Wave of bike thefts hits campus

Aimee Vasquez
MUSIANC DAILY

Cal Poly physics senior Grant Rayner said it is not uncommon for a bike to be stolen every three to four days at Cal Poly during the academic year. That number has been on the rise. For example, between 2007 and 2009, 17 bikes were stolen on campus.

"Lyons suspects the thefts that occurred between Feb. 23-25 might have been a ring of bike thieves," Rayner said. "I had a lot of good memories on that bike."

And now it's gone.

Rayner's was one of 17 road bikes stolen on campus in the three-day period. All of the bikes cost between $400-$2,000.

"It's highly likely that the perpetrators load up a van with bikes and take them to another university outside of this region, for example, to Arizona," Lyons said.

According to Lyon's theory, the ring would sell the bikes there, and possibly hit that university as well before continuing on to another region.

One way to facilitate the recovery of bikes that have been taken out-of-state for resale is to register them with the National Bike Registry (NBR). Licensed by the California Department of Business Licensing, NBR Manager Mariya Funk said that bike theft rings do exist and she wouldn't be surprised if this was the cause of Cal Poly's recent thefts.

Whether a concentrated theft ring or mere coincidence, 17 Cal Poly students are missing their bikes. Business administration junior Joe Merkel's vintage, maroon and black Trek bicycle was also stolen during the three-day period. He said the whole event for him was depressing.

"I went to class for three to four hours," he said. "I came back and looked around. It was like, 'I could've sworn I parked it right here.'"

See Theft, page 2

Cal Poly employees awarded for service

Anice Ayler
MUSIANC DAILY

Some were here when John Madden coached the football team. Many have seen riots and floods. They remember how the city used to celebrate Mardi Gras. A few could have seen Chuck Liddell sitting in a classroom. They are the 267 employees who have been employed by the university for 10 or more years and whose service will be recognized during a luncheon tomorrow in Chumash Auditorium from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The annual Cal Poly Service Awards Luncheon recognizes university employees who have worked for 10-40 years.

The purpose of the luncheon is to honor those personnel who have worked for State, Corporation and ASI, said Karen Stubberfield, a member of the committee planning the event.

Awardees are given complimentary luncheons, award certificates and special gifts donated by the President's Office, Cal Poly Corporation, Associated Students Inc., El Corral Bookstore, University Police Department and Cal Poly Athletics, she added.

During the luncheon, all recipients will have their names called and shake hands with President Warren Baker — who will be honored for his 30 years at Cal Poly — as brief descriptions of their time at the university are read by Phil Bailey, emcee of the ceremony.

Bailey, also dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, said he has performed this job about eight to 10 times at the request of the President's Office, including the last three years. Photographer "A long time ago, they asked me once to do it, and then seemed like every three or four years I'd do it," he said. "I just lose track. I'm not shy anymore like I used to be; I've been here a long time and I know a lot of people." Bailey is now in his 40th year at Cal Poly and will also be

see Awards, page 8

University Union evacuated after student's fire-alarm prank

Karen McIntyre
MUSIANC DAILY

More than 150 people evacuated the University Union at 4 p.m. Monday after a student pulled the fire alarm as a prank. The crowd waited about 10 minutes while a member of the University Police Department checked the building. No one seemed overly anxious about the prospect of a fire; people conversed until they were let back into the building.
Theft
continued from page 1

Theft

I lost the key or forgot the combination.

"There's very few cable locks that are that hard to defeat," he said. "And the reality is there are very few U-locks that are hard to defeat either. They just take a little more time."

Even so, there are only one to two U-lock bike thefts a year on campus, as compared to the dozens of cable-lock bike thefts.

Cohen said cables can easily be cut in less than 10 seconds with a pair of cutters such as can be found in most hardware stores. Not only are they quick, the cutters are also easy to hide.

"They're about the size of a pair of scissors, the size of the palm of your hand. I mean they're tiny," Cohen said.

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* * *

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News editor: Kate McIntyre
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Tuesday, March 9, 2010

SHARING IS CARING!
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Women who drink gain fewer pounds

Shari Roan
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Women who drink moderate amounts of alcohol don’t gain as much weight in midlife as those who abstain, according to a study released Monday. However, the authors, as well as alcohol abuse experts, were quick to say that drinking should not be heralded as a new diet nor a path to better health.

