Campus construction ongoing as campus activities resume

UU Plaza Renovation

Construction in the University Union Plaza began in June 2009. It is funded by money from Associated Students Inc. reserves. The UU is set to reopen in April 2010 with an upgraded stage, landscaping and seating area. The total project budget is $4,478,000.

Rec Center Expansion

Seventy-five percent of the students who voted in a February 2008 referendum approved a $65 increase to the Student Union fee per quarter to fund the Cal Poly Rec Center expansion. The fee increase will not go into effect until the expansion project is estimated to be completed in June 2012. The total project budget is $71,128,000.

Congress tasked with multiple economic issues

Robert Schroeder
MarketWatch

WASHINGTON — Health care, job creation and tackling the gaping U.S. budget deficit await both President Barack Obama and lawmakers upon their return to Washington, getting the new year and new decade off to an intense start with a sharp focus on economic issues.

With midterm congressional elections coming up later this year, the heat is on Democrats in particular to deliver or the economy begins to crawl out of recession.

The health care overhaul, Obama’s top domestic priority, will be front and center when lawmakers return to work in earnest in the middle of the month. On Dec. 24, the Senate passed its plan to revamp the health care system, which seeks to extend insurance to millions of Americans and bar insurers from denying coverage to the sick.

Senate and House lawmakers must now hammer out a compromise version of the legislation, which Obama wants to sign before his State of the Union address — scheduled to be in the first days of February, and in it the president is expected to take on the $1.4 trillion U.S. budget deficit. The White House is hacking a bipartisan commission to cut federal borrowing, and Obama’s budget director Peter Orszag has said the administration will offer ways to

see Economy, page 2

Gov. Schwarzenegger faces new lame-duck status

Michael Rothfeld
Los Angeles Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — No self-respecting politician wants to be one. The phrase itself is utterly demeaning. But with a year left in office, there are signs that California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has begun his transformation into a lame duck.

This status, defined by the weakness of a politician whose term will soon expire, may be difficult to swallow for a former Mr. Universe known to legions of moviegoers for vanquishing opponents as Hercules, Conan and the Terminator. Schwarzenegger reflects a particular kind of strength.

But legislators already have begun sensing that at a lame duck he is easy prey and have openly disregarded some of his wishes. Members of his staff have steadily been quitting, and replacements are hard to come by. Schwarzenegger himself has stopped curtailing his famous mischievous streak. More of all this is probable in the year ahead.

The question for Schwarzenegger is whether he will focus his energy on resolving California’s renewed budget crisis or take a more passive approach and spend his time on a publicity tour around the state or the globe to burnish his legacy, said Bill Whalen, who was a speechwriter for California Gov. Pete Wilson.

“That is his definition of a lame duck, but being a lame duck does not mean he’s powerless,” Whalen said.

see Lame duck, page 2
**Lame duck**

Continued from page 1

mean that you have to sit back and let the situation overwhelm you," Whalen said.

President Schwarzenegger took a turn through the Middle East and Europe in November and flew to a climate conference in Copenhagen last month while ads were dealing with a $20 billion deficit. If that pattern continues, Schwarzenegger will have to sit in a bare schedule. Besides the budget, he is expected to campaign on a series of open political primaries on the state ballot in June and an $11 billion bond measure slated for November.

"Gov. Schwarzenegger is going to approach this year no different than any other, with an aggressive agenda to fix what’s broken in the state," said his spokesman, Matt Davi.

"He’s proven time and again that he can get stuff done even during difficult times."

That Schwarzenegger’s power is waning was evident last month, however, in the decision of state Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg to kill the governor’s reappointment of Rachelle Chong to a six-year term on the California Public Utilities Commission without a confirmation hearing.

Relating Chong’s record as the problem, but also indicated that he was likely to reject more of Schwarzenegger’s appointees whose terms would last well into the next governor’s tenure.

Most have been pro tems who have made the decision to simply not confirm any long-term nominees to the last year of an administration," Steinberg said. He said he would consider other appointees on "a case-by-case basis.

The politics are straightforward. The power to give a governor anything he might want is a bargaining chip for lawmakers. But these bills may hold more value with a governor who will have up to eight years to serve. Schwarzenegger, by con- 

...being a lame duck does not mean that you have to sit back and let the situation overwhelm you. — Bill Whalen

**Economy**

Continued from page 1

tackle the deficit in its next budget, in February.

