**Cal Poly floats to the top at Rose Parade**

*Tony Rizzo - SCALCUTER*  

*Kansas City, Mo. — After a failed execution in September, the state of Ohio may have revolutionized capital punishment in America when it put a different inmate to death last month. It executed Kenneth Bos on Dec. 8 with a single drug, marking the first time in the United States that a lethal injection was not done the first time in the United States inmate to death last month. The work for the float is split up evenly between the two campuses. The San Luis Obispo half of the float is taken down to the Pomona campus and the San Luis Obispo team members go down every weekend to work on the float. Mary Young an agriculture system and management senior was the float driver as well as the construction chair. Driving the float was very stressful because Young had to stay up most of the night before parade to move the float into place, she said. Young is able to see directly in front of the float but uses an observer on top of the float to look for possible obstacles outside of the driver’s line of sight. The San Luis Obispo and Pomona campuses alternate providing the float driver and observer every year. Theobald said that around 1,000-1,500 volunteers come to help the float builders during “Deco Week.” “Deco Week” is the week before the parade which all of the flowers are put on the float. Michelle Ahlstrom, landscape architect, junior and assistant program leader said “Deco Week” is her favorite part of the building the float. “I love Deco Week, it’s the most stressful and crazy week and it’s so much fun,” she said. Schmiedberg estimated that he put in more than 1,000 hours of work on the float himself, while see Float, page 2

**Cal Poly honored as ‘Best Workplace for Commuters’**

*Katherine Grady - Mustang Daily*

Cal Poly was recognized with a gold medal as last year’s Best Workplace for Commuters. The 2009 Race to Excellence Award credits an entity’s support for commuter benefits in addition to reducing air pollution, traffic congestion and fuel usage, and offering alternatives to employees driving alone. It was one of 27 companies, institutions and individuals recognized nationwide in November. The university has 11 vans for van pooling and coordinates with the regional RideShare office in San Luis Obispo to match up employees with similar schedules and destinations. Cal Poly was recognized for including an increased number of bicycle racks, showers, lockers, employee commuting awards, incentives and on-site amenities. Cal Poly strives for long-term changes in on-campus transportation including fewer parking spaces, increased parking fees and greater car sharing and bus use. Starting with the University Union Plaza renovation, this eventually includes closing Perimeter Road entirely with the exception of campus and emergency response vehicles. Cindy Campbell, Cal Poly’s associate director of University Police, is responsible to offering programs for sustainable transportation. “We are definitely marketing to students on a regular basis,” she said. “We try to send the message that before you decide on a single car as your only option, there are countless other options.” These range from biking, busing, rideshare matching, van pools, shuttles or the latest addition to Cal Poly’s transportation force, the Zip Car. The service first appeared in October and is a Web-based membership program for an hourly see Commuter, page 2

**States hesitant to switch from three-drug ‘cocktail’ for executions**

*Tony Rizzo - SCALCUTER*

Kansas City, Mo. — After a failed execution in September, the state of Ohio may have revolutionized capital punishment in America when it put a different inmate to death last month. Executed Kenneth Bos on Dec. 8 with a single drug, marking the first time in the United States that a lethal injection was not done with a three-drug “cocktail” that has been the subject of numerous legal challenges in recent years. Death penalty experts think it’s highly likely that other states will follow Ohio’s lead. “I had wondered for years why one drug wasn’t used,” said death penalty opponent Dudley Sharp. “There was some speculative downsides, all of which were, easily overcome.” see Executions, page 2

**Tim Miller - Mustang Daily**

Both Cal Poly campus’s collaborated on their float “Jungle Cats,” which was the first float to win two awards at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena this New Year’s Day. For the second year in a row the Cal Poly float won the RTLA Viewers Choice Award; this year they also won an award from the Tournament of Rose’s Committee, the Bob Hope Humor Trophy. Cal Poly won the Viewers Choice Award with 20,798 votes only 401 votes more than the next closest float by RFD-TV. Last year, the first year the Viewers Choice Award was given, there were only 16,639 total votes cast. Jane Theobald, the program leader for the float program and landscape architecture junior, said it felt really good to beat floats designed by professional float makers. The only thing that Theobald said she remembered when the float was by was “screaming my head off.” “Once the float goes past the TV camera I’m done, the head of the giraffe can fall off for all I care,” said she. This year’s theme for the parade was “2010 A Cat Above the Rest,” so the Cal Poly design featured a monkey giving haircuts to a variety of animals including a zebra with a spiked purple Mohawk and a lion with a perm. The float also featured several mechanical elements including a toucan flying around a tree and a monkey swinging from a tree as well as a waterfall. “Jungle Cats” was the 62nd float to be made in a collaborative effort between the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Pomona campuses. The work for the float is split up evenly between the two campuses said Brandon Schmeideberg, landscape architecture senior and lead float designer. In late October, the San Luis Obispo half of the float is taken down to the Pomona campus and the San Luis Obispo team members go down every weekend to work on the float. Mary Young an agriculture system and management senior was the float driver as well as the construction chair. Driving the float was very stressful because Young had to stay up most of the night before parade to move the float into place, she said. Young is able to see directly in front of the float but uses an observer on top of the float to look for possible obstacles outside of the driver’s line of sight. The San Luis Obispo and Pomona campuses alternate providing the float driver and observer every year. Theobald said that around 1,000-1,500 volunteers came to help the float builders during “Deco Week.” “Deco Week” is the week before the parade which all of the flowers are put on the float. Michelle Ahlstrom, landscape architect, junior and assistant program leader said “Deco Week” is her favorite part of the building the float. “I love Deco Week, it’s the most stressful and crazy week and it’s so much fun,” she said. Schmiedberg estimated that he put in more than 1,000 hours of work on the float himself, while see Float, page 2