The study, to be published Tuesday in the Archives of Internal Medicine, is the first to find that alcohol may curb weight gain in women. Previous research suggested that moderate drinking has no effect on women’s weight and contributes to weight gain in men.

Typically, alcohol consumption is not advised for people trying to watch their weight or lose weight. A five-ounce glass of wine contains 125 calories while a 12-ounce regular beer contains 150 calories.

In the study, researchers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston examined data from 19,221 women enrolled in the long-running Women’s Health Study. The women, ages 39 and older at the start of the study and all originally overweight or obese at the end of an average of 13 years.

To assess the impact of alcohol only, researchers adjusted for other factors that are known to influence weight, such as smoking, body mass index, age, diet, alcohol dietary intake and physical activity.

They found that compared with women who abstained from alcohol entirely, women who drank between 15 and 30 grams a day — the equivalent of a drink or two — were 30 percent less likely to be overweight or obese at the end of the study.

Women who consumed five to 14 grams a day — roughly one-half to one drink — were 14 percent less likely.

There were too few heavy drinkers (defined as consuming two to three drinks or more a day) to evaluate the effect on body weight of greater quantities of alcohol.

The effects were found for beer, red wine, white wine and spirits, although the strongest association was found for red wine.

It isn’t clear what accounts for the association, the authors said. However, they noted that women appear to burn more calories after drinking than men do, which might provide a biological reason for the finding.

But it is also possible that at least some of the observed link between alcohol and midlife slimmer is not direct and has to do, instead, with other things drinking women tend to do, the authors added.

For example, women who drink more alcohol in the study consumed fewer calories from other food sources, particularly carbohydrates. The women who drank moderately also were more likely to smoke, were more physically active, had lower body mass indexes at the start of the study and had a less healthy diet.

Still, alcohol appeared to influence weight even when researchers controlled for such factors, the authors said.

Regardless of the reason for the link, the research should not translate into advice for women, said Dr. James C. Garbutt, a professor of psychiatry at the University of North Carolina’s Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies.

“If the message is that by drinking some alcohol you’re going to lose weight, that’s a potentially complicated and dangerous message,” he said.

Women develop alcohol-related liver and brain damage faster than men, he said. Other studies have linked consumption of more than one drink a day to an increased risk of breast cancer.

Moderate wine intake, especially red wine, has been found to have some beneficial effects on cardiovascular health in both women and men. But, Garbutt said, “Alcohol is very much a double-edged sword. For some people, it may have benefits and for others it may have harms.”

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State
SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) — A Republican state senator from Bakersfield came out of the closet in a radio interview Monday morning in the wake of a report that he had been at a gay club in Sacramento before he was arrested on drunken-driving charges last week.

State Sen. Roy Ashburn has been on personal leave since his arrest early Wednesday in his state car not far from the Capitol. The arrest touched off rampant speculation about his sexuality after a TV station reported he had been at a gay nightclub just before he was pulled over by California Highway Patrol officers. But Ashburn had declined to comment.

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National
COLORADO (MCT) — A rock slide punched holes through a vital stretch of the interstate highway system early Monday, cutting off a key artery for Colorado for an unknown period of time.

The slide at about midnight Sunday closed down 17 miles of Interstate 70 from Glenwood Springs to the town of Donovan in western Colorado. The slide occurred in narrow Glenwood Canyon, where boulders the size of tractor-trailers rumbled down the precipitous slopes and gouged parts of the elevated highway.

SEATTLE (MCT) — A former Army Ranger who was convicted in 1981 of attempting a 2006 Tacoma, Wash., bank robbery was sentenced Monday morning to 20 years in prison for assaulting a co-defendant in prison and plotting to kill a federal prosecutor.

The sentence was part of a plea agreement reached by Luke Sommier, who is already serving a 24-year federal prison sentence for the bank robbery.

The men escaped with $80,000 in cash and weapons to Fort Lewis. Sommier claimed he planned the robbery to call attention to his disagreement with the war as "a foolish act of banging their heads on a rock."

IQAQ (MCT) — Iraq achieved a respectable turnout at the polls over the weekend as 67 percent of registered voters cast their ballots, according to the country's electoral commission.

The numbers exceeded expectations. Beforehand, some Western officials predicted that 55 percent to 60 percent of the 19 million registered Iraqis would vote.