Lawmakers also will have to make an increase in the nation’s borrowing limit. Just before leaving town on Christmas Eve, the Senate joined the House in approving a short-term increase in the U.S. debt limit. But the $892 billion increase passed through with a debate about the country’s debt. The U.S. debt ceiling now stands at $12.4 trillion.

House and Senate lawmakers will converge on the Capitol for a pro-forma session on Tuesday, but won’t get back to work until the first week of March. The Senate will return for votes on Jan. 12 and the Senate will return for votes on Jan. 20. With unemployment at 10 percent and with prospects for significant job growth dim, lawmakers will have to make some tough decisions to set the country on track to be created by the end of the year.

Bank reform is also high on the congressional agenda. The House has passed its bill but the Senate hasn’t. At issue are rules that would prevent a reprise of the market meltdown that shook the world in 2008. But action is going to be slow out of the gate: the Senate Banking Committee is just beginning to debate the legislation, and analysts think a final vote by the Senate may not come until spring.

November’s congressional elections will hang over everything lawmakers do this year, and since a new president’s party usually loses seats, Democrats will need to be on the lookout for Republican attempts to rein in the stimulus. All of the House’s 435 members are up for reelection, and there will be 36 Senate contests. Republicans could need 40 House seats to capture that chamber, and 10 seats to street Senate control from Democrats.

**Stricter airport-security measures enforced in U.S.**

Christopher Hinton

*Matl Norlander
Senior, Electrical Engineering
*I like that it’s FREE*

**Mustang Daily**

NEW YORK — Federal officials insisted on increased security for international flights to the U.S. starting Monday, increasing gate delays and bag searches in response to the attempted bombing of a Northwest Airlines flight over the Christmas holiday.

The "enhanced" security measures will be particularly acute for passengers from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, because of U.S. "state sponsors of terrorism" or "other countries of interest," the Transportation Security Administration said in its latest release.

Those other countries include some that Washington considers its ally against the Al Queda extremist, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, according to media reports. It also includes the four nations the U.S. has formally designated as state sponsors of terrorism: Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria.

Although there are 14 countries that the U.S. considers potentially dangerous for airlines, "New directive includes long- term, sustainable security measures developed in consultation with U.S. representatives and our domestic and international partners," the TSA said in a release issued Sunday.

In an earlier release, the Department of Homeland Security said the TSA would increase pat-downs and bag searches at airport security gates, as well as require passengers to store electronic devices, turn of electronic equipment and remain seated during parts of flights. The TSA has also been media reports that passengers have to return blankets before their aircraft begins to descend.

In addition, TSA checkpoints will begin using the latest screen- ing technologies as well as "threat- based" and random screening for passengers on international flights destined for U.S. airports.

On Dec. 23, a 23-year-old Nigerian man reportedly tried to de- stroy a Northwest flight bound for Detroit from Amsterdam by set- ting off an explosive device in his pants. The device failed, resulting in his arrest, and the man was quickly deported.

Passengers on international Rights, 2008. But action is going to be slow out of the gate: the Senate Banking Committee is just beginning to debate the

**Mustang Daily**

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News editor: Kate McIntyre
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Tuesday, January 5, 2010
Secret Service says third uninvited person attended state dinner

Kathleen Haennessy
TERRELL WASHINGTON (AP)

WASHINGTON — The list of uninvited guests at a White House state dinner got longer Monday when the Secret Service acknowledged that a third person had attended the gala for the Indian prime minister last November without an invitation.

The Secret Service discovered that a third person had made it into the White House dinner as it was investigating how Michaele and Tareq Salahi, the now-famous Virginia socialites, made it past security to attend the gala for the Indian prime minister last November without an invitation.

"We're starting to fill in the picture of the different types of planets in ways that we couldn't before," said Jon Jenkins of the SETI Institute, co-investigator for data analysis for the $591 million Kepler mission.

Science had thought there were two classes of planets — terrestrial and gas giants. The new Kepler data, Jenkins said, hints that intermediate-sized planets such as "Neptune-sized Uranus form in a different fashion than Jupiters and Saturns. There are finer distinctions in how these planets form."

