A beachfront house in North Carolina burns to the ground, leaving seven college students dead.

**ARTS**

Post, radio personality and English professor James Cushing is first in a series of literary professor profiles.

**SPORTS**

On a gray Saturday morning, barely visible against the dry grass hills of San Luis Obispo, nine dark silhouettes in camouflage dot the ridge on the horizon. They march with rockacks on their backs, weapons in their hands and blisters on their feet.

As they close in, the sound of 18 boots crunching on the ground are accompanied by eight booming male voices and the slightly higher pitch of a woman's voice. "Standing tall and looking good, you oughta be Hollywood..." the chorus sings on by.

Ten kilometers later, there's no energy left for singing as the Fighting Mustangs come marching through the finish line to claim their trophy.

Cal Poly's ROTC Battalion competed against and beat out UCLA and UC Santa Barbara this Friday and Saturday in their annual Ranger Challenge Program at Camp San Luis Obispo. The Ranger Challenge has a team of nine cadets—eight men and one woman—from each ROTC school compete in written and physical challenges to test their Army skills.

Cal Poly's Fighting Mustang battalion placed first in six out of the seven Ranger challenges and walked home with the first-place team trophy. Cal Poly cadets Julie Martenson and Alex Magginiotti took home the female and male individual high-score awards for their Army Physical Fitness Test. Martinez beat out both her male and female counterparts and walked away with the highest overall physical score for the day.

Some 5,000 cadets from around the West Coast took part in the Ranger Challenge this past weekend, with Cal Poly's team consisting of 27 cadets. Each cadet had to perform several challenges to test their Army skills.

The men's cross country team won its fifth-straight Big West Conference title Saturday.

Go online to see morerotc Challenge pictures in our multimedia slideshow. mustangdaily.net

**ONLINE**

**INSIDE**

**NEWS**

**SPORTS**

**ARTS**

**ONLINE**

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

**INDEX**

**Clubs not using ASI funding**

**Mustang Daily Wins Top Award**

**Fighting Mustang Battalion Wins ROTC Challenge Awards**

**Magginetti took home the female and male individual high-score awards for their Army Physical Fitness Test.**
Pacemaker
continued from page 1
Daily Film of the University of Blinds, and The University Daily Kaan of the Universi­
ty of Kansas.
"The Mustang Daily was only one of three
dailies. To be chosen for the award, judges look at the Web-sites between the months of
February and or March and note a number of
factors in the process, including design, ease of
navigation, writing and editing and graphics and
interactivity, according to the ACP Web site.
Another requirement is that the site must
be produced and maintained by students.
In the case of the Mustang Daily, managing
reader Ryan Charrand has been the driving
force behind the Web site since September
2005. In the last two years, Charrand served
as the newspaper’s online editor and gradu­
ally enhanced the Web site with multimedia
slideshows, podcasts, special online columns
and more.
“It’s amazing to me to think that we are
on the same level as these larger daily papers,”
Charrand said. “It’s the culmination of three
long, hard years of working away at three in the
morning to put up the best Web site with the
most high-quality content that I could possibly
produce.”
“I can only hope that the Poly Reps add
this award to their resume as the graphic
communication building.”
The award, formally known as “Best of the
Nights,” has been in existence since 1999. This
is the highest award the Mustang Daily has now been
awarded.
"The fact that the award even exists is
amazing news to me because it means that
the industry is finally embracing the tools that
those new technologies can bring journalists,”
Charrand said.

Funding
continued from page 1
small-scale events.
For a club’s event to qualify for
matching funding, the event has to be
registered by going through the
application process.
“After the end of the year, we put
on the archery show for the fifth-year students. The Club Fund­
ing program allows us to put in the
money we have saved up for events
of this nature. Since we are a club within ASI, we only have to put
half of the money and ASI puts
in the other half...we see it as a
very beneficial program,” said
Luke Equivel, a member of the profes­
ional architecture fraternity Alpha Phi Chi.
Sports clubs can apply for up to
$4,000 during the year through the
Club funding program.
Club Funding applications are
available through the ASI Web site.