**Guy Ritchie successfully brings “Sherlock Holmes” to the big screen.**

**iPhone beware: Google unveils new Nexus One phone.**

**College Sporting News honors Jordan Yocum.**

**IN ARTS, 6**

**IN NEWS, 4**

**IN SPORTS, 12**
Float
continued from page 1
Theobald said she put in around 700 hours of work. The team does take some time off working on the float during finals week but they make up for it with all the time they spend during the first two weeks of winter break, she added.
Scheideborg will be the lead designer next year to mark her fourth year working on Cal Poly's float. He has already received the theme for next year and has begun to create the design.

"Next year's float will be the most important to me because it's my last float," Scheideborg said. But he still expects to be in Pasadenad at the end of December in the years to come volunteering on the float, he added.

Extractions
continued from page 1

"I love to see the buses, it's rare to be able to ride for free," he said. The funding behind the bus system comes from the parking fees on campus including citations, fines or metered parking.
Cal Poly employees and students make up roughly 70 percent of SLO Transit's ridership. A double-decker bus will be added to the fleet next year and will follow a Cal Poly specific route allowing for more passenger space to and from campus.
The steps Cal Poly has taken steps to provide a commuter-friendly environment work to solve parking challenges and costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and gas demands, attract and retain employees or students and distinguish the university as a competitive benefits leader. The award winners are "recognized as leaders nationally for providing the best commuter programs that the community can benefit from," said John Bond, program manager of the NCTR.

Small plane crashes in Illinois, two killed

John Keilmann and Richard Wronski

CHICAGO - A small plane making a cargo run had almost reached Chicago Executive Airport in Wheeling, Ill., when it crashed into a forest preserve Tuesday afternoon, killing the two men aboard and setting off an investigation into the still-unexplained crash.

Debris was scattered in the woods of a Cook County Forest Preserve about a mile from the airport, and the fuselage was partially submerged in the Des Plaines River. The water was slick with fuel.

Officials said the Legerat 35A, owned by Royal Air Charter of Waterloo, Mich., left suburban Detroit about 90 minutes before the crash, scheduled to pick up cargo in Wheeling and ferry it to Atlanta. It had been cleared to land at the Chicago Executive Airport when it went down about 1:30 p.m. CST officials said.

Debris was scattered in the woods of a Cook County Forest Preserve about a mile from the airport, and the fuselage was partially submerged in the Des Plaines River. The water was slick with fuel.

Officials said the Legerat 35A, owned by Royal Air Charter of Waterloo, Mich., left suburban Detroit about 90 minutes before the crash, scheduled to pick up cargo in Wheeling and ferry it to Atlanta. It had been cleared to land at the Chicago Executive Airport when it went down about 1:30 p.m. CST officials said.

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WASHINGTON — After meeting this afternoon with top security aides, President Obama is scheduled to announce tougher airline security measures and is to a certain extent throw a lens on a fuller border for the United States.

Obama will meet with representatives of 20 agencies, including the departments of Homeland Security, the CIA and FBI before unveiling the new steps this afternoon. Airlines have already been ordered to step up searches in the wake of the Christmas Day incident.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, who has said he was recruited by al-Qaida operatives, is in federal custody, charged with trying to destroy the Northwest Airlines Flight as it approached Detroit from Amsterdam. Authorities said he smuggled an explosive device aboard the craft, but the bomb only ignited, causing a fire.

Abdulmutallab was subdued by passengers and crew and the plane landed safely.

But the incident has set off a firestorm of criticism as Republicans have blamed the Obama administration for reacting too slowly and how questions of the effectiveness of existing security protocols.

Obama, who was on vacation in Hawaii, ordered two new steps, the first into how the materials were smuggled through security and a second into how the watch lists of potential terrorists are maintained.