Kepler also had reassuring news for those who worry about the future of the source of all life on Earth — the sun. It turns out that a majority of the roughly 43,000 sun-like, "G-class" stars that Kepler observed are as stable as our sun.
CIA bomber may have been Jordanian double-agent

Greg Miller
WASHINGTON — The suicide bomber who killed eight people at a CIA compound in Afghanistan last week was a Jordanian who had been recruited by that nation’s intelligence service to help U.S. spy agencies penetrate al-Qaeda, according to a former senior U.S. intelligence official.

The bombing killed seven CIA employees who were apparently lured to a meeting with the supposed informant by the prospect of important new intelligence on al-Qaeda’s inner circle. The attack posed a threat, the former official said, because the informant was able to enter the base with a bomb strapped to his body, suggesting that he had earned the trust of his CIA and Jordanian handlers.

“The guy totally had them believing, which means he had (previously) given them verifiable information, and everything he said was true,” the former official said. “This guy totally had them believing, which means he had (previously) given them verifiable information, and everything he said was true.”

Another former senior U.S. intelligence official who served in the region said that high-level CIA operations from Kabul had been summoned to the remote base near Khost for what they were told to believe would be an important meeting with a well-placed informant.

At least two of those CIA officials from Kabul were wounded, the former agency official said. The former official said that the fact that the informant was able to enter the base with a bomb strapped to his body suggests that he had earned the trust of his CIA and Jordanian handlers.

“What this tells you is that al-Qaeda is now capable of running a fairly sophisticated double-agent operation,” the former CIA official said. “That’s how you do these operations — you find people who can conceivably penetrate terrorist organizations, try to turn them and run them against target-terrorists, and the former U.S. intelligence official, who is familiar with aspects of last week’s attack but spoke on the condition of anonymity, “Obviously, this one turned out tragically.”

The revelations also reveal the inherent risks in the CIA’s deep reliance on Jordan and other foreign partners in sensitive counter-terrorism operations.

“Their risk of getting penetrated by a foreign government, if you will, is huge,” the former official said. “But you have to work together with them.”

Jordan has been a key partner for the CIA in Afghanistan, and other governments have become wary of their intelligence services in recent months.

The attack on the CIA base was the second one in Afghanistan in less than two weeks. The first took place on Jan. 1, when a roadside bomb killed four Americans and two Jordanians.

The CIA’s role in helping Jordan’s intelligence service recruit informants, the former official said, “is a fairly sophisticated double-agent operation.”

The former official described the CIA’s role in the Jordanian operation as “the guy totally had them believing, which means he had (previously) given them verifiable information, and everything he said was true.”

The CIA had worked closely with the Jordanian intelligence service in the past, and the former official said that the CIA had been recruiting informants in Jordan for years.

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Most of the arriving reinforcements are to be deployed in the south, where thousands of U.S. Marines have been trying to secure a key swath of the Helmand River valley. Other U.S. troops are working to quell a rising insurgent presence around the city of Kandahar, the Taliban’s spiritual center.

Fighting also has flared recently in Afghanistan’s north, where the insurgents have strengthened in recent months. Afghanistan’s Defense Ministry said at least 10 Taliban fighters were killed in a clash Sunday with Afghan troops.

In Afghanistan’s north, where the insurgents have strengthened in recent months. Afghanistan’s Defense Ministry said at least 10 Taliban fighters were killed in a clash Sunday with Afghan troops.

The American military presence in Afghanistan has also left the government barely functioning.

The support of a number of prominent military leaders such as Khan helped Karzai win a second term in office, though the August election was clouded by massive fraud. While Karzai was eventually declared the winner, international observers were left with the impression that the government had become more unstable and less capable of dealing with the many challenges from political and security threats.

If Karzai is able to strengthen his Cabinet choices through parliament, it may add to widespread public disillusionment over corruption and inefficiency in the government. But a new political deal for the president could open the door to prolonged infighting that could render his government even more unstable for the West.

Western diplomats have made it clear to Karzai they expect him to carry out sweeping reforms, but that will be difficult if the Afghan leader is preoccupied with fighting off challenges from political rivals.
"How was your winter break?"

"It was quiet and fun. I saw a concert and went snowboarding."