The Fighting Mustangs march from the marksmanship course to the grenade throwing contest with full rucksacks.

ROTC
continued from page 1
the senior non-commissioned officer for the entire 19-
university region that includes ROTC programs in Utah,
Arizona and Nevada. "It’s something other than
sitting in a classroom all day.”
“It’s a friendly rivalry between the schools, but there’s
good competition here. The winning school gets to go
horse with bragging rights,” Hudig said.
The land navigation challenge required each nine-per
person team to split into three groups and search for certain
navigator points plotted on a map. With the massive
range plot, the Cal Poly team had a definite ad­
vantage as they headed out in home territory to scout for
the marked points and returned home with the most points
marked.
"The proximity of the Army National Guard facilities is
one of the reasons Cal Poly does so well," said Sargent, not­
ing that each ROTC program has to work with what re­
sources they have nearby when training. "We’re very lucky
to have the camp just up the road.”

With the most grueling final stage still ahead, Master
Sgt. Mark Hudig shouted out at the cadets scattered through­
out the cattle field to "grab your rucksacks and listen up.”
Some still tired from the land navigation challenge, the
cadets crowded around Hudig to hear their instructions for
the 10 kilometer road march: within X minutes, complete
the course, and, with an exhausted sigh, threw her ruck sack down and
loosened the laces on her boots. “My feet don’t have blis­
ters, they are blisters,” she said with a laugh.
At 5-feet-1, the petite Martinson said, “The 10K ruck
march is one of the most physically demanding things I’ve
ever done, but the feeling that I could finish with my team
being half their size and with the same amount of weight
on my back, makes it all worth it.”
Cadet Martineau, Cal Poly’s only female in the Ranger
Challenge, marched through the finish line with her team
and, with an exhausted sigh, threw her ruck sack down and
loosened the laces on her boots. “My feet don’t have blis­
ters, they are blisters,” she said with a laugh.

His teammate, cadet Michael Peaslee, added, “You’ve
got to go out and push your team; it’s not an individual competition.”

"I’m impressed; I always am,” the lieutenant colonel said.
"It takes a lot of work and dedication to get to this point."
State Briefs

LONDON (AP) — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says marijuana is not a drug. A British magazine reported Monday. But his spokesman said the governor was joking.

Schwarzenegger told the British edition of GQ magazine that he had not used drugs, even though the former bodybuilder and Hollywood star has acknowledged using marijuana in the 1970s and was shown smoking a joint in the 1977 documentary "Pumping Iron."

"That is not a drug. It's a leaf," Schwarzenegger told GQ. "My drug was pumping iron, not me."

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Mexican mafia member wanted by the FBI has been captured in Mexico.

The FBI says Tony Gonzales Rodriguez was arrested by Mexican officials in Baja California and turned over to U.S. authorities on Saturday.

Authorities say the 37-year-old Rodriguez is the second-highest ranking member of the Mexican mafia in Riverside County's Coachella Valley.

Rodriguez was indicted earlier this year on federal drug charges. He's being held in San Bernardino.

WINDSOR (AP) — A Sonoma County girls' soccer coach has been suspended from the league after allegedly exposing himself to the opposing team following a contentious game.

Windsor police say that depu­ties arrived at the soccer field shortly after a physically intense weekend match between teams of girls under 16 that erupted into several arguments.

Witnesses reported that the Petaluma team's coach went to the center of the field after the game and exposed himself to the Windsor team.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Authorities say they plan to close a train station near San Francisco's Castro district this Halloween to ward off potential problems.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit station at the intersection of 16th Street and Mission Street is sched­uled to close at 8 p.m. on October 31, hours earlier than normal.

City officials shut down the Castro's annual Halloween street bash this year after a gunman shot nine people at last year's event.

Wildfire survivors go to church as blazes continue

Chelsea J. Carter

Survivors of wildfires that destroyed more than 2,000 homes in Southern California found Sunday to be thankful even as the damage toll mounted and firefighters worked to contain blazes.