Abdulmutallab’s father, a prominent Nigerian banker, has warned authorities that his son was being radicalized, but Abdulmutallab was not added to the government’s no-fly list to keep his U.S. visa.

In the meantime, the TSA has already directed airlines to give full-body, pat-down searches to U.S.-bound travelers from Yemen, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and 11 other countries.

Dozens of names have been moved to the no-fly list, the White House announced Monday. People on the watch list are subject to additional scrutiny before they are allowed to enter this country, while anyone on the no-fly list is barred from boarding aircraft in or headed for the United States.

White House spokesman Bill Burton told reporters on Air Force One en route to Washington from Hawaii that thousands of people whose names appear on a government terrorism-related database had been "scrubbed" since Dec. 25 and that "dozens" of people were shifted to either "no-fly" list or a "selective" list that requires special screening or stepped-up investigations.

Among those scheduled to attend Tuesday’s session are: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, CIA Director Leon Panetta and FBI Director Robert Mueller.

Obama is expected to meet with House Majority Whip Dick Durbin, D-I11., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Attorney General Eric Holder; Dennis Blair, director of national intelligence; Michael Leiter, director of the National Counterterrorism Center; national security adviser James Jones; and John Brennan, the president’s counter-terrorism advisor, also were to be present.

The president plans to meet this evening in the Oval Office with Democratic leaders of the House and Senate as negotiations for healthcare overhaul get underway. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Majority Whip Dick Durbin, D-Ill., are expected to join Obama at the White House, with Sen. Majority Leader Russell Feingold, D-Wis., and Majority Whip Dick Durbin, D-I11., patching in via conference call.

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Michael Munkal and Mark Silva

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Militant may have been freed as part of exchange for British hostage

Neil Parker and Sand Fakhirbionde

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi government’s own leading Shiite Muslim militant on Tuesday, his followers said, part of an exchange that allows the long-running British hostage to leave.

The Iraqi government refused to confirm the release of Qais Khazali, a one-time side and now rival of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, until Tuesday morning, after police escorted him out of Baghdad’s Green Zone government enclave, the two followers said.

The release followed the complex exchange of Khazali and 450 of his supporters from U.S. to Iraqi custody, which began in June when he joined his brother Lent and a senior aide were given their freedom.

Since then, the League of the Righteous has handed over to the Iraqi government the corpses of three of the abducted British hostages, and the kidnapping’s one known survivor, Peter Moore, a computer technician. Moore was freed last week after the Americans transferred Khazali to Iraqi custody.

The fate of the fifth hostage remains unknown, although he is believed to be dead.

The U.S. military has backed Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s government in its efforts to bring Khazali inside the political process and has said the League of the Righteous halted its attacks against the Americans last spring.

Khazali had been held since March 2007 in the kidnapping and killing of five U.S. soldiers in the southern city of Karbala in January of that year. His supporters kid­ napped the Britons to bargain for his release. At the time, the Americans accused Khazali of working in direct collaboration with Iraq’s Islamic Jihad front, the Revolutionary Guard.

The U.S. military believes that Khazali was held for at least part of the time in Iran, but a senior Iraqi official said the hostage had likely been held in Iraq for most, if not all, of their captivity.

San Jose, Calif. — Raqib Simmie is not a legal resident.

Twenty years ago, he appeared to be destmying the Santa Clara County Jail, Simmie, a Scott by birth who fought in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine, never applied for U.S. citizenship.

Now he finds himself facing deportation, once of nearly 400,000 immigrants incarcerated in 2009 by the U.S. government. A growing number of noncitizens who have been living in this country as legal permanent residents are learning that run-ins with the law, even minor ones, are translating into life-shattering, one-way tickets to homeland and no longer know.

A report from Human Rights Watch released in the spring found that one out of "five prisoners who had been deported from 1997 to 2007 had been in the country legally. Many, like Simmie, have known America as home for decades. "I’m living in limbo," said Simmie, 61, whose friends raised tens of thousands of dollars to hire a lawyer to fight his deportation.

Simmie apologizes for the drunken driving, but he denies he was guilty in the other cases.

After leaving Great Britain with his family as a child and settling in Sunnyvale, Calif., Simmie joined the Marines as a teen and did two tours in Vietnam. But he never became a U.S. citizen, in part because his Scottish father felt his son should remain true to his heritage.

It was a costly decision.

Simmie didn’t respond to a 2003 notice to appear in immigration court (he says he didn’t get the notice), he became a fugitive and was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in October and locked up in a jail that has a contract with an ICE to house its prisoners.

Like Simmies, longtime San Jose residents Hassan Alshakar and Victor Garabey were thrown into similar predicaments. Alshakar, 49, is an Iraqi immigrant who was feted because of a three-decade-old charge that he contends was false. Garabey, 45, is a Mexican immigrant who says he fled food to survive when he suddenly became homeless.

