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Open House edition
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Editor's note:
In addition to new content, this edition features some of our favorite stories from the past year, the stories we think best showcase our newspaper and campus. Thank you for reading!

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CAED one of three schools awarded worldwide

Alexandria Scott

The College of Architecture and Environmental Design (CAED) was one of three schools worldwide to be recognized by Autodesk Design Software for their expertise in building information modeling (BIM).

The college received the Autodesk BIM Experience Award in October 2009 for their education efforts and research, said Nancy Clark Brown, senior manager of Autodesk education programs for the Americas.

"There is one award for each region given to the school or university that has acquired expertise of using the software's technology," she said.

Cal Poly was honored for the Americas region, she said. The Asia-Pacific region award was given to South China University of Technology and for the Europe, Middle East and Africa region, RWTH Aachen University located in Germany was recognized.

There are approximately 30 schools in the United States that use BIM, she said.

"BIM is a tool, but a powerful one, changing the industry every day," CAED Dean Thomas Jones said.

"In a digital world, we use BIM for a better sense of reality," he said. "It doesn't just draw a building, it provides intelligence making the building look incredibly realistic." BIM software allows for someone to analyze environmental performance of a building, do mock construction work, and calculate costs, he said.

"Using BIM, someone can tell how much energy a building will use over 20 years," he said. "Before BIM, we had no tool that could do this. It's like we got jumped into the future."

Cal Poly students could create a project without the constraint of the tool, Brown said. The students had control over the software.

"The fact that the students have been exposed to these tools and use them with a high level of performance demonstrates the quality of education they are getting," she said.

One thing Cal Poly's CAED differed was to get students from different disciplines to work together, she said. Normally, this isn't done successfully.

"The 10-week quarter is very short," she said. "By maximizing the collaborative opportunities with the CAED majors, the students were able to create a lot of meaningful information in a short amount of time."

For winning the award, Cal Poly received a framed certificate, but more importantly recognition, Brown said. The award is very telling for future employers.

Autodesk has international customers who are always asking what schools are integrating the technology into their curriculum, she said.

"Cal Poly is at the forefront of masters of the technology and the students are integrating it into their curriculum," she said.

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Movement for uniform blood donation restrictions gains momentum in U.S.

Alan Basley

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mike Enos, a gay insurance executive, used to roll up his sleeve and donate blood with his co-workers. But that stopped a year ago after he was informed behind a privacy curtain at an office blood drive and told his blood wouldn't be accepted.

Ever.

That's because Enos, a Kansas City insurance executive, is gay.

For decades, the federal government has imposed a lifetime ban on blood donations from men who have had sex with men. The reason is that the AIDS virus, HIV, can be spread through blood transfusions, and gay men are more likely to carry HIV than the general population.

But increasingly refined tests are removing many of the doubts about whether a blood donor carries HIV.

So a movement is under way to end the lifetime ban and bring the rules for gay blood donors more in line with restrictions placed on other potentially risky donors.

A leading gay men's health organization is calling for a rewrite of federal regulations on blood donations so that all risky behavior — gay and heterosexual — are treated the same.

And a group of 18 U.S. senators, led by John Kerry, wrote last month to the Food and Drug Administration, the agency that regulates the nation's blood supply, to review what they called "outdated, medically and scientifically unsound deferral criteria" that exclude gay donors.

The FDA said it is "actively engaged in re-examining the issue of blood donation deferral criteria".

"Taking into account the current body of scientific information ... we are considering the possibility of pursuing alternative strategies that maintain blood safety," a recent FDA statement said.

A Health and Human Services advisory committee on blood safety and availability plans to review the issue in June.

"It's about time," Enos said.

"Bottom line, the blood supply has to be kept safe, but isolating a sexual orientation doesn't ensure that it's any safer."

—Mike Enos

Kansas City insurance executive

Bottom line, the blood supply has to be kept safe, but isolating a sexual orientation doesn't ensure that it's any safer.

Meanwhile, increasingly accurate tests have been developed to detect HIV in donor blood. The first tests that became available spot antibodies that the immune system produces when confronted by HIV. It usually takes two to eight weeks, but sometimes longer, for the body to make enough antibodies for the tests to detect.

A newer test can find HIV itself in the blood. This test shortens the time between infection with the virus and detection to nine to 11 days.

With this technology in place, the FDA estimates that less than one in 1 million HIV-infected donors go undetected.

"Sympathy for gay men believed to be unfairly excluded from giving blood has led to buyouts and cancellations of blood drives on university campuses. But health experts also have raised objections.

Blood-banking organizations have long called for rolling back the deferral period on blood donations by gay men to one year after their most recent sexual contact with another man. That's the same deferral period used for people who have had sex with a prostitute or heterosexual contact with someone who is HIV-positive.

"We understand there are emotional attachments to this, but policies should be science-based," said James Aubuchon, president-elect of AABB, formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks.

In 1983, blood collection facilities began telling potential donors to refrain voluntarily from giving blood if they were in any of the groups at high risk of AIDS infection. That included sexually active gay and bisexual men who had multiple partners.

But the rule for gay men was progressively broadened and now excludes blood donations by all men who have had sex with another man, even one time, since 1977, the year HIV is believed to have reached the United States.

Questionnaires every potential donor must answer are used to screen out men who have had sex with men and people who may be carrying blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis B.

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New campaign promotes CSU

Alexandria Scott

The California State Student Association (CSSA) has launched a new campaign called "California is Made in the CSU."

CSSA started the campaign early in March to educate the voting public about the value of California state universities.

"We need the public support to help convince the legislator that the CSU should be a priority during the budget vote," he said. "The legislator needs to fully fund the needs of each education system."

The state has its general fund and higher education is a part of it, said Jacob Alvarez, vice president of university affairs.

"The poor economy caused the budget to be cut a lot," he said. "CSU is the largest higher education system in the world," he said. "It's important because it's accessible and has a low cost but high quality of education."

"Fully funded would mean to give funding increases to CSU and restore some of the cuts that have taken place," said Steve Dixon, CSA president.

"The legislator thinks that CSU is a cost that need to be cut," he said. "Our goal is to educate the public and the legislator that students are an investment and result in teachers, nurses and engineers."

"The campaign wants to put forward the message that students are important," he said. "We want to be at the top of the minds of voters," he said. "State parks was ahead of higher education in priorities."

The campaign promotes that the economy, jobs and the workforce are made in the CSU.

"CSU is a producer of the workforce in California, graduating 90,000 students each year," Nelin said. "$1 invested in the CSU returns $4.62 to the economy."

"We would like to see a lot of state financial support and lower tuition," he said.

see CSU, page 11
After 40 years, three sisters reconnect through Facebook

Kim Ode  
TRIBUNE NEWSWIRE

Did Facebook's 400 million users make it inevitable that the long-lost Balzer sisters would find each other? Or was it a case of Stacy's hand reaching into the social media haystack and finding the needle that was Deb? Perhaps their reunion simply was, as Deb described it, "the damnedest thing."

The Balzer sisters' story is among a couple of dozen collected in "Face book Fairytales: Modern-Day Miracles to Inspire the Human Spirit" (Skyhorse, $12.95) by Emily Liebert.

While Facebook's contents are more associated with foiled job interviews and antics that should have stayed in Vegas, Liebert says that it's also an engine for good.

Last year, the site created a page called Facebook for Good, where members share stories of how they used the site as a tool in efforts that range from raising money for charities, to helping acquire the wrongfully accused, to finding lost cats.

Or lost sisters.

Deb Balzer, 48, lives in Minneapolis. But her story began in 1961, when she was born in Dunkirk, N.Y., near Buffalo. Two years later, sister Renee was born. Three years later, their parents divorced.

"During that era, divorce was a disgrace," said Balzer, especially so in a predominantly Catholic town. Several years later, their father left town and remarried.

When Balzer was 14, she tracked him down, only to learn that she and Renee had another sister named Stacy. But that marriage also had ended in divorce and the conversation stopped there. "Nobody said anything, so nobody ever said anything," she said, summing up the family dynamics. Yet she couldn't shake what she'd learned.

After their father's death in 1992, Balzer wrote to his second wife to tell her that she'd like to meet Stacy, but never got a reply. Seventeen years passed. Balzer moved to Minneapolis, where she works in public relations for the Animal Humane Society.

Early last year, she — along with almost 2 million other people — joined Facebook. Her 36-year high school reunion was approaching. Why not start catching up? Here's where the peculiar, circuitous power of social networking kicked in.

It turns out that Stacy also knew she had a long-lost sister and was trying to find her. In doing a Web search for Deb Balzer, she found that a woman with that name had posted a comment to someone named Rosalie on a Facebook page for a high school reunion. Yet she couldn't find Deb Balzer anywhere else on Facebook.

So Stacy sent a message to Rosalie — they were total strangers — explaining the situation and asking for help. "I've been trying to find her and my other sister Renee for many years, with no luck," she wrote. "You really have no idea what it would mean to me."

Rosalie — who, as it happens, was an old friend of Deb Balzer's — forwarded the message to Deb, and the circle was complete, the needle in the haystack found.

"I was worried, but it was all lovely," Balzer said.

After that, things moved quickly. Deb told Renee that Stacy had been found and the sisters decided to rendezvous in Minneapolis over the July 4th holiday. Stacy flew in from Colorado. Renee from North Carolina. "I was worried, but it was all lovely," Balzer said.

The trio told their story pretty much to anyone and everyone they met over the weekend. "It was so obvious," she said. "We look like sisters, we all laugh crazily. I thought there would be a lot of tears, but we got on just as if we'd always been together. I think our father would have been really happy that his daughters finally got a chance to reconnect."

"The sisters have decided to start a tradition of getting together every July 4th. "We know we'll never be able to make up for the Christmases, but this works because there's not a whole lot of emotional attachment to the day," Balzer said. "And we get fireworks!"
Poly to offer more summer school courses than ever

Aimee Vasquez
AIMEEVASQUEZ.MD@GMAIL.COM

Summer school will look a little different this year. While Cuesta College classes are almost all of the summer school classes, Cal Poly is offering more than ever, but with a potential change for students.

Both schools' summer state funding has been cut but Cal Poly will continue to offer courses under the self-supported office of Continuing Education and University Outreach. For students, this means that while California residents will be paying more per unit than ever, out-of-state students might actually be paying less. In addition, more than double the amount of classes will be offered at Cal Poly.

The reason for the reduction in Cuesta's classes is twofold. One is the elimination of federal stimulus funds for summer school. The other reason is that Cuesta experienced an overflow of enrolled students over the 2009-2010 school year, with approximately 400 students above the state-formulated quota. Officials said the college used money from their general funds to make up the difference.

Cuesta College Vice President Cathleen Greiner said the impact of students and staff "are just untenable. It is a profound decision and nothing we wanted to do." Like Cuesta and the other 23 California State University (CSU) campuses, Cal Poly's state summer school funding has also been eliminated due to the financial crisis. But the CSU chancellor's summer school mandate offered several alternative plans. Cal Poly chose to shift to the directed curriculum and already self-supported office of Continuing Education. In the past, classes have been replaced by the Office of the Registrar.

Elaine Sullivan is the marketing director for Continuing Education. She said they traditionally offer classes to un-enrolled adults in the community.

