Student suicide of concern on college campuses

Mikaela Akuna
MUSTANG DAILY

Every two hours and five minutes, a person under the age of 25 commits suicide, according to the American Association of Suicidology (AAS). The association estimates that every year, more than one thousand of these are college students, making suicide their second leading cause of death behind motor vehicle accidents.

At a university such as Cal Poly, where academic excellence is a requirement more than just an aspiration, it's not uncommon for suicide rates to be higher than those of other colleges. In the last decade, prestigious universities such as MIT and Harvard have ranked above the national average for suicides between seven and 11 students per 100,000.

Cal Poly comparatively stands as one of the better engineering and agriculture schools in the nation. But how does it compare in student suicide with other universities?

In the wake of three suicides by Cal Poly students last year, many students have questioned how someone could become so unhappy that they would consider killing themselves.

In addition to a history of mental instability and general depression, the AAS said the leading causes of suicide in college students can be attributed to financial and social pressures. The feeling of failure and decreased performance in school are also major causes.

“Of course I’m upset because I’ve never had anyone close to me kill themselves,” said Cal Poly alumna Joss Godsey. “For awhile, I was the only person who knew he was feeling this way and I couldn’t tell anybody… I regret that now.”

AAS said Godsey was extremely close to the victim and knew he wasn’t always in a clear state of mind. She said he had spoken about being depressed and extremely unhappy. In hindsight, she wishes she could have done more to help him, she said.

Studies have found more than half of college students have thoughts related to suicide every year. Dr. Chris Marrer-Honencourt, a licensed psychiatrist for the Cal Poly Health Center, said there is a

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Recruitment program brings 200 high school sophomores to Cal Poly

Katie Grady
MUSTANG DAILY

The top sophomore students from high schools with large minority populations in California visited Cal Poly as part of a pre-college symposium to help them plan for higher education.

The program also serves to add diversity to the existing student body at Cal Poly.

The roughly 200 visiting sophomores spent 24 hours on campus receiving tours, doing group workshops and attending workshops.

"Most underprivileged students are in the larger cities like L.A. and San Francisco," program co-ordinator Melissa Pierce said. "It’s definitely a program aimed at diversifying Cal Poly by informing these underrepresented students about the school."

The two-day symposium was hosted by the Cal Poly Partners Program, a recruitment program that establishes formal partnerships with first generation, low-income high schools that have lower college attendance rates.

"I knew I wanted to work in education outreach," Pierce said. "The lack of a level playing field at a lot of high schools motivated me to want to help change it."

Beginning with 22 high schools in 1999, the university now has 182 partner schools from across the state. Grant money and the university provide all the funding for the event including meals, transportation and facilities.

The program’s purpose is to inform minority students about the opportunities offered at Cal Poly, a challenge since many of the students were unfamiliar with the university.

Mariah Espinosa traveled to San Luis Obispo from the Bay Area. She said she didn’t recall ever hearing about Cal Poly until she saw the sweatshirts around campus and recognized the logo.

“I didn’t know if a four-year was for me but being here has opened my eyes to a lot,” Espinosa said.

To be invited, students need to have a minimum 3.6 GPA.

Carol Madsen, a counselor at Luther Burbank High School in Sacramento, was another returning chaperon this year.

“These kids haven’t had as many opportunities and most have never stayed overnight at a college campus,” Ventura said.

The students and chaperos were greeted by 15 Cal Poly group leaders, most of whom attended one of the partner schools.

“We see so many sophomores that come through and now they are Cal Poly students,” Pierce said. "They were shy and scared and now they are helping lead and run the event.”

Sociology junior Daniel Galvan and general engineering freshman Nick Simon helped lead the event this year. They graduated from Rancho High School.

“These are valedictorians and

see Symposium, page 2
Suicide

continued from page 1

At Cal Poly, the Division of Student Affairs, which includes the Center for Student Development, Student Health Services, and the Counseling and Psychological Services, provides a range of services to help students cope with stress and mental health challenges. These include counseling, support groups, and on-campus resources.

"It's important to recognize that suicide is a serious concern and that there are resources available to help," said Christine Miller, assistant director of the Center for Student Development. "We encourage students to reach out for support if they are feeling overwhelmed or struggling with mental health issues."

Miller added that the university provides a variety of resources to help students manage stress and mental health challenges, including counseling services, support groups, and online resources.

"We want students to know that they are not alone and that there is help available," she said. "It's crucial to prioritize self-care and seek support when needed."
The next time you're stuck wondering if there's an application for available phone reception in your area, the answer could be right down the hallway, where students are creating state-of-the-art projects for 24 "superphones" donated by Google. Assistant professor Dr. David Janzen and assistant professor Dr. Chris Lupo from the computer science and software engineering department received a Google Faculty Research Award in August. The award included a $20,000 grant to support academic research and promote a relationship between Google and academia. The amount typically lasts for one year and ranges from $50,000-$150,000 depending on the type of research. Faculty from Purdue University and Stanford University were also among those awarded funding from Google for 2009.