The turnout was relatively disappointing in Baghdad. Only 53 percent of voters went to the polls in the capital, compared to the predominately Sunni Muslim province of Salahuddin, which had nearly three-quarters of registered voters show up, according to the Independent High Electoral Commission.

SOUTH KOREA (MCT) — U.S. and South Korean armed forces on Monday began their annual military exercises, prompting North Korea to threaten the war games as a "foolish act of bagging their heads on a rock."

The 11-day joint exercises involving tens of thousands of troops are a routine training event designed to improve the ability to defend South Korea, according to U.S.-South Korea Combined Forces Command. The Peninsula is technically still at war because the 1950-53 war ended with an armistice and not a peace treaty.

International
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The Booth is expected to open Memorial Day weekend on the beach next to the Morrow Strand campground. Volunteers will hand out information about the tiny shorebirds and what the public can do to help protect them, including a "dog on leash" map that tells dog owners how to avoid disturbing plovers.

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide the outer limits of free-speech protection for protests and to rule on whether a dead soldier's family can sue fringe religious protesters who picketed near their son's funeral carrying signs that read: "Thank God for dead soldiers."

Like the famous case of the American Nazis who marched in Skokie, Ill., the new case of anti-gay picketing at military funerals tests whether the most hateful protests must be tolerated under the First Amendment, even if they inflict emotional harm. In this instance, the victims were the family of Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder, who was killed in combat in Iraq on March 3, 2004.

When his family announced his funeral would be held in Woomers- mere Md., a Kansas preacher decided to travel there with a few followers to protest. In recent years, Fred Phelps, founder of the Westboro Baptist Church, has been picketing at military funerals around the nation because he believes the United States is too tolerant of homosexuality. Though kept distant from St. John's Catholic Church and the cemetery, Phelps and his followers carried signs that read "God Hates the USA," "Taq troops" and "Pope in hell."

There was no suggestion that Snyder was gay or that the protests even involved him directly. But after returning to Kansas, Phelps said on his Web site that Albert Snyder, the soldier's father, had "taught Matthew to defy his creator" and "raised him for the devil."

Snyder sued Phelps for invading his privacy and for an intentional infliction of emotional distress. A Maryland jury rejected Phelps' defense based on free speech and awarded Snyder $10.1 million in damages. But a judge reduced the amount to $5 million. Last September, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the verdict, citing the First Amendment. The protest signs were "distasteful and repugnant," but their words were mild and hyperbolic, the judges said. They did not "assert actual facts about either Snyder or his son," the court said.

The father appealed to the Supreme Court, noting that a family at a funeral is a "captive audience" and cannot simply turn away from a hateful protest. "Snyder had one (and only one) opportunity to bury his son and that occasion has been tarnished forever," his lawyer said. "Matthew deserved better. A civilized society deserves better."

The high court said it had voted to hear the case of Snyder v. Phelps in the fall and to consider reinstating the jury verdict.

It was one of two privacy cases the court voted to take up. The second involves scientists and engineers at the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, Calif. They faced privacy objections when they were told to answer personal questions about drug use as part of a background check.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration owns the lab, and in 2007, it extended the background checks for federal employees to all of its contract workers, including those at the Jet Propulsion Lab. A group of 28 lab employees sued, and they won an exemption from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

But the Obama administration appealed, saying this privacy ruling cast a doubt on the legality of all federal background checks. The court said it will hear the case of NASA v. Nelson in the fall.

Letter to the Editor
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court makes free-speech ruling on soldiers' caskets

David G. Savage
The San Diego Union-Tribune

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Briefs
“The Hurt Locker” wins six Academy Awards

Kenneth Turan

LOS ANGELES — Everyone wants the chance to dream, and if Sunday night’s Oscar results are any indication, the people who work in the dream factory most of all.

It takes away nothing from “The Hurt Locker,” which really was the best film of the year, or the exceptional directing job done by Kathryn Bigelow, to speculate that more than the acknowledgment of excellence was behind that film’s triumph in the hotly contested best picture race.

It seems fair to say that an almost subconscious yearning in part motivated the members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to vote the way they did. Voting for a Hollywood that once existed but doesn’t anymore, in a day-in-day-out business of making smart, exciting, character-driven films tended primarily for a grown-up audience.

For though it was made with very modern skills, technologies and attitudes, “The Hurt Locker” at its core is a throwback to a time as far back as 1943, when “Casablanca” was the best of the 19-movie field, and the major studios were in the day-in-day-out business of making smart, exciting, character-driven films.