"In terms of why Continuing Education is dealing with the summer term, it's basically because Continuing Education runs as a self-support function," Sullivan said. "We have the background and the mechanics in place."

Biological sciences junior Marissia Schuman is planning to attend summer school. She said the change isn't that big of a deal because she is only taking one class, but she added that the lack of Cuesta classes will be hard on her friend, who was planning on attending summer school in order to re-enroll at Cal Poly. Now in addition, as general education summer classes, this year, Cuesta will allow students to offer state mandated programs, reducing enrollment in 4-credit courses to approximately 84 courses.

Greiner said they wanted to focus their resources on offering students a full course load during the coming fall and spring semesters.

"This allows us to create a more certain class schedule for our students and our faculty," she said.

The first type of courses that will be offered during summer are necessary for students and their faculty," she said.

First-year liberal arts student Araceli Lopez is planning to create new sections over fall and spring semesters.

"It's good to know because I'm an out-of-state student," she said. "That either way, I'd consider taking it to stay on track." Whether resident or non-resident, the average price-per-unit for summer quarter should be in the $200-plus range, according to Valencia-Lever. The final summer school fee structure has not yet been finalized.

Student accounts director Brett Holman explained that they are still waiting for the last bit of information from California State University officials.

"It's been a little bit of a moving target because information is still trickling in from the chancellor's office about what we're allowed to charge," Holman said. "But we want to get the students as much advance notice as possible. We're not that far away from summer registration.

Either way, Holman said Cal Poly students will most likely be charged on a fee-per-unit basis, unlike the rest of the year's half-time and full-time conglomerate sums.

Financial aid students, on the other hand, might find things a bit different. Summer is the 'left-over' quarter for financial aid. Grant and loan eligibility, according to financial aid director Luis Kelly, is primarily based on the first three quarters of the financial aid year.

"If you're looking at a typical academc year, most of the enrollment activity occurs in the fall, winter and spring, and we base our calendar upon that," said Kelly.

Since financial aid eligibility is student-specific, Kelly said it is impossible to make a blanket statement about who will be eligible.

"I can't just say all students are eligible," she said. "But no student should make the assumption there's no remaining financial aid."

From a student perspective, the shift in fees will be the most noticeable difference.

"But in terms of how you are going to register, it's going to be just like you always do. It's going to be seamless," Sullivan said.


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CSU ups out-of-state recruitment effort

Cal Poly cuts 1,648 slots

Will Taylor
laurataylor85@gmail.com

Cal Poly has increased its efforts to recruit out-of-state students after approximately 1,500 California resident student slots were cut in a decision by the California State University (CSU) system. The move is an effort to recoup some of the lost money and fill the empty space where those in-state students would be.

The CSU system as a whole is applying a 9.5 percent reduction to all of its 23 schools.

Cal Poly will be reducing its resident enrollment slots from 17,350 Californian students to 15,702 because of the budget shortages, following the system-wide percentage.

The empty places open the door for more out-of-state students to get into Cal Poly and the CSU system as a whole (eight to nine percent of Cal Poly’s students are out-of-state now, according to Cal Poly Administrations).

Out-of-state students pay approximately 3,000 dollars per quarter more than resident students, making their yearly (three quarters) tuition and fee total approximately 15,000 dollars. An in-state student pays about 6,000 dollars. Resident Californian student tuition is, in effect, subsidized by the state government meaning that the state absorbs the 9,000 dollars per year for each in-state student.

By cutting the state resident enrollment slots, the university prevents itself from losing more funds.

However, a problem occurs because Cal Poly is currently already maintaining (in facilities, faculty and staff) the 17,350 resident students, plus out-of-state students. The results if those slots are left unfilled are empty classrooms, unused equipment and extra faculty.

“Cal Poly is equipped to support the amounts of students they have now,” ASI President Kelly Griggs said. “We will now have an excess of stuff they have around campus to support the current 19,000 plus.”

To cover this excess Cal Poly is “putting additional interest in students who show interest in Cal Poly from out-of-state,” Provost Robert Koob said.

Student suicide of concern on college campuses

Mikaela Akuna
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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, architecture and agriculture schools in the nation.

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 American Association of Suicidology 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.

“Our friend killed himself our first year at Poly,” Cal Poly alumna Jes Godsey said. “For a while I was the only person who knew he was feeling this way and I couldn’t tell anybody... I regret that now.”

Godsey said she was extremely close to the victim and knew he wasn’t always in a clear state of mind. She said she 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 Howison, a licensed psychiatrist for the Cal Poly Health Center, said there is a rise in suicide cases around certain times of the year.

“Suicide is a very commonly presented issue on our campus,” Marrer Howison said. “Typically we find that we see more suicidality during high pressure times like midterms and finals.”

A Cal Poly linguistics junior, who asked to remain anonymous, said the stress students feel in college can be overwhelming.

“I know what it’s like to feel like there’s not much left for you. It gets so stressful trying to make everyone happy, parents, teachers, your peers. Especially during finals. I work to support myself, and trying to find time to breathe between studying and working is hard. But counseling really helps and I hope others seek out the support they need, because it doesn’t seem like it but it is all worth it in the end.”

There has been recent attention to the subject from major media outlets as well as from universities that have an above-average suicide rate.

Last November, National Public Radio released a segment about the connection between cutbacks on education and counseling availability. With state funds so low, there isn’t always enough money to sufficiently staff mental health counseling on college campuses.

The University of Texas conducted a survey of 26,000 students across 70 colleges to learn more about suicidal thoughts. Fifteen percent of the people surveyed reported having had seriously considered suicide. More than five percent reported having attempted it at least once.

Additionally, more than half of the students who reported they have seriously considered suicide never received professional assistance.

Many researchers agree that another major contributor to the spike in suicides and attempts is that many students who have pre-existing mental disorders are able to get into universities because medication allows them to handle their stress. Unlike past generations, today’s youth can be prescribed medication that eases anxiety and mitigates chemical imbalances. While it might be sufficient in high school, adding the stress of being away from home for the first time, higher academic standards and social pressures put these students at a much higher risk for suicidal thoughts or action.

Organizations around the country have compiled information on how to recognize and help those who may be suicidal.

According to the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention, the major indicators that someone may be suicidal include uncharacteristic distress or rage, an increase in alcohol or drug use, complaining of sleep problems and recent talk of wanting an “escape” or wanting to die.

Research shows people who are suicidal will often begin to give away their possessions, especially meaningful ones. They might even write a will. People in this situation might begin to act extremely reckless and impulsive.

In some cases, there might also be a small period of extreme happiness following a longer period of depression right before the individual plans on attempting suicide.

The American Foundation of Suicide Prevention suggests a few major strategies to help those who appear to be or have expressed thoughts of being suicidal. One of the biggest ways to help someone who might be suicidal is to express genuine concern for their well-being. Letting them...
Suicide
continued from page 10
know they are not being overlooked and giving them specific examples of why you are concerned is the first step in helping them.
Offering support and assistance in finding professional help if they haven't already attempted to seek it out is one of the most suggested ways of helping.
The American Foundation of Suicide Prevention also warns loved ones that the individual should not be left alone at any time, any sort of weapon should be removed from the vicinity and the person should be taken to an emergency room at a psychiatric hospital.
The most important advice for those who are helping someone suicidal: If they are in imminent danger, do not be afraid to call 911.

CSU
continued from page 5
fees for students," he said. "More people would be able to get a university degree. The costs now are widening the gap of who can go to college."
A simple way for student to become involved is to go to the the Web site and enter the pledge, he said. Someone can also testify on the Web site for reasons why the CSU is important.
"Students who want to be more active can educate themselves with Associated Students Inc." he said. Students can be very powerful in influencing the legislature if they show up and vote, Dixon said.
"There are 430,000 students in CSU," he said. "If you add community colleges and UC, it's 3.7 million voters. With parents it's a multiplying effect making 6 or 7 million that's a lot of voters."
"Next week we are sending out a pledge to all the legislators," he said. "It will say 'I will vote and support the governor's proposal for full funding of the higher education.'"
The Web site will post who has signed and who did not, he said. The primary election is in June but more importantly the general is in November, he said.
"One-third of the seats are being voted for as well as the governorship," he said.

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Compiled and photographed by Jessica Harris

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State
SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) — One lawsuit concerning a contentious 584-acre county-owned parcel within the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area has been settled, but another remains.

At a recent hearing, the group Friends of Oceano Dunes dismissed its lawsuit against the county. The suit by the group of off-road vehicle riding enthusiasts challenged the county’s designation of the so-called La Grandes Tract as a no-riding buffer zone.

A separate lawsuit against the county by the Sierra Club for the preservation of the area has not been settled, Jensen said. That suit challenges the agreement the county made that allows the State Parks department to manage the 584 acres as part of the state park and allows dune buggy riding there.

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — Two daughters of a 77-year-old man whose death at a skilled nursing facility drew criticism and an $85,000 penalty from the state filed a wrongful death lawsuit this week, alleging caretakers failed to keep their aging father safe.

The July 18, 2009, death of Oliver J. Shook four days after he suffered a fall and fatal head injuries at the then-Kindred Health Care Center of Orange.

National
WASHINGTON (MCT) — First lady Michelle Obama will take her first official solo trip abroad next week, visiting Mexico and meeting with her counterpart, Margarita Zavala.

Obama will arrive Tuesday and leave Thursday for a visit to San Diego, where she will talk about her campaign to fight childhood obesity. While in Mexico, Obama will visit the Escuela Sercle de Ens, a public elementary school that serves local low-income students and is involved in a mentoring program with the American School Foundation.

The trip comes as the Obama administration has stepped up its involvement with Mexico and with the key issues of illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

SEATTLE (MCT) — The families of the four fallen Lakewood, Wash., police officers say their claim against Pierce County isn’t about the money but about forcing jail changes at the prison to protect the community.

The families were stung by back- lash from the public after their lawyer announced Thursday plans to file $182 million in claims against the county, accusing the Sheriff’s Office and jail of failing to prevent the officers’ deaths by not monitoring jail telephone calls made by gunman Maurice Clemmons.

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Benedict has met with such victims in the past, most notably in the United States, but has yet to do so since a raft of new allegations of abuse began emerging in Europe in recent weeks. Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said the pontiff was available for more face-to-face meetings.

International
AFGHANISTAN (MCT) — The crash of a NATO aircraft in volatile southern Afghanistan killed three U.S. service members and a civilian contractor, the Western military said Friday.

The overnight crash in Zabul province also injured a number of others aboard, NATO’s International Security Assistance Force said in a statement, without giving details. It identified the craft as an Air Force CV-22 Osprey, which uses tilt-rotor technology to take off and land like a helicopter but flies like a plane.

The Taliban claimed to have shot down the aircraft, but insurgents routinely issue such boasts whenever any Western plane or helicopter goes down.

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Black colleges necessary, according to educators

Gregory Lewis
newtinc.com

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — When Obama was asked about the future of black colleges, Florida Memorial University’s president in April 2009 provided his campus a set of lessons from 1968 whose roots reach back to 1938.

“Our graduates make a difference, not only in the African-American community, but in the community at large,” said Sandra T. Thompson.