They, too, have become emblematic in a situation that has mushroomed since Congress passed its last major immigration bill in 1996. Since then, the number of detainees has grown fourfold as new biometric technology, huge databases and more boots on the ground have made it easier for ICE to track down immigrants with criminal records.

While the 1996 immigration reform law was widely hailed as a get-tough measure on illegal immigration, one of its more contro­ versial provisions allowed for rela­ tively minor offenses to be grounds for deportation of noncitizens. The Human Rights Watch report found that 77 percent of legal residents had been deported for nonviolent minor offenses.

If immigrants have been in the United States fewer than five years, it salary is a single crime of "mororal turpitude," a broad term that includes shoplifting and possession. If they’re here longer than five years, they can be deport­ ed for either one aggravated felony or one of the more contro­ versial provisions.

If immigrants have been in the United States fewer than five years, they are entitled to a fair trial. But if they’ve been here longer than five years, they can be deport­ ed for either one aggravated felony or one of the more contro­ versial provisions.

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Google unveils potential iPhone rival

A super phone

Google unveiled its Nexus One, the newest smartphone on the market.

The goods

- Runs on Android 2.1,
- Multi-touch navigational screen,
- Dual-core processor,
- 5MP main camera and 720p HD video
- $549 with no contract
- $195 if signed to T-Mobile
- 3G network only

On 3G networks, in hours

- Talk time: 13 hours
- Standby time: 323 hours
- Internet use: 10 hours
- Video playback: 6 hours
- Audio playback: 10 hours

A look at Google's new Nexus One phone, which has similar features to Apple's iPhone including video capture at 20 frames per second.

John Letzing

SAN FRANCISCO — Google Inc. on Tuesday unveiled its boldest ever fight in the market for advanced mobile phones that connect to the Internet: a new device that the company will sell directly to consumers to challenge Apple Inc.'s popular iPhone.

The new phone, dubbed Nexus One, is being manufactured by Taiwanese firm HTC. The device is based on Google's software and was designed in tandem with the search giant.

While a number of devices based on Google's software have already been released, the Nexus One represents a significant challenge to the established model of selling mobile phones. That's because Google is taking a direct role in selling the Nexus One, including "unlocking" versions that aren't provided with service plans from specific wireless carriers.

In a relatively unfamiliar role for the company, Google is selling the Nexus One through an online store starting Tuesday, where both unlocked versions and those provided with service from T-Mobile USA Inc. are available. Google said that versions with support from Verizon Wireless in the United States, and from Vodafone Group PLC overseas will be available in the future.

Apple's iPhone is currently provided exclusively in the United States with service from AT&T Inc.

"The Nexus One belongs in an emerging category of devices which we call superphones," said Google executive Mario Queiroz during a media event at its headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., adding that it's "an exemplar of what's possible on mobile phones."

In a demonstration, Google showed off features on the Nexus One such as voice-activated email and interactive, dynamic wallpaper designs.

The Nexus One's widely anticipated release is expected to steal some thunder from the upcoming Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, much as the initial launch of Apple's iPhone did three years ago.

More competition is expected to high-powered smart phones such as the Nexus One and iPhone is increasing, as more people rely on mobile devices they can carry everywhere rather than personal computers. According to survey data from Forrester Research, some 17 percent of U.S. adult subscribers were using smart phones as of late 2009, up from 11 percent at the same point in 2008.

While the unveiling of the Nexus One underlines Google's desire to tap into that growing market, it also points to the company's increasing divergence from Apple, as the two settle into more direct competition.

While Google's software and services are prominently featured on the iPhone, Google CEO Eric Schmidt resigned from Apple's board of directors in August, and the two firms have been drawn into territorial spats in the mobile markets.

For example, Google has alleged that Apple rejected its Google Voice application, which enables mobile dialing by bypassing traditional telecom networks, from use on the iPhone.
Hostage

continued from page 3

all of his captivity. The official described Khazali's relationship with Iran as one of mutual interest, and no different from that existing between al-Sadr's Mahdi Army and Tehran.

The League of the Righteous, the Mohdi Army, and even Sunni groups get support from Iran," said the official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the issue. "They are different in the level of cooperation." He compared Khazali's situation to that of other Iraqi prisoners who had fought Saddam Hussein before 2003.

"No doubt all the armed groups, especially the Shia, have done training there. They (the Iranians) train them on how to abduct and plant explosives," the official said. "They need to know how to use the tactics. Why else was Dalak, a member of Lebanon's Hezbollah, picked up with Khazali by U.S.-led forces? Dalak remains in U.S. custody but is expected to be handed over to the Iraqis soon.

Despite the Karbala killings, the U.S. military has offered tacit support to Iraq in its intentions to rehabilitate Khazali.