It is also the kind of business where an audience-friendly adult entertainment such as “Crazy Heart,” a film that won two Oscars, including best actor for Jeff Bridges, was abandoned by the studio that made it and nearly went, in the words of writer-director Scott Cooper, “straight to radio.” Only the savvy team at Fox Searchlight, who performed a similar search and rescue mission with last year’s big winner, “Slumdog Millionaire,” could have been as reluctant as the rest of adult America, to give the film a try.

“The Hurt Locker,” by contrast, needed no such help. A splendid, well-reviewed film in its own right and one that will be enormously influential on the future of moviemaking, this 3-D epic turned out to have a drawback in the best-picture race.

For all the new ground it broke, “Avatar,” which cost more than $300 million world-wide, to make and has become the seventh head-to-head clash between the two films, with “Avatar” winning only cinematography and “Up” walking off with best score.

That current business, in case you’ve forgotten, values everything that “The Hurt Locker” is not. It’s a business that is about toys and special effects and low raunchy humor favored by a youthful demographic who are the twin touchstones of Hollywood, box-office success.

It is also the kind of business where an audience-friendly adult entertainment such as “Crazy Heart,” a film that won two Oscars, including best actor for Jeff Bridges, was abandoned by the studio that made it and nearly went, in the words of writer-director Scott Cooper, “straight to radio.” Only the savvy team at Fox Searchlight, who performed a similar search and rescue mission with last year’s big winner, “Slumdog Millionaire,” could have been as reluctant as the rest of adult America, to give the film a try.

But if you voted for “The Hurt Locker,” you could pretend that wasn’t so. You could vote for a dream of a better world where these films lived long and prospered. And if the film actually won, it would have taken in more than $2.6 billion worldwide. Which is why “The Hurt Locker” not only won best picture and director, it won five of the seven head-to-head clashes between the two films, with “Avatar” winning only cinematography and “Up” walking off with best score.

“The Hurt Locker” situation is that of a movie made without compromise. We didn’t accept any preview screenings or focus groups or studio notes. Everybody wanted to vote for it.

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Anyone who's ever tried to sell anything to the 18-25 demographic would kill to have a successful viral video about their product. Rather than paying a television or radio station to run your commercial, you just release a video onto the Internet, and it will spread on its own, if it's good enough. There are even companies that do nothing but attempt to boost the popularity of other videos. Truly remarkable viral advertising is quite rare, but recently, it has resurfaced in ads for the Axe Detailer.

In a three-minute segment that could be shown in classrooms to define "innuendo," Axe repeatedly demonstrates that the Detailer can "clean your balls" while never once using it on a person. This double entendre is beaten into the ground over the course of the video. One actress fondles a pair of golf balls in a way that makes me feel funny inside; there is a "big ball-sack" containing a dozen soccer balls held by a black gentleman and the rather lewd elderly woman in the front row providing even more comedy. Really, watch it and try to believe they are actually talking about sports.

Even if you are virginal of mind, you could still figure out the barely-hidden message when you realize that although one of the female hosts is supposedly a tennis player, there is no talk about any balls belonging to women. Women only play with balls belonging to other men. It would be sexist if it wasn't logical.

Balls aside, the real cleverness is that Axe is continuing to market the Detailer taking caked-on mud off of, well, balls. I'm not really sure who would get mad on their (non-sports) balls, so I tried it anyway. However, as I mentioned, the Detailer itself is nothing but a combination of existing bath products, so I didn't expect penile enhancement or anything (although such a product is probably being developed in the Axe laboratories right now). The actual result was a bit disappointing, as my balls did not actually look "sparkly and new" as advertised. They did look a tiny bit cleaner than normal, I suppose. But apart from my balls, the rest of my body seems to have benefited from the exfoliation that came with rubbing my body with something rougher than my hands. Getting rid of some of that old skin seems to have made everything slightly smoother. The effect was probably about the same as if I'd used a regular "loofah," though.

In conclusion, while the Axe Detailer isn't exactly anything new, it is an efficient combination of two existing bath products. In addition, I wholeheartedly support any ad campaign that can convince people to be even a little bit cleaner. The Detailer might even be able to make the world smell better. Unless you use Axe body washes with it. Then the world's going to hell.