But with integration firmly entrenched at institutions of higher learning, are historically black colleges and universities still necessary?

Yes they are, says educators, students and, recently, President Barack Obama.

WASHINGTON (MCT) — The country’s 105 black colleges produce a significant number of politicians and professionals. They provide comfort and cohort familiarity for many black students who are the first in their families to attend college, and channel them into more leadership roles than they would find at other campuses.

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Florida Memorial University, in northeast Miami-Dade County, did not disappoint the political science and public administration major.

“We get one-on-one with our professors, who know my name,” Gomion said.

Thompson, the interim president, said that’s the idea. “We’re not a cookie-cutter university.”

“We have small classes where students get individualized attention,” she said. “For students who are not as prepared as they need to be, we have labs and mentors to help, already in place.”

While only 20 percent of the nation’s black college students attend black universities, those schools produce 25 percent of black students who get degrees each year, said Marybeth Gasman, a University of Pennsylvania expert on black colleges.

She said if there were no black colleges, “You’d wipe out 50 percent of all the black women in the science.

Some black colleges have struggled to keep their doors open, especially in the recession, and Florida Memorial is losing a little ground, but generally holding steady over time.

A total of 1,849 students attend this school this year, just below the roster in 2005, but down from about 2,400 in 2007, according to Cheryl Lacy, assistant director of admissions.

Now, Florida Memorial has some successes to save.

The school’s baseball and softball teams have become recognized in the region, its men’s basketball team has won conference titles.

A number of black students enter Florida Memorial in the fall and by the spring of their freshmen year, they are ready to graduate.

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In Everglades, vultures hunt car parts

Curtis Morgan

MIAMI — Behind her counter in the gift shop at Anhinga Trail, the first and most popular tourist stop in the Everglades National Park, Linda Hyde keeps a secret weapon against forbidding creatures that spent much of the winter lurking in the Everglades and preying on random visitors and staffs.

Not pythons, gazelles, panthers or even infamously blood-thirsty mosquitoes.

Vultures.

Some of the big black birds, known primarily for dining on the dead and decaying, also have developed an appetite for something unusual: Car parts.

Windshield wipers, door seals and especially screen covers — worn seals. Anything rubber but vinyl will do, too.

The birds, mostly black vultures native to much of the Southeast, have crushed tires and staff car and truck and the occasional boat at Flamingo, an outpost on Florida Bay. The park has received seven complaints and one lawsuit seeking $700 to cover repairs, but most damage goes unrepaired.

The problem isn’t unique. Vultures across the country have mauled cars, roof shingles, pool screens and an array of stuff for reasons that biologists admit remains a mystery.

In the Everglades, the effigies results were mixed.

“The first few days they had it up there, yeah, it was right around here,” recalled Hyde, who last a windshield seal on her Ford Explorer to vultures.

“The birds and crows were flying around here, particularly to kiddie visitors. And the carcasses, supplied by a federal nuisance wildlife team that collects dead birds from road kill and rehab centers, grew gayer and required periodic replacement. With the seasonal vulture populations dwindling, the park took the effigies down last week but they could return next winter, along with other anti-vulture measures.”

Dave Hallie, chief of biological resources, said the park intends to call in experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Wildlife Research Center in Gainesville.

“This puts us in kind of a tough situation. These birds are native and they’re protected,” Hallie said. “We’re looking for ways, without injuring the birds, because that’s not what we do here, to keep them from damaging vehicles.

Vultures are common in the park and their ranks swell as turkey vultures move south for the winter, joining resident black vultures.

The behavior has been sporadically seen over the years in Flamingo. It accelerated in the 1970s and even declined somewhat in the 1980s. But numbers swelled in the last few years at the Anhinga boardwalk, a popular stop only a few miles into the park.

Scientists can only speculate on the birds’ urges, said Michael Avery, a USDA Wildlife Services biologist and one of the nation’s top vulture management experts.

Some park workers believe the vultures release an aroma, possibly from fish oil, that lures the birds. Avery said experiments with various emissions from chemicals used to make the rubber have provided no clear answers.

“It’s an open question, but I’m kind of leaning against that,” he said.

Black vultures don’t have a great sense of smell and birds don’t seem to eat the stuff, Avery said. They just rip it up, ingesting very little.

Another theory Avery prefers, though he calls it “not very satisfactory,” is that the birds are using down time to sample available fare. Black vultures, the most common vultures, have live prey as well as carrion, and can snacked tendencies to occur in the morning when birds are hunging out together, waiting to warm up and take to the air to forage.

“It’s like they’re trying stuff,” he said. “It may be more prevalent in younger birds as they are learning to grasp things.”

So, like many vandals, they could simply be a gang of bored juveniles.

The problem has increased in several states, likely a result of an expanding vulture population. Still, few visitors complain. Joe and Mary Ann MacDonald, wildlife photographers from Pennsylvania who had led park tours over the years, caught some in the act during a December visit.

A staffer tried to chase the birds away but they simply hopped from car to car, he said. MacDonald pulled pit-lake covers out of his luggagel to wrap his windshield wipers, then snapped a shot of a vulture stripping off another car’s window which he posted with a warning on the Internet.

“I really felt like I was getting sucker punched. This is not an inherent risk you’re expecting in a national park,” he said. “There were no warnings whatsoever.

The park has since remediated that. There are now numerous signs — at the park entrance, at Anhinga Trail and elsewhere — and warnings on the park Web site. Hallie said the park may rent tarps next year for visitors to cover cars.

Some Flamingo fishing guides routinely use them, he said. Other options include square gators or other devices to tartk birds.

The effigies, either dead or artificial, also could make a return next winter. Avery, author of a 2004 study on vulture populations, said the approach has been effective everywhere it’s been used.

It’s not because vultures have no taste for their own, either. Avery believes the sight of a bird dangling upside down is startling, a signal of potential danger.

“If those dead birds were on the ground, we think it would be totally innocuous to them,” he said.

Hyde, the Anhinga Trail shop clerk, is skeptical of effigies and tarps. Vultures are a hole in a co-worker’s tap, she said. At the gift shop, she keeps a stash of what she believes is the most effective deterrent, which she hands out to co-workers when they stop by simple plastic bags.

She ties them around windshield wipers and shure them in doors, where they ruminate in the breeze — which the vultures, at least so far, don’t like.

“We get the rafters using these now,” she said.

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New films more violent, content less sexual

Melissa Healy

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — You don’t need to be a raging pacifist to notice that American motion pictures have gotten way more violent, and that younger and younger audiences are seeing more intense violence on the big screen. You just need eyes and enough scratch to buy a movie ticket. But for skeptics, a new study, published online in the Journal of Adolescent Health, offers some validation of the point.

Researchers from the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania painstakingly coded each year’s top-grossing films from 1950 to 2006 to gauge the extent and intensity of sexual content and violence. They then sought to discern trends within ratings categories, and the migration of sexual and violent content into movies intended for the broadest audience, PG and PG-13 movies.

The sexual content of PG and R movies started accelerating in the late 1960s, when the Motion Picture Assn. of America’s ratings system was instituted. It stabilised in the late 1970s and even declined somewhat after that. Since then, movies bearing PG and PG-13 ratings have not become more sexually explicit, the study found.

Not so with violent content. In fact, it exploded across the PG-andup ratings categories, cascading heavily into a new category introduced in 1984, PG-13. And as movies in the PG-13 category surged in recent years, they have come to represent about half of all top-grossing movies to do the violence in them.

Before the PG-13 rating arrived, a movie that included scenes of campaigns destruction, intense fist-fighting or frenzied exchange of gunfire would routinely have carried a movie an R rating — in principle, barring tens under 17from seeing it unless accompanied by an adult. With the new rating, not only did more films with substantial violence land a PG-13 rating: from 2001 to 2006, “ratings creep” resulted in PG-13 movies that had more violence and more intense violence than did R-rated movies, compared with the 1977-1984 period.

“The trend worries the Annenberg researchers, who summarize a welter of evidence suggesting that youth exposed to extensive media violence are more likely to engage in aggressive behavior, that they are less likely to reject violence as a means of solving disputes and have less empathy for victims of violence. While some of this research has been called into question, few researchers deny the weight of evidence exposing younger and younger kids to more images of greater violence is probably not healthy for them or for the society they live in.

The Classification and Ratings Administration, or CARA, a film industry group that oversees the rating of films, has always maintained it does not use rigid rules to determine what rating to assign a film. Rather, it says, the rating of movies should reflect the current values of the majority of American parents.

When it comes to sex, says study author Daniel Romer, CARA seems at pains to reflect American parents’ values — largely to the exclusion of concerns about violence. If the growth in violence reflected in movies aimed at teens is any indication of parents values, he said, it’s hard to say what that means. Their values have very likely been shaped by steadily rising levels of media mayhem.

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Hundreds of people protest Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's decree to allow a heavily polluting pulp mill to reopen on the southern shore of Lake Baikal in southern Siberia.
Hispanic males struggle with the roles they often play in the household — those of breadwinners responsible for contributing to the family expenses. They are more prone to enter the workforce at an earlier age rather than complete college or even high school, Montano said.

Rivera, the UC student, chose to work as an electrician after initially dropping out of college. For years, he earned a decent living. But in the back of his mind he knew he wanted to be a doctor, he said.

As Rivera faces his first year of medical school this fall, his friends and family question how he will be able to balance being a single father and earning as a full-time medical student.

“When I tell people I’m not going to be able to work while I’m in medical school ... they don’t get it,” Rivera said.

But his family and friends’ concerns may be justified. According to the Pew study, about eight in 10 Hispanics said they did not continue their education because they did not have the financial ability to support a family.

Fernando Garcia, 25, of Adelanto, is pursuing his master’s in electrical engineering at UCI. He also said he felt pressured at times to work full time instead of going to college.

“My relatives make more money than I ever will even with a master’s,” Garcia said. “There are times when I think I could just leave and not have to think about it.”

Once Garcia did make it to college, “I didn’t know what to do,” he said. “I had no one to talk to. It’s like, you’re sitting in your class, everyone’s speaking a language other than English but no one is speaking Spanish either.” Garcia said of his classes, which typically consisted of international students.

School officials are trying to find effective ways to keep Latino men enthusiastic about higher education.

Christian Yanez, director of Hispanic/Latino Student Affairs at Northwestern University, connects first-year Hispanic students to campus resources. Some of the students are among the first in their families to attend college, he said.

“It can be a little scary, frustrating ... not having someone who can guide you through the (college) application process,” Yanez said.

Yanez can relate. His immigrant father urged him to pursue a college education even though he had no degree and could offer little guidance. Perhaps his greatest motivation was when Yanez visited his dad’s job at a dairy in California’s Central Valley.

“He instilled in my head that this was the place where I could end up if I didn’t pursue my education,” Yanez said.

Yanez eventually earned a bachelor’s degree from California State University, Fresno, and then a master’s degree Michigan State University.

How long have you been at Cal Poly?
Seventeen years, after 28 years teaching at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

What classes do you teach?
Mainly fiction writing and the Great Books Series.

What made you interested in your subject matter?
I always loved to read.

What is your proudest accomplishment?
If you had a million dollars how would you spend it?
What is the greatest satisfaction you get from teaching?