Fire officials kept an eye on warm, dry weather that moved in behind a more tropical system that allowed fire crews to make gains Saturday. Winds up to 15 mph were expected but weren't considered a problem.

"This is fire conditions that we can actively fight, unlike theSanta Ana wind," said Daniel Berlant, a spokes­man for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

But there was a possibility of strong offshore winds in another seven days, he said.

It was the onset of the seasonal Santa Ana — fierce, dry winds blowing from the desert and out to sea — that spread fires across more than 500,000 acres of Southern Califor­nia during the week, chaising a half­million people from communities to homes burned.

Despite the destruction, so many who lost so much still gave thanks at church services in some of the hard­est-hit communities.

At the Rancho Bernardo Com­munity Presbyterian Church, where 60 families lost homes, they gave thanks for the big things: for lives saved, for families, for friendships. They also gave thanks for small things: a hug, a shoulder to cry on.

Nancy Hylbert gave thanks for a wrought-iron ice cream table and chain that survived outside, and a terra cotta statue of a cat from her garden.

"They are the only links with my past," she said. "I feel a little bit like an amnesiac with no link to my past."

Barbara Warden escaped her home with only three boxes of photographs and her grandfather's cuckoo clock.

"I'm sitting in church and I'm saying to myself, 'Our lives will never be the same,'" she said.

And yet Warden said she, too, was thankful. Nobody in her community or family was hurt.

A day earlier, she sifted through the ashes of her home and found a sandal given to her by her husband. It was engraved with the message: "Grow old with me. The best is yet to be."

"That says it all, doesn't it?" she said. "We have a lot to be thankful for. We have each other."

At Crestline, in the Lake Arrow­head region of the fire-ravaged San Bernardino Mountains, about 25 members of the Community Presby­terian Church had to piece together their own worship service because their intern pastor couldn't get a. resident's card, the crucial piece of identification needed to drive past roadblocks.

A sign outside the church said, "Life is Fragile with Prayer."

Members hugged and rejoiced over the congregation's fortune: the fire had spared all local members' homes, a woman had given birth to a healthy boy while evacuated, and power had stayed on for those who disobeyed the order to leave town.

Symbolizing the region's improv­ing outlook, San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium was surrounded by thousands of people Sunday, but this time they were National Football League fans, not fire evacuees.

As of Sunday, the state Office of Emergency Services tallied 2,767 structures destroyed. The number in­cluded 2,013 homes, office spokes­woman Kim Oliver said.

With more than a dozen fires fully under control, firefighters were pushing to complete lines around seven others.

Containment of those blazes ranged from 50 percent to 97 percent.

Seven deaths have been directly at­tributed to the fires, including those of four suspected illegal immigrants, whose burned bodies were found near the U.S.-Mexico border on Thursday.

By The Numbers

14 deaths as a result of the Califor­nia wildfires (though only 7 were directly related).

2,013 homes destroyed as a result of the California wildfires.

516,356 acres of land destroyed as a result of the California wildfires.

The Society of Women Engineers

Worl'ds largest female engineering organization welcomes you to:

Resume Workshop and Halloween Social!!!

All majors, men, and women welcome

Wednesday 10/31, 6pm

Sanwich Factory

Refreshments will be served

Membership: $15

www.swe.org/join

Office: 40-120

(805) 756-2417

www.mustangdaily.net
National Briefs

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Three men were fatally shot after an argument erupted at a Halloween party at a Reno home early Sunday, investigators said. Two men were arrested.

Police Lt. Robert McDonald said a preliminary investigation determined the gunshots were fired after a showing match over people bumping into each other on the dance floor.

"There really is no reason to kill anyone over something like this," McDonald said. "It's one of the most ridiculous motivations for a (muder) I've ever heard of. But I caution the investigation is preliminary at this point."

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — Joey Chestnut swallowed 103 Krystal hamburgers in eight minutes Sunday to set a new world record and win the Krystal Square Off IV World Hamburger Eating Championship.

