Student wins six figures playing poker

Cal Poly English senior Michael Linn won $609,493 in the seventh World Series of Poker $1,500 No-Limit Hold 'em championship on July 1 after competing against 269 other players for 11 hours in Las Vegas.

Karlee Prazak
KARLPEPRAZAK.MD@GMA1L.COM

A Cal Poly English senior defeated other competitors. "It is kind of hard to wrap your mind around it," Linn said. "It hit me when I got my bracelet."

Linn received his engraved gold bracelet the day after his win and pocketed $609,493.

Science and Mathematics
demolition plans announced

Tim Miller
CRCA4784@GMA1L.COM

LAPD arrest Grim Sleeper serial killer suspect

Maura Dolan, Joel Rubin and Mitchell Landesberg
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — For more than decades, the killer had eluded police. His victims, most of them prostitutes in South Los Angeles, had lived on the margins of society, and their deaths left few useful clues, aside from the DNA of the man who had sexually assaulted them in the moments before their death.

A sweep of state prisons in 2008 failed to come up with the suspect or anyone related to him. Then, last Wednesday, came startling news. A second "familial search" of prisons had come up with the identity of a convict whose DNA indicated that he was a close relative of the serial killer suspected of killing at least 10 women and one man.

Working through the July 4 weekend, Los Angeles Police Department detectives drew up a family tree of the man on it. Were they the right age? Did they live near the murders? Was there anything in their background to explain why the serial killer had apparently stopped killing for 13 years, then resumed in 2003?

From that painstaking process, according to LAPD officials who requested anonymity, one man, the prisoner's father, emerged as a likely suspect. A team of undercover officers was sent to follow him, and they came up with evidence, in the form of a discarded slice of pizza, by which to analyze his DNA. On Tuesday, they confirmed that the DNA matched that of the suspect in the serial killing spree.
Suspect
continued from page 1

On Wednesday morning, one week after the DNA match of the same prisoner, police turned up at the South L.A. home of Lonnie David Franklin Jr., 57, and arrested him without incident, authorities said.

Prosecutors later charged him with 10 counts of murder and one count of attempted murder, apparently stemming from the assault on the only victim who is known to have survived.

As word of the arrest spread across South Los Angeles, a contradictory picture of Franklin emerged.

Franklin was a guard attendant at the LAPD’s 77th Street Division station in the early 1980s, according to sources. He worked as a garbage collector for the Los Angeles Department of Sanitation during the years that the first sparse of eight killings took place, beginning with the death of Debra Jackson, 29, on Aug. 10, 1985, and ending with the death of Alicia “Monique” Alexander, 18, on Sept. 11, 1988.

Franklin has at least three prior convictions, two for felony possession of stolen property in 1993 and 2003, one for misdemeanor battery in 2003, and one for misdemeanor battery on Aug. 10, 1985.

Franklin lived for decades, residents described him as a kind and compassionate neighbor who volunteered in the community, helped the elderly residents of the block and fixed their cars for free.

“A very good man. His daughter just graduated from college, I believe,” said Eric Robinson, 47. “He’s a good mechanic, worked out of his garage. I’ve been here since 1976 — that’s how long I’ve known him. I’m not really shocked. I’m all the way shocked.”

Just last week, Dante Combs, 27, said he visited Franklin to ask him to install a timing belt on his car.

“You need your car fixed. He’d do it dirt cheap. He’d help you out however he could, cut your grass, put up your Christmas lights,” Combs added. “Then again, you never really know a man.”

But in the afternoon, family members of the Grim Sleeper’s victims began appearing on the block. The serial killer, whom detectives identified as the Grim Sleeper nickname because of his serial killing case in 2007 when Police Chief Charlie Beck’s predecessor, William J. Bratton, formed a task force to work exclusively on the case.

With so many years having passed since the killer first struck and the police only belatedly linking the long string of victims to a single killer, the team of detectives was left in a severe disadvantage.