Anthony Rust is a biological sciences junior and Mustang Daily sex column. 
International Women's Day celebrates women of diverse backgrounds

Daniel Triassi
ARTS EDITOR

Cal Poly honored International Women's Day with a women of diversity panel. The panel, comprised of two female staff members and a professor, discussed their personal experiences with gender, racial, social and economic issues.

Kathy Chen, a materials engineering professor, began the discussion with her story as an Asian-American raised in the Midwest.

"I didn't want to go down the stereotypical path of an Asian, but it turned out I liked science and I liked math, so I had to accept that," Chen said.

Working in a male-dominated field, Chen said facing barriers made her stronger, helped her gain confidence and contributed to not letting things bring her down.

"Now, as an educator, I help break down barriers and encourage people to help others," she said.

Emily Hong, a political science and biological sciences sophomore, said women have a history of being oppressed even in the present-day on campuses.

One of those women with a diverse background is Maria Arvisu-Rodriguez, an academic advisor. Arvisu-Rodriguez spoke about how she pursued higher education, attending Cal Poly for her undergraduate education and grew up with parents who were field workers.

Coming to Cal Poly was difficult for her, she said, with barely anyone speaking Spanish in California during the early 80's. During her upbringing, she was most affected by low socio-economic issues, but gender still played a role.

"Growing up, my chores list was always longer than the boys' in my family," she said. "I'm now married to a man raised in a traditional Mexican-American home, but he knows how to help in the kitchen and with the laundry."

Donna Davis, also an academic advisor, was the last speaker on the panel. Davis spoke about her upbringing in Kentucky when the Jim Crow laws were active.

"I have memories of having to drink from colored-only drinking fountains, going to the movies and having to sit in the balcony," she said.

With strong mentors, Davis eventually came to California and was exposed to other cultures and freedoms Kentucky didn't have.

"If it hadn't been for those women who saw potential and took me under their wing, I don't know where I would be," she said.

International Women's Day is celebrated in over 140 different locations and 18 different countries. The day was first observed in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. In countries like China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria, International Women's Day is a national holiday.

The Obamas celebrated the day at the White House with a short ceremony. President Obama promised to continue to support and empower women's efforts in the United States and around the world.

"We're focused on academia, we forget women's issues and diversity are problems on campus," she said. "We can recognize and change these problems if we start going to more on-campus events."

William Schaffernicht
ARTS EDITOR
Awards
continued from page 1
recieving recognition and a gift. 
Awards were a result of the close connection he maintains with the students of his college. He has no expected class every quarter, but two since he came to Cal Poly in 1960. He is a club adviser and has had 15 disadvantaged students live with him and his wife over the last several years.

I came here because I really wanted to be at a university where you could interact with students, and I've kept that going my whole 40 years." — Phil Bailey
Dean, College of Science and Mathematics

"I came here because I really wanted to be at a university where you could interact with students," Bailey said. "I've had an expectation that the most important to me was the relationship I've had with my students. I'm totally committed and that's the most wonderful thing about the career." Bailey believes the ability to create and maintain these relationships his greatest accomplishment. Bailey also started the 35-15 study 

Bike
continued from page 2
1130.756-5835 peacecorps.calpoly.edu or peacecorps.gov

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TNT gives "Southland" new life

Greg Braxton
sports@latimes.com

LOS ANGELES — "Southland," the latest addition to TNT's prime-time lineup, has action, tension, heartbreak and a key rescue operation. Viewers might also notice there's been a lot of excitement on screen as well.

After a rocky first season on NBC, "Southland," which chronicles the chaotic professional and personal lives of Los Angeles Police Department officers and detectives, has returned to Tuesday nights on its new cable TV home.

Marked by course language and a documentary-style approach, "Southland" gained unwelcome notice late last year as a high-profile casualty of NBC's failed experiment to program in 10 p.m. slot, once a showcase for big-budget dramas, with "The Jay Leno Show.

The series' producers and stars were stunned when it was dumped. That anger turned to celebration when TNT negotiated a deal to pick up the series. Since January, the cable network has ramped up to re-launch the most convenient way for a college student to get around, especially for under-represented students."

Sparring plans to stay at the university for several more years and cherish the family-like relationship she shares with her co-workers. "I felt honored to be able to say that," Sparrington said. "The friendships I have through Cal Poly have clearly shaped my life."