In addition to the grant, Janzen and Lupo's primary contact at Google, Cal Poly alumni and professional software developer Mark Lucovsky, encouraged the donation of the 24 Timobile G1 phones equipped with Android software as a gift from the Android team at Google in April. "Google wanted us to use the technology and do something interesting," Lupo said. "There's a bunch associated with the (Android software) and the market will continue to grow significantly." Dr. Lupo is teaching a senior project class, ENGR 470, which focuses on capstone projects or team-based designs extending over multiple quarters. One of the projects pitched by Lupo is a heart rate monitor that connects to the Android phone imitating the functionality of a fitness computer. Computer engineering senior Danny Walker is part of the project.

"Our application will effectively replace a bike computer," he said. "It can track your heart rate statistic, your speed and your type of workout. It will also use GPS to determine your location."

What makes the project unique is the combination of expertise. The team includes six engineers of different specialties: four computer, one biomedical and one industrial. "I think we have the right mix of majors to do this kind of project," industrial and manufacturing engineering senior Brian Hockemeyer said.

Biomedical engineering senior Nathan Angel and computer engineering senior Felix Turgon are working on the circuitry to filter the heart-rate signal as well as the packaging system. "It would have been really hard for all computer engineers to filter a heart-rate and know what to do," computer engineering major John Lefhey said.

What would set this team's heart-rate software apart from the iPhone is the ability to support multiple devices such as HBC, Motorola, Samsung, Dell and LG as well as being able to use Bluetooth. "Because the device is so small, it feels less disposable and less like a toy. It's something they can take with them into their own careers," Lupo said.

The project is due to be completed at the end of this school year. Dr. Janzen is teaching a new mobile application course in which students can design their own applications. The teams are encouraged to publish their ideas to the Android market, Janzen said. "We can use (the phones) to get students excited about computing." Janzen said, "They are writing things that could live well on past this class."

Janzen is constructing a competition for the best application judged by a team of experts from places like Level Studios in San Luis Obispo and Skyhook Wireless in Boston. The next time you're stuck wondering if there's an application for available phone reception in your area, the answer could be right down the hallway, where students are creating state-of-the-art projects for 24 "superphones" donated by Google. Assistant professor Dr. David Janzen and assistant professor Dr. Chris Lupo from the computer science and software engineering department received a Google Faculty Research Award in August. The award included a $20,000 grant to support academic research and promote a relationship between Google and academia. The amount typically lasts for one year and ranges from $50,000-$150,000 depending on the type of research. Faculty from Purdue University and Stanford University were also among those awarded funding from Google for 2009.

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Family's outing becomes heart of Toyota controversy

Justin Hyde

SANTEE, Calif. — The Friday night trip began at the end of a week's vacation, a family outing to a women's college soccer game just days before Mahala Saylor, 13, would begin life as a high school freshman.

The trip ended in August 2009 with a 911 call and the fiery wreck of a loaner Lexus sedan, killing Mahala, her parents, Mark and Cleofe Saylor, both 45, and her uncle, Chris Lastrella, 36.

Even veteran investigators said it was the worst crash they had ever seen.

On Wednesday, Cleofe Saylor and Chris Lastrella and grandmother of Mahala, is to tell members of a congressional committee about her family and questions whether a floor mat trapping the gas pedal — as regulators say they believe — is the sole reason for the accident.

Rarity if ever, one family's fatal crash had such an impact, forcing the world's largest automaker to admit thousands of sudden-acceleration complaints, recall more than 8 million vehicles worldwide and answer growing questions from Congress and consumers about its safety record.

"They were a solid family. They were quiet people, but their presence was always felt," said Charlotte Fajardo, president of the Bicol Club, a San Diego group for Filipino residents that the Saylors belonged to.

"You don't really appreciate it until it's not here."

The Saylor family lived in the sprawling San Diego suburb of Chula Vista, in a house filled with running shoes and soccer balls and scripture.

Her week started with Mahala, a senior at Father Ryan High School, and her mom taking a staycation — using vacation time at home to get Mahala ready for her first year of high school.

"She had this way about her that other believers were drawn to," said Barney Barrett, her co-worker at Ambryx, said Cleofe Saylor was reserved but had a strong bond with her friends.

"She had this way about her that other believers were drawn to," she said.

Her work involved developing new genetic treatments for cancer and other diseases. The week before the game, she had taken a staycation — using vacation time at home to get Mahala ready for her first year of high school.

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The Saylor family lived in the sprawling San Diego suburb of Chula Vista, in a house filled with running shoes and soccer balls and scripture.

They were in a Lexus on loan from their Toyota dealer, a car they did not know had been reported by its previous borrower as speeding out of control.

They had no way to know their drive would become the epicenter of controversy and questions about Toyota's sudden acceleration scandal.

