7 p.m.
vs. Pepperdine
Saturday, December 5th
7 p.m.

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Mustangs battle through early injuries

Katie Koschalk

Editors note: For coverage on this weekend’s basketball games visit Mustangdaily.net.

Abby Bloetscher, a sophomore post player for Cal Poly’s women’s basketball team, was at a river in her hometown last August when she slipped and fell 10 feet off a rock ledge to a lower rock. Breaking her foot upon landing, Bloetscher was unable to play in the first two games of the season.

She isn’t the only player on the team that has been effected by injuries this year. Six others are injured, most of them unable to participate in practices and games.

Head coach Faith Mimnaugh said there are already more injuries this year than last year, when five players were unable to play due to heel injuries. The squad has had to make several adjustments in its first games of the season due to injuries.

“It’s definitely been impacting us,” Mimnaugh said. “We’ve had to shuffle people around the court and put them in positions that they are not used to. We are really trying to fill the gaps, but it’s hard for players to adjust to positions that they don’t usually play.”

Junior forward and Cal Poly’s leading scorer Kristina Santiago has been suffering from back pain since the beginning of the season. She has been seeing a chiropractor, undergoing massage therapy and attending rehabilitation on the Cal Poly campus.

By maintaining a daily rehabilitation schedule and limiting herself during practice, Santiago managed to play in the opening game this season.

“It usually happens at the beginning of every year,” Santiago said. “I find that I take advantage of being healthy and think that I can get away with not stretching and keeping up my rehab.”

Santiago said that although she is being diligent about taking injuries, she is being diligent about taking the court and putting those players in positions that they are not used to.

The program tries to get our athletes out into the community and for them to reach out to the people that support Cal Poly Athletics. It’s a way for our athletes to give back to the people that come out to games and follow the sport,” Nunnamy said.

The program tries to work with the schools’ lesson plans so activities tie into what the children are learning. The most common type of event is an assembly, in which the athletes introduce themselves, talk about their particular sports and interests and answer questions.

Business senior and women’s basketball guard Tamara Wells has participated in the Adopt-A-School Program since her freshman year, and said she was involved in an assembly at Templeton Middle School her freshman year with four other Cal Poly athletes.

“It was right before lunch and all the students were in this big room. The assembly informed them on topics like working hard in school, eating healthy and keeping their athletic director, said that typically after the assemblies there is a question and answer portion during which the kids can ask the athletes anything they want.

“The idea is to volunteer time with the students so that we can give to them and hopefully they can learn to give back as well. Every-