Armstrong grabs ahold of presidency

Jeffrey Armstrong, the former dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University, was chosen because of his academic credentials, leadership abilities and strong background in agriculture and science.

Alicia Freeman
ALICIAFREEMAN.MD@GMAIL.COM

Jeffrey Armstrong will commence his position as Cal Poly's new president Feb. 1 after officially being chosen on Dec. 15.

Armstrong, former dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and animal science professor at Michigan State University (MSU), was chosen over Thomas Skalak, the vice president for research and biomedical engineering professor at the University of Virginia, and Robert Palazzo, the provost and chief academic officer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

In a press release, California President, page 2

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Armstrong, former dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and animal science professor at Michigan State University (MSU), was chosen over Thomas Skalak, the vice president for research and biomedical engineering professor at the University of Virginia, and Robert Palazzo, the provost and chief academic officer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

In a press release, California President, page 2

No holidays for campus construction projects

Erin Hurley
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While classes ended for Cal Poly students over the 2010 winter break, construction projects on campus continued as usual and took advantage of the absence of students.

Construction management on campus falls under the responsibilities of the facilities department. The Facilities Planning & Capital Projects and Facility Services offices supervise all construction and maintenance projects, from large ones like the Recreation Center expansion to routine building repairs.

"Accessibility is the biggest difference in the work we get done over breaks — our procedures stay the same," Facility Services Director Mark Hunter said. "We can get into classrooms and offices — there's more access to space."

Facility Services is responsible for smaller maintenance and renovations on campus, and Hunter said some of these projects are done during breaks to avoid getting in the way of classes and campus life.

During the break, Facility Services did a variety of maintenance work, Construction, page 2

Large-scale construction projects, such as the Recreation Center expansion, are priorities during school breaks. According to Facilities Planning & Capital Projects Associate Director Johan Uyttewaal, large deliveries that would otherwise impact pedestrians coincide with breaks.

see Construction, page 2

see President, page 2

see Martinez, page 4
President
continued from page 1
State University (CSU) trustee and chair of the presidential search com-
mitee Roberta Achtenberg said Armstrong's "outstanding academic
credentials, leadership abilities and
strong grounding in agriculture and
science will be tremendous assets to
the university and community as it
moves forward."

Robert Koob, provost and vice
president for academic affairs, said
although people other than himself
chose Armstrong, he thought Arm-
strong was still qualified for the job.
Koob said the lengthy interview
process allowed the CSU trustees to
choose Armstrong as the most quali-
fied candidate of the three potentials.

"It's a big obstacle course to get
through," Koob said. "There's a lot
different barriers to cross through,
and he successfully crossed all of
those hurdles and was selected by the
Board of Trustees."

Jenna Pile, a graphic design ju-
rise, said Armstrong's experience in
agriculture will make him a good
leader because agriculture is such a
big part of campus.

"The choice) seems fitting for the
school that we go to," Pile said.

Koob said that he thought Armstrong's
agricultural experience will be a great
asset as well.

"We've got one of the largest (ag-
riculture) colleges in the nation, so
you couple a very large educational
opportunity with a very large indus-
try," Koob said. "It's great to have
someone who knows things about
that.

Sarah Prince, a political science
senior, said she hoped Armstrong
can focus on more than just agricul-
tural endeavors, however.

"I would hope that he would be 
fair," Prince said. "It's important that
he should be." In response to such feelings, Koob said experience with agriculture ac-
tually "toaches on all other kinds
of disciplines" and will hopefully
supplement even non-agricultural
majors.

"There's (agricultural) engineer-
ing, there's (agricultural) science,
there's education and there's busi-
ness, so a person of agriculture ac-
tually, in fact, has had the opportu-
nity to understand how agriculture
influence other disciplines and vice
versa," Koob said. "From that, an
intelligent person can infer the im-
portance of business, science, com-
munication and things like that.
I think it's a good preparation for a
college presidency."

"With Armstrong taking the presi-
dency, he must tackle the challenges
that Cal Poly may face in the future.
Koob said the budget is "still kind
of screwed" so Armstrong should fo-
cus on that. She also said she hopes
Armstrong will create more unity on
campus because "all the different de-
partments are so broad."

Koob said a challenge facing any
new president is deciding how a col-
lege should progress in the future,
especially with the many different
outcomes.

"Cal Poly is a very successful or-
ganization that has enormous po-
tential, that success and potential
give us lots of choices," Koob said.
"In many cases, it's harder to pick
when you have many choices than
if you only have one or two. A new
president is going to be challenged
with picking from all of those pos-
bilities, those things they think are
most important."

Thansgivit Armstrong will not take
off until February. Koob said he
has taken initiative to try to learn
about the university and its future.

"He's been interviewing people
that are associated with the campus
both on and off of Cal Poly, trying
to learn more about Cal Poly," Koob
said. "He's been a good listener and
is interested in what we have to
say, so I think we'll just say we're off
to a good start, and we'll see how we
develop." Construction
continued from page 1
including repairs on the campus-
wide water heating system, tree
trimming and working on tak-
ing out a wall at Backstage Pizza,
Hunter said.

The biggest spikes in the work
Facility Services does during the
year are during the summer, win-
ter and spring breaks, Hunter
said.