Mark Saylor, 45, had worked an early shift at the California Highway Patrol safety inspection office in San Diego that day, overseeing reviews of school buses and tow trucks. A back injury had taken him off road patrols years earlier, but he still carried his ticket book and gun.

Cleofe Saylor, 45, was a biochemist and a senior research associate at Ambryx in San Diego. A native of the Philippines, she and Mark married 14 years earlier and were regulars in the Bonita Valley Community Church. They wrote Bible verses on note cards, and devotional messages such as: "What I want to accomplish today as a Christian."

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**WORD ON THE STREET**

“How do think the overall acceptance of the gay community at Cal Poly compares to your hometown?”

“I feel like this is a very liberal place to live and it is very welcoming and accepting.”
— Jonathan Witham, music junior

“I had tons of friends in high school who were gay and I think Cal Poly is still accepting but I feel like my hometown was more liberal.”
— Shelley Cooke, junior

“I feel like my hometown was more & eg ng for me & Cal Poly is still accepting but I had tons of friends in high school and it is very welcoming and accepting.”
— Philip Sfrephard

“I haven’t really come in contact with any related issues but I do feel like there is a lack of diversity.”
— Hope Hanselman, modern languages and literatures freshman

“I haven’t really come in contact with any related issues but I feel like there is a lack of diversity.”
— Faye Fiore, graphic communication junior

“I feel that San Luis Obispo in general is more liberal than nearby rural areas and is more accepting because of the larger population and higher education.”
— Philip Sheppard, sociology senior

“I don’t want to say that Berkeley is too liberal, but it’s at least a very liberal place,” he said. “It’s not the most welcoming environment I’ve been in, but it’s not the least either.”
— James D. Davis, senior

“People seem to take it for granted because it’s all they know.”
— James Freeman

“People seem to take it for granted because it’s all they know.”
— Sam Brown

**Dali Lama urges US to spread democractic values**

James D. Davis

**Dali Lama urges US to spread democractic values**

**Lawmakers tweet up D.C.**

Faye Fiore

WASHINGTON — Congress has spent the past year learning to tweet. More than a third of them are doing it now. And if you thought the minute-to-minute musings of your best friends were boring (“I need coffee... I just saw a snowflake...”) and dull, wait. Now we know that at 1:41 p.m. on Dec. 15, Rep. Earl Blumenauer of Oregon set out to deliver his holiday blessings. Or that on Jan. 21 at 13:35 a.m. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rogers of Washington was writing “Three Cups of Tea,” and “liked it so far.” Or that at 7 p.m. on Jan. 30, Tennessee’s Rep. Zach Wamp was excited to learn his state’s own Peyton Manning took third place in the Miss America contest. “Strong woman. Great family.”

It came to our attention last year that lawmakers better known for filibustering and blocking were starting to Twitter. But what made them do it in the middle of one of President Obama’s first big televised speeches?

But whatever hope our nation held that its notoriously verbose legislators would lose interest in anything that came off at 140 characters appears dead. Congressional tweeting is on the rise. The Congressional Research Service — Congress’ think tank — noticed the trend and decided to spend 61 days last summer studying how technology’s latest craze was going over in a place that never got rid of its pithy omnibus. It turns out that more than 200 of 335 members have jumped on the Twitter train. Representatives do it more than senators: Republicans more than Democrats. Wednesday is their favorite day to tweet and their favorite subject to tweet about is a trip to the district. The California delegation has the most Tweeters — 15 or 155 members. It didn’t take a government study to figure out some of them do it for other than themselves. The social media are amazing, enormous political force. Conservative rising star Sarah Palin lobbed her “death panels” grenade on Facebook and kept it alive on Twitter. (“R. death panels back in u!”)

But in Congress, not all who Twitter appreciate this power. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi — whose Tweets bring to mind mom’s list of after-school do’s and don’ts: “We Must Pass Health Care Reform. ‘Watch the State of the Union’ — don’t.”

Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina — “It’s going to keep massaging in D.C. until Al Gore cries ‘uncle’ — does. The Republican’s tweet was widely cited by talking heads on both sides of the climate change debate.

Twitter, longtime liberal favorite, has even found its way into the halls of the Republican Party. Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, 76, has taken his place among the top five most popular congressional tweeters. He tends to tweet more than his fellow senators, using Twitter to deliver a steady stream of political and personal updates. His tweets are often a mix of humor, insight and musings.

Sen. John McCain’s 73-year-old voice has been heard on Twitter more than 1.7 million times. McCain’s messages are often a mix of humor, insight and musings. He has even been known to use Twitter to deliver political commentary.

Sen. Barack Obama’s 79-year-old voice has been heard on Twitter more than 1.7 million times. Obama’s messages are often a mix of humor, insight and musings. He has even been known to use Twitter to deliver political commentary.

Sen. Joe Biden’s 73-year-old voice has been heard on Twitter more than 1.7 million times. Biden’s messages are often a mix of humor, insight and musings. He has even been known to use Twitter to deliver political commentary.