What is your favorite thing about Cal Poly?
The good students.

What is your favorite thing about your subject matter?
What classes do you teach?
What is the greatest satisfaction you get from teaching?

What do you hope your students learn from you?
What did you do before becoming a professor?

What was the last book you read? Or favorite book?
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Stevens announces retirement from Supreme Court

Michael Doyle and David Lightman
MCCALLUM NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announced his retirement Friday, setting up a long-anticipated confirmation battle during the most sensitive of political seasons.

Stevens, who will turn 90 by April 30, said that after 34 years on the high court it was time to step down.

"It would be in the best interests of the court to have my successor appointed and confirmed well in advance of the commencement of the court's next term," Stevens said in a letter to President Barack Obama.

A Supreme Court representative conveyed Stevens' letter to the White House at about 10:30 a.m. Friday. White House Counsel Bob Bauer called Obama with the news, reaching the president aboard Air Force One as Obama was returning from the nuclear treaty signing in Prague.

Stevens' departure in June at the end of the 2009-10 term will remove from the court its most senior justice as well as the linchpin of what's now the liberal wing. Stevens' retirement also will ensure that the Supreme Court is front and center during the upcoming midterm congressional elections.

For conservatives and liberals alike, the pending court vacancy will become a way to mobilize the troops as well as to wage proxy fights over hot-button issues, including abortion and wartime security.

For Obama, the vacancy provides a challenge and an opportunity.

Republicans are eager to unite around an issue that will engage their conservative base. The president's Democratic Party controls both chambers of Congress. A conservative Supreme Court justice was Anthony Kennedy, 22 years ago. The deeply conservative top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, was himself rejected by Democrats when he was nominated to the federal bench, and midternmid elections generally only burden positions.

Stevens' retirement announcement wasn't unexpected. He had hired only one law clerk for next term, instead of the customary four.

The longest-serving justice will remain William O. Douglas, whose seat Stevens took after President Gerald Ford nominated him in 1975.

At the time, Stevens was serving on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A Northwestern University Law School graduate and Navy veteran of World War II, he was destined to be the liberal voice far beyond his appointing president.

The president's retirement announcement wasn't unexpected. He had hired only one law clerk for next term, instead of the customary four.

Stevens' retirement also provides Obama a second chance to shape the court with a relatively young justice who will be interpreting the Constitution for the next several decades. Because of Stevens' relatively left-of-center position, the new justice may not tip the court's overall ideological balance.

I hope that senators on both sides of the aisle will make this process a thoughtful and civil discourse," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"Americans can expect Senate Republicans to make a sustained and vigorous case for judicial restraint and the fundamental importance of an evenhanded reading of the law, cautioned Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

The experience of the president's first court choice, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, may foreshadow the political conflict to come. Thirty-one Republicans opposed her, including some who had traditionally crossed party lines to approve Democratic choices in the past.

Nine Republicans voted for Sotomayor. Gary Jacobson, a political scientist at the University of California, San Diego, put it this way: "Given the track record of the Senate Republicans, anybody Obama supports is going to be attacked. They're geared up for battle. The question is can Republicans oppose the nominee without embarrassing themselves too much."

Having named Sotomayor as the first Hispanic justice on the Supreme Court, Obama now could make more history.

The nine-member court has never had more than two women serving at a time. Obama can change that if he reinforces Sotomayor and the 77-year-old Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with a female nominee.

Several possibilities exist.

A very serious contender is Solicitor General Elena Kagan, the first woman to hold that prestigious post as well as the first female dean of Harvard Law School. An appellate judge who was considered seriously as a possible Supreme Court justice, Kagan now teaches at the University of Chicago Law School.

The president might name a second Hispanic justice, Judge Kim Wardlaw of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm comes from the non-appointment world, which Obama has said he would like to make use of.

Alternatively, the president might try to name the first Asian-American to the court. Although only seven Asian-Americans are serving on the federal bench, the president could search elsewhere: for instance, by tapping his top State Department lawyer, former Yale Law School Dean Harold Koh.

Regardless of whom the president nominates, a fight is all but guaranteed. Currently, only six of Obama's 15 appellate court nominees have been confirmed.

The last unanimously approved Supreme Court justice was Anthony Kennedy, 22 years ago. The deeply conservative top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, was himself rejected by Democrats when he was nominated to the federal bench, and midternmid elections generally only burden positions.

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At the time, Stevens was serving on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A Northwestern University Law School graduate and Navy veteran of World War II, he was destined to be the liberal voice far beyond his appointing president.

The president's retirement announcement wasn't unexpected. He had hired only one law clerk for next term, instead of the customary four.

Stevens' departure also provides Obama a second chance to shape the court with a relatively young justice who will be interpreting the Constitution for the next several decades. Because of Stevens' relatively left-of-center position, the new justice may not tip the court's overall ideological balance.

I hope that senators on both sides of the aisle will make this process a thoughtful and civil discourse," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"Americans can expect Senate Republicans to make a sustained and vigorous case for judicial restraint and the fundamental importance of an evenhanded reading of the law, cautioned Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

The experience of the president's first court choice, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, may foreshadow the political conflict to come. Thirty-one Republicans opposed her, including some who had traditionally crossed party lines to approve Democratic choices in the past.

Nine Republicans voted for Sotomayor. Gary Jacobson, a political scientist at the University of California, San Diego, put it this way: "Given the track record of the Senate Republicans, anybody Obama supports is going to be attacked. They're geared up for battle. The question is can Republicans oppose the nominee without embarrassing themselves too much."

Having named Sotomayor as the first Hispanic justice on the Supreme Court, Obama now could make more history.

The nine-member court has never had more than two women serving at a time. Obama can change that if he reinforces Sotomayor and the 77-year-old Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with a female nominee.

Several possibilities exist.

A very serious contender is Solicitor General Elena Kagan, the first woman to hold that prestigious post as well as the first female dean of Harvard Law School. An appellate judge who was considered seriously as a possible Supreme Court justice, Kagan now teaches at the University of Chicago Law School.

The president might name a second Hispanic justice, Judge Kim Wardlaw of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm comes from the non-appointment world, which Obama has said he would like to make use of.

Alternatively, the president might try to name the first Asian-American to the court. Although only seven Asian-Americans are serving on the federal bench, the president could search elsewhere: for instance, by tapping his top State Department lawyer, former Yale Law School Dean Harold Koh.

Regardless of whom the president nominates, a fight is all but guaranteed. Currently, only six of Obama's 15 appellate court nominees have been confirmed.

The last unanimously approved Supreme Court justice was Anthony Kennedy, 22 years ago. The deeply conservative top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, was himself rejected by Democrats when he was nominated to the federal bench, and midternmid elections generally only burden positions.

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For Latinos, there appears to be a growing college gender gap

Serena Maria Daniels
CHICAGO TIMES

CHICAGO — Luis Rivera's life is a delicate balancing act with shifts at the University of Illinois Chicago campus for as long as 12 hours a day, caring for his two young children and working as a research assistant at the school's College of Medicine.

Rivera, of Chicago, will complete his bachelor of arts with a major in Latin American and Latino Studies, and is determined to succeed in medical school, which he starts this fall. But when he graduated high school nearly 16 years ago, he, like many of his Latino male counterparts, sidestepped a college experience so he could work full-time.

"I just felt so uncomfortable — I figured, you know, maybe the school thing just isn't me," Rivera, 33, said recently at the Latin American Recruitment and Enrollment Services office, while holding his son Andres, 2.

Rivera's initial decision to skip college is typical among Hispanic men. While undergraduate enrollment among Hispanic men and women has spiked in the last decade, Latinas are by far outpacing their male counterparts, said Jacqueline King, the study's author.

The gender gap in college admissions seems to have plateaued among other ethnic and racial groups, except for Hispanics, according to the study. And Hispanic men continue to have the lowest bachelor's degree attainment level of any of the groups studied — 10 percent.

Several factors contribute to the disparity between Hispanic men and women attending college, experts say.

In general, immigrant children have a harder time in school than non-immigrants, studies say. And a greater percentage of young adult Hispanic immigrants are male, about two-thirds, compared with female Hispanic immigrants, according to the study.

Non-English-speaking foreign-born children and those whose parents are immigrants tend to lack the ability to articulate thoughts into writing and can have difficulties comprehending what they have read, said Theresa Montano, a professor in the department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at California State University, Northridge.

"Imagine that all students are at a starting line, but that Latino children are starting from 2 feet behind (everyone else)," Montano said.

A Pew Hispanic Center study released in October, "Latinos and Education: Explaining the Attainment Gap," showed that about half of the Hispanics surveyed said limited English skills kept them from continuing their education. And the study showed that less than 30 percent of Hispanic immigrants aspire to earn a bachelor's degree, compared with 60 percent of native-born Hispanics.

"Young Hispanic immigrants are not necessarily in the country for school. They're here to work," said Montano.

see Latino, page 16
Club
continued from page 22

A performance that started out with only two girls moving in perfect unison gradually brought in the rest of the group. The five girls ended up doing three different dance moves, all with the same rhythm.

Stepping stems from the African gum boot dance. Adonna Anderson said that African gold miners would wear Wellington boots to work in the flooded mines, which they would stomp to communicate. Stomping is a big part of stepping, and some fraternities and sororities wear tap shoes or high-heels to get a louder sound from a stomp.

"Stepping became big in the '70s because of the Divine Nine," Kimball said. "The Divine Nine are the nine fraternities and sororities that made stepping mainstream."

With stepping appearing in movies such as "Stomp the Yard," which was presented for last year's Black History Month, the dance form has become more and more popular.

"We're hosting a step show April 21 that will have some fraternities and sororities from Los Angeles to San Francisco come and show what stepping really means," Ruddhan said.

Until then, Driven Toward Sisterhood will be having an open workshop Feb. 10 demonstrating how to step in Tenaya Hall at 8 p.m.

The performance ended amid applause and Fox said that she was happy with the turnout and that it went really well.

"(This performance) raised the bar on Soup and Substance. We'll have to keep it up," she said.

New club steps to the music

The members of Driven Toward Sisterhood get ready to perform their military structure dance at Soup and Substance on Feb. 2.

Raquel Redding
RRAQUHELREDDING89@GMAIL.COM

A demonstration of the dance stepping was held in celebration of Black History Month for February’s Soup and Substance held in the University Union. The new club, Driven Toward Sisterhood, led the demonstration and lecture of the history of stepping. Student coordinator of Black History Month and member of Driven Toward Sisterhood, Shana Kimball said that stepping is a form of dance that involves using the body as an instrument to tell a story. "Stepping is creating music with your body," Kimball said. "There is a mixture of footsteps, spoken word and hand-claps that make up the sound.” Soup and Substance Coordinator Michelle Fox said she had never been to a live show for Soup and Substance. "Soup and Substance is typically a lecture series about something relevant going on in the world,” Fox said. After letting the crowd get their soup, Driven Toward Sisterhood started the performance by riling up the crowd and yelling “are you guys ready?” With a little introductory dance to show the large crowd what stepping was, Driven Toward Sisterhood then went on to explain the dance’s origins. "It’s a) mixture of African dancing, military structure and African gum boot," Sisterhood member Kandu Ogunjinde said to the crowd. Breana Usher said singing and dancing was a way for slaves to communicate, as well as a way to celebrate, praise and recite history. When slave- holders found out that communication was taking place through the dancing and singing, they banned them. Thus, stepping was created. After an African praise dance, the Sisterhood went on to explain how stepping was also formed from military structure. Devon Blandin, a member who has been stepping since high school, said that all movements are performed to create unity.

see Club, page 21
Somehow, I got it in my mind that hairless was hot. Three million porn stars couldn’t be all wrong, when it comes to sexy. So when my boyfriend was returning after the long absence of summer break, and my budget didn’t allow for edible body chocolate, I decided to shave it off.