The presidential function is organized by a volunteer committee made up of Cal Poly employees and has an annual event since the 70s. The formal evening dress for the awards, with guest tickets selling for $40 that are sold out most years, "Stubbfield said.

most prominent changes made up of Cal Poly employees and 13 employees with AS- 

Felicity Jones is most proud of the presidential function is organized by a volunteer committee made up of Cal Poly employees and has an annual event since the 70s. The formal evening dress for the awards, with guest tickets selling for $40 that are sold out most years, "Stubbfield said.

TNT's "Southland," a perfect fit for the network's date with franchise dramas that include "The Closer" and "Hawthorne." The network also was eager to fill a vacuum that will soon be created by the departure of the Police's Doane Duty. "Southland," which chronicles the chaotic professional and personal lives of Los Angeles Police Department officers and detectives, has returned to Tuesday nights on its new cable TV home.

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Marked by course language and a documentary-style approach, "Southland" gained unwelcome notice late last year as a high-profile casualty of NBC's failed experiment to program in 10 p.m. slot, once a showcase for big-budge
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"I...
offering a complete picture, they should invite someone who does not have a distinctly anti-Israel slant for once. I suggest the Middle Eastern scholars and activists Dr. Ronnie Kasrils and Walid Shoebat. Shoebat has spoken at UCSB, so it is no stretch to imagine he could come here as well. Israel is one of a select group of Middle Eastern nations which does not persecute Jews as policy. Unlike nations which do or have at one point, including Saudi Arabia, Libya, Yemen, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Iraq and Morocco.

If land (rightly) won in wartime should never be annexed and recognized, then why aren’t the same Israel activists agitating for the secession of Texas, or better yet, agitating for Syria to remove its sticky hands from Lebanon?

It would be astonishingly naive and ignorant not to wonder at the motives of those who lecture on why Israel should give up its land. Any Philo-Semitic reader should have found offense at Dr. Foreooh’s statement, as quoted in the Mustang Daily that since Halper is a Jew, his word against Israeli settlements should be golden. Judge a person on their merits, not their religion; religion absolutely should not have been a factor.

— Susannah Kopecky

English graduate student

Nice article. To be a journalist in today’s world requires more out of anyone than ever before. It requires having and understanding the uses of your Web site, a blog and social media.

My late brother-in-law and “Nightline” executive producer Lenoy Stevens understood these emerging technologies very well and communicated through his very popular blogs. He even blogged throughout his cancer experience and shared his feelings with the world… a real journalist to the end.

Now, write your blog!

— Roger

In response to “BLOG. A different kind of class.”

Aaron, thank you for this wonderful critique (or as the marxist communist Karl Marx in his marxist “communist manifesto” would say “kritik”) of the islamomarxist communist lebanese and marxist因为它 agenda of our marxist communist president barack obama and his marxist communist domestic policies.

— Anonymous

In response to “The government needs to get back to basics”

What happens to a society when education is left to the wayside? Though you are correct in your assertion that education is not regarded as a right in this country, that fact merely begs the question of why not. After all, in any system — our social system included — the composite is only as strong as its constituent parts.

— Anonymous

In response to “Join the statewide protests today in Dexter Lawn and March St.”

While it is great that she is doing that, and that it is spreading awareness… this is not a new idea. http://hungryforamonth.blogspot.com/2006_11_01.html

Also it made me laugh that people got SO concerned. Most of the world lives on less than $1 a day for food!

— Melissa

In response to “Student survives assault”

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No overcapitalization, please and watch the exclamation marks!

"WHAT’S YOUR RANT?
YOU WRITE IN. WE INVESTIGATE.
mustangdailywire@gmail.com"
Wrestling
continued from page 12

A sophomore, who has had knee surgery in the last two years, Smith never knows what to expect.
"It's a difficult situation to stay motivated when there is so much up in the air," he said.

Until Wednesday, when he finds out if he will be joining his five teammates at the NCAA conference Smith wasn't working a minute to condition in case he gets new news.
"I need to keep my head on straight, keep reinforcing myself. I'm going to keep training hard, as if I am going to the nationals," Smith said.

Identical in weight and height, brothers Boris and Filip Novack-

Wrestling
continued from page 12

there and back, but if it was up to me, he'd be here."

Who knew Ramirez's desires trumped those of the team's general manager, but then it's always been about not upsetting the temperamental hitter, who has been known to just go into a funk without explanation.

Ramirez has always been more sensitive than anyone might imagine given his bluster and confidence at the plate, and like so many others he's probably wondering too what kind of player he's going to be this season.