"The way you end these kinds of conflicts, the way you end these kinds of wars... is by individuals ultimately reconciling. That process is one we have supported and the Iraqi government has supported as well," Gen. David H. Petraeus said on a visit last week to Baghdad when asked about Khazali's transfer to Iraqi custody.

Al-Maliki's circle has weighed Khazali, 39, in an alternative to the volatile al-Sadr, according to the Iraqi official. Al-Sadr disappeared from public view more than two years ago and is believed to be studying in Iran.

One former al-Sadr supporter has described his former leader as surrounded by advisors with close ties to Tehran who have isolated him and muddied their own statements in his name.

Khazali boasts the pedigree to challenge al-Sadr due to his history as one of the closest aides to al-Sadr's father. Grand Ayatollah Mohomed Sadow al-Sadr, who was killed in 1999, Khazali served as a right-hand man to the younger al-Sadr in the first years after the U.S. invasion in 2003, as the pair built upon the legacy of the father for championing the rights of the Shia underclass.

Khazali has also been described as a key leader in the al-Sadr movement's fight against U.S. troops in the city of Najaf in the summer of 2004 and later helped lead the Mahdi Army's battle against Sunni militants. That fight turned into civil war, and caused many Sunni Iraqis to view him as a man with blood on his hands.

At the end of 2006, Khazali and al-Sadr bickered over the cleric's decision to implement a freeze on armed operations at the start of the U.S. military troop buildup, according to government officials and al-Sadr supporters. The rupture would only become official after Khazali was arrested.

In addition to Khazali, several senior al-Sadr aides have left the movement to form their own political parties in the last two years. They cite their unhappiness with the current circle around al-Sadr and its lack of direction. (Fakhrildeen, a special correspondent, reported from Najaf, Iraq. Raheem Salaman and Usama Redha in Baghdad contributed to this report.)
Downey shines in “Sherlock Holmes” feature

Robin Hood, Batman, James Bond. Three timeless names that are amongst the most frequently portrayed characters in cinema history. Still, none hold a candle to Arthur Conan Doyle’s legendary detective, Sherlock Holmes.

The Guinness Book of World Records consistently lists him as the “most portrayed film character in history,” with 75 actors playing the part in over 211 films. His most recent depiction in film comes in the form of director Guy Ritchie’s “Sherlock Holmes,” released this last Christmas.

The less I thought about Arthur Conan Doyle’s original Holmes, the more I liked Ritchie’s adaptation. The movie is filled with the director’s trademark sensational visuals and editing techniques along with over-the-top characters, an engaging soundtrack and noteworthy performances.

The movie stays true to many of the traditional aspects of the novels, including the 221B Baker Street address and playful relationship between Holmes and Watson.

All of the original Sherlock novels involved different situations that all follow the same story arc: bad guy arrives in London, no one can solve the case; Sherlock is hired, case closed. “Sherlock Holmes” again follows this plot line, but provides its own modern take through the use of impressive computer-generated imaging and uniquely choreographed action sequences.

Sherlock Holmes has been played memorably by the likes of Charlton Heston, Michael Caine, Frank Langella, Roger Moore and Christopher Plummer. Robert Downey Jr., a phenomenal natural actor who was unfairly forgotten in the past decade, has turned in both blockbuster and Oscar-worthy performances in recent films like “Iron Man,” “Tropic Thunder,” “The Soloist” and “Zodiac.” Downey’s Sherlock has the skills and physique of an expert martial artist, ingenious methods of detection and a wonderful sense of humor.

In the film’s entertaining opening sequence, our two heroes frantically make their way through the streets of London in a successful attempt to apprehend a menacing satanic lord named Lord Blackwood, played by British actor Mark Strong. Blackwood is sentenced to death by hanging and is eventually sealed in a coffin deep inside of a tomb, only to later reappear and continue terrorizing London. This of course causes Scotland Yard to again enlist in help from Holmes and Watson.

Each of our main protagonists must deal with their own personal problems, which come in the form of women. Holmes’ love interest is

Oatmeal for $1
Can’t beat that

Jamtha Juice
Special Pricing Ends Jan 10.
Located in Poly Canyon Village.

picture of the day
by Roger Scott

“Walk into the light”
Themes of love and death intertwine in eerie novel

Reading Between the Lines
Melinda Truelson

Audrey Niffenegger, who recently became known for her work "The Time Traveler’s Wife," has triumphed again with her latest novel, "Her Fearful Symmetry." Set in London, Highgate Cemetery to be exact, Niffenegger weaves connective tissues between sisters, strangers and even ghosts. The novel revolves around the relationships between two sets of twins, a bond that Niffenegger thought of as one of the strongest and unbreakable. However, what Niffenegger reveals here is that these deep-seated bonds can be overturned, we are left to question every other relationship in the novel; if such a strong bond can be jilted, what are we to expect from other relationships? While this novel appears to be about symmetry and pairs, it is actually a story about finding individuality amidst the confining and, often dangerous, boundaries of familial, friendly and even erotic relationships.