The 23-year-old from San Jose, Calif., surpassed the previous world record of 97 Krystals held by Jakarta's As Frederick Sy, a Chicago man who also has an address in the suburb of Northbrook.

"A man was driving a Volvo westbound in the eastbound lanes when he collided head-on with a BMW carrying four people," Buckley said. "The BMW then burst into flames — almost an explosion. It was also hit by a van that couldn't stop in time." The van driver reportedly escaped major injury, he said.

CHICAGO (AP) — A 29-year-old man driving the wrong way on an expressway west of downtown early Sunday caused a fiery crash that left five people dead, including himself, state police said.

Authorities identified the driver as Frederick Sy, a Chicago man who also has an address in the suburb of Northbrook.

"It was a driving a Volvo westbound in the eastbound lanes when he collided head-on with a BMW carrying four people," Buckley said. "The BMW then burst into flames — almost an explosion. It was also hit by a van that couldn't stop in time." The van driver reportedly escaped major injury, he said.

Spacewalkers make disturbing discovery

Marcia Dunn

Spacewalking astronauts doing construction work outside the international space station Sunday made a disturbing discovery: what appears to be metal shavings inside a joint that is needed to turn a set of solar power panels.

The rotary joint 10 feet in diameter has experienced intermittent vibrations and power spikes for nearly two months. Space station managers were hoping a thermal cover or bolt might be hanging up the mechanism, which would have been relatively easy to fix, and were disheartened when Daniel Tani radioed down that metal shavings were everywhere.

"It's quite clear that it's metal-to-metal grating or something and it's widespread," Tani said. "Wow," said his spacewalking partner Scott Parazynski.

The shavings resembled small flakes and were clinging to the joint as if to a magnet, Tani said. "It looks like a dusty table that you'd want to dust at home," he called it.

The astronaut used tape to dab up some of the shavings. It will be returned to Earth aboard Discovery next week for analysis. NASA's space station program manager. Flight controllers were trying to determine whether any more inspections or even repairs will be needed in the coming week, or whether they can continue to work around the problem following Discovery's departure.

The astronauts have spare parts for the joint with them in orbit, including extra bearings. It's possible that the debris, whatever it is, could cause permanent damage, Suffredini said. Another possibility is that the joint could stall in a position that would diminish solar power. That's why he intends to move it as little as possible, for now.

It's too soon to know whether the joint — if it continues to malfunction — will affect science operations aboard the European laboratory that is scheduled to fly to the space station in December, or the Japanese lab that will follow, Suffredini said.

YOU'RE INVITED

TO A SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

State Senator and Committee Chair Tom Torlakson, State Senator Abel Maldonado and Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee host panel discussions on technical education, science equipment and project-based learning in California schools.

TUESDAY, OCT. 30, 9:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

CAL POLY - KECK LAB, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY LABS, BLDG. 7

State Senator Abel Maldonado  State Senator Tom Torlakson  Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee

Complimentary parking is available at the HZ Lot. Please follow directional signs from the Highland Dr. or Grand Ave. entrances. A Cal Poly parking map can be found online at http://www.maps.calpoly.edu/flashmap/CalPolyMapParking.html.

For more information call 805.756.5508

Panel 1 Local teachers and students speak on current status and needs of science/ career technology classrooms.

Panel 2 School administrators and board members provide perspective on equipment, facilities and professional development.

Panel 3 Labor and industry partners discuss 21st century economic needs and necessary technical skills for students to be successful in the workplace.

Also included will be comments by Cal Poly Provost William Durgin, College of Education Dean Bonnie Kunopik and College of Engineering Dean Mohammad Noun.
Intense fire at beach house on N.C. resort island kills 7 college students

Estes Thompson

Associated Press

An intense fire ravaged a beach house packed with more than a dozen college students early Sunday, killing seven and leaving little left of the structure but its charred frame and the stain on which it stood.

Six survivors were hospitalized and released, including one who jumped from the burning house into a waterway. Mayor Debbie Smith said the cause was being investigated.