Robert Michael, biological sciences freshman

"My winter break was fabu­lous. I went to Monterey and it was fun."

-Ralph Lee, political science junior

"It was OK. I went on vacation with Jordan's intelligence service more than a year ago. In Jordan, I was a doctor, according to the Al-Jazeera report, which said that the bomber had worked with Jordanian and CIA contacts for more than a year. Evan Kohlmann, a counterterror expert, said that Al-Balawi was also a "notorious al-Qaida cyberactivist" known for extremist postings on sites tied to the terrorist network. Kohlmann said in an email that Al-Balawi's online moniker was "Abu Daqahib al-Khorasani," and that "he had announced he was leaving to go join the fight in Afghanistan, and was trying to inspire others to follow in his footsteps."

The Jordanian intelligence official who did not identify himself as Sharif Ali bin Zaid Jordan's King Abdullah II was present when Zaid's casket arrived in the country, according to a report by Jordan's news service, which said that only Ali "told him that he transformed terrorism targets. The CIA also collaborated extensively with Jordanian intelligence. One former high-ranking U.S. intelligence official said the effort was dubbed the "baby terrorist program," because of its aims to identify individuals who could pass as Islamic militants and be turned against terror­ism targets. "The theory behind it was that right after the attacks we were looking to recruit sources who could penetrate terrorist organiza­tions," the former official said. "We wanted to establish a service to turn around the immigration and rendition operations. The CIA also collaborated extensively with Jordanian intelligence and the other Arab allies, on a program launched after the Sept. 11 strikes to identify terrorists in the Middle Eastern region to meet U.S. demands to take steps to block any more. I can't take it any longer."
High school senior gains national recognition for music video

Nicole Brodeur

SEATTLE — So Ashton Kutcher and Ben Stiller were tweeting the other day. You know. Down in Hollywood.

And Ben says, "We are all going to be working for Javier Caceres in five years."

Javier Caceres. You know. The filmmaker.

If you haven't heard of him, you will. He's the senior at Shorewood High School in Shoreline, Wash., who helped conceive, choreograph and shoot "Shorewood Lip-Dub" — a music video of Hall and Oates' "You Make My Dreams Come True" that was shot forward but is shown backward.

The 6-minute, 37-second, how-did-they-do-it video went up on YouTube Dec. 17. On Dec. 22, it was featured on "The Rachel Maddow Show" on MSNBC.

And now Ashton and Ben are all over the place, along with nickelodeon powerhouse producer Dan Schneider, who The New York Times called "the Norman Lear of children's television."

"It's amazing, unbelievable," Caceres said the other day. "I just never thought it was going to be this huge. I've just been in a daze, never thought it was going to lie.

Even better for Caceres would be if the video was seen by Michel Gondry, the French director behind " Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," and Caceres' idol.

"If he ever watched the video, I would lose my mind," said Caceres, 18. "He's the epitome of creativity."

The Shorewood lip-dub was a response to one made last month by rival Shorecrest High School to Machtel's "Hey Ya!"

Shorecrest's video-production class produced a continuous, one-take video involving hundreds of students dancing and singing through the halls. There's a banana in a wheelchair, the grim reaper and a tootsie roll, and people lending sugar and shaking it like a Polaroid picture. (You know what to do.)

The whole thing was captured by student cameraman Kellan O'Donnell.

Shorewood saw it, and the challenge was on.

There was talk of using the Beavis cover of " Twist and Shout," but Caceres thought it was too slow. So he and video production

Javier Caceres has received national attention for his music video of Hall and Oates' "You Make My Dreams Come True," which was shot forward, but is shown backward.

Oatmeal for $1 Can't beat that

Special Pricing Ends Jan 10.
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An Early Warning

Valentine's Day: An Early Warning

You have 50 days until Valentine's Day. Why are you giving me so much notice? Well, because you might need it if you believe the media, you probably should have started planning months ago.

Valentine's Day used to be about sending cards. It's nothing in the last 50 years or so that the range of gifts expanded to flowers, chocolates and jewelry. There are millions of dollars, which is all the better for the florists, chocolatiers and jewelers, but bad news for the consumer.