The two American twins at the heart of this novel, Valentina and Julia, move into a flat willed to them by their recently departed Aunt Helspeth (their mother’s estranged twin sister). The news of this estranged aunt and a flat in London has found its way to the twins who are on a journey of direction in life. After dropping out of multiple colleges, the twins move into the flat where they become stuck in a state of stasis and uncertainty.

From the beginning, the difference between the twins becomes clear. While Julia is excited to move to London and learn about their departed aunt through living in her flat, Valentina is hesitant, desiring rather to return to college to pursue her dreams of fashion design. In the end, Valentina’s need to be close to her twin wins out, and she agrees to move to London with Julia. Along with the move into the flat though, there are some conditions: the twins must live in the flat for at least one year before selling it, and their parents are not allowed to enter the apartment without permission.

Clearly, Niffenegger is hinting at some sort of familial disconnect between the departed aunt and her twin, the girl’s mother, but the surprising event that causes it is not revealed until much later in the novel. With these restrictions in mind, the twins move into their aunt’s flat bordering Highgate Cemetery, where they soon find more than they expected. As expected when you hear that the flat is on the border of a cemetery, it isn’t exactly a normal living situation. While the flat itself is beautiful and full of antiques and priceless books, the inhabitants of the building constitute something more normal.

In the downstairs flat is Robert, Elspeth’s former lover, who established himself as a bond with the twins. His voyeurs leads him to eventually begin a romantic relationship with Valen­ tina, a girl much younger than him, seeing traits in her that he misses so desperately from his beloved El­ peth.

In the upstairs flat is Martin, a man who suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder and agoraphobia. Martin is trying to piece his life together after his wife finally cannot take the circumstances of his diseases anymore and leaves him and moves to her native country, Holland. Julia, driven by curiosity, develops a relationship with the twins. His voyeurism leads him to eventually begin a romantic relationship with Valentiona, a girl much younger than him, seeing traits in her that he misses so desperately from his beloved Elpeth.

In the upstairs flat is Martin, a man who suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder and agoraphobia. Martin is trying to piece his life together after his wife finally cannot take the circumstances of his diseases anymore and leaves him and moves to her native country, Holland. Julia, driven by curiosity, develops a relationship with the twins. His voyeurism leads him to eventually begin a romantic relationship with Valentina, a girl much younger than him, seeing traits in her that he misses so desperately from his beloved Elpeth.

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The two sets of twins, a bond that is often thought of as one of the strongest and unbreakable, melt into a society whose boundaries are only as strong as their deep-seated bonds. As expected when you hear that the flat is on the border of a cemetery, it isn’t exactly a normal living situation. While the flat itself is beautiful and full of antiques and priceless books, the inhabitants of the building constitute something more normal.

While "Her Fearful Symmetry" appears to be a novel about paring and symmetry, it is actually about how twisty the concepts of sistership, love and death actually are. Although there are still the familiar elements of love, coming of age and family, Niffenegger artistically presents them in ways that turn them on their heads, transforming this novel from a simple story about a statement on forging an identity that is actually quite extraordinary.

Melinda Truelson is an English graduate student and Mustang Daily book columnist.

World Poetry Slam Champion headlines Another Type of Groove

Leiticia Rodriguez

Award-winning poet and World Poetry Slam Champion Joaquín Zihuatanejo will be the featured poet at the Multicultural Center’s Another Type of Groove (ATOG) event tonight. Zihuatanejo has performed on HBO’s Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry, and has won poetry slam nationally and internationally. This will be his first time performing at Cal Poly.

Zihuatanejo grew up in a barrio in east Dallas and later became a English and creative writing high school teacher. He has also published three poetry collections and has an album of spoken word poems called "Her Fearful Symmetry: A Spoken Work Collection" that he said are meant to be about the voices of his youth. Zihuatanejo said that a lot of his poetry has been influenced by his childhood and the people who surrounded him.

"I was blessed to sort of be raised in a setting that was kind of filled with poems. From my grandfather’s garden to the wild field," he said. "I surrounded myself with storytellers as a child constantly.

The Multicultural Center’s (MCC) coordinator Renoda Campbell wants students and community members who attend to draw inspiration from Zihuatanejo’s depiction of barrio life and Chicano culture.

"I just want students to hear a different perspective. I think a lot of times they don’t experience that here at Cal Poly," Campbell said. "I’m hoping Joaquin’s poetry will give them a visual of what it’s like not being here, but also a symbol of hope that you don’t necessarily become entranced by being in that atmosphere, that you can get out.