Sen. John Kerry’s 73-year-old voice has been heard on Twitter more than 1.7 million times. Kerry’s messages are often a mix of humor, insight and musings. He has even been known to use Twitter to deliver political commentary.

Sen. Hillary Clinton’s 73-year-old voice has been heard on Twitter more than 1.7 million times. Clinton’s messages are often a mix of humor, insight and musings. She has even been known to use Twitter to deliver political commentary.
State

VENTURA (MCT) — Technology that Google Inc. plans to build an ultrafast broadband network in select communities, and Ventura plans to press in case to be one of those test cities.

Google announced this month that it will build and test experimental networks that will be at least 100 times faster than what is available for many users today.

More than two dozen people filled Ventura City Hall on Monday to voice support for a city application.

Ventura must complete a 20-page response by the end of March, officials said. There are no other cities at this time, but Google has not said what it might require from chosen communities, city staff said.

... SANTA CRUZ (MCT) — State Sen. Joe Simitian, who represents part of Santa Cruz County and famously authored California's hands-free driving law, now extended the policy to bicycles. The increase in penalties for automobile drivers and extended higher fines to bicyclists who talk or text behind the handle bars.

The bill, which Simitian introduced in 2009, but succeeded in pushing through price increases.

... SUDAN (MCT) — The two partners of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) agreed in a meeting held at the level of the Sudanese presidency to increase parliamentary seats to southern Sudan, but they still differ on the final number of seats.

The agreement, however, ends a dispute over who will head the new transitional government.

... National

WASHINGTON (MCT) — Former Vice President Dick Cheney was admitted to a hospital overnight after suffering from chest pains. Test results for a heart attack, the former vice president, who was said to be resting comfortably, showed "evidence of a mild heart attack," an aide said.

Cheney, 69, wears a pacemaker and has had four previous heart attacks since he was 33 years old. He had quadruple-bypass surgery and two artery-clearing angioplasties.

Cheney is expected to be released from the hospital by the end of the week.

... International

LONDON (MCT) — Scottish & Newcastle breweries owner Heineken today forecast lower beer consumption in many regions of the world.

Heineken, like other brewers suffered from recession-conscious consumers drinking less beer in 2009, but succeeded in pushing up prices.

"The global economic environment will continue to lead to lower beer consumption and downgrading in a number of regions in 2010," Heineken said.

The Dutch company added that it was committed to maintaining or increasing prices and would continue to pass on excise duty rises to consumers.

... Briefs

Toyota

continued from page 4

her," he said.

Mahala was a forward for the Chula Vista Rangers soccer team. Mark Saylor had been a coach in her previous league, becoming known as the soccer dad — complete with minivan — who stayed for all the games and practices.

Juliet Tengle’s daughter played with Mahala in one of her leagues, and she called the Saylors her “soccer family.”

“I always saw Cleofe and Mark at the games supporting Mahala and the team,” she wrote in a tribute. “You could rely on Mark to have an extra ball, a pump, first aid supplies and anything else needed for the soccer season. They were definitely an involved family.”

Mahala wrote messages to herself as well on sticky notes: “Focus,” “Be a leader!” and “Take the trash out on Thursday.”

In the backbone next to Mahala was Cleofe’s brother, Chris Lastrella, who was living with his sister’s family and working at a nearby university while trying to launch a career in voice-over work. He had left his previous career selling mortgages after the real estate bust, but had done well enough to take the extended family on a vacation to Maui.

It’s his voice, captured in a 911 call made 49 seconds before the crash, that has been the key evidence so far of why the Lexus ES350 borrowed from a dealer sped out of control.

“Our accelerator is stuck. We’re on 125,” Lastrella said.

“911 Dispatcher: ‘What are you passing?’

“We’re going 120 at Mission Gorge. We’re in trouble. We can’t… there’s no brakes. End free­way a half mile.”

Lawyers for families say that by the time Chris Lastrella dialed 911, they believe, Mark Saylor had done all he could to shut down the vehicle. They don’t ask dispatchers for help or how they can control the car. Mark Saylor has the vehicle’s warning flashers on, and may have been trying to warn other drivers.

The crash hit the Saylors’ community hard. More than 200 people came to their memorial service.

The crash hit the Saylors’ community hard. More than 200 people came to their memorial service.

Twelve Chula Vista Rangers wore white jerseys in their Labor Day tournament, each with a letter made of blue tape that spelled out “MAHALA SAYLOR.”

Today, the scene is marked by yellow flowers. The two sections of post-accident fence replaced after the crash have almost weathered into the rest.

“His dad must have had his (Cleofe’s) name written on the fence. He told me, ‘He don’t want anything to do with it,’” Barnett said.