This is a lot of money, especially for student budgets, and advertisements make certain promises that might tempt us to buy. Buying something as expensive as jewelry means that it is true love, and of course, in every commercial chocolate is shown presenting gifts whether they are a simple (who doesn't get 12 roses?) or that they barely need any ads at all.

What it comes down to is that society, i.e. companies that sell Valentine's gifts, want you to forget about all the love and feelings and stuff and just buy your girlfriend what everyone else is buying.

And yes, I said girlfriend, because I haven't seen an add that promises guys any sort of Valentine's Day gift, except sex as a direct result of the other gifts he has bought.

Session and prostitution aside, there is no way to succeed in this kind of system. You bought flowers, chocolate and jewelry, but that's just the basics. To truly create a fairy-tale Valentine's Day, you will need to at least throw down $500 at least for a horse-drawn carriage to say nothing about the trained doves and string quartet. Even a fairly basic romantic dinner is not only fairly pricey, but can easily fall through if you don't make reservations soon. So why do we even try?

Truth is, advertising doesn't only work on the guy who has to buy all this stuff. Whether they like it or not, everyone's expectations have been raised by these ridiculous ads that care who you are, if you're expecting dinner at a fancy restaurant and a diamond necklace, and you get Pizza Hut and a ring pop, you're going to be a bit disappointed.

The secret to having as little of that disappointment as possible is, of course, communication. Try to figure out what each person in the relationship expects from the day. It would be wise to do this the day before. There are many different ways you can celebrate Valentine's Day and you shouldn't feel pressured to celebrate in a way neither of you really want.

If a relationship is relatively young, Valentine's could be fraught with even more trouble. If you are still unfamiliar with each other, it won't be very healthy to listen to the day's message of true love, marriage proposals and happily ever after. You will probably just want to celebrate it, but make sure that you're having fun, and not in a restaurant surrounded by couples who have been together for years. It's probably too soon to be thinking that father down the road, especially when you should be focusing on each other and not on what society thinks you should be feeling.

And if you find yourself on Valentine's Day with nobody to celebrate with, it is of a perfect time to celebrate " Singles Awareness Day" with friends. Just try to do things that will place you far away from the happy couples, as that defeats the purpose of celebrating your singlehood and your right to celebrate even if you aren't seeing anyone. Watching a movie while eating ice cream is a traditional favorite, but don't pass up a fun (not romantic) dinner or something more wild (sex toy party?). There are endless possibilities.

Another benefit of Valentine's Day is that if you do feel lonely, it's likely that others feel the same way. While it would be unlikely to start a relationship with someone while under that sort of pressure, hooking up with someone might be just the thing to remind you of the fun of being single. Just be sure that you don't expect anything more than fun from them.

In short, whatever your situation this Valentine's Day, don't let your day be dictated by our consumerist culture. For hundreds of years, it was a holiday about love, and that should be your focus, not whatever you are supposed to buy to prove that you have love. As long as the day is special, who cares what you buy or get?

Anthony Rust is a biology junior and Mustang Daily's arts columnist. Questions or quotes? E-mail him at amrust@fuller.edu.
Professor decodes Starbucks' secrets to success in new book

Luciana Chavez

MACEDONIA STUDENT

Temple University professor Bryant Simon believes he knows the Starbucks secret. And it's not the caramel macchiato or the 86,999 other drinks the international coffee purveyors sell us. It's the lifestyle we buy with that $3 cup of joe.

Simon, 48, wanted to show how Americans communicate with their purchases. So, for his book "Everything But the Coffee: Learning about America from Starbucks," he visited 435 Starbucks in the U.S. and 10 other countries, analyzing everything from the flooring to the signage and everyone from the customers to CEO Howard Schultz.

"I listened to Alanis Morissette more than anyone should have to," Simon says.

In the book, the UNC-Chapel Hill graduate explains how Starbucks became a Wall Street favorite by making its customers feel environmentally aware, upwardly mobile, connected and cool by welcoming us, by name, into their clean, urban-chic stores, pumping hip music, and selling us (some) fair-trade coffee in cups made of 60 percent recycled materials.

We get all that in one cup of coffee! At least the illusion of it, Simon says.

Simon spent five years researching, thinking and writing about the global business phenomenon that is Starbucks, a company that serves 50 million customers per week.

Then he "avoided it like the plague" until his book was published in October.