Zihuatanejo described how his mother was a poet and his father was a storyteller. As a child, Zihuatanejo was forced to read voraciously in order to have a visual of what it’s like not being here, but also a symbol of hope that you don’t necessarily become entranced by being in that atmosphere, that you can get out.

Zihuatanejo said he was his father’s poetry an important role in his life, and that he always remembered his father’s words of wisdom. "If you want to be a poet," Zihuatanejo said, "you need to read voraciously."

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Event coordinator Josue Urrutia described Another Type of Groove as a way for students and community members to freely express themselves in an artful way. The event has two open-mic sessions for anyone wanting to share their poetry, and a disc jockey who plays music during the show’s intermission. Urrutia, an agricultural engineering senior, said he got hooked because of the chance he got to be with his peers and hear their emotions and opinions. Hearing their peers is one thing Urrutia said an attendee can definitely look forward to.

"They talk about relevant issues — issues that everyone can relate to and issues that people don’t really think about and that’s one of the side benefits of poetry," Urrutia said. "It’s almost like a social relative tool to kind of move more people and promote social change. It’s pretty amazing."
Sherlock
continued from page 6
the decent and tough American
from Australia played by Rachel
McAdams (‘The Notebook,’
‘Wedding Crashers’), who is
described as the only person to
ever overpowered the detective.
Watson’s future wife, Mary
Morstan; played by Emily
(‘Pride and Prejudice’), seems a
little in over her head and is
being courted by Watson against
Sherlock’s wishes.

It’s hard to imagine the per­
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As mentioned before, Downey
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Alex Petrofian is a biological sci­
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more columnist.

“Avatar” may gain top revenue crown

Russ Britt
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LOS ANGELES — Maybe James Cameron really is the king of the world after all.

A dozen years after the director of “Titanic” made that famous excla­mation at the Academy Awards — after claiming Oscar gold on the basis of
box-office riches for the epic romance and highest-grossing movie of all time —
Cameron just might top himself.

His first feature since “Titanic,” the box-office smash “Avatar,” could well be on pace to beat the $1.84 bil­lion in worldwide revenue that the earlier film set during its run in late

Distributed by Twentieth-Centu­ry Fox, “Avatar” hit the vaunted $1 billion mark in domestic and over­seas revenue in just 17 days, a pace believed to be unprecedented, even for “Titanic.” (Fox is owned by News Corp., which is also the par­ent of MarketWatch, publisher of this report.)

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America's blessings should inspire change in the world

I would like to wish you a blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I trust your winter break was well spent with family and friends. I was certainly blessed this break. Though our celebration was simple — healthy conversations over a delicious home-cooked meal — I am humbled to consider the condition of life outside the civilized world.

Even in the wake of recent terrorist attacks, the United States is stable and unique, unlike countries such as Sudan, South Africa and Somalia. Wrought with social, political and ethnic tensions, these countries exist in a state of instability and insecurity. They exist in a state of instability and insecurity. Political and ethnic tensions, these organizations, reports that an estimated 300,000 people lost their lives in an ongoing conflict that former President George W. Bush declared "genocide" between 2003 and 2004. Americans, along with the western world, are blessed to have a safe and stable society, even as we fight the War on Terror.

Food is a commodity Americans take for granted. Yes, food banks help address issues of hunger in America, but the western world knows nothing of malnutrition that countries such as Angola, Swaziland and Zimbabwe experience. World Vision reports that more than 4 million Zimbabweans are affected by the worsening food shortage, hundreds of thousands of which are children. To add insult to injury, over 600,000 children have been orphaned by AIDS, and about 1/3 of the adult population lives with HIV/AIDS. Elaborating on the material gifts we regularly receive such as new shoes, warm clothes, electronics and toys seems irrelevant in light of the Zimbabweans' suffering.

In the comfort of my home, the warm aura of family and friends, I realized that comfort promotes complacency. It is only natural when people are the most comfortable, they are also the least motivated to work. The Marxist concept that people must work to eat at the most primitive level, true. Without real and relevant motivation, there is no incentive to work. Fortunately, in capitalism, this motivation is raised to a higher level by personal property.

In our society, motivation to be involved in government processes has been lost to prime-time television and replaced by lifetime politicians who promise to solve our problems, but in increasing government size. As a culture, we drive to obtain personal property, financial freedom and make a positive impact on humanity has been substantially impacted by the comfort of our recliners. Insecure that our government was built on the very principles of hard work and personal responsibility we seem to despise today.

As we enter the new year, I urge you to reflect on the words of G.K. Chesterton, who, when asked to comment on the primary problem with the human condition, responded, "I am." With this simple response, Chesterton cleverly pointed out mankind's imperfect nature. It follows logically, that if left in a state of complacency, men will not do good, but remain wallowing in imperfection. Therefore, I challenge you to answer Kenney's great call: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," by turning off your TVs and putting away your iPods. Fight for stability in Darfur, donate against hunger and inspire the intellect.