“We’d like to see her (Cleofe’s) name on a brick,” Barnett said. “But we’ll do our best to distract her from those textbooks.
Military chiefs guarded on 'don't ask' changes

Julian E. Barnes

WASHINGTON — In a sign of possible differences among top military officials, Army and Air Force chiefs voiced concern Tuesday about ending a ban on gays serving openly in the armed forces while the country is in the midst of two wars.

Army Gen. George W. Casey and Air Force Gen. Norton A. Schwartz both told Congress that they support the Pentagon's plan to spend a year studying a change in the policy that allows gays to serve only as long as they keep their sexual orientation hidden.

However, both generals were mum about their own views on gays in the military and neither followed the lead of Adm. Michael G. Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who earlier this month said gays should be allowed to serve openly.

The appearances by Schwartz and Casey will be followed Wednesday by Adm. Gary Roughead, the chief of naval operations, and Gen. James Conway, the Marine commandant.

Lawmakers and advocates are carefully watching the congressional debate, trying to gauge where the various service chiefs stand on the issue of gays in the military as the vote on the moratorium will be served.

Apparent at the same time before the House Armed Services Committee, Schwartz said there were few reliable surveys about what service members and their families think of the policy. Schwartz acknowledged that Obama has stated he wants the current law to be changed, but said potential "complications" should be examined first.

"This is not the time to perturb the force that is, at the moment, stretched by demands in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere, without careful deliberation," Schwartz said.

As part of the 1993 law creating the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the Pentagon is required to receive service members' response to a survey about being gay. More than 14,000 service members have been boosted out after being accused of being gay or having said that they were.

Sen. Carl M. Levin, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, may push for a moratorium to halt discharges during the Pentagon's study.

However, McCain, the ranking Republican on the committee, said that the moratorium would circumscribe the purpose of the study.

On Monday, Army Gen. Ray mond T. Odierno, the top commander in Iraq voiced his support for the Pentagon policy study. But unlike Casey, Odierno voiced personal support for changing the policy.

"My opinion is everyone should be allowed to serve, as long as we're still able to fight our wars and we're able to have forces that are capable of doing whatever we're asked to do," Odierno said.

But in a reflection of the complex military thinking on the issue, Odierno, like Casey, said his primary concern was for troops serving in war.

"We're in two wars right now. So I want to see it done properly," Odierno said.

There is no question that American involvement has revolutionized the Congress-constraining relationship. Consider television, which gave us live pictures of senators passionately specifying to an empty chamber. And we can all thank the Nobell for bringing recorded campaign messages directly into our homes, usually around dinner time.

... Congressional researchers who conducted the survey hypothesize Twitter might one day enable real-time exchanges with voters even as lawmakers head to the floor to vote, thereby enhancing the democracy.

Still, something good could come of this after all. Tweeting requires nothing if not brevity, a skill lawmakers seem to lose whenever there is a microphone in the vicinity.

We now have proof it's possible to condense a message and be done with it. Consider Grasley, who recently informed us he was caught in Washington's blizzard, his flight got diverted, and he had to bunk in his office to make an early interview, all in a single glorious tweet.

"Bad weather. Took 12hrs to fly bk DC. DCA shut down. Had fly BWI. Slept in office so b on Hill for CNBC intvw 7am in 2min."
Local keeps it simple but also takes risks

Anieca Ayler

Fresh off a facelift, Local is an all-local-food restaurant and bar with relaxed, modern atmosphere and above-average bar food.

You can’t make a reservation. A booth will not suit you. No one will come to your table and ask for your order. It’s policy.

Instead, you choose your own seat: a stool at one of the long high tables that seats at least 20. After lowering the childhood menu on the wall next to one of the two flat-screen TVs, you decide on a hot dog and fries. You walk to the bar centered at the back of the restaurant with shelves of bottles showcasing available types of alcohol framed by a rusty-metal-looking wall. Through the wall of beer-drinkers, you give your order to one of the bartenders dressed in black. You sit back down and wait for the food to be served, wondering what about this hot dog makes it $9.

Local, formerly Martin’s Bar and Grill, is a restaurant and bar whose main features include using food only from local vendors and keeping its doors open later than most San Luis Obispo restaurants, serving food until 2 a.m. on weekdays and 3 a.m. on weekends. The Higuera Street establishment is geared to attract a customer base comprised mostly of college students.

As for that hot dog, the chef, Shaun King, will personally explain everything special about it after it’s brought to the table. He’ll tell you that the meat is from the first阮ch, a local farm that produces only grass-fed and single-origin animal beef and identify the special details of the dish — that it’s the equivalent of two hot dogs, cut into quarters and served on a pretzel roll with mustard, white Cheddar and homemade pickles.

The rest of the menu includes basic bar food like lamb, steak bites, chicken shake-n-bake, grilled cheese, Reuben sandwich, nuts and fries. All entrees and appetizers range in price from $4 to $12. Since Local uses only locally-produced food, menu options vary by season and sometimes daily, depending on the chef’s whims.