The decision wasn’t exactly sudden, as I had been toying with the idea for weeks. I had wondered what it would be like: I read everything I could find online on the topic, and to this day, Google still helpfully suggests “shaved pubic hair” when I type in “shave.” This is why you don’t allow your family to use your laptop on vacation. Murphy’s Law.

On the day I finally decided to act, I had just removed the week’s wispv stubble, and was reflecting on how uninteresting my life had been recently. Luckily for my labor, I used my handy scissors to do some preliminary trimming before wholeheartedly making my life much less boring. Following the online advice, I was using a manual razor, so it was necessary to wash the hair out every quarter-size patch or so. In addition, I had no elaborate mirror system, so I decided against shaving some of my more inaccessible (and tender) parts.

To cut a long story short, I was eventually able to see skin I hadn’t seen clearly since junior high. It was, I confess, excitingly soft and smooth, reminiscent of shaved legs (it was for a retreat, if you were wondering). With every step I took, my undergarments rubbed my bare genitals pleasingly. I wasn’t spontaneously orgasming in class, but it wasn’t a bad feeling at all.

They say that when you throw yourself off the top floor of the library, it’s not the fall that kills you, it’s the landing. Similarly, shaving was not painful at all (I was sure to use extra care in the scrotal area and miraculously did not sustain any cuts). However, a few days later, hair began to do what it does best — grow back. For those of you who never had a stubby uncle who gives awkwardly intimate hugs, unlike the soft, silky locks on your head, stubble sticks out of the skin like tiny needles. Imagine applying these needles straight to your now-vulnerable tender bits, rubbing vigorously. For people re-growing their pubes, this can be accomplished by walking, making the purchase of any sort of torture device unnecessary. One is growing out of your skin.

It was of course at this point, after the honeymoon period, that I realized that fate was adding insult to my injury. While before I had associated shaved pubes with porn stars, looking upon myself now, I was reminded instead of the two other sorts of habits.
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The Expendables sell out Downtown Brew

The Expendables ended their Winter Blackout tour Sunday, Feb. 28 with a sell out concert at Downtown Brewing, Co. Their latest album, "Prove It," is set to be released April 20.

One of their fans, Richard Eaton came to see all of the bands play. He said it makes it a lot easier to go to shows when he likes all of the bands playing.

Concert-goer Amanda Frost discovered The Expendables through friends.

"I've mostly downloaded their music, online and from friends," Frost said. "If I could buy all the CDs I wanted, I would."

The band is aiming to release "Prove It" April 20.

Originally published on March 2, 2010.

Feeling like crap?
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Every day is a penis monologue. I think we can dedicate one day to listen to a collection of monologues about vaginas.

—Anna Acuna
Kinesiology junior

Sex
continued from page 23

ally hairless people the pre-pubescent
and chemotherapy patients. Neither of these are people I enjoy
being mistaken for, and I personally
found it a huge turnoff. I was not
good enough. That's what it felt like,
I mean that word literally.

Anthony Pratt is a biological sciences
junior at Mustang Daily arts columnist.

Originally published on Nov. 16, 2009.
Vagina Monologues covers women's issues

Katherine Grady
KATHERINEGRADY@GMAIL.COM

A sexual encounter with a man who loves vaginas and a woman's insight on coping as a sex-slave are just two of the 16 commentaries from Vagina Monologues, a global performance that will be acted out by the San Luis Obispo community for the seventh year at Cal Poly's Performing Arts Center this weekend.

Author and activist Eve Ensler created the Vagina Monologues 10 years ago after performing hundreds of interviews with women all over the world about intimacy, sexual self-discovery and simply what it means to have a vagina.

Christina Kaviani, assistant coordinator of Cal Poly's Women's Programs and Services, helped in bringing the production back this year. She says every performance was sold out last year.

"It's the biggest production that celebrates women in the world," Kaviani said. "There's no other movement like it. Women in Afghanistan are holding Vagina Monologues and women in California are holding it. It's powerful and necessary to have at a college campus."

The Vagina Monologues, now translated into 45 different languages, have in this woman, and she uses language I could see myself saying. This monologue helped me appreciate that nerdy aspect of myself."

Liza Jaros, a wine and viticulture sophomore attended the show last year with her mother and remembers getting chills. She decided she wanted to be a part of the movement this year. Jaros will be preforming a monologue entitled "Reclaiming Count," a woman covering organizations like SARP, Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention. Not only are the Vagina Monologues performed to discourage violent acts against women, but they are considered a provocative take on celebrating women's sexuality. The testimonies include fantasies, inhibitions and intimate experiences.

The 2010 cast consists of mostly students as well as three Cal Poly graduates and one Cal Poly staff member.

Anna Acuna, a kinesiology senior, saw a flyer the morning of the auditions and decided to try out that night. She will be performing the monologue entitled "The Vagina Workshop." Acuna explains it as a very intelligent and nerdy woman who knows what a vagina is and knows a vagina's purpose, but has never actually experienced it.

"She goes to a workshop to find herself and find her essence, not just an anatomical place," Acuna said. "I see a lot of the qualities and traits I have in this woman, and she uses language I could see myself saying. This monologue helped me appreciate that nerdy aspect of myself."

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The Vagina Monologues, now translated into 45 different languages, acted as the inspiration for V-Day, a college campus."
Rappers

continued from page 32

"A lot of people are going for E-40 because he's more well-known but I think people are going to walk away liking DJ Quik better because he blends well with other artists and it's a chemistry with other artists and their vocals," Rodriguez said.

Born David Blake in Compton, Calif., DJ Quik is a known blood gang member from Piru but spells his name without a 'K' because 'CK' together mean 'Crip Killer' among other gang members. He first became a successful artist in the early 90s with his debut album, "Quik Is The Name." In addition to releasing eight albums, he has produced and worked with other, more mainstream artists such as Tupac, Dr. Dre, Whitney Houston, Snoop Dogg, Ice-T, Dr. Dre, Easy-E and E-40, among others. In spite of his talent as a DJ, the rapper half sang and half rapped almost every song he performed. While he may not be as widely known, his hour and ten minute set had more of the audience dancing, waving their hands and singing to his music than E-40.

Even though DJ Quik came onstage to a thinner crowd, he played a longer set and was more involved with the audience. Wearing a #25 Los Angeles Dodgers jersey, DJ Quik moved across the stage, handed his microphone over to a few audience members who were expecting an entertaining and interactive show, especially because he is known for entertaining and interactive shows, especially his DJ and kinesiology major Joey Valero, 23, Leonard Cal Poly graduate Steven D-40, who was more involved with the audience.

In the end, DJ Quik came out on top among concertgoers who were expecting an entertaining and interactive show, especially Cal Poly graduate Steven Lopez said, "It's like one big party." But Rodriguez insisted that it is his ability as a DJ that won over fans in the end. "He picks out a beat through his ear and is able to blend it, and when you add brass, it just gets that much harder," Rodriguez said, "and that's what makes a good DJ.

Welcome to San Luis Obispo’s newest and nicest apartment community!
The body became a canvas at "Embodiment"

Katherine Grady
KGRA D Y . M D O / H I M A II . M 
A smiling monster with one eye and a corset with pink polka dot stockings are just a couple of the designs that were painted on human canvases at an event called "Embodiment" at Native Lounge.

Turning local bodies into canvases for artists by using paints and props, "Embodiment" was held every Thursday at 8 p.m. for a month, ending the last week of January. The live exhibit went through four different themes that artists were expected to represent through their art. The first and seconds shows, "Urban" and "Surf" followed by "Student Art" and a surprise "Final." "Embodiment" was coordinated by Native Lounge nightclub managers, Tyrone Galgano and Johnny Kenny who have been employed by Native since December. There was fast-paced club music mixed by a disk jockey. Very few were underdressed except for maybe the artists who had their own "blue room" room in the back and decorations included ceiling lanterns and strobe lights.

"This is an event you would see in big cities," Galgano said. "It's very different for San Luis Obispo." Each show drew anywhere from 200 to 400 people. This is the second year "Embodiment" has appeared at Native, but the first year strictly featured tattoo artists. Last year's themes included "Day of the Dead" and "Big Top Circus."

Artists this year spanned from big name locals to college students of all ages. For "Surf," Eric Soderquist, author of the California Surf Project painted two models together. He made wings out of surfboards which joined the two of them. Other local professional artists included Jeff...
Cal Poly professor writes book on Native American symbolism in Catholicism

Aimee Vasquez

Cal Poly ethnic studies assistant professor Kathleen Martin recently co-authored a book about the use of Native American symbols in Catholicism, which will be used in her general education course "Native American Cultural Images.”


The 300-page book is an extensive compilation of photos, images, stories, personal narratives and data analysis. It contains the work of many Native American writers, several of whom are members of the American Academy of Religion. Martin co-authored and edited the book and took 600-700 photographs, conducted interviews and visited 50 to 60 reservation churches.

The main purpose of the book is to examine the appropriation of things that are indigenous or native and their use in a context that is often inappropriate, Martin said.

Angela Blaser, Ph.D., contributed a chapter and co-wrote the book’s conclusion with Martin. She said the book addresses the use and effect of symbols in the human experience and that each chapter deals with colonization and/or missionization to some degree.

“Ultimately, people are social beings, and this book shows a variety of ways that distinct groups have combined, interrelated and even re-located one another’s understanding of the world,” Blaser said.

She added that the book discusses symbolism from a wide variety of angles, including personal experience, historical context, religion, education and socialization.

Ethnic studies assistant professor Eliza P百姓, who works with Martin, said the book would be an interesting read even for people unfamiliar with the subject.

“This is a book that might educate readers on an aspect of U.S. history not frequently taught in our curricula and/ or known among the general public,” she said.

The book developed out of Martin’s interest in the cross between Catholicism and Native American symbiosis. Her father was part Dakota, and some members of her family were Catholic.

“I got really interested in the use of native symbols in the Catholic church. I have a number of aunts who were nuns,” Martin said.

Martin, a native of Minnesota, has taught at Cal Poly since 2002 and holds dual master’s degrees in Native American traditions and Confucian education, and a Ph.D. in educational leadership and organization. She has a background in indigenous history, education, religious studies and sociology.

In addition to teaching at Cal Poly, Martin is the advisor of the American Indian Student Association (AISA) on campus. AISA co-president, earth science junior Collin Lawson, said Martin was well-suited to the topic.

“The main thing I’ve noticed about Kate is she’s really passionate about Native American issues and Native American culture,” Lawson said.

Lawson recently took an AISA field trip to a New Mexican mission and said they discussed the way the mission blended Native American art and symbolism in the colors, shapes and symbols that were used in the decor.