"There were three kids sitting on the ground screaming," said newspaper deliverer Tim Burns, who called 9-1-1 after seeing a column of smoke rising from the house. "There was one guy hanging out the window and he jumped in the can... I know he got stilts, foaing firefighters to climb a away. "The ash and the smoke were leaving only part of the frame stand­ ing, burning home. Neighbor Jeff Newsome said the students were going back and forth between the houses all weekend long. "We didn't have any big compla­ nts," Newsome said. "The lights were on all night. They were having a good time."

Winds blowing flames over the water and not toward any of the other residences on the tightly packed row of vacation homes kept the fire from spreading. The intense heat kept Burns and others from attempting a rescue, although he said he had to fight to keep several of those who escaped from trying. When he approached the front door, he said, it was too hot to open.

"When I was going up to the entrance, you could hear the windows above me explode," Burns said. "When I knew the flames had taken over, I don't think I've ever felt so helpless in my life."

Some of the people in the house had been friends since high school, said Rick Wytle of Greenville, N.C.

"These are young people in the prime of their life," USC President Andrew Sorenson said at a news conference. "They had so much to look forward to and it's just pro­ foundly tragic."

The fire struck sometime be­ fore 7 a.m. and burned completely through the first and second floors, leaving only part of the frame stand­ ing. The waterfront house, named "Changing Channels," was built on stilts, allowing firefighters to climb a ladder onto the house deck to reach the first living floor. The house was a total loss.

"We ran down the street to get away," said Nick Cain, a student at the University of North Carolina who was staying at a house about 100 feet away. "The ash and the smoke were coming down on us. We were just try­ ing to get away."

Cain was one of the dozens of col­ lege students who filled at least four houses within a block of the burned house. Neighbor Jeff Newsome said the students were going back and forth between the houses all weekend long. "We didn't have any big compla­ nts," Newsome said. "The lights were on all night. They were having a good time."

When I knew the flames had taken over, I don't think I've ever felt so helpless in my life."

—Tim Burns

Newspaper delivery man who called 911

"We ran down the street to get away," said Nick Cain, a student at the University of North Carolina who was staying at a house about 100 feet away. "The ash and the smoke were coming down on us. We were just try­ ing to get away."

Cain was one of the dozens of col­ lege students who filled at least four houses within a block of the burned house. Neighbor Jeff Newsome said the students were going back and forth between the houses all weekend long. "We didn't have any big compla­ nts," Newsome said. "The lights were on all night. They were having a good time."

When I knew the flames had taken over, I don't think I've ever felt so helpless in my life."

—Tim Burns

Newspaper delivery man who called 911

Crews were able to knock down the fire by 11 a.m. Sunday, but the house was a total loss. The fire spread to two houses nearby and had burned the UCSC students who were staying at a house that burned as late as 1:30 a.m. Sunday, hours before the blaze struck the house, said

"I think right now most of our kids are just really shocked," said Wood, a senior. "That's something that you never expect to happen — and then to stand and watch it hap­ pen, it just hurts,"

The victims' bodies were to be taken to the state medical examiner's office in Chapel Hill. Authorities from the State Bureau of Investigation and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are leading the investigation, said Randy Thompson, Brunswick County's emergency services director.

The home had working smoke detectors, Smith said.

Students will have access to counselors, residence hall advisers and clergy members, Sorenson said. Classes will be held Monday.

The fire struck sometime be­ fore 7 a.m. and burned completely through the first and second floors, leaving only part of the frame stand­ ing. The waterfront house, named "Changing Channels," was built on stilts, allowing firefighters to climb a ladder onto the house deck to reach the first living floor. The house was a total loss.

"We ran down the street to get away," said Nick Cain, a student at the University of North Carolina who was staying at a house about 100 feet away. "The ash and the smoke were coming down on us. We were just try­ ing to get away."

Cain was one of the dozens of col­ lege students who filled at least four houses within a block of the burned house. Neighbor Jeff Newsome said the students were going back and forth between the houses all weekend long. "We didn't have any big compla­ nts," Newsome said. "The lights were on all night. They were having a good time."