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Megan Hassler

A political science professor from University of California, Santa Cruz who studies the social organization of neighborhoods in China and Taiwan spoke at the University Union Monday.

His research provides context to two cultures that garner a lot of media attention.

“It seems like every time you open the newspaper there is another story about China and people have a lot of questions on their mind,” UCSC assistant professor Ben Read said.

Read attended public school in Beijing when he was 11 and later got his degree in Asian studies. His research started after he came across a publication on resident committees in China.

By learning more about the operations of the resident committees, people can see how different it is from the average community group in America, Read said.

About 25 students attended the event and most of them study history or political science — a number of students attended for an extra-credit opportunity.

UCSC professor Ben Read shows a photo he took of community members campaigning for neighborhood leadership positions.

Students at the presentation had questions ranging from Read's research methods to whether he had considered China's skewed results due to government censoring. He said he had considered this and attempted to conduct interviews individually, and take surveys over the summer.

The History of Love is an ambitious title. It promises to be all-encompassing, thoughtful, wise, charming, inquisitive, comforting and not to be trite, insignificant, dishonest or insincere. Nicole Krauss's novel of this name is at once all and none of that.

“The History of Love" catches up with Leopold Gursky at the end of his life when he is an endearingly lonely old man who lost the only woman he ever loved half a century ago. After being separated in the war, the woman gave birth to Leo's son, unknown to him, and married another man, believing Leo to be dead. When Leo finally located her in America, she had already begun a life without him — one that did not have a spot saved for him as her lover or his son's father. Thus, Leo begins his life alone in the city, working as a locksmith and keeping careful track of the son who doesn't know of his existence.

Leo, however, is not the only narrator of this story. Though the novel moves throughout the other characters' lives rather disjointedly and without much explanation, it eventually becomes clear that each one is interconnected, though some relationships still remain hazy.

One of these intersecting plot lines is narrated by Alma Singer, a 14-year-old girl whose mother and brother cannot get over the loss of their husband/father and, as a family, have more than enough quirks to ground the story.

The other main plotline centers around Zvi Litvinoff, who publishes Leo's novel "The History of Love" (herein referred to as Krauss's novel's name-sake) without Leo knowing, as Zvi is also under the impression that Leo has died. To Leo's knowledge, the book was lost years ago and never published. However, though it was not widely circulated, its publication did have a profound effect on each of the other storylines in Krauss's novel.

The loss of their father has created a desire to hold on to his memory and each other in any way possible, and yet also distance themselves from their mother's suffocating longing for the past.

Meanwhile, Leo, a cantankerous old man who had the best and worst years of his life in rapid succession long ago, has lived his many years since, in New York, as an afterthought to his lost love. He struggles daily between an effort to be seen and allowing himself to see what he wants. So much so, in fact, that it is impossible for the reader to ever be certain if any of what he sees is actually there.

Alma's endeavor to reconcile the classic pains and triumphs of growing up with her almost desperate desire to help her mother out of her crippling loneliness is heartrending in its willful earnestness. When her mother is commissioned to translate "The History of Love," it is Alma's search for the author's book column

Love's history is boundless

For the ultra-violet foundation

February 25th
9:30-5:00
spanos lawn

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all proceeds go directly to the Sigma Kappa foundation which donates to the Alzheimers Association, Inherit the Earth, and the Maine Seacoast Mission.
Local

continued from page 8

food comes with something unfa-
miliar to the food group that usu-
ally consists of mozzarella sticks
and chicken fingers. The steak bites
come with a side of roasted bone
marrow; the grilled cheese is a
hefty sandwich grilled with mush-
rooms; the Cobb salad is composed
of King's favorites, and he describes it
as a "man salad," overflowing with
avocado, two slices of homemade
butter lettuce, and chicken fingers.

The steak bites I ordered consist of
mozzarella sticks and chicken
fingers. The steak bites come with a
side of roasted bone marrow, and
the grilled cheese is a hearty sand-
wich grilled with mushrooms.

King said he wants to evoke a cer-
tain shock value with his high-
level, rustic food. "I'm basically try-
ing to create bar food done really
well and at a high level where it felt
natural but not pretentious," King
said. "If I had white linens up all
over this place, it'd feel really stuffy.
I still want to be able to play sports,
I still want to have some good music
going. I still want to keep it a bar."

Large, spherical lightbulbs radi-
te softly in the square, high-walled
room. Cream-colored walls con-
trast with the dark, rich wooden
tables highlighted by small yellow
candles. Exposed wooden rafters in
the ceiling give it a still-in-con-
struction look, but carefully con-
tradicts the clean, modern attri-
butes. A projector displays sports or
game shows on an otherwise blank
wall. Chattering from the bar cas-
sette to the food.

Mathematics junior Jose Valdez
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Glen Beck calls out 'progressives' on misnomer

Glen Beck has done it again. During his moving speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) last Saturday, Beck argued that the single largest problem facing the nation, ironically, is "progressivism.".