“If they use it correctly, it’s kind of a sign of respect,” Lawson said. “But if the symbol is used in a way that totally defies the purpose of what it means, that would be bad.”

The book was published Feb. 1 and is available in El Corral Bookstore.

Originally published on Feb. 8, 2010.
Big name rappers take over Downtown Brew

Leticia Rodriguez
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Rappers E-40 and DJ Quik performed for a sold-out audience at Downtown Brew Friday night. Though the rappers are known for their individual musical styles, both received similar reactions upon stepping onto the stage. E-40, known for his slang creation and contribution to “mob music,” walked onstage amid chanting of his name and bright camera flashes. DJ Quik, more recognizable for the smooth beats typical of Southern California West Coast rap, received the same reaction, but also encouraged the smoky haze that rested above the audience for most of his performance.

San Luis Obispo resident Ray Zepeda, 31, has been listening to rap music since he was a teenager and has been a DJ Quik fan for more than half his life. Having already seen E-40 perform once before, Zepeda was most excited about seeing DJ Quik but was even more thrilled that San Luis Obispo is reaching out to different musical artists.

“I’m looking forward to DJ Quik, because I’ve been listening to him for 15-plus years and I have yet to see him in the area,” Zepeda said. “I’m happy to see San Luis bringing in talent and shows like this to the area so we don’t have to travel out of the area to watch these artists.”

Born Earl Stevens in Vallejo, California, E-40 is most recognizable for taking the Bay Area hyphy movement out of the Bay and introducing it to audiences nationwide. In part, the hyphy movement only came about because of the music industry’s neglect of mob music, a mid-tempo subtype of rap. The term is in reference to the fast-paced and spontaneous lifestyle of the Bay and encourages people to “get dumb” and “go stupid,” often in the form of wild, fast and outrageous dancing. Its most well-known association is with ghost riding, a term for when passengers get out of a moving car and dance on top or alongside while the car is in neutral.

E-40 got his first taste of success with his rap group, The Click. Made up of his brother D-Shot, his sister Suga-T and their cousin, B-Legit, the group gained a following in the early ‘90s before releasing their debut album, “Down and Dirty.” With his 2006 album “My Chetto Repon Card,” E-40 debuted at no. 1 on the Billboard hip-hop and rap album charts and gained further recognition with popular tracks “Tell Me We’re in Love” and “U and Dat” featuring I’Pain. Proving himself to be more than just a rapper, E-40 is also a successful businessman as owner of his own independent record label, Sick Wid It Records. He is also the owner of a Fat Boy burger restaurant in Vallejo and a partnership with Gatorade in creating 40 Water, a vitamin water that advertises to “supply the body’s daily nutritional needs” on its official Web site.

see Rappers, page 29
Clooney is ridiculous enough in “Goats”

The Men Who Stare At Goats [2009]

Director: Grant Heslov
Starring: George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges, Kevin Spacey, Stephen Root, Stephen Lang

“Good Night, and Good Luck” director and Academy Award-winning actor George Clooney teams up once again with screenwriter Grant Heslov for Heslov’s feature film directing debut, “The Men Who Stare at Goats.” A comedic spoof on a U.S. Army research program dealing with a psychic phenomenon in which soldiers are trained to kill goats by staring at them, Clooney is in top form as Cassady, and his performance surprisingly isn’t over the top or excessively silly, a trap which would have been easy to fall into. Kevin Spacey, who has recently been running from the big screen as a result of obligations to the British theater scene, remains in a good role as the skeptical Larry Hooper, who hates everything about the NEA. The film is also complemented by a Skilled ensemble cast that includes Stephen Root (“Office Space”) and veteran Stephen Lang (“Public Enemies,” “Avatar”).

The movie is based on the 2004 novel by Jon Ronson of the “Guardian” who labels the NEA as an authentic program that has unfortunately not been exposed to the American public. In my opinion, it doesn’t matter if the book is factual or not, because the film is funny enough either way.

Alex Petrian is a biological sciences sophomore and Meeting Daily movie columnist.

Originally published on Nov 18, 2009.
A passion for dance: Cal Poly business student opens hip-hop dance studio in San Luis Obispo

Leticia Rodriguez
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As a dance teacher, the one thing that really upset Cal Poly business administration junior Heidi Asefvaziri are students who have to quit her class because they can’t afford the payments. So she came up with her own solution: open her own street hip-hop studio.

In January, that idea became reality. Asefvaziri, a former hip-hop teacher for the Academy of Dance, opened up the Street Heat Dance Company in San Luis Obispo so she could charge less for students who love hip-hop but can’t afford the fees at other studios.

“When someone leaves my studio because they can’t afford it, that affects the teacher,” Asefvaziri said. “No one wants to see money be an issue for anyone’s passion and I’m the first person to step up and say I’m not going to let money be a restriction to keep someone from doing what they love.”

Asefvaziri didn’t discover her own love for dance until she took a class in April 2009. She said even though during her first class she “unbelievably sucked,” she went home feeling that this was something she was meant to do.

Over the next couple of months, she took as many classes as she could before being asked to take over as an instructor for the advanced hip-hop class in June. After choreographing and performing in a dance routine for the academy in September, Asefvaziri said she realized her true passion lay in teaching students. Everything, she said, just went from there.

“I just had a plethora of choreography that I just wanted to download on somebody so I just started dancing and coming up with stuff and teaching it to other people,” Asefvaziri said.

The students she has taught so far keep coming back. Cal Poly microbiology senior Edgar Calvo first started taking classes from Asefvaziri when she was teaching at the academy last year. Calvo, fairly new to choreography, was asked by Asefvaziri to dance in a promotional video for her new studio with fellow dancers Alyssa Dahlstedt and Kendra Brewer. From there, Calvo said he discovered Asefvaziri’s passion for hip-hop. It is her excitement and innovation that keeps him returning each week.

“Heidi has a passion for hip-hop like no one I’ve met in San Luis Obispo and I just kind of gravitated toward that,” Calvo said. “The choreography is something you can’t really find in San Luis Obispo.”

Asefvaziri recognized not only an open market for hip-hop in San Luis Obispo, but for street hip-hop, a different form of the popular dance.
Claassen, from San Luis Obispo’s Claassen gallery and artists from Forever Stoked, Kris Pederen and Charlie Clingman’s local art company.

Megan Whitney, a Cal Poly graduate, works at Forever Stoked. Her first week painting she used a lot of bubbles for “Surf” and coming back for the last week she wanted more of a feminine theme for Valentine’s Day. Describing her model as a fairy, she used flowers and feathers for her designs.

“It’s fun as an artist to work on a different canvas,” Whitney said. “With dimensions, it becomes a moving canvas … almost like a sculpture, where your design takes on a 3-D appearance.”

Cliff Eibl, an art student at Cuesta College chose to do an abstract graphic of a bear that he recalls seeing.

“I thought I was going to paint a woman so I came prepared to do a beautiful swan, but I got a body builder,” Eibl said. “A little bit in a minute I changed my idea by going more masculine and doing a bear. I put cute little paws on its hands through.”

Other artwork included a skull and tongue on the back, a sunset on the stomach and morbid looking white faces that spanned over the shoulder and down the hips. Two artists worked with traditional Japanese art, one of which had a Koi-mode dragon wrapping around the model’s body.

Sara Fox, a Cuesta College student, used a Japanese umbrella as a prop on the runway. Models are dressed in bikinis or underwear and have the option of going topless with pasties.

“I was nervous about the no clothes part, but everyone else was too, so I figured if I was going to do it I might as well go all out,” Fox said.

Paints used on the models include India ink, body paint and acrylic. Some models are painted for up to six hours for a show that lasts no more than 30 min. The venue, Native Lounge, consists of three stages, inside and outside that act as posing breaks on the runway.

Jamie Feans, a wine and viticulture senior at Cal Poly, participated in an event called Fashion Sessions, a runway show for local designers, boutiques and salons held at Native Lounge in the evenings.

“I love that you can use your body to give art a personality,” Feans said.

For the “Student Art” show, most of the models were very comfortable even though for many it was their first time getting painted. Eric Martin, a 2007 Cal Poly graduate who also participated in Fashion Sessions said this was his first Embodiment show.

“I’m extremely ticklish,” Martin said. “You just have to hit me in the right spots. Otherwise it feels really good … kind of like a spa treatment.”

Martin commented that acting as a human canvas is a great way for local talent to get exposure. Before the show began, Martin’s paint among other models began to fade because of sweating and moving around.

Not only was sweat an issue, but during the “Surf” event, weather posed a problem with the outdoor runway.

“During the show it started to rain lightly,” Galgano said. “Surprisingly little paint was lost. It was almost perfect. Right at the end of the show it started pouring.”

With over 100 models showing up at open-casting in January, only 40 were called back to be in the shows for crossing weeks. The parameters range from being at least 18 to showing an ability to present yourself well, according to Galgano.

“They are given no compensation, but do get full access to photos and the event,” Galgano said.

Many models were sought out by the managers and others heard about the event through friends or posters.

Logan Hunt, a general engineering senior at Cal Poly explains how his group of friends created something called “Chassy Thursdays” where they would dress nice and go to Native Lounge in the evenings.

“We started doing them for fun in the summer and the managers liked it so much, they started official Chassy Thursdays at the club,” Hunt said.

see Embodiment, page 36
Mixing alcohol with pregnancy damages a developing fetus more than any illegal drug. **PLEASE DON’T DRINK WHILE PREGNANT.**

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**Embodiment**

*continued from page 35*

Hunt says that’s how he got involved with Embodiment, why he modeled twice for the show and why the events were held on Thursdays. Hunt discussed how he felt like a tribal warrior with the artwork that consumed his body during Surf week. He did a yoga handstand on stage where he balanced his legs on his arms. He wanted to do a full handstand for the student art show, but was only successfully 80 percent of the time when practicing and didn’t want the other 20 percent to result on stage.

Hunt’s main reasons for participating in Embodiment include the free champagne offered to models 21 and over, and getting to walk around in his underwear.

“It’s pretty standard because I walk around in my underwear all the time when I’m at home so this time it was just in front of a group of people,” Hunt said. “I’m not going to shower for three weeks because it’s awesome. I’ve got some Axe body spray so it’ll be fine.”

Some new faces showed up to audition for the “Student Art” show. They gathered in the lounge and began to strip down when the host instructed them not to be upset if they didn’t get picked. Hunt commented that everyone in the room would be chosen after a quick scan.

San Luis Obispo Beauty College did the hair and makeup for the models. Evelyn Kinzer, a beautician from the school, is participating this year.

“I look at the piece and try to emulate whatever interesting thought is behind it.” Kinzer said. “If it’s hard, I spike it up and if it’s soft, I use soft makeup. (Embodiment) empowers our love of our body through art and abstract thought.”

Aside from the modeling, art and makeup, there was a live dance performance put on by Susy Miller each week. As a freelance choreographer, Miller puts together a dance routine with local dancers to start off the night.

“Where I go for work is more G-rated normally,” Miller said about her choreography. “We have to work really quick which is daunting but also exciting.”

Trying to get the crowd involved, with short skirts and whips, one of her dancers in the performance was holding a cardboard book with the title “how to fuck like a man.”