When I knew the flames had taken over, I don't think I've ever felt so helpless in my life."

—Tim Burns

Newspaper delivery man who called 911

"We ran down the street to get away," said Nick Cain, a student at the University of North Carolina who was staying at a house about 100 feet away. "The ash and the smoke were coming down on us. We were just try­ ing to get away."

Cain was one of the dozens of col­ lege students who filled at least four houses within a block of the burned house. Neighbor Jeff Newsome said the students were going back and forth between the houses all weekend long. "We didn't have any big compla­ nts," Newsome said. "The lights were on all night. They were having a good time."

When I knew the flames had taken over, I don't think I've ever felt so helpless in my life."

—Tim Burns

Newspaper delivery man who called 911
Two reporters reviewed a book which argues evolution is a God-guided process, but from two different perspectives

**Non-religious**

Whitney Diaz

Michael Dowd’s new book “Thank God for Evolution!” is meant for one specific demographic: humans. It intelligently explores the amalgamation of creationist thought and an evolutionary worldview, all from the (mostly) objective angle of Dowd, who is a Protestant reverend.

What really drove home Dowd’s meaning came before he even touched any scientific evidence or mind-bogglingly fresh concepts (although those are not far behind) was a letter of sorts. It is the simple premise he makes to his readers, blunt yet meaningful, before they even begin the book.

Dowd addresses each type of reader personally, spinning from fundamental Christians to humanists to Muslims to those who “begrudgingly accept evolution” and everyone in between.

He pledges to each that they can embrace his book in a way that will expand their relationships over a broad perspective. Quite a promise, especially with only one book and so many different humans.

The book, however, lives up to its word and does not try to convince spiritual conversion but rather consideration of a “public revelation” or scientifically rational thought; the origin of life has been a 14-billion-year journey that we have only begun to understand.

Dowd explains that humans are “mythopoetic beings,” meaning we are naturally inclined to make sense of our existence and what happened before us. The book asserts “each of us tends to recall the events of our own lives in ways that render the whole into something meaningful.”

Divine meaning, according to Dowd, does not have to exclude all scientific theory, especially when it comes to evolution and the way humans came into existence. Understanding concepts such as the Big Bang and convergent evolution creates a reverence for the universe we live in, similar to theories of Christian biologist Charles Darwin.

Rather than placating humans as masters of their own fate, Dowd calls us “partners, groping our way forward in faith... trusting the universe, trusting reality, trusting time.”

There is a type of cognitive dissonance in the educated Christian’s mind regarding the creation story and what they know to be true about the world. On one hand, the scriptures are the word of God and “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching...” (2 Timothy 3:16). On the other hand, the story of Adam and Eve is so absurdly out of touch with scientific knowledge that we must use the brains God gave us to rationally understand and fulfill our mythopoetic drive.

What Dowd explains in his book is that incorporating evolution into a spiritual life “reinvigorates scriptures” instead of disproves them because of the scientific integrity they understand and fulfill our mythopoetic drive.

Despite my lack of religious convictions, I enjoyed Dowd’s take on evolution. I’m not a religious person, but my father used to read the Bible to me and I went to Sunday school as a little girl. Unfortunately, all I remember about that are the pretty little dresses and shiny shoes I was allowed to wear.

I guess I was never a true believer. I’m more of an agnostic, accepting everything that can’t be backed up by scientific evidence.

Dowd was the opposite. He graduated summa cum laude from Evangel University in Springfield, Mo., where he received a bachelor’s degree in biblical studies and philosophy. He also graduated from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer Seminary) in Philadelphia, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree.

In the book, Dowd, who served as a minister for nine years in Ohio and Michigan, tells the reader that he did not initially believe that evolution was universal truth.

After years of both academic and spiritual education, he found that “the epic of evolution” not only coincided with his Christian teachings, but is evidence of the divine.

Despite my lack of religious convictions, I enjoyed Dowd’s take on evolution.