While he worked, Simon chatted up people at Starbucks and organized focus groups. He talked to interior design experts and monitored message boards on Web sites such as www.ihatestarbucks.com and www.urbandictionary.com.

He dragged his wife to Guadalajara, Mexico, to meet a Starbucks fan he'd met online.

"Everyone had something to say," he says. "It became kind of tedious, but I'd end up in the bathroom scribbling down notes on napkins."

Reading the store

Simon found clues to Starbucks' success all over each shop he visited. During a recent stop at Starbucks on Peace Street in Raleigh, N.C., Simon pointed out two big, royal purple chairs positioned in one corner. The comfy chairs offered a chance for respite; the royal purple color and velvety fabric oozed opulence and affluence.

At the store at the corner of Maynard and Chapel Hill Road in Cary, N.C., Simon explained how the napkins, featuring a message about recycling, gave customers a stake in the do-good Starbucks image.

Simon found clues to Starbucks' success overseas. One of Simon's former students from the University of Georgia told him she bought Starbucks' Ethos water because the company donated some of the money to clean water projects overseas.

Others said they went because the relatively expensive drinks were affordable ways to have a taste of a better life.

"It's also the American way," Simon says. "It's us," he says. "We want these things and we want them as easily as possible."

Reaction

Simon had to rewrite the book to explain how Starbucks got off track in 2007, long before the current recession.

"Starbucks is selling status, which is a different model than say Wal-Mart, which is about selling more," he says. "When we saw Starbucks pursue the selling-more model, it cut into the status-making that had been so successful. Wal-Mart is about value. Starbucks has never been about that."

Writing about the coffee titan left Simon wanting. He tried of seeing the same piece of artwork in every store.

He told his former Georgia student that she was paying an extra 35 cents for the privilege of buying Ethos water. Starbucks gives 5 cents from each bottle to water projects. Ethos water costs about $1.80. Other bottled water of that size are in the $1.40 range.

"I pointed out that they charged her extra to help people," Simon says. "She was like, 'Oh man. I felt bad because she was so earnest about it. She read the sign and thought, 'I'm doing something to help.'"

He noted how at one Starbucks he recently had to ask for a ceramic cup in order to avoid a paper cup. Then, that same day as he filled a recent stop at Starbucks on Peace Street in Raleigh, N.C., Simon pointed out two big, royal purple chairs positioned in one corner. The comfy chairs offered a chance for respite; the royal purple color and velvety fabric oozed opulence and affluence.

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2010 brings new trends around the food industry

Joan Obra

With the end of the year upon us, it's time to predict next year's hottest food trends.

Everyone from the National Restaurant Association to food bloggers get into this game. Here's a look at five of these trends.

More information, please! As consumers hunger to know more about their food, manufacturers and retailers will provide it.

"It's everything from looking for mercury-safe seafood to wanting to know that humane treatment was given to farm animals," states The Food Channel, a Web site that tracks food trends. "It's about no hormones in meats, and organically grown fruits and vegetables. It's about Fair Trade chocolate and spices."

Also, there's the California law that requires chain restaurants with at least 20 locations to provide nutritional information. It's part of a trend dubbed "maximum disclosure" by New York advertising agency JWT.

During 2010, such restaurants will gear up for the next phase of the law. They must print calorie counts or menu items or indoor menu boards as of January 1, 2011.

More local food: The top two restaurant menu trends are "locally sourced meats and seafood," according to a national Restaurant Association survey of more than 1,800 chefs.

More local wine and beer. As restaurants add local food to their menus, it makes sense for them to add local drinks. This is the fifth top trend in the National Restaurant Association's survey.

Here's good news for your waistline: bite-sized desserts, the No. 4 trend for restaurant menus in the National Restaurant Association's survey.

As for types of desserts that will be popular, Epicurious.com's blog (called the.epik), has high praise for the sandwich cookies known as whoopie pies.

Evidence of this trend is in the upcoming book "Whoopie Pie: Desserts of New York, Match'em, Eat 'em Up Recipes," by Sarah Treadwell and Amy Treadwell (Chronicle Books, $16.95) and the carrot-cake whoopie pies from Recchiuti, the San Francisco chocolate company.