“The artwork is creative in a whole different way transforming the human body,” Miller said. “There’s adult sensibility with a different humor and different style.”

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Darling continued from page 39

this season. He was used mainly as a utility man. Filling in for players with foul trouble and injuries, Darling started on the court and did what he was asked to do. Halfway through the season, ineligibility struck starting center and second leading scorer Will Donahue. Ryan Darling saw his minutes skyrocket.

Against in-state rival UC Davis, Darling saw the court for 23 minutes, just six fewer in that one game than in the whole 2008-09 season. Darling finished with a career-high double-double — 10 points and 12 rebounds.

“Against in-state rival UC Davis, Darling saw the court for 23 minutes, just six fewer in that one game than in the whole 2008-09 season. Darling finished with a career-high double-double — 10 points and 12 rebounds.

“He is as good of an example to perseverance in sports as I have seen in 23 years of coaching,” Calero said.

In the game, Keeler hit Darling under the basket with a dish on a drive. Darling jumped up in between numerous defenders and finished emphatically with a two-handed jam. The moment was the image that Darling had once dreamed about when he sat at the end of the bench. He was no longer the one staring at the players; he was the one playing.

“It’s an absolute priceless opportunity,” Darling said. “Someone could offer me a billion dollars to not play out this year, and I honestly don’t think I would take it.”

Head coach Joe Callero teaches more than just basketball

Brian De Los Santos
MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

As you walk into Mott Gym, placards and trophies adorn the hallway. The walls are filled with pictures of championship athletes. From athletes like Jordan Beck to Bob Mott, who at one time or another walked these halls.

The men’s basketball locker room, which has yet to hold a championship-winning team, is located in Mott Gym, hidden past the glare of copper and gold.

This season, the locker room is the property of first-year head coach Joe Callero, a coach searching to turn Cal Poly from a Big West bottom-dweller into a Division-I powerhouse.

“I think we can be an NCAA tournament team,” Callero said. “That’s why I am here. The goal is to win the Big West automatic bid, to win better than last year’s team, but the Mustangs raced out to the best conference start in school history.

In each conference game this season, the Mustangs were able to compete — they lost each conference game on average of seven points, bearing 20-plus point losses just to UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara. And they did so with just three seniors on the roster.

“To me, (this year) it’s like a completely different team,” senior guard Lorenzo Keeler said. Keeler spent two years playing under the previous head coach, Kevin Broomley.

“(Callero’s) philosophy of the game is simple: Play as a team, play as a unit, play together — compete — and you’ll be successful.”

Callero is a different kind of coach. He doesn’t take the standard route with his players. While most of his words are about what his players can do to excel on the court, he said the lessons he instills in his players are ones they can carry off the court.

“The most important part of coaching is where you can feel like you can help someone else out with their life,” Callero said. “I hope that I can be as influential on my players as my coaches were for me.”

This mindset is an aspect of Callero’s coaching that players admire.

“Callero is a real guy,” senior forward Ryan Darling said. “You really feel like his door is always open and he is going to be real with you. He is going to be a real human being and not someone who is just a basketball coach.”

With practices, game plans, press conferences and recruiting, among other things, head coaches always have multiple items on their plates. But, despite the influx of chores, Callero tries not to get lost in the professional side of things.

“What I try to always think about on a daily basis is to remember to see Callero, page 37

Head coach Joe Callero finished his first season at Cal Poly with a loss against Long Beach State in the second round of the Big West tournament.

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As a team manager on the bench, seeing these players make plays, you're not sitting there thinking, 'I wish that could be me,'” Darling said. "I knew it could be done. It was just a matter of time. I just had to put my mind to it." He played basketball in high school, but adored all sports his whole life. Despite coming from a family of swimmers, Darling dove into a path that combined burnt brown leather and white nylon nets as his favorite way to pass time.

“Whenever you step on the court, you get this energy running through your body, coursing through your veins,” Darling said. “There is nothing like it, you just feel like you’re on top of the world.”

Darling’s dream was to someday play on the hardwood. He often fantasized about holding up a green and gold jersey adorned with his last name. He would dream of receiving a pass under the basket and dunking over a defender in front of thousands of home fans — as a Mustang.

Not only did he make the team, but he also worked his way up against some of the players he played against in tryouts and started playing pick-up games with some of them. Anytime the team had an open-gym shoot around, Darling was always there.

“After playing with the team for a while, I started to think that I actually had a shot at making the team, so I decided to put my mind to it and give it everything I had,” Darling said.

Darling was motivated to wash out the taste of defeat he had left over from his previous tryout. He hit the gym to build on the 6-foot-7-inch, 185-pound frame he had when he graduated high school. By the time tryouts came the second time around, Darling was 25 pounds heavier than freshman year.

“Biggest thing (Ryan) brought to the team is energy,” Loretto Keeler said. “I mean, I know whenever he gets on the court he is going to play his butt off. He is going to play 110 percent and leave everything on the court before he comes back onto the bench.”

Darling racked up 22 minutes, Cal Poly senior forward Ryan Darling played all but 29 minutes in the 2008-09 season. That number skyrocketed last year that he raised to 341 minutes last season.
Top five all-time Mustang football games:
The good, the bad and the heartwrenching

Leticia Rodriguez

Since its first game in 1915, the Cal Poly Mustang football team has had its ups and downs. The team has smashed challenges at home, been victorious in last-second plays and been doubted, mocked and then praised. These are our picks of the top five football games of the past few years, both good and bad.

5. The Triple Win
Cal Poly vs. UC Davis, Nov. 16, 2008 at Alex G. Spanos Stadium

While beating the Aggies 51-28 is certainly something to boast about, the reason this game has become so memorable is that not only did they win the annual Golden Horseshoe Classic and defeat the Aggies at home for the first time in 12 years, but it was also the Mustangs' third Great West Conference championship title.

"It was exciting to beat UC Davis at home," senior strong safety David Fullerton said. "Our goal was to win the conference title, and we checked it off because we did it."

Offensively, the Mustangs had 522 total yards to the Aggies' 427 and rushed for 173 yards. Defensively, the team scored big. Cornerback Atia Jackson had seven tackles, and linebacker Carlton Gilleotpe and defensive end Ryan Showell each earned a sack. In the final score of the game, Fullerton intercepted a throwaway pass for a 38-yard touchdown by the Davis quarterback who tried to pass for a 38-yard touchdown by the Davis quarterback who tried.

"It was a real defensive play. I was in the right spot at the right time," Fullerton said. "What makes the game so memorable for Fullerton, however, was not the interception, but seeing the fans in the stands singing the fight song and winning his first conference title with the Mustangs."

"We were going crazy," he said. "It felt good to host the trophy up. It was a team effort throughout the entire game."

4. The Heartbreaker
Cal Poly vs. Montana, Sept. 6, 2008 at Alex G. Spanos Stadium

Coming off a great upset against San Diego State a week earlier, the Mustangs were ready to deliver against the Grizzlies. But when place kicker Andrew Gardner missed a 27-yard last-minute field goal that could have clinched it, the Mustangs lost to Montana 30-28 in front of approximately 10,000 fans. Former quarterback Jonathan Dally doesn’t think it’s fair to pin the game on Gardner.

"After it happened, it was like, ‘Did that just happen? Did we just lose?’ (But) we were all kind of shocked by our performance," he said. "We knew where we messed up, but we had to be mature about it and come back next week and start our season over.

Even though this game is most memorable for the missed kick with seconds remaining, other members of the team struggled as well. Fullerton (who had inherited punting duties that year) had his first punt blocked seconds into the first quarter at about the 34-yard line only to see it returned into the end zone by an untouched Montana wide receiver. Dally struggled as well in the fourth quarter when he was sacked and ultimately fumbled the ball at the Cal Poly 3-yard line, resulting in a safety and a touchdown three minutes later.

But the game wasn’t all bad for the Mustangs. They managed to split the defense for a touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Ramose Barden at the 29-yard line in the first and again for a touchdown pass in the second. He also completed 16 of 23 passes and aided Barden in breaking the Cal Poly touchdown record with 35. Defensive ends Ryan Showell and Sean Lawyer also had a great game. Showell had a season-high seven tackles and not only was Lawyer named the Great West Conference Defensive Player of the Week (a rarity considering his team had just lost), but he also recorded 3.5 sacks and 11 tackles.

"Sean Lawyer is a beast," Fullerton said with laughter. "He’s probably one of the best D-liners we’ve ever had."

In spite of the longstanding rivalry with Montana, Fullerton can still acknowledge a good team when he sees one and didn’t let the 2008 loss affect the rest of the season.

"To be where you want to be in AA football, you gotta go through Montana," he said.

3. The Axte Upset

In the opening game of the 2008 season, the Mustang football team beat the San Diego Aztecs with a last-second 21-yard field goal by Gardner to end the game, 29-27.

The game was a surprising upset, because the Football Bowl Subdivision Aztecs were heavily favored. Dally said winning the game at Qualcomm Stadium with a last-second field goal seemed straight out of a movie.

"You look up and you’re surrounded by bleachers and whether they’re filled or not, it’s kind of overwhelming," he said. "It brings that energy like ‘Alright, we gotta show the world we can play on this stage.’ It was definitely where we felt like we wanted to be."

Capitalizing on four turnovers by the Aztecs in the first half alone, the Mustangs were able to take an early 16-7 lead by accumulating 101 yards on the ground. With a forced fumble caused by defensive lineman James Chen, linebacker Carlton Gilleotpe was able to recover, and Cal Poly scored again four plays later when Ryan Mole ran the ball in for the touchdown. In fact, it wasn’t until the second quarter that the Aztecs even made it onto the scoreboard and they never led until 6:51 left in the game when they scored a five yard touchdown.

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LEASING FOR FALL 2010
Cal Poly vs. Montana Nov. 26, 2005 at Washington-Grizzly Stadium in Missoula, Mont.

Still feeling the pain from a 36-35 loss to the Grizzlies in the regular season, the Mustangs faced Montana again in the first round of playoffs and beat them for the first time in 11 years in a 35-21 upset. Former linebacker and 2006 Buck Buchanan award-winner Kyle Shortwell (now a defensive assistant coach for the Mustangs) said the team knew they were the underdogs going into the game.

"The game was a big deal because it was the playoff and we hadn't beaten Montana before. It was a cold-weather game, and a lot of people didn't think we could win because we were California kids and we went out there and put it to them," he said. "We came in really strong and we didn't let off the gas."

Defensively, the Mustangs put up a fight. Recording seven sacks as a unit, 2005 Buck Buchanan award-winner Chris Goosang put up three, and safety Kenny Chiscione made one pick. Offensively, the team held a 17-minute possession advantage most of Montana's total yards (423-261). Running back James Noble had 41 carries for 188 yards and four touchdowns. Shortwell said that going into the game, the team was prepared partly because they had already faced them.

"We had them figured out. We knew who they were and how they were going to attack us," he said, "and we were able to play really well."

But for Shortwell, it's not any specific play, tackle or sack made by one of his teammates that he remembers the most. In fact, for him, the most memorable aspect of that game is what happened after they won.

"I remember just at the end of the game celebrating with the team and singing our fight song in front of the fans," he said. "It was definitely an awesome experience. That is one of my fondest memories from college, no doubt."