It seems almost contradictory that a movement called progressivism would have any negative consequences. As Americans, we are always looking for progressive solutions to make our lives better. We are all about moving forward and dealing with daily issues in a progressive way. This word so infused in our culture that when it received a political meaning, we never knew what it hit us.

As Beck explained, progressivism is really just a nicely packaged form of radical liberalism. Liberal thinkers have always had a way with candy-coating extreme ideas throughout history, and progressivism is a prime example of this trend. After all, progressivism sounds much better than "deficit spending" or "higher taxes," let alone "socialism."

Progressivism means extended government control and reckless spending. It's not about moving forward; it's about reverting back to the same methods that led us into the Great Depression, and bringing the nation closer to the principles of communism. As Beck clearly asserted, the questioning 30s came to a halt when the government became looser with its purse strings during the Hoover Administration. The only difference between Hoover and Roosevelt was that Hoover didn't try to be effective when he realized the American economy was taking a dive. Oh, and by the way, it was not drastic domestic spending that got us out of the Depression; it was a little something called World War II. Although its short-term results seemed promising, Roosevelt's "New Deal" really just put us deeper into the endless cycle of recession, but we didn't because we were plagued with the demands of progressivism in Washington.

We have allowed the government to interfere with our personal lives to a point where individual hard work and merit have almost become inconsequential. "When did it become an object of shame and ridicule to become a self-made man in America?" Beck asked. Small business has kept Americans employed, and yet they receive no mercy when the economy takes a dip. As Beck said, "(Small business) employers are the people who are really struggling, and those are the people we are hardly noticing anymore."

The government has no concern for the heart and soul of our economy, as it is under the false impression that spending money will solve all our problems. It's never good to be behind the times, but progressivism is far from progressive. The government needs to stop getting in the way of the American Dream, and to let the movers and shakers of our economy see the fruits of their labor. Otherwise, we will remain trapped in the cycle of progressive failure.

Brendan Pringle is an English sophomore and Mustang Daily political columnist.

Write a letter to the editor!

Send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at
Winter Olympics are a celebration of the human spirit

The Vancouver Winter Olympics are offering a brief but important opportunity to see that the modern world is not as frightening as it's often depicted. Just 20 years ago nations such as Austria, Latvia and Georgia were still under Soviet occupation. Germany had just unified. South Africa was starting to free itself of apartheid. And in fact, using the Olympics as a barometer of global health makes it clear that much is well with the world.

For decades the games were highly politicized, and often polarizing, reminiscent of the Cold War. Just 30 years ago, the United States led 62 countries in boycotting the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. The boycott was a direct reaction to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It was one more in a series of East-West stand-downs, the first and second world powers flinging their nuclear arsenals.

And the Soviet Union retaliated by leading a 14-nation boycott of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. The Vancouver games and the 2008 games in China show a far more unified globe. Even the Doomsday Clock, which symbolically represents the manmade dangers to mankind, has moved backward this year.

Of course the world has many problems. The soaring security costs at recent Olympics to detect and deter international terrorism are clear indicators of the times.

But the Vancouver Winter Olympics are a great reminder that despite the problems of the day, we could be, and often were during the past century, much worse off.

Times such as these, when sport can simply be sport, should be celebrated.
Basketball
continued from page 16

Arthur Staple
NEWSPAPER

The U.S. men’s hockey team’s architects and players loudly and gladly told anyone who would listen that the Americans were huge underdogs for a medal heading into the Olympics.

After last week’s three-game sweep, capped by a stirring 3-3 win over Canada on Sunday, you can forget about that whole “Miracle on Ice II” story line.

“I don’t think we’re going to surprise anyone anymore,” said Red Wings defenseman Brian Rafalski, Team USA’s leading scorer with four goals and an assist.

So now it’s the beginning of life as a favorite. Wednesday’s quarterfinal with Switzerland is no sure thing, even though the Americans beat the Swiss, 3-1, eight days ago in the Olympic opener. Of Wednesday’s quarterfinal match-ups, the United States’ seems the easiest, well-earned after picking up the No. 1 seed; Canada, after upset, the United States’ seems the easiest, well-earned after picking up the No. 1 seed; Canada, after defeating Germany last night, will face Russia tonight, a meeting of two best teams on paper coming into Vancouver.

Despite its success, Cal Poly was projected to finish at the bottom of the Big West. Last season, the Mustangs finished 3-13 in conference — Cal Poly has already doubled the number of wins in conference this year.

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Aside from that, the semi-final went as expected — with four goals and an assist.

The eyes are on you and the light was turned up — its game time he said.

— Brian De Lor Santos and Zach Lutz contributed to this article.