"Black garlic. Those black,izzy-sweet garlic cloves contain twice the antioxidants as regular garlic — and don't cause bad breath, JWT says," says Simon. "You'll find them at upscale restaurants and gourmet food shops, but at $28 a pound, black garlic isn't cheap.

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* Editors reserve the right to edit commentaries for spelling, grammar, style, length and priority.
Iraq gradually becoming less deadly

Whenever we see a report on the declining violence in Iraq, we're reminded of the old book title, "Been Down So Long It Looks Like Up To Me." Take, for instance, the report that the civilian death toll fell in November to the lowest fatalities. That was after October toll fell in November to the lowest...
# CLASSIFIEDS

## Comics and Games

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**I MADE RESERVATIONS AT LE FLEUR HEBRUS FOR TONIGHT**

**I CAN’T AFFORD THAT PLACE, I MUST SPEND LESS MONEY THIS YEAR**

**DON’T WORRY, BRADLEY, I’LL ONLY HAVE A SALAD**

**I’LL HAVE THE LOBSTER SALAD WITH CAMBORD PASTA**

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**The New York Times Crossword**

**Edited by Will Shortz**

**No. 1201**

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**35 Order after “at”**

**36 The A* in A-Rod**

**37 Get slowed**

**38 Duped**

**39 Guitar pedal**

**40 Tale of Troy**

**41 Alfred P. ___**

**42 Papyrus plant.**

**43 Plucks, as an eyebrow hair**

**44 Change over**

**45 Homes (in on)**

**46 Front car in a motorcade**

**47 Turns on, as a mirror**

**48 Prefix with “a”**

**49 Not real**

**50 It might mean I”m a dork with a head**

**51 Andean animal”**

**52 “Disinfect to protect” brand**

**53 Almost**

**54 Christmas light**

**55 Killer whale**

**56 Ottawa’s prov. capital**

**57 A sac fly earns one**

**58 Nail spot**

**59 Wave a palm frond at, say**

**60 Not desiring to consider**

**61 - goop gap pan**

**62 Turn away**

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**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

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The man with no reputation nears end of his career

Daniel Brown

ST LOUIS — Isaac Bruce said he wanted to be remembered in the NFL as "a man of no reputation." So it was appropriate that he practically snuck out Sunday.

Bruce started the game, took part in our running play, and then called it a day perhaps a career. Only later, when he was dressed in sweats and back on the sideline, did he get a proper sendoff. A shot of him on the scoreboard prompted cheers of "BruceBruce" from the Rams fans and hugs from his well-entrenched 49ers teammates.

"I can control my emotions, I was going to cry, it nearly came, but it didn't come all the way out," Bruce said. "I was touched, truly touched, by the gesture."

Bruce continued to hold back on a retirement decision. Earlier in the week, he said the odds of walking away from the game were 75 percent. Asked if anything had changed, he said, "Now it's 76 percent."

If he steps away, Bruce, 37, retires as the NFL's second all-time leading receiver. His 15,208 yards trail only Jerry Rice (22,831). Bruce's production this year was minimal, just 21 catches for 254 yards, but he is beloved as a mentor to the 49ers young receivers.

"His character far exceeds the type of player that he is," coach Mike Singletary said.

Based on this season's finish, the 49ers' opponents for 2010 are set. At home, they will face the Raiders, Broncos, Buccaneers, Saints, Arizona, Seattle, St. Louis and Philadelphia.

On the road, they will face Green Bay, San Diego, Kansas City, Carolina, Atlanta, Arizona, Seattle and St. Louis.

Several news outlets raised the possibility that one of the 49ers' "home" games would be an NFL showcase game in London. The Sacramento Bee, citing anonymous sources, reported that the 49ers might face the Eagles overseas in October.

Running back Frank Gore scored on a pair of short runs, giving him 10 rushing touchdowns for the season. That ties the 49ers record for rushing touchdowns previously shared by Eric Dickerson (1986), Ricky Watters (1993), Billy Kilmer (1961), J.D. Smith (1959) and Joe Perry (1953).

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Gore also rushed for 107 yards Sunday, his 20th 100-yard game. That ties Perry for the most in franchise history.

"It's great," Gore said. "It's been an up-and-down year for me."