Investigators pored over old case files in search of important clues that might have been overlooked. They tried to recreate the seedy, violent scenes of the early victims and killers tracked down about 10 men associated with the church and took DNA samples to test against the suspected killer. A visit to the retired deacon at his home outside of Macon, Ga., turned up nothing. So did a visit to a Florida prison, where they traced a man whose fingerprints were found in the van. His DNA didn’t match the killer’s.

The hunt epitomized the agonizing slog the detectives faced day in and day out.

“We never gave up on this investigation, not for one minute,” Beck said in a statement issued by his office Thursday, July 8, 2010.

Attorney General Jerry Brown appointed Beck police chief in 2007 when Beck promised the LAPD and the California Department of Justice, which carried out the DNA “familial search” after Attorney General Jerry Brown approved the use of the relatively new tool.

Only California and Colorado have formal policies that permit the use of software to troll for DNA profiles of possible relatives of a suspect.

After years of failure, the LAPD stepped up its investigation of the serial killing case in 2007 when Police Chief Charlie Beck’s predecessor, William J. Bratton, formed a task force to work exclusively on the case.

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Demolition
continued from page 1

fences are to be put up during Week of Welcome, which starts Sept. 15, or before the start of the upperclassmen's set of exams, dorm asbestos and other materials may start as early as the end of August, he said.

The project, which has been in the works for more than 15 years, received the money needed to continue plans and complete construction.

"We were very unlucky. We thought we would occupy in full 2008," Bailey said.

Funding for the new building came from a $400 million state bond, which added $105 million to the $19.5 million raised by private donations, Bailey said.

The state had previously approved funding for the design of the building and another bond will provide for the furniture in the building, putting the total project budget at $136 million. The $400 million bond supplied the University of California and California State University systems with funding for similar building projects.

The architect company, Zimmer Gunsul and Frasca Architects, has been working on the plan for a year. Gilbane Construction Company is now working with the architect to finalize the plans.

Some of the projects Zimmer Gunsul and Frasca Architects have worked on include designing more than a million square feet of space for Microsoft and the Portland International Airport.

Gilbane Construction Company is familiar with Cal Poly's campus, having built the Engineering IV building, which was more than half the size of the new Science and Math Building.

"There is no way the total estimate will exceed $136 million Cal Poly has for the building, said Bob Kitamura, head of Cal Poly Capital Projects. He said nothing could happen to make the total cost to the university exceed the estimate.

"It won't, he said.

A construction of the Science and Math Building, an upgrade to the Central Plant will provide the new, larger building with air conditioning, said Joel Neel, senior associate director for Cal Poly Capital Projects.

"The upgrade will increase the chillier capacity to handle what is required for the Campus Master Plan and put the entire campus on the same cold-water loop.

The plant's cost is set at $12 million, which will come out of the $16 million bond, and maintenance will be paid by the state, Neel said.

Bids are currently out for subcontractors on the project but will be settled by the end of the month, said Barbara Queven, the project manager for the Science and Mathematics Building.

We welcome competition, but we feel we have a place in serving students in that region," Berg said. "We see it as part of our mandate.

"For Linn, playing in the world series twice, and this year he took pride in having a lucrative career, Linn enjoys playing basket-

"I saw my friend playing, and I was all, I can do that," Linn said. "I just felt poker his "career for the time being." Although he logs roughly 20 hours per week playing online poker, his gambling comes second until he finishes college, he said.

Linn's uncle, professional poker player Barry Greenstein - who according to his website has earned $6 million and nabbed three WSOP gold bracelets - also stresses the importance of school before poker.

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"For Linn, playing in the world series twice, and this year he will have his edge at hand, Linn said Greenstein about another first-place win they surprised.

"When asked about playing pok­

"I try to be serious while I'm playing, but it's not the hardest life to live, so I have fun with it," Linn said.

Fifty-seven gold bracelets are handed out during the series, which runs from May 27 to July 17, said WSOP spokesman Dave Curley.

For Linn, playing in the world series became reality last year when he decided it was too good of an opportunity to pass up, he said.

Roommate and long-time friend Danny Bragonier said Linn will be very successful as a professional poker player.