Facilities Planning & Capital
Projects handles the larger con-
struction projects on campus,
which require con-
tracted engineers and
construction.

The four construc-
tion projects re-
maining in progress
over the break were the Recreation
Center expansion, the Center for Science
project, which in-
cludes an upgrade
of the chilled water
pipes that supply
the campus with air-
conditioning, the new Meat
Processing Center and the finishing
touches on the Simpson Strong-
Tie building.

According to Facilities Plan-
ing & Capital Projects Associ-
ate Director Johan Uyttewaal,
the work on all four projects is
currently on schedule, and the
construction work over break was
business as usual.

"We do try to take advantage
of the school breaks," Uyttewaal
said. "Big deliveries of materials have
to coincide with breaks so they
don't impact pedestrians. We try
to push during the breaks."

Another project Facilities Plan-
ning & Capital Projects takes into
account when planning construc-
tion projects is the weather in San
Luis Obispo. During Cal Poly's
winter break the city of San Luis
Obispo saw a significant amount
of rain and wind. However, Associa-
tive Director of Facilities Planning
& Capital Projects Joel Neel said
the projects handled by Facilities
Planning were not affected by the
weather.

"Each project has allotted rain
days, and we haven't even used up
the ones we were given for Decem-
ber," Neel said. "Sometimes with
really crazy weather there are de-
lays, but our projects weren't im-
pacted too much."

Environmental management in-
nior Molly Nilsson said she'd like

These large projects were funded
before the budget problems
—they're doing brilliantly.

— Joel Neel
Associate Director of Facilities Planning & Capital Projects

The Center for Science project has an
estimated budget of $831,497,000.
However, a contingency budget is
also included in that number in
case of emergency or last-minute
costs, Neel said. "The contingency
budget acts as a "safety valve," he
said. "This ensures the construction
projects will not take additional
money from the school or from
students.

"Large construction projects
cost so much, cut out their budget
just something the CSU would
— it will just fund less build-
ing," Neel said. "There was no
money funded before the budget
problems; they're doing brilliantly.
I'm curious to see what kind of
projects will be proposed in the fu-
ture." All the current projects super-
vised by Facilities Planning & Cap-
tial Projects have yet to encounter
any unforeseen costs, Neel said.
Hunter said some of the smaller
projects planned by Facility Ser-
VICES have been delayed until
summer due to budget cuts.

"I think that the construction
happening right now is in students'
name," Nilsson said. "Taking advan-
tage of the school breaks is a good
idea."

Each construction project car-
ried out by Facilities Planning &
Capital Projects has a projected
budget, which is available on the
office's website. For example, the
Center for Science project has an
estimated budget of $831,497,000.
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Luis Obispo. During Cal Poly's
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Martinez continued from page 1

"Memo was the heart and soul of this department; he was the history," said Lou Greenberg, administrative support coordinator for the modern languages and literature department. "It is a great loss for our department, our university.

"Memo," as his colleagues called him, is the affectionate, diminutive form of Guillermo, which is Spanish for William, said Kevin Fagan, a professor of Spanish and Italian.

"It's symbolic that he died where his heart was," Fagan said. "He favored international education."

While in his office, Martinez had an open door policy for anyone who visited and he treated faculty and staff equally, Fagan said.

"Very, very rarely would he say come back later," Fagan said.

With a master's degree in Spanish-American literature and a bachelor's degree in Spanish from San Diego State University, Martinez received his doctorate in contemporary Latin American poetry from the University of California, Irvine. He came to Cal Poly in September 1993 to teach Spanish language courses as well as courses in Latin American and Spanish culture, specifically poetry and literature.

"He was one of the architects of getting this department to have a major in modern languages," Greenberg said.

Martinez was the recipient of the 2001 Cal Poly Distinguished Teaching Award and the 1998 College of Liberal Arts Service Award. He was also one of the founding members of the Chicana Latino Faculty Staff Association and started the Mexican summer language program. He was the faculty to adviser for C.U.L.T.U.R.E.S. since 2003.

Debra Valencia-Laver, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said Martinez was a very giving person who had the students' interests at heart.

"One of the things I appreciated was his willingness to volunteer and be involved with students," Valencia-Laver said.

The date for his memorial has yet to be set. In lieu of flowers, donations designated "For the W. Martinez, Jr. Memorial Fund" can be sent to the modern languages and literature department where they will be used to fund Spain study abroad programs. A memorial page and obituary for Martinez can be found on Legacy.com.

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State

MODESTO (MCT) — California drivers no longer will have to stand in long lines to obtain driving or vehicle records now that they have secure access to this information via a personalized online service from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Drivers can go to the DMV's website and create an online account, where they can buy copies of records and other services.

The online service was launched last week.

"The most requested item from our customers is their driving record," said DMV Director George Valverde in a news release.

• • •

SACRAMENTO (MCT) — Democrat Jerry Brown has been sworn in as governor of California, promising to focus on the state's financial problems and asking Californians to prepare to make hard choices about what they want from their state government.

Brown took the oath of office at Memorial Auditorium in Sacramento on Monday, a few blocks from the Capitol. He is scheduled to celebrate with an afternoon parade.

"I'm looking forward to joining classes at the gym."— Amanda Gimenez, child development sophomore

"I'm looking forward to my new internship this quarter."— Jackelyn Perez, business administration senior

"I'm taking a few interesting classes in my major."— Andrew Wood, mechanical engineering sophomore

"I'm taking a few interesting classes in my major."— Darren Thong, civil and environmental engineering graduate student

"I'm looking forward to my new internship this quarter."— Danil Rasmussen, journalism sophomore

"I'm taking a few interesting classes in my major."— Andrea Velasco, business administration junior

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Afghan tribe vows to stop Taliban in volatile province

Dion Nissenbaum

The top U.S. Marine commander in southern Afghanistan said Monday that an influential Afghan tribe had agreed to put a stop to Taliban attacks in a highly contested part of Helmand province.

The agreement could provide a respite for American Marines, who have faced surprisingly effective resistance since they took control of Helmand's Sangin district from British forces in September.

U.S. military officials said they were cautiously optimistic about the deal, which a Taliban spokesman denied as American propaganda.

In late 2006, British forces agreed in a Taliban cease-fire in another volatile part of Helmand province; the Taliban reneged four months later.

On Monday, U.S. military officials said they were taking a "wait-and-see" approach to the Sangin agreement.

In recent weeks, Sangin has been the scene of some of the most deadly fighting in Afghanistan.

Some military analysts have compared Sangin to Fallujah, the Iraqi city that was the scene of two grueling U.S. military offensives in 2004 that eventually wrested the pivotal area from insurgent control.

More than 100 British soldiers — a third of all British casualties in Afghanistan — were killed during the four years they battled insurgents in Sangin. The U.S. Marines have lost 23 men since they took over the area in the fall.

During one week last fall, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, from Camp Pendleton, Calif. — the same "Dark Horse" battalion that took part in the second Fallujah offensive in 2004 — lost 10 men in Sangin.

More than three dozen tribal elders from one corner of Sangin made a tantalizing offer to help battle insurgent attacks and drive out foreign fighters, Afghan and American officials said.

As a confidence-building measure requested by the elders, Helmand officials said, they released a local religious leader whom they held for a month. That gesture over the weekend helped pave the way for the tribal leaders to cement their pledges during a jirga, a tribal gathering, Afghan officials said.

Under the agreement, the tribal leaders vowed to expel foreign fighters, allow Afghan and U.S. forces to patrol the area, contain Taliban attacks and help identify deadly roadside bombs, which have taken a heavy toll on U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

In exchange, American and Afghan leaders are supposed to pump more money into the area.

The deal applies only to Sangin, a troublesome Taliban haven in southern Afghanistan said Monday. That gesture over the weekend drew criticism in 2006 because they did not want to risk driving on the icy roads at night with their 4-year-old son, Jack. They were trying to get back to Bakersfield, where they manage a church, but weren't confident they'd be home Monday night.

"We booked another night just to be safe," Michael Prince said.

Juan Estrada had been stopped on the northbound shoulder with his family since July 7 and was spending the holidays with his brother in Pasadena. They were trying to make it back to Watsonville, Estrada, who works for should return, and the rest of the week will see gradually rising temperatures.

Some motorists grumbled about what they said was a lack of information from authorities about which roads were open. The Utras said the 800 line at the California Department of Transportation, or Caltrans, was not providing updated information.

Caltrans officials said I-5 was closed mainly because of ice on the road rather than large accumulations of snow. A dozen plow trucks were deployed, dumping 2,500 gallons of a biodegradable liquid chemical known as "Ice Shicer" as well as 1,000 tons of crushed sand and cinder or crushed volcanic rock.

Southern California drivers "are not used to these conditions," Raptis said.

True enough.

When sound engineer Bryan Cook left Mammoth for Los Angeles with his wife and their dog, Pocha, around midnight, they were expecting their typical five-hour drive even as a light snow fell around them.

Along Route 203, speeds averaged about 55 mph and the turn onto the 395 Freeway, they removed the chains from their tires. "It was all pretty normal until we got south of Lone Pine," Cook said. "Then it turned awful.

The traffic slowed as weather worsened. They stopped at a gas station in Mojave, where the wait for a bathroom was in vain.

But by the time they reached the 14 Freeway, a series of accidents had led the CHP to stop traffic for a half hour. The snow was falling heavily and then and some took the opportunity to park on the 14 Freeway and mill around. At least one person made a snow angel.

"Everyone was on the same page of desperation," Cook said. "They were at their wits' end and needed a break. They had the basic need to eat and they didn't know when their next meal might come.

Near I-5, around Canyon Country, traffic let up. Cook and his wife got home to their Los Angeles home at 2 a.m. — after 11 hours on the road.

Despite the traffic, it was worth the wait.

"We ski a lot and this was one of the finest days we've had. It was up there with anything. I think it was worth it."
Obama to face polarized Congress among other challenges in 2011

Margaret Talev
McClatchy Newspapers

An old Hawaiian proverb — "A coral reef hardens into land" — about the power of incremental change may resonate with President Barack Obama as he returns Tuesday from his island getaway to begin work on the second half of his four-year term.

The most obvious challenge the president will face is a divided Congress in which Republicans control the House of Representatives.

They can block initiatives that Obama might have sought on immigration, the environment and civil rights or seek to undo some of his health-care program and investigate many aspects of his administration.

They also could work with the Democratic president to find spending cuts that his own party didn't want to make.

But the new Congress is just part of what's on the president's plate.

He'll use the next few weeks to shape a State of the Union address that reflects Democrats' diminished power, his 2012 re-election strategy and help for employment and housing, still struggling to come back after the recession.

A couple of weeks later, his administration will proposed its 2012 budget.

Obama is also expected to make staff changes in coming weeks, host three key foreign leaders and try to keep his options open on holding terrorism detainees and bringing them to trial.

"As the president prepares to confront a crowded agenda, creating jobs and strengthening the economy are the president's top priorities, and he remains committed to working in bipartisan fashion to move forward on them," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday.

The State of the Union speech could include details on how Obama will address the nation's growing debt and whether his renewed commitment to bipartisan compromise is mere rhetoric or a prelude to tackling comprehensive changes to tax policy or Social Security that may be initially unpopular but ultimately improve fiscal stability.

"That is his most important chance in the next two years to define the rest of his presidential term, and may also have an impact on whether this is his only presidential term or the first of two," said William Galston, an expert on governance at the Brookings Institution who was an adviser to President Bill Clinton.

"While there are some signs that the president has been thinking through and preparing for years three and four that will be very different from years one and two, it's not at all clear how far he's prepared to go in the direction of a major strategic shift," Galston said.

"The 2011 State of the Union is the president's best chance to take advantage of the fleeting chance to govern before presidential politics trumps everything else."

France's Nicolas Sarkozy, Pakistan's Asif Ali Zardari and China's Hu Jintao will visit Washington this month.

Sarkozy is heading the G-8 and G-20 groups of world economic powers.

Pakistan is important to U.S. anti-terrorism efforts and the war in Afghanistan, but Zardari's government is in crisis.

North Korea and the economy will be discussed during Hu's visit, which will include a state dinner, the third of Obama's presidency.

U.S. voters are more attuned to domestic politics, but presidents must constantly tend to foreign policy and diplomacy and Obama needs to catch up for time lost while he was campaigning last year for fellow Democrats, said Doug Las Paul, vice president for strategy at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Paul was a national security aide in the Reagan administration will be discussed during Hu's visit, which will include a state dinner, the third of Obama's presidency.

Obama "basically punted foreign policy for a year to focus on getting his people elected," Paul said, with the exception of a post-election trip to Asia.

"That bumps everybody into the first part of the next year, so you tend to have a bunching up of overdue visits," Paul said.

The president and his lawyers also are grappling with the complex issues that surround how to close the overseas detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and what to do with the remaining detainees in the face of congressional resistance.

In the coming weeks, Obama could show some of his cards on such as how to justify indefinite detentions of some detainees and how much he'll resist congressional efforts to constrain transfers of detainees to other facilities in the United States or to trials in civilian courts.
A new quarter, a new year and a fresh new start. Every year, the same New Year’s resolutions consistently resurface as most important across the nation: losing weight, eating healthier and spending more time with loved ones.

Americans young and old dig down deep into their willpower and commit to these resolutions valiantly — that is, up until about the end of January, when the busyness of life sweeps in and swallows these young, innocent resolutions right up. These resolutions seem like reasonable aspirations promising a happier, healthier life. Yet most of the nation just can’t find the motivation to continue striving beyond a few weeks, despite the promised reward.

As we begin this new quarter and new year, I will once again ask readers to embark on a new adventure. The resolutions we aspire for are so often cut short by the thought of the limitations they may bring and what we must give up or avoid in order to usher in a brighter new year, but in reality, New Year’s resolutions offer an opportunity to focus on acquiring new experiences and procuring more, not less.

Do not get bogged down in the fear of not sticking with your resolutions or not seeing results. Rather, I implore you to resolve to adventure into what is right in front of you. Invite yourself to experience a journey that resides in the character and flavor of each new bite. Fearing on insecurities produce presents an enticing alternative to banishing foods, and it invites you to experience a journey that resides in the character and flavor of each new bite. Fearing on insecurities produce presents an enticing alternative to banishing foods, and it

Heather Rockwood is a food science junior and Mustang Daily food columnist.

**Pomegranate Guacamole**

**Ingredients:**
- 2 large ripe avocados
- 1/2 large onion, grated
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 2 fresh chile peppers, seeded
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 freshly squeezed lime
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1 tablespoon pomegranate juice
- 3 tablespoons pomegranate seeds

**Instructions:**
1. Finely chop the onions, garlic, chile peppers and cilantro leaves. Place in bowl and add avocado and lime juice, salt and cumin, stirring to combine. Add pomegranate juice and seeds, stir gently. Add more lime juice to taste.

Recipe serves six.

This exotic fruit originated in Iran and has found its place throughout history in the Bible, the writings of Homer, as well as Greek, Chinese, Persian and Roman lore. Perhaps it holds such esteem throughout history for the same reason it is acknowledged as a “superfood” today — it is loaded with nutrients, including tannins, anthocyanins and ellagic acid, which all play important roles in reducing the risk of heart disease and cancer — not to mention the sweet, yet tart flavor that commands satisfaction right up. These innocent resolutions right up. These

By the end of this first week, busyness will most likely take hold of your life and as I stated before, swallow up whole your resolutions — but remember this year you are embarking on a food adventure without limitations. I say, throw a couple pomegranate seeds on top and ask life “What’s next?”

HINT: This root vegetable is the original Jack O’Lantern.
Every Monday cut out this refrigerator to find out what deals are happening around you!

Everyday Lunch & Dinner
Lunch & Dinner

10pm-CL
Now serving Late Night Food
10pm-midnight

10pm-10pm
Now serving Late Night Food
10pm-midnight

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
5 Pints / $5 Pitchers
Now serving Late Night Food
10pm-midnight

Check out all the deals from
01/03/2011 to 01/09/2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
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<td>$6 1st beer / $3 refills</td>
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<td>$5 wings / $6 pitchers</td>
<td>Now serving Late Night Food</td>
<td>You Keep the glass</td>
<td>$6 1st beer / $3 refills</td>
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Becoming multilingual can boost your chances in the workplace

Whitney Friedlander

LOS ANGELES TIMES

As it becomes more common for teenagers to realize — and then tell others — that they are gay or lesbian, there is also a growing number of teen characters on TV programs geared toward teens going through the same thing. The CW’s “90210,” which returns on Jan. 24, joins the ranks of shows like “Glee,” “Gossip Girl,” “Pretty Little Liars,” “Hillcats,” “Greek” and the new MTV series “Skins” in showcasing young, gay roles.

“I felt like the world of ‘90210’ was missing the gay characters that it would realistically have,” said Rebecca Sinclair, the CW series’ show runner and executive producer, on the writers’ decision to show teen character Teddy Montgomery’s coming-out process. “If I had created the show, I would definitely have made one of the main characters gay.

And honestly, in a genre that depends on the coupling, decoupling and re-coupling of its characters, it behooves us to find the most diverse ways to do that.”

So it was that Teddy — a “90210” character most fans had written off as a rich playboy whose latest infatuation was ex-girlfriend Silver — hooked up with classmate Ian at the beginning of this season and slowly became more out of pure necessity, is through immersion.

Immersion is probably best left until after one has basic understanding of the language, whether through a language product or actually speaking to the speaker to hone and refine one’s speaking method to the local customs and/or slang. Immersion could also be as simple as having one’s bilingual friends or family only speak in their non-English dialect.

So before you think you’ve gotten all that you possibly can out of your time at Cal Poly, think about putting your linguistic skills to the test and learning a second language — you never know when you’ll need it.

LGBT characters join hit teen TV shows

The takeaway in these shows is typically consistent: that you will be accepted for who you are. And as a result, students can feel comfortable coming out.

In the end, the takeaway is that these shows can be important role modeling on how to deal with coming out in public.

"I'm delightfully surprised at how this reflects the fact that the sort of battleground for gay people in society includes high school and probably even includes middle school. It's moved younger in the past decade or so, I think in part ... because younger people are becoming more aware of their identities."

This phenomenon can be seen in “Degrassi,” the Canadian teen drama whose current version is in its 10th season and airs on TeenNick in the U.S. The show has evolved in various iterations and over the years has moved from having a main character with an older gay brother to covering two male coming-out story lines, a lesbian and a questioning character.

It currently features a transgender teen figure named Adam, played by actress Jordan Todosey.

Teen coming-out stories seem especially relevant, after reports of physical and cyber bullying reached a boiling point in the wake of a number of gay suicides. “Hillcats,” a new CW series about college cheerleading, marked a step in this season after it ended up too closely mirroring the events that reportedly led to the death of Rutgers student Tyler Clementi. Shows like “Glee” and “Degrassi” have presented intense story lines about bullying, while “Pretty Little Liars” and “Gossip Girl” — both based on young adult novels — have included scenes of gay roles.

Perhaps the quickest way to learn a second language, which is more out of pure necessity, is through immersion.

Immersion is probably best left until after one has basic understanding of the language, whether through a language product or actually speaking to the speaker to hone and refine one’s speaking method to the local customs and/or slang. Immersion could also be as simple as having one’s bilingual friends or family only speak in their non-English dialect.

So before you think you’ve gotten all that you possibly can out of your time at Cal Poly, think about putting your linguistic skills to the test and learning a second language — you never know when you’ll need it.

LGBT characters join hit teen TV shows

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"Glee" is among the increasing number of television shows to incorporate gay or lesbian characters in their casts.

often-speculated-about, eventually confirmed young gay nephew, Justin. "He was a pre-pubescent (when that show started)," he said. "We weren't playing him as a sexualized character. He was accepted in his home for who he was, and it was a joy."

On the other hand, Emily on "Pretty Little Liars" is older and so, said Goldstick, "It's more a high school experience. It's more forging an identity."

It was also important to the "Pretty Little Liars" staff that Emily didn't have "any stereotypical look for a gay woman," creator Marlene King said. "She's a pretty little liar just like any other pretty little liar on the show."

Veering away from homophobic stereotypes, several of these shows boast LGBT jocks — along with "Pretty Little Liars" Emily, there's "90210"'s Teddy and "Degrassi"'s Riley. Said "Degrassi" co-creator Linda Schuyler, "That whole jock mentality in the locker room — the male bonding — that can be a really tough environment for a gay guy."

Although homosexual characters continue to proliferate, one of the biggest hurdles on shows geared toward adults is showing them kissing on screen as their heterosexual counterparts would. Teen shows don't seem to have the same problem. Gay TV youths have been kissing since the days of "Dawson's Creek" and "Buffy" — and King estimated that on "Pretty Little Liars," Emily has kissed more people on the show (including love interest Maya) than any other pretty little liar. "Gossip Girl," "90210," "Degrassi," "Skins," and "Greek" haven't shied away from the subject either.

"Who's in a relationship with someone, man or woman, and doesn't kiss them?" asked Trevor Donovan, who plays Teddy on "90210." "It's real."
The Senate procedural maneuver known as the filibuster has been bankrupt and broken. Like many earnest efforts, it has become an abused political tool used for petty politics rather than as an institution vital to the well-being of the country. With the 112th Congress beginning its session today, the Senate has the opportunity to establish new rules concerning the filibuster so that it can be used as intended and not as a trump card that gives undue power to the minority.

Most Americans today take our democracy for granted. But at the time of the American Revolution, very few people outside the United States believed that such a system of government could succeed on a national level (the only example of functioning democracies being the Greek city-states with a citizen population of a few thousand). And even if the political system functioned as a representative democracy, there was still the obvious threat of the "tyranny of the majority," in which the majority would rule as a de facto tyrant, disregarding minority interests and subjecting minority rights to violent transgressions to preserve majority power. In order to avoid these problems, the Founding Fathers established a system of checks and balances to prevent one branch of government from gaining too much power. The Senate was especially designed to be impermeable to the whims of the moment, due to the longer terms for senators. Both houses of Congress originally had filibuster rules intended to make sure legislation was fully debated, but the House passed rules early on that allowed the majority party to control the rules of the debate. The Senate went in the opposite direction, however, and in 1806 eliminated the rule stipulating that a simple majority could end debate and did not establish a new rule until 1917, developing the filibuster as a procedural maneuver to block or delay legislation since there was no manner to end a filibuster.

In 1917, after a small group of anti-war legislators halted action in the Senate regarding arming merchant ships against German submarines, the Senate established the cloture rule allowing a two-thirds supermajority to end debate and force a vote on the legislation. Nonetheless, the stringent supermajority proved too high a hurdle when Civil Rights legislation came to the forefront in the 1950s and was only able to pass in the mid-1960s due to growing bi-partisanship. After Watergate, a number of government reforms led to the Senate lowering the number needed to invoke cloture to three-fifths, or 60 senators.

The original intent of the filibuster was to allow Senators to draw attention to certain issues that they believe are critical and make sure the legislation was debated fully. Many Americans are familiar with the filibuster from the movie Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, where James Stewart's character filibustered creating the image of the filibuster as a noble act against a tyrannical majority, which is often how politicians frame their desire to hold the Senate hostage (notice how Republican Senators feared the health-care bill as a government takeover that was jammed down our throats, when it is less radical than Nixon's planned overhaul and took a full year of debate). But the filibuster has become a misused and absurd parliamentary tactic with politicians invoking the filibuster not based on some noble principle or on the good of the country but on what is politically expedient for them. Although the health-care bill was bipartisan with numerous Republican ideas, it was more advantageous politically for Republicans to oppose it because any benefit the legislation would generate for the country would invariably be credited to Obama and the Democratic majority. The filibuster has erased the threat of a tyrannical majority, but has replaced it with an obstructionist minority, and supplanting the threat of the tyranny of the majority with the actual tyranny of the minority is not a solution. Between 1917 and 1993, the average number of cloture motions to end filibusters per year was 19, but over the last four years it has increased to 69 as politics has become more polarized.

What needs to be done to fix the filibuster? The solution must change the incentives so that the minority cannot obstruct legislation forever, and the majority party but must rather engage in actually generating a "better" bill. In football, coaches are given two challenges so that the game does not come to a halt with coaches challenging every call they don't like, whether or not actual plays were truly in question. I got the bill wrong. Although I do not think a limit can be placed upon the Senate's ability to object, I do think a limit must be placed on the minority party's ability to object, because I see that some senators are just using filibusters as a tool of obstructionism rather than for the good of the country.

Unfortunately, Karl's anti-barefoot comments are typical of those who never go barefoot, which is the vast majority of people. I, for one, grew up with barefeet and when people knocked down a certain type of activity that they never tried and thus have no first hand knowledge about it.

Jim
In response to "Poly students should eliminate barefoot trend"
Lynee K. Varner is a columnist for the Seattle Times.

Teena Marie died December 26, 2010.

In another week and I'll stop requesting Teena Marie's songs on the Internet radio website Pandora. I hope to give up trying to catch her music on voice mail. But as long as she's known for soul music on the radio — a pursuit that in the Pacific Northwest takes on the proverbial search for a needle in a haystack.

I'm entering the new year mourning the death of Teena Marie — who died Sunday of apparently natural causes at the uncomfortably young age of 54.

Teena Marie was a renowned singer but I'll hardly find her on a rock station or one that bews toward alternative music. She was, however, a exceptional example of a country's colorblindness. No one forgot she was white excelling in a black musical genre. It simply came as a surprise.

Yet, race still matters. It remains the way we judge each other and our lives.

Death of musical icon teaches a lesson

A Washington Post fall poll reported that fewer Americans than ever before believe terrorism relations are improving. Nearly a third of respondents believe black-white relations are deteriorating. The percentage who gave similar responses in a poll last summer. Questions about Hispanic-black-white relations showed similar tensions.

The results are surprising to those who just two years ago had dwelled the dawn of a post-racial society ushered in by the election of Barack Obama. But the poll only underlines for me what I've already suspected: Whether the topic is music or politics, race remains the thing Americans most fear.

Even as the president carries policies left over from the previous administration, tax cuts and two war to name a few, the growing sense is that we need to "take our country back." Teena Marie's death was a reminder that we take soul music from African-Americans. One can only hope Obama quells the fears of those who think he's taking America away from them.

Change comes slowly but it does come. White soul singers are not exactly a dime a dozen, but they no longer raise eyebrows. No one can pretend Teena Marie was an African-American. But my guess is that she was, a white woman scaling the charts in a black art form; the other racial mixtures are not so clearcut.

That was the beauty of Teena Marie and smart advice for 2011.
Long Beach State proves to be too much for Cal Poly in opener

MUSTANG DAILY Staff Report

Any momentum Cal Poly got from its win against Pepperdine on Dec. 21 wasn’t enough to help the Mustangs get past Long Beach State last week.

Cal Poly dropped a 69-53 loss to the 49ers last Thursday in the Mustangs’ conference opener. The loss marks the team’s eighth loss in its last 11 games. Six of those losses came in the month of December.

Most of the games ended closely, with the Mustangs falling to San Diego State, California and UCLA by small margins. This game wasn’t as close.

Guard Shawn Lewis slumped home a dunk with 2:10 to go in the first half to trim Long Beach State’s lead to 20-18, but from there, the 49ers scored nine points to pile up a 29-18 advantage at the half. Long Beach State completed a 23-2 run after scoring 14 of the first 16 points of the second half, building a 43-20 cushion with 15:28 to play. It got worse as Long Beach State racked up as large as a 24-point lead in the second half.

The Mustangs got as close as 13 points down the stretch but couldn’t pull out enough stops to hold Long Beach State.

Forward David Hanson led the Mustangs with 21 points — the seventh time in 12 games he has been the Mustangs’ scoring leader — and guard Jamal Johnson came off the bench with a career-high 12 points.

Lewis, who scored seven points for Cal Poly, needs 10 more to become the 15th Mustang to reach 1,000 career points.

Long Beach State’s 39 percent from the field was the seventh time in 12 games he has led the team in scoring.

MUSTANG Daily Staff Report

RENTON, Wash. — Jake Ballard of ways to win whether ChatHe said as saying the question hacks piepsie fer the vaeA."

Long Beach State overpowered Cal Poly 40-25, led by Robinson and junior forward Eugene Phelps, each with nine. Center Will O’Dohoge grabbed 10 boards, his sixth double-digit rebound total of the season, for the Mustangs.

Cal Poly resumes Big West play next week with games Thursday at Pacific and Saturday at UC Davis.

Stanford wins Orange Bowl

If Stanford’s Orange Bowl contest was head coach Jim Harbaugh’s last game with the Cardinal, he went out with quite the showcase.

After reports the Stanford coach is unlikely to return next season, he and his team went on to roll past Virginia Tech 40-12 Monday night. Quarterback Andrew Luck (above) led the Cardinal through the air, finishing 18-of-25 for 287 yards and four touchdowns. Running backs Stephan Taylor and Jeremy Stewart also combined for 212 yards and a touchdown for Stanford. For Virginia Tech, quarterback Tyrod Taylor finished with 224 yards and a touchdown.

Whitehurst’s performance could earn him playoff start for Seahawks

But the Rams coach wasn’t going to choose one out Monday afternoon. Not even after he was asked repeatedly and in a variety of ways to divine whether Charlie Whitehurst would remain the starter after winning Sunday’s game, or Matt Hasselbeck would return to the starting role.

So while the Seahawks may not have a controversy, they certainly have a question. And Carroll went so far as saying the quarterbacks would split the repetitions at practice on Tuesday.

“We’ll just find out where we are and figure it out as we go through the week,” Carroll said. “Well, that didn’t clear up anything, so let’s get a timeline. Is there a day when Carroll wants to decide on a starter?”

“No,” he said. “We’ll figure it out. We don’t know yet.”

Let’s get hypothetical, then. Say you’ve got a healthy Hasselbeck, a quarterback at or near 100 percent. Does he start?

“We’ll find out during the week,” Carroll said. “I don’t know. I’ll let you know. I’m going to see how everybody is. I don’t need to determine that yet. I know that you all want me to nail that for you, but I’m not going to because I don’t know.”

There is no easy answer to the most pressing question Seattle faces entering its first playoff game in three years, because on Sunday, Hasselbeck was able to play. He showed that to the coaches and a television audience when he warmed up on the field beforehand. But Carroll chose to start Whitehurst, believing the week of practice and his mobility made him a better choice against the blitzing St. Louis Rams.

Carroll wasn’t wrong about that, but is only compliance the question as Hasselbeck is expected to practice Tuesday when the team begins preparing for the Saints in earnest.

“No, he would be able to go. I think he would be able to go.”

Carroll added, “We’ll find out during the week.”

Whitehurst is the longest-tenured Seahawks player. He not only has started four of the seven playoff victories in franchise history, but he passed for 366 yards against this very same New Orleans team on Nov. 21. That was the highest total allowed by the Saints all season.

Then there’s Whitehurst, who just won his first start career start in a game in which he passed for more than 200 yards as Pro Bowl running back Steven Jackson.

Mostly, Whitehurst managed the game, avoiding the turnovers that dogged Hasselbeck so repeatedly over a four-game span before his injury.

Whitehurst finished with 192 yards passing, which was not impressive, and his scoring pass to Mike Williams accounted for the game’s only touchdown. But he also didn’t look downfield much after that first possession. He completed a 61-yard pass to Ruvell Martin on Seattle’s second play, but didn’t complete a pass longer than 13 yards after that.

“He did some very good things,” Carroll said. “But he also left some opportunities that we need to move the football.”

That worked against the Rams, who failed to score a touchdown. It’s much less likely the Seahawks can manage their way to a victory over New Orleans, the defending Super Bowl champions, considering the Saints scored touchdowns on five consecutive possessions against the Rams in their last win.

Now that the Seahawks and Whitehurst survived — and even at times thrived — in Saturday’s victory over St. Louis, Carroll again faces a choice as the most important position on his team.
Women's basketball defeats Long Beach State in conference opener

Mustang Daily Staff Report
MUSTANDDAILYSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

With two consecutive losses and a 4-7 record, the Cal Poly women's basketball team did its best to get back on track in conference play. And after the Mustangs rolled past Long Beach State (2-13, 0-2 Big West) 83-72, it may be safe to say the team has.

The Mustangs struggled early, however, as they started with a 12-0 deficit.

Guard Caroline Reeves put the Mustangs on the board first with a layup as the Mustangs fought back the best it could to reach 20-10 with 10:52 remaining in the first half.

From there, Cal Poly chipped away at Long Beach's lead and tied the game with 29 seconds remaining in the half at 43-43. The 49ers would tack on three more points to take a 46-43 lead into the locker room.

In the second half, guard Desiray Johnston hit two free throws to put the Mustangs up for the first time in the game, 53-51, and the team never looked back.

Cal Poly went up by seven points with 13:53 left in the game, and then Reeves hit a jumper at the 11:40 mark to give the Mustangs a 65-55 lead.

Cal Poly extended the lead to as much as 15 points, after guard Rachel Clancy scored a layup with 59 seconds left in the victory.

Guard Ashlee Barns led the Mustangs with 17 points. She was one of five players who scored more than 10 points. Reeves scored 15 points, guard Kayla Griffin scored 14 points and Clancy and Abby Bloetscher both scored 12.

The win gives the Mustangs some momentum after tallying a losing record in nonconference play. And if Cal Poly wants to make any run at the top of the conference, the team will need to build off their opener.

The Mustangs nearly took the Big West last year, but after two consecutive losses to UC Santa Barbara, the Mustangs dropped to the second seed in the conference.

From there, the Mustangs couldn't climb back to the top of the Big West, and the team fell to UC Riverside in the semifinal round of the Big West Tournament.

The Mustangs return to action Thursday when they host Pacific in Mott Gym at 7 p.m.

Novachkovs lead Mustangs at Midlands Championships

Mustang Daily Staff Report
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Cal Poly junior Boris Novachkov captured the 141-pound championship while his brother, senior Filip Novachkov, finished fourth at 133 pounds on the final day of competition in the Midlands Championships last Thursday.

Boris Novachkov won by a medical forfeit in the championship after Illinois' Jimmy Kennedy was injured in his semifinal-round match.

To get there, second-seeded Boris Novachkov scored a reversal in overtime to beat Tyler Nauman of Pittsburgh.

In that match after a scoreless first period, Boris Novachkov earned 1-minute and 23 seconds of riding time before Nauman escaped in the second period. Boris Novachkov escaped in the third period, but he lost his riding time advantage, forcing overtime.

The first period of overtime again was scoreless. Nauman escaped in the second period, but Boris Novachkov's reversal in the final period proved decisive.

The win makes Boris Novachkov now 17-3 for the year.

Filip Novachkov, however, wasn't as fortunate. He dropped a 5-1 decision to Central Michigan's Scott Sentes in the consolation finals.

Earlier, Filip Novachkov earned a trio of wins in the wrestlebacks. Seeded fifth at 133 pounds, Novachkov pinned No. 10 Nathan McCormick of Missouri in 3:30, decisioned Ridge Kiley of Nebraska 7-0 and earned a spot in the consolation final with a 10-7 win over third-seeded Tony Ramos of Iowa.

Novachkov is now 6-4 on the season, with three of the losses to Sentes — a 7-2 decision in the Las Vegas Invitational earlier this month, a fall in overtime (7:55) in Wednesday's quarterfinals and Thursday night's 5-1 setback.

At 165 pounds, Mustang junior Ryan DesRoches lost his fifth-round wrestleback match against Aaron Jansen of Iowa, 13-8, and was eliminated Thursday afternoon. DesRoches is 24-4 on the year.

Cal Poly finished 11th with 56.5 points. Missouri claimed the team title with 193.5 points, followed by Wisconsin (95.5), Lehigh (93), Iowa (91) and Pittsburgh (82.5).