He came close to the end zone one other time against the Rams. He took a screen pass 22 yards to the cusp of the goal line. That set up Moran Norris, the fullback and close friend of Gore, who scored his first career touchdown.

"That's why I got tackled at the 1-yard line," Gore joked.

Alex Smith's final stat line: 22 of 572 (39.5 percent), 2,551 yards, 18 touchdowns, 12 interceptions and an 81.5 quarterback rating.

The 49ers finished 5-1 in the NFC West. Their only division loss was a 20-16 flop at Seattle on Dec. 16.

Shane Anders, signed because kickers Joe Nieder and Ricky Schmitt (groin) were injured, was 4 for 4 on extra points and did not attempt a field goal.

49ers wide receiver stands as the NFL's second all-time leading receiver. With most of those numbers coming from his tenure in St. Louis, he has accumulated 1,024 catches for 15,208 yards in his career.

The 49ers allowed 127.0 rushing yards a game this season. That's their best since 1997, when they allowed 128.4 rushing yards.

The last time the 49ers finished at 500 was in 1967, when they were 7-7.
Men's and women's basketball sweep UC Irvine to begin conference play

After coaching the men's cross country team to its seventh straight and 16th overall Big West Conference Championship last fall, Mark Conover has been named the new Director of Track and Field/Cross Country for Cal Poly.

Conover replaces previous director Terry Crawford, who resigned last summer after 18 years at Cal Poly in order to accept a position with USA Track and Field as director of coaching.

"Mark emerged as the right candidate for this position among a very talented pool of candidates," Cal Poly Director of Athletics Alison Brown said. "Mark has demonstrated his ability to recruit and develop elite athletes and has a vision for continuing the success and tradition of the Cal Poly track and field program."

Conover is currently in his 14th season at Cal Poly and has led the Mustangs to 11-consecutive appearances at the NCAA Cross Country Championships; six of those as a team. He has coached the men's team to four top-20 finishes, including 13th in 2003, 10th in 2004, 13th in 2006 and 11th in 2009.

"I am thankful to Alison Brown for providing me with this opportunity," Conover added.

During his tenure at Cal Poly, Conover has coached a pair of two-time All-Americans in both track and cross country. He has coached 23 NCAA West Region men's and women's track and field qualifiers and 28 individual NCAA All-West Region men and women in cross country.

"I look forward to providing a positive environment that will allow the student-athlete to obtain academic and athletic excellence."

—Mark Conover

I look forward to providing a positive environment that will allow the student-athlete to obtain academic and athletic excellence.

—Mark Conover

West Cross Country Athletes of the Year, two Freshman Track Athletes of the Year and six Freshman Cross Country Athletes of the Year.

He has coached 27 men and women to Cal Poly top-10 all-time track and field marks, including the school record-holder in the men's 8,000 meters and women's steeplechase.

The women's cross country team, which he assisted before assuming full duties, had its highest conference finish in eight years in 2009 (third). Women's cross country also earned NCAA Academic All-District honors in 2007 and won the 2004-05 and 2007-08 Big West Conference team GPA awards.

"Cal Poly has a long-standing tradition of excellence in the sports of track and field and cross country, with numerous All-Americans as well as alumni who went on to become Olympians," Conover said.

"That fact, combined with the number of successful coaches who came before me and the number of alumni who are currently successful high school and collegiate coaches, truly make it special to be the director of track and field and cross country at Cal Poly. The program has a special place in the hearts of many alumni and fans of the sport who have been associated with Cal Poly."

Conover coached a high school champion and a member of the USA Track and Field team to four top-20 finishes, including 13th in 2003, 10th in 2004, 13th in 2006 and 11th in 2009.

"I am honored to be selected as the director of track and field and cross country at Cal Poly," Conover said. "To be in the position to lead the program into the next decade is a coach's dream. Cal Poly offers every-thing that is necessary when it comes to having a successful program due to its prestigious academic standing and the 'learn by doing' experience that is offered to the student-athlete in a setting that is second to none."

Conover has been named the Big West Conference Men's Coach of the Year eight times and the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) West Region Coach of the Year twice (2004 and 2005).

"I am thankful to Alison Brown for providing me with this opportunity, which I view as the byproduct of hard work, passion, dedication, commitment and loyalty to the university," Conover added.