"Linn's playing pretty aggressively. He likes to bet and doesn't like to fold," Bragonier said. "It's only his second world series and he's already won a big one.

Curley said the popularity of poker among people in their twen­
ties has grown rapidly, resulting in younger players winning gold bracelets.

Linn's decision to enter the world series, which runs from July 21, the minimum age requirement, paid off. In 2009, his earnings totaled $40,000, bringing his total career earnings to approximately $65,000.

Linn, who has been playing competitively for years, said he was turned onto poker after watching a friend play during his fresh­man year while living in Sierra Ma­stre dorms on the Cal Poly campus.

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Top six books to read this summer vacation

Beth Shirley
PEACHES Shirley@GMAIL.COM

If you're like me, summer means you have time to read what you actually want to for a change, instead of Newtonian Physics, Organic Chemistry or even a Jane Austen classic.

Reading is a great way to keep your mind stimulated. If you're off school, these books offer some respite from the dryness of textbooks.

If you're one of the few escaping into a beach coma before fall arrives, if you have time to read what you actually want to for a change, instead of Newtonian Physics, Organic Chemistry or even a Jane Austen classic.

Reading is a great way to keep your mind stimulated. If you're off school, these books offer some respite from the dryness of textbooks.

Before picking up "Twilight," I'm trying to "see what all the fuss is about," and to mend to keep the juices flowing and actually want to for a change, instead of Newtonian Physics, Organic Chemistry or even a Jane Austen classic.

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Beth Shirley

July 21-
August 1

CALIFORNIA MID-SCHEDULE

MIDSTATEFAIR.COM

TOBY KEITH

July 24

Kenny Loggins

July 30

COUNTRY RODEO FINALS

July 31

MODERN COACH SHOWDOWN

August 1

Endless Summer

Justin Bieber

with special guest

Sweat Kington

July 21

Jeff Dunham

July 22

311 & The Offspring

with special guest Pepper

July 23

Sammy Hagar

July 24

INTOCABLE

July 25

Aerosmith

July 26

California Mid-State Fair

Missouria's

July 21-
August 1

Mid-statefair.com

Justin Bieber

with special guest

Sean Kingston

July 21

Jeff Dunham

July 22

311 & The Offspring

with special guest Pepper

July 23

Sammy Hagar

July 24

Kenny Loggins

July 30

Country Rodeo Finals

July 31

Modern Coach Showdown

August 1

Picture of the Week

"Counting Sheep"

You've been poked by

The Mustang Daily

Poke them back at

www.mustangdaily.net

Hey, we've got a real news feed too.

What is the "What" by Dave Eggers

This book allows the true story of Valentine Achak Deng, one of the Lost Boys, the refugee children of the war in Sudan. Eggers masterfully weaves Deng's life and trials in Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya, with one day in his life in Atlanta, which he is pushed to his limits. Deng's tragic story, while heavy and sobering, is also at times sweetly romantic and occasionally humorous, and is coated with his enduring faith in human beings, which leaves the reader inspired and motivated rather than simply depressed.

"A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole

Ignatius J. Reilly is a classic comedic, yet distinctly unique, figure: grotesquely obese, self-centered, lazy and with an entirely too high opinion of himself. Recent college graduates may find his inflated self-worth and obviously verbose vocabulary particularly hilarious — and oddly relatable. The novel is set in New Orleans where Reilly lives with his mother after obtaining a master's degree and tries and fails at several different career paths, making for a disturbingly comic read.

"Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" by Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith

In this hilarious twist on the classic novel, Elizabeth Bennet is still the heroine, but in a much more obvious sense. She is driven to save her town in the aftermath of a zombie attack, but finds it difficult in light of the distraction caused by the time-less bunk, Mr. Darcy. Though the humor is less dry and more obvious than in Austen's original, this book manages to maintain the same themes of love, vanity and the complicated mother-daughter relationship.