U.S. men know they can’t look past Swiss

The U.S. men’s hockey team completed a 5-3 upset over Canada Sunday. Today, the U.S. will take on Switzerland in the quarter finals.
Mustangs will use home-court advantage against Fullerton

Daniel Triassi  
SPORTS EDITOR

For many of us, it's like the phenomenon of a home-cooked meal. Food always tastes better when it comes from your mom's oven. At Mott Gym, the concept is the same but the scent is entirely different. Here, it's more of a new-sneaker smell mixed with Pebble-grain leather and the acrid, pharmaceutical scent of athletic tape. Or maybe it's the scent of flesh and floor varnish. Take a while. This is the home of the Mustangs.

Tonight, Cal Poly (10-16, 6-7 Big West) begins a season-ending three-game home stand as they host Cal State Fullerton (14-12, 7-6) in a game televised on FSN West.

Homecourt advantage is something the Mustangs have benefited from this season. The Mustangs have posted a 5-4 record at home as opposed to a 5-12 record on the road.

The advantage is something head coach Joe Callero said is integral to his team's success on the court. At the beginning of their season, Callero commented in a video about Mott Gym's home-court legacy.

"We want to pack Mott Gym, when we make the walls of Mott Gym sweat, when we get the Mustang fans pumped up, everyone jumps higher, we shoot better and we play better defense ... it's the home court advantage we look forward to.

With these high hopes, when asked about the home-court advantage so far this season, Callero explained the advantage for his team is familiarity.

"My 10-year-old daughter asked me why it's so important," Callero said. "I asked her in simple terms: Do you sleep better in your own bed or in a hotel room? I said you always sleep better in your own bed, just like you shoot better in your own gym."

The team has proven Callero's comparison true. The Mustangs total game attendance averages 400 more fans than last year — with three home games left in the regular season.

"It's really been building and getting better and better each game. We averaged over 2,000 fans last four games," he said.

Ryan Darling, senior forward, said he likes the home-court atmosphere.

"We want to let them know we appreciate them, and we're here to represent their school," Darling said.

While on the court, the game is his main focus, but the crowd still has an effect.

"I want to say I tune the crowd out, but when something is done well, it's amplified and when something is done poorly, it's amplified, too," he said.

In their previous match up back on Jan. 14, the Mustangs fell to the Titans by a score of 68-54 at Fullerton. This time around, the game will be played on the Mustangs' home court.

In that game, guards Shawn Lewis and Lorenzo Keeler were the only players to score in double figures in what was one of the lowest offensive outputs by the team this season.

"I think it's a team that can score, so it really comes down to whether they have great athletes and we got to be able to defend them and hold them under 70 (points) and obviously the key for us is scoring over 70," Callero said.

In the game the Mustangs converted 59 percent of their shots and Cal Poly will play a three-game non-conference series at the University of San Francisco (1-2) this weekend.

Baseball rides the Waves out of Malibu, 12-4

Cal Poly freshman pitcher Joey Wagman allowed one run through six innings to push the Mustangs (2-2) past Pepperdine (2-2) by the score of 12-4 Tuesday.

Cal Poly's starting rotation has been consistent through four games; so have the relievers. The starters have a combined 2.82 ERA while the relievers' ERA is 24.78. The starters have given up three earned runs (6) despite notching 17.6 more innings than their counterparts coming out of the pen in four games.

Left fielder Bobby Crocker carried the offensive load for the Mustangs, scoring six runs on three hits, highlighted by a three-run bomb in the fourth inning. Sophomore second baseman Matt Jensen drove in three runs on two hits and freshman right fielder Mitch Hanger scored four runs on three singles.

It took the Mustangs three innings to get on the board. They cashed in on one of Pepperdine's four errors when Jensen hit a two-run double after Pepperdine pitcher Alex Najera threw a ground ball away.

Cal Poly added four more in the fourth after two singles, a walk and a Crocker three-run homer to open the lead up to 7-0.

Pepperdine's offense sputtered until the fifth inning. The Waves managed three singles to push a run across the plate. Wagman found himself in trouble with the bases loaded and two out. It took him four pitches to strike out Pepperdine hitter Aaron Gates and get out of the jam. Wagman retired the side in order with a 10-pitch sixth inning after Cal Poly added two more runs in the top half of the sixth.

Cal Poly ran into some trouble in the home half of the eighth inning when Tanner Erhin came in to relieve DJ Maaldin, despite retiring four out of five batters. Erhin gave up a double to the first batter he faced and was immediately yanked. Reliever Jeff Johnson didn't do any better, giving up a double and two-run home run as the lead narrowed, 10-4.

Pepperdine's top hitters were left fielder Tyler Bublaker who hit a two-run homer, catcher Nate Johnson and second baseman Joe Sever who both had two hits. Najera, a freshman southpaw, gave up seven runs and seven hits in four innings with two walks.

Cal Poly will play a three-game non-conference series at the University of San Francisco (1-2) this weekend.

Left fielder Bobby Crocker finished the game 3-5 with six RBIs. Crocker's offensive performance was highlighted by a three-run home run in the fourth inning. Second baseman Matt Jensen drove in three runs off two hits.