1. R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Cal Poly vs. Wisconsin Nov. 22, 2008 at Camp Randall Stadium, Madison, Wis.

For placekicker Andrew Gardiner, history seemed doomed to repeat itself barely two and a half months after his devastating missed kick against Montana. Gardiner's missed extra point following Barden's overtime touchdown resulted in the Mustang's first on-the-road loss of the season with the Badgers winning 36-35. Gardiner received extreme scrutiny after the loss, and Dally said Gardiner put a lot of that harsh criticism on himself.

"No matter what, he's going to be his biggest critic. From the team environment, it was unfair how people were coming down on him. It's kind of sad that he let that get to him and stopped playing collegiate football," Dally said. "We didn't console him as a team, which kind of broke his spirit, but at the time we had to kind of move on. We had to show him through our work ethic that it was time to step up and do our job. You're kind of more concerned for him as a person than a player."

Battling a physically bigger team, see Mustangs, page 43

Friday, April 16, 2010

MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

Correspondence Aja Jackson (2) tallied seven tackles against the UC Davis Aggies in the "triple win" November 16, 2008 at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

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sports

Calero

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her to think about coaching people," Calero said. "I try to think of one thing that I can do this day that will be personal in nature and not professional.

It's not easy to gain the trust of players when you're a first-year head coach, but Calero has found success where other coaches have struggled. Perhaps it's the half-grin he carries, maybe it's his demanding personality, or maybe it's his track record with other teams. Whatever the case, since the first day he met his players, Calero has made a demanding impression.

"The first day he came and talked to us, he said we (were) going to change the whole atmosphere around here, we are going to create a new culture of basketball," sophomore forward Jordan Lewis said. Indeed he did.

He created a brotherhood between his players. Calero is a family man. Living in a household that includes his wife, Erika, and his daughter, Malia, he enjoys being with his loved ones. That mindset is one he decided to preach to his players.

"I'll do anything for my brothers, my mom and my pops, and (Calero) created this thing where the team is a family. All these are my brothers, all these are my family members," Keeler said. "You go to war with your family. You live and die with your family."

Brotherhood wasn't enough. Calero wanted to leave an impression on his players. He teaches them the game of basketball, he teaches them how to win, but he teaches them the right way to do so.

"We are trying to get guys to be mature and positive and encouraging," Calero said. "Wins or losses are not the things people care about. Everybody wants to win games, but it's about how you win the game, how you play as a team."

Calero's understanding of the problems and obstacles young men have gone through has been instrumental in this process. Calero said he has always wanted to work with people. Early in his career, he learned how to deal with the problems of young students when he worked at a juvenile home and as a high school guidance counselor.

"Kids are going to make mistakes," Calero said. "We are not perfect human beings, but we are going to try to be." But Calero could not satisfy his hunger for basketball with that profession. After counseling, he became a basketball coach. With experiences he learned from helping kids in his back pocket, Calero tries not to only churn out basketball players where they graduate from his program, he aims to create men on the court.

"I really feel like he emphasizes us being mature enough to understand the concepts of basketball, be mature to take care of business on and off the court, and he teaches us to play with maturity on the court to act like men. He teaches us to present ourselves as Cal Poly and be proud of that," Lewis said.

In one season, Calero has changed the mindset and the outlook of this team. But ask him how he did it, and he will give a modest answer.

"I didn't turn this season around," Calero said. "I didn't do anything; the players did it. I think a lot of it is just getting the student athletes to believe in themselves, believe in what teamwork can do, believe in what hustle can do."

With these new outlooks the future for Cal Poly is bright. Next season, Cal Poly will have to combat the loss of the team's leading scorer, Keeler, but will have firepower ready to join the young staff on the hardwood.

The Mustangs will return three starters who averaged double digits in scoring last season. To add to that lineup, Amaury Fermin — a red-shirt guard who averaged 18 points and eight assists per game at Hagerty High School — will be eligible to play. Not to mention stand-out recruits Malik Love and Jama Johnson will be joining the team.

We have done so much this season, and I feel like next season and the seasons to come, with this new program, there is a lot of success ahead of us," Lewis said.

So after the offseason, the bright lights in Mott Gym will turn on and, for another year, the men's basketball team will take the court. Every day, the players will leave their locker room and pass through the hallway filled with championship trophies and plaques.

Every day, they will notice there is a piece missing.

A Big West championship? An NCAA "championship? Either will suffice.

"It's a realistic goal," Calero said."

— Originally published on Oct. 30, 2009

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Mustangs
continued from page 4
Cal Poly jumped onto the scoreboard in the first 21 minutes of the game with a 13-0 lead over the Badgers. The initial touchdown came from a forced fumble by Jackson, allowing the team to gain 60 yards in 11 plays. The game was a see-saw battle until Wisconsin forced the game into overtime with a last-minute 3-yard touchdown run by running back P.J. Hill. In total, the Mustangs had possession of the ball for almost 40 minutes, scored 35 points against a team that generally allows no more than 26 and gained 95 yards thanks to passing and 276 yards on the ground.

Despite the 32-degree weather and 10-mph winds, the Mustangs still managed to pull out a well-played game against a team that many expected to trample them. An FBS team, the Badgers never led in the game until they finally won in overtime. It was so emotionally draining that, in the weeks preceding the game, students and engineering school. What makes this game so significant in Mustang history is not Gardner’s missed field goal (except for some who can’t seem to let it go), but rather that it showed the nation what our football team is capable of. We’re labeled as a Football Championship Subdivision team that students and the media expected to get destroyed.

In actuality, we were the better team that day. We were playing harder, we controlled the game and gave ourselves every opportunity to win,” Dally said. “After that game, we were so distraught that we couldn’t pick ourselves up after the first round. It was so emotionally draining that, yeah, we played good, but it wasn’t enough.”

In the weeks preceding the game, the Madison newspaper, The Capital Times, ran numerous articles bashing the Mustangs, mocking Cal Poly’s reputation as a high-ranking engineering school. What makes this game so significant in Mustang history is not Gardner’s missed field goal (except for some who can’t seem to let it go), but rather that it showed the nation what our football team is capable of. We’re labeled as an FCS football team, yet we were able to give an FBS team a run for their money and gain the respect of fans and residents of the Wisconsin area. Following the loss, the Mustang Daily editor received an e-mail from a Wisconsin resident who praised the team’s offense, teamwork and execution.

"Your coach, your team ... should forever remember that game as an outstanding display of college football," Douglas Alexander wrote. "You should have won that game. Congratulations to you. You have a fan in Wisconsin.”

Dally said being positively acknowledged by Wisconsin fans and the media was exactly what we wanted to prove. “We wanted to prove to the fans, to the media, that a prestigious Big Ten team isn’t as big as they think it is. Toward the end of the season when you can play as a team, the level of competition isn’t as big as they perceive it,” he said. “We felt like we should have won that game, and to prove some people wrong in the process was exactly what we wanted to prove.


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Angels' Torii Hunter says he's found a new level of maturity

Jim Souhan
Star Tribune (MINNEAPOLIS)

ANAHEIM, Calif. - As the Angels took batting practice, Torii Hunter spotted familiar faces in the Twins dugout and jogged over to say hello. Angels manager Mike Scioscia, bunting fungoes by the cage, playfully lobbed a ball at Hunter to get his attention, then yelled: "I know they still love you, but we got you, so get out of here!"

Hunter watches the Twins so often on the TVs in the Angels' clubhouse that his teammates still walk by and yell, "Get over it!"

More than two years after signing with the Angels, Hunter admits he still misses many aspects of playing for the Twins. But when he watches their games, he's not just feeling nostalig-cal. He's doing research.

At 34, almost 17 years after the Twins selected him in the first round of the 1993 draft, Hunter remains a rapt pupil, one intent on improving. "I was a football player growing up. I never really played baseball. I didn't have any coaching, no instruction coming up. I tried to learn as much as I could in the minor leagues, just talking to guys, I got to the majors using my God-given ability, really."

"I'm still learning how to play the game and work counts and understand the pitchers. Working with Bobby has helped a lot. He really showed me last year, and in the series against the Twins, how you've really got to hit the ball for it to go. Not just in Anaheim, but the ballparks in Oakland and Seattle are so big. The ball doesn't go anywhere. "That's probably why I haven't been hitting 25 to 30 home runs anymore. But I plan on hitting 30 this year."

Since hitting a career-high 31 homers in 2006, Hunter has hit 28, 21 and 22 homers the past three seasons. He's always been a workout fiend; this winter he altered his regimen.

"This time, I lifted more for power," he said. "I used to lift to get stronger, get more endurance. This winter was different. I've been hitting the ball pretty hard, too. It's fun. I'll promise you that. I definitely feel like I'm a better hitter today than I was in Minnesota. Even though I thought I was pretty good in Minnesota, I've learned to get my pitch to hit."

Hunter says he has reached a level of maturity that has made advice, and studying, more meaningful.

"I always promised myself and my family that I would do this, keep learning, keep improving," Hunter said. "I want to win the World Series," he said. "I've been to the ALCS. I want to be one those guys running around the field at the end of the season. That's why I'm here."
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Dang continued from page 4

hours a week.

"The things that members of my family want him to do is he try to study by his best, try to become a successful person, and the one who can bring happiness to family and everybody surround him," Phu said.

Mathematics professor John Martin taught Phong in a precalculus class when he began studying at Santa Rosa Junior College in fall 2005. Although it has been a few years and he's had hundreds of students since then, he remembers Dang because his English wasn't good, but his math was excellent, Martin said.

Dang was very quiet in class, not answering or asking questions, he said. And unlike other students who attend office hours hoping to pry answers from their professors, Dang came to Martin to have words clarified. It was unusual, Martin said, because he wanted to do the work himself.

"He was a very quiet student," he said. "But I could tell as soon as I saw the work that he understood the mathematics."

Dang finished second in Martin's class, which the professor said is a remarkable achievement for someone with a language barrier. Martin even tried to convince him to get a mathematics degree and said he'd love to Dang come back to the junior college.

"He was hardworking, dependable, all those things faculty love in students," he said.

In 2008, Dang was admitted to University of California, San Diego and UC Santa Barbara but chose Cal Poly for its finance major, small class sizes and the friendly small-town community vibe. He plans to head to the East Coast to get his master's and then he wants to work for a financial firm.

While he currently plans to return to work in Vietnam in about 10 years, he said his family thinks he'll stay here.

"Nothing is perfect, 100 percent sure. I think I will go back, but not for sure," he said.

Benita Yasmine Robledo-Espinoza was the 2008 Cal Poly recipient. According to her profile on the CSU Trustees' Award Web site, she was raised by her single mother, an immigrant who worked as a waitress to support her three children. When her mother's business failed, her family stayed at a homeless shelter throughout her eighth-grade school year. Robledo-Espinoza made honor-roll throughout her academic career and was the first of her family to attend college. Like Dang, she studied business and planned to work for an accounting firm after graduation.

Even with a high GPA, an award and a $3,000 scholarship, Dang doesn't boast about his accomplishments.

"I think I'm just lucky because there are other students who are smarter than me," Dang said.

Originally published on Dec. 21, 2009.
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