"Cry, the Beloved Country" by Alan Paton

With the World Cup going down in South Africa right now, you may want to brush up on your knowledge of the country's history of complex race-relations. Paton's novel is a great way to do just that. It is centered around the story of black pastor Stephen Kumalo whose son has disappeared in Johannesburg and is accused of murdering a white man. Paton captures the tensions of a country with a horrific past and on the verge of social upheaval. This is one of my favorite classics for its pure ability to break your heart and still give you hope that change can come to the most dire situations.

"Sh*t My Dad Says" by Justin Halpern

More than one million Twitter followers have been enjoying reading the ridiculously non-PC things Halpern's father says on a daily basis. While the tweets summarize good one-liners from the 74-year-old man, the book is a touching, yet hilarious, development of the relationship between him and his son and all of the shit he says along the way. This may not be one to take with you on a baby-sitting gig this summer, but you may find the real characters as fun to follow as the tweets.

This article was originally published June 7, 2010.
Third installment of 'Predators' continues to scare viewers

Lewis Beale
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Bacon and eggs. Stripes and solids. Lennon and McCartney. All perfect matches. And at the multiplex, there's at least one combo that can't be beat:

Science-fiction and horror.

That's right. If you're looking for a solid case of the creepy-crawlies, nothing tops a flick in which some extraterrestrial slime thing is chasing a humanoid around a space ship, isolated Earth outpost or hostile planet. Like in "Predators," opening Friday, in which killer Earthlings are dropped on a distant orb and find that they're nothing more than chum for some nasty-looking E.T.s.

The "Predator" movies are "an evolution out of 'Alien'; the difference is that 'Predator' is us," says Scott Allie, editor of the "Predators" comic book series. "'Alien' is just a killing machine, and we don't presume it has any intelligence. The Predator is more physically dangerous than us, and they might be more resourceful. They do what we do, and they might be better than us."

"There are a lot of things (the Predators do) that compare to us," says "Predators" director Nimrod Antal. "They take trophies, which clearly has to do with body horror, and strongest emotion is fear, and that's at the core of sci-fi horror."

Certainly that's been the case since 1988, when H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds" jump-started the genre. In that book, martians arrive on Earth, destroy everything they see and are only defeated when they prove defenseless not against our man-made weapons, but Earthborn viruses.

Science fiction and horror "both deal with the unknown, and science fiction tries to show the unknown within a rational framework," says Rob Latham, editor of the scholarly Journal of Science Fiction Studies. "Horror tends to push it in the direction of the unknown that's menacing or horrible. Some of the most famous science-fiction novels have horror elements to them."

"The whole concept of formerly unknown E.T.s coming out of nowhere and causing harm 'has to do with the sense of being afraid of someone with more power than we have,'" adds Eric Rabkin, a University of Michigan English professor and author of "Mars: A Tour of the Human Imagination."

"And if they can come to us," he adds, "that's different than when we go to them. If they can get to us, they have more power than we do. We've always looked at things this way."

But sci-fi horror is not just about terror. Ever since what is arguably the first science-fiction novel, "Frankenstein," which deals with issues like what it means to be human, the sci-fi-horror combo has also served as a metaphor for our deepest fears and desires. In the 1950s, for example, post-bomb concerns translated into a distrust of science, as seen in movies like "Them!" (giant mutated ants) and "Godzilla" (another atomic monster).

In other words, they might be a little like us, but the Predator is one scary off-worlder. And the feeling we get up against an implacably hostile alien force we can't communicate with is at the core of sci-fi horror.

These movies also "deal with sexual issues," Rabkin adds. In "Aliens," Sigourney Weaver's character is a mother fighting another mother over the future of mankind.

There's a lot of anxiety in the second alien movie about reproduction," Latham says. "It's the good mother Ripley who will defend the little girl against this evil alien mother. There's a lot of slime, which clearly has to do with body processes. And when Ripley has a nightmare that the alien is bursting out of her, it's almost like birth."

Like the "Alien" series, the "Predator" films play with metaphor. The first, released 12 years after the end of the Vietnam War, takes place in the jungle, and we're fighting an enemy we can't see," Rabkin says. "During this time, Americans have started to pay real attention to what was going on in Vietnam. By the time we get to 'Predator,' we have seen footage of troops walking around and not knowing what hit them."

But, Antal says, the appeal of the Predator is more elemental than a military metaphor. "When we sit down and say, 'Let's make a list of monsters, vampires, zombies and werewolves are forever on that list,' he says. But after seeing the first "Predator" film, it was obvious we were in the midst of a classic. We had seen a monster step in, introduce himself and forever take his place in the monster rogues gallery. We were among greatness, and that's what brings you back."

Ultimately, these films all come down to that most elemental fear, of things that go bump in the night. Factor in some drooling, scaly creature from another world, and you've got the perfect fright-night entertainment.

"Science fiction explores the unknown," Allie says. "The oldest and strongest emotion is fear, and the strongest fear is the fear of the unknown, and that's at the heart of horror. Life on other worlds is the ultimate question mark for us. With such a giant question, it's natural that our brains go to dark places."
write a letter

My name is Chas. I'm an alcoholic. I stumbled into my first AA meeting in fall 1997. I had been a heavy drinker for 20 years and a serious drunk for the last 10. I had lost my job, my one living aunt and my one living uncle. I was happy drunk for the last 10. I had lost my job, my one living aunt and my one living uncle. I was happy

I was prescribed psycho-pharmaceuticals and spent the next two days, two drunks

I needed it, but I knew it wouldn't work. For years I had tried to stop drinking, or at least slow down. I tried exercise and acupuncture, self-help books and special diets. I was prescribed psycho-pharmaceuticals and spent two hours with psychiatrists.

I tried everything but AA, and I wasn't going to try that until I had gotten sober with AA's help, so had all of three of my younger brothers and younger sister. I was hopeful for them, but I knew it wouldn't work for me. I wasn't ajoiner. I detested the idea of group therapy. I was allergic to organized religion and any concept of God. I thought AA was a sort of spiritual Ponzi scheme, and Scientologists have a similar conviction.

But alcohol brought me to my knees — nearly literally. The time I turned 42, I was in constant pain and couldn't walk without a cane. The doctors said I needed two hip replacements, but they wouldn't operate unless I quit drinking for two months.

I hadn't gone that long without liquor since junior high school, and I'd promised I couldn't stay sober on my own. So I did the unthinkable. I called a friend who was sober and said, "I need to go to one of those meetings."

"Well, we went to a church in the Valley. I sat and listened for an hour. I heard nothing that moved me or gave me hope. The bumper-sticker wisdom of the program was idiotic. The oddest cheerfulness of the group was repellent. The emphasis on God, or a Higher Power, was offensive. I hung my head and told my friend I was wasting my time. I wasn't going to read the book "Alcoholics Anonymous," get a sponsor, work any steps or pray to a God I didn't believe in.

"My friend said, "That's OK. Can you go home and try not to drink tonight?" I said I could try. "Can I take you to a meeting tomorrow?" I said he could. "That's all you have to do," he said. "Welcome to Alcoholics Anonymous."

"I took my friend into AA, probably the most significant social movement of the 20th century. I didn't take a drink that first night. My friend took me to the meeting the next day, and the next, Slowly, powerfully, I admitted I was powerless over alcohol and that through the door as I did, broken and brought to their knees. Almost all of those who stayed, and succeed­ed, surrendered to the program and worked the steps.

Last weekend more than 40,000 of them, from '90 countries, gathered in San Antonio to celebrate their inde­pendence from alcohol and mark AA's anniversary. They were part of a worldwide fellowship of, according to AA's figures, more than 2 million sober alcoholics — about 1.2 million in the U.S. — who meet regularly. At the birthday celebration, members talked about their drinking, and the miracle of their not drinking. In the end, that's their weapon against alcohol­­­­holic, and the simple, elegant secret of AA that Bill and Bob discovered in 1935. One alcoholic talking to another can keep two drunks sober.

As Alcoholics Anonymous celebrates its 75th anniversary, the Los Angeles Times asked an AA member to write about the group and how he came to join. Following in the tradition of the organization, he is using his first name only.

The doctors replaced my hips. My wife and children didn't leave. My health returned. I published my first book, another. I got back on the tennis court, started motorcycling again and took up snowboarding. I got an AA sponsor and worked the 12 steps. I determined to live my life in a spiritual basis, made a written inventory of my errors and misdeeds, made restitution where possible, then tried to show other suffering alcoholics how they might recover too. In time I began to feel a sense of peace, ease and happiness that I had never known. I hadn't had a drink in almost 3 years. I didn't know that why that happened. Most alcoholics never make it to AA, and many who make it don't stay sober. But I know how it happened. That's what I share with the newcomers. I meet at the meetings I still attend: what I was like, what I did about it, and what I'm like now. That's what I know about men and women, gay and straight, older than I and younger, with more sober time and less, talking frankly about their struggles and their solutions. Some were gutter drinkers who lost it all, others were Hollywood henchmen who lost nothing except their souls. Almost all of them came

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No reciprocality, please.
Men's basketball uses chemistry on the woodwork

Amanda Sedo
AMANDASEDO.MD5@GMAIL.COM

What is the main focus of head coach Joe Callero and the Cal Poly men's basketball team this offseason? Improvements. Whether it be on the basketball court, in the classroom or as a community member, Callero said he wants his players to continue to improve in every aspect of their lives. And they are doing just that. On the court, the team went 12-19, 7-9 Big West last season, a four-win increase from the season prior. The Mustangs also returned to the Big West tournament after a one-year hiatus and defeated Long Beach State 73-69 in the first round.

Former Cal Poly catcher Ross Brayton hit .320 with 25 RBIs in his final season as a Mustang. The Modesto College transfer is the team's leading scorer, hit .393 as a junior to help the Mustangs advance to the NCAA Regional. He had a nine-game hitting streak and compiled 15 multiple-hit games and nine multiple-RBI contests. Brayton helped Cal Poly finish the 2010 season 23-32 and 10-14 for fifth place in the Big West. The Mustangs, joins his former teammates Fermin and O'Brien may also be asked to step in for lost starters. Also, forward Jordan Lewis, who scored a season-high 16 points against Long Beach State, served as somewhat of a sixth man last season, and may be able to climb his way into the starting lineup this season. Whether I'm getting more minutes or not I'm just happy to contribute," Lewis said. Lewis said he has been hitting the weight room and working on quickness and agility. He's also been working on both his jump shot and three-point shot to complement his already tough defense. However, Lewis still knows the importance of team chemistry. "It's putting people in different positions and expect that the other players will step up their game," he said. For example, while playing against South Dakota last season, senior guard Lorenzo Keeler drove to the basket with 32 seconds to spare, and instead of forcing a shot, he made an extra pass to freshman Kyle Odiater, who hit a three with a few seconds left on the shot clock—propelling the Mustangs to a win. However, with Keeler leaving — a player who averaged more than 16 points per game — comes the expectation that the other players will have to step up their game. Notable players expected to be the new foundation of the squad are guard Shaw Lewis and forward David Hanson — both of whom tallied double digit points per game a season ago. Redshirts Amayures Fermin and Chris O'Brien may also be asked to step in for lost starters. Also, forward Jordan Lewis, who scored a season-high 16 points against Long Beach State, served as somewhat of a sixth man last season, and may be able to climb his way into the starting lineup this season. Whether I'm getting more minutes or not I'm just happy to contribute," Lewis said. Lewis said he has been hitting the weight room and working on quickness and agility. He's also been working on both his jump shot and three-point shot to complement his already tough defense. However, Lewis still knows the importance of team chemistry. "It's putting people in different positions and expect that the other players will step up their game," he said. For example, while playing against South Dakota last season, senior guard Lorenzo Keeler drove to the basket with 32 seconds to spare, and instead of forcing a shot, he made an extra pass to freshman Kyle Odiater, who hit a three with a few seconds left on the shot clock—propelling the Mustangs to a win.