He's been the one in control of the room, his laugh, jokes or music setting the tone, but when you aren't the same player you've been, other voices become louder. Maybe that explains why he's already become withdrawn, spending most of his time with a select group of players while telling everyone to go talk to Ethier and Kemp, always a little truth in every crick he makes.

Dodgers fans probably only care if Ramirez can hit and drive in runs, but Ramirez was at his best two years ago when he arrived without seemingly a care in the world. He changed the way fans look at the Dodgers.

He had everyone laughing, every day a new.yuck to keep everyone as loose as he appeared to be, the ball flying off his bat. If his reputation had taken a serious hit in Boston, in L.A. he became an overnight sensation, loved by everyone.

Last year, Manager Joe Torre talked about how hurt Ramirez was after disappointing so many with his drug suspension, Ramirez returning to swing the bat as if coked with all of his troubles.

So it's probably not a good thing to find Ramirez in a funk, two weeks into spring training, withdrawn and already thinking about where he might be playing next season.

Whatever the reason, and he's not talking, if this is what Boston fans predicted Dodgers fans would eventually get from him, then the last laugh will be on Ramirez, who blew a really good thing here.
Wrestling gears up for NCAA championships

Sean Hanrahan
Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Cal Poly's wrestling team's energy was diminished after a defeat by Oregon State in the Pac-10 conference championships last month. Still, championship titles are within reach for more Mustangs than ever before.

This is what you train for all year — 15,000 fans, the big arena, a collegiate crowd. The atmosphere is very electric.

—John Azevedo
Cal Poly wrestling head coach

Cal Poly finished (8-4, 5-2 Pac-10) in dual meets this season and placed third in the Pac-10 championships.

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It’s not a laughing matter anymore for Manny Ramirez

T.J. Simers
Los Angeles Times

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Nine months or so later, it’s hard to say if maybe it’s just a side effect of the women’s fertility drug Manny Ramirez was caught using, or as some predicted from the start, he’s gone back into his Boston shell.

He’s just not the same guy, the life of the party for the better part of two years in L.A., but now it’s almost impossible to get a word out of him.

"Write whatever you want," is all he would say when asked about his transformation from clubhouse clown to uncooperative grump. Maybe he’s worried about how he might perform this season without medical assistance, a reasonable concern given his dramatic decline after returning from a 50-game suspension for violating baseball’s performance-enhancing drug policy.

Maybe his act is no longer finding a receptive audience in the Dodgers’ clubhouse, many of the Dodgers’ key contributors now confident in their own abilities as Major League players and needing no validation from Ramirez.

Maybe he needed to show the baseball world that he wasn’t as much trouble as portrayed earlier in order to win a big contract, getting that contract from the Dodgers so now it’s back to being the guy who lived in his own world in Boston.

Whatever the reason, he shut it down about a week ago after arriving, telling everyone to talk to Andre Ethier and Matt Kemp, and then chirping about this being his last year with the Dodgers. It was typical goofy Ramirez, going for the joke, a hint of truth included, but the timing inapropriate.

Two years ago everyone might have laughed it off, but Ramirez’s margin of error shrunk with the revelation he was one of baseball’s cheaters. So a day later, after dismissing the Dodgers with a whole season yet to play, he walked through the clubhouse telling reporters he had five more years to play, three here and two in Japan.

A few days later Ronnie Belliard joined the team, and Ramirez interrupted reporters talking to Belliard while holding an energy drink in his hands. Who better to promote an energy drink than a guy who will go to any lengths to uphold, "but especially a college athlete. Wrestling is an extremely demanding sport," Perry said.

Cal Poly will send more than half the team to nationals — six of 10.

But that excitement doesn’t always help you focus. You have to be ready, Azevedo said.

"As cliché as it is, we got here through hard work and preparation," assistant coach Mark Perry said.

Proper nutrition, ensuring meals are in at the right time and maintaining a healthy routine are difficult challenges for anyone to uphold, "but especially a college athlete. Wrestling is an extremely demanding sport," Perry said.

Cal Poly finished (8-4, 5-2 Pac-10) in dual meets this season and placed third in the Pac-10 championships.

"The guys have done a pretty good job," Perry said. "I’ll say not everyone; that’s why some of the guys are where they want to be and others aren’t."

Smith is not where he wants to be, despite qualifying for nationals.

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