Nathan Tao is a computer science junior and Mustang Daily political columnist.

First Things First

I applied to Cal Poly because it's close to home and a great school, but one of my problems with it is that it's so far from Orange County/Los Angeles. And now the dean has confirmed my fears are justified, "they are not aware of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo."

That's a pretty powerful statement, a statement you probably don't want to make if you want people to go to your school.

And Robert, it will never be like those places. Plus, UCLA doesn't even have a undergraduate school of business.

—Daniella

Response to "Valentine's Day — an early warning"

I don't think a couple (or rather a guy) has to spend a lot of money on Valentine's Day just to please each other.

My boyfriend bought me comics as a V-day present, which was way cooler than a pair of pretty earrings (his original gift idea.) When our romantic dinner plans were sort of thwarted, we just split the check at the Japanese place next door and still had a great time.

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Write a letter to the editor!

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Take for example Darfur, in western Sudan. Save Darfur, an alliance of over 150 human rights organizations, reports that an estimated 300,000 people lost their lives in an ongoing conflict that former President George W. Bush declared "genocide" between 2003 and 2004. Americans, along with the western world, are blessed to have a safe and stable society, even as we fight the War on Terror.

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In our society, motivation to be involved in government processes has been lost to prime-time television and replaced by lifetime politicians who promise to solve our problems, but in increasing government size. As a culture, we drive to obtain personal property, financial freedom and make a positive impact on humanity has been substantially impacted by the comfort of our recliners. Insecure that our government was built on the very principles of hard work and personal responsibility we seem to despise today.

As we enter the new year, I urge you to reflect on the words of G.K. Chesterton, who, when asked to comment on the primary problem with the human condition, responded, "I am." With this simple response, Chesterton cleverly pointed out mankind's imperfect nature. It follows logically, that if left in a state of complacency, man will not do good, but remain wallowing in imperfection. Therefore, I challenge you to answer Kenney's great call: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," by turning off your TVs and putting away your iPods. Fight for stability in Darfur, donate against hunger and inspire the intellect.

Nathan Tao is a computer science junior and Mustang Daily political columnist.
Alice gives some good advice for us all.

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Russell
continued from page 12

losses will turn into victories. The uneven play will smooth out. And the Raiders will be back among the league’s elite.

"I said one of the things that would have to happen for us to get back to being a team that would have a chance to make a run at the playoffs and actually see success (so you had to change the mentality and the de-

fensive attitude that gets in the locker room when you struggle for a long time," Cable said.

That trampled this season, he said.

"The thing I'm most pleased about from the season is the fact that our talk now is about we can and we will... It's not, 'Oh well, this happened, here we go again.' That kind of B.S. It's, 'We can and we will.' That's really a big deal.

"I think, again, I'm very pleased about what we did offensively and defensively. I think that's what we have to do here. And I think it's building talent, and guys should appreciate that.

"It's time for the Raiders either to be able to get behind that. We have talent, and guys should appreciate that."
Yocum makes CSN's Fabulous Fifty honorable mention

Wrestling makes national noise

Mustang 141-pounder Filip Novachkov is ranked No. 5 by InterMat and No. 8 by Win Magazine. A junior, Novachkov was an NCAA qualifier a year ago who placed third in the Missouri Open and is 15-4 on the year. At 133 pounds, sophomore Boris Novachkov is ranked No. 5 by DI CollegeWrestling.net, Amateur Wrestling News and InterMat. Both Novachkov wrestlers have one third-place Pac-10 finish to their credit.

Cable optimistic for next season

The former No. 1 overall pick JaMarcus Russell was benched this season after the starting the first nine games.

Steve Corkran

When Raiders coach Tom Cable assembled his team for the last time this season, it wasn't long before the talk turned to next season, when he expects the groundwork laid the past two years to reap dividends.

Cable didn't waste his time talking about winning back-to-back games, surpassing the five-victory mark for the first time since 2002 or just showing some improvement.

"Next year, there can only be one goal," Cable told his players Monday, "and that's to be a playoff team." Cable felt as if he had a playoff-caliber team this past season were it not for the substandard play of quarterback JaMarcus Russell.

Impressive victories over the Philadelphia Eagles, Cincinnati Bengals, Pittsburgh Steelers and Denver Broncos bolstered Cable's claim. However, those wins were overshadowed by losses to the Kansas City Chiefs, Cleveland Browns and Washington Redskins, none of whom won more than five games.

Such better-drawer play, in addition to their 5-11 record, suggests the Raiders just aren't talented enough to be a successful team.

Ever the optimist, Cable sees things differently. He views the inconsistency as a sign of a team learning to win, one shedding the layers of pessimism spawned from seven straight double-digit losses.

Before long, he says, the close