Personally, the theory of evolution makes sense to me with or without God in the equation, but this book offers a divine evolution that will connect with the spiritual and religious alike.

The book is divided into five parts, each one focusing on a different aspect of evolution. For those like me with no religious views, Part IV may resonate deeply.

Part IV delves into spiritual evolution, discussing humanity rather than science. This chapter reads more like a self-help book, but it also shows how readers can apply “evolutionary spirituality” in real world situations.

Perhaps the greatest aspect of this book is that it shows the reader there is meaning behind evolution and science, that it is not just a mechanistic system of events and changes.

This is not a new concept for me. Evolution seems like a miraculous system of events to me, but apparently others think it’s too meaningless to be connected to a god.

This book is much more spiritual than scientific and though it belongs in the self-help section of bookstores, it is still a good read.

**Christian**

Mollie Helmuth

Michael Dowd’s book “Thank God for Evolution!” is meant for one specific demographic: humans. It intelligently explores the amalgamation of creationist thought and an evolutionary worldview, all from the (mostly) objective angle of Dowd, who is a Protestant reverend.

What really drove home Dowd’s meaning came before he even touched any scientific evidence or mind-bogglingly fresh concepts (although those are not far behind) was a letter of sorts. It is the simple premise he makes to his readers, blunt yet meaningful, before they even begin the book.

Dowd addresses each type of reader personally, spinning from fundamental Christians to humanists to Muslims to those who “begrudgingly accept evolution” and everyone in between.

He pledges to each that they can embrace his book in a way that will expand their relationships over a broad perspective. Quite a promise, especially with only one book and so many different humans.

The book, however, lives up to its word and does not try to convince spiritual conversion but rather consideration of a “public revelation” or scientifically rational thought; the origin of life has been a 14-billion-year journey that we have only begun to understand.

Dowd explains that humans are “mythopoetic beings,” meaning we are naturally inclined to make sense of our existence and what happened before us. The book asserts “each of us tends to recall the events of our own lives in ways that render the whole into something meaningful.”

Divine meaning, according to Dowd, does not have to exclude all scientific theory, especially when it comes to evolution and the way humans came into existence. Understanding concepts such as the Big Bang and convergent evolution creates a reverence for the universe we live in, similar to theories of Christian biologist Charles Darwin.

Rather than placating humans as masters of their own fate, Dowd calls us “partners, groping our way forward in faith... trusting the universe, trusting reality, trusting time.”

There is a type of cognitive dissonance in the educated Christian’s mind regarding the creation story and what they know to be true about the world. On one hand, the scriptures are the word of God and “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching...” (2 Timothy 3:16). On the other hand, the story of Adam and Eve is so absurdly out of touch with scientific knowledge that we must use the brains God gave us to rationally understand and fulfill our mythopoetic drive.

What Dowd explains in his book is that incorporating evolution into a spiritual life “reinvigorates scriptures” instead of disproves them because of the scientific integrity they understand and fulfill our mythopoetic drive.

Despite my lack of religious convictions, I enjoyed Dowd’s take on evolution. I’m not a religious person, but my father used to read the Bible to me and I went to Sunday school as a little girl. Unfortunately, all I remember about that are the pretty little dresses and shiny shoes I was allowed to wear.

I guess I was never a true believer. I’m more of an agnostic, accepting everything that can’t be backed up by scientific evidence.

Dowd was the opposite. He graduated summa cum laude from Evangel University in Springfield, Mo., where he received a bachelor’s degree in biblical studies and philosophy. He also graduated from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer Seminary) in Philadelphia, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree.

In the book, Dowd, who served as a minister for nine years in Ohio and Michigan, tells the reader that he did not initially believe that evolution was universal truth.

After years of both academic and spiritual education, he found that “the epic of evolution” not only coincided with his Christian teachings, but is evidence of the divine.

Despite my lack of religious convictions, I enjoyed Dowd’s take on evolution.

Personally, the theory of evolution makes sense to me with or without God in the equation, but this book offers a divine evolution that will connect with the spiritual and religious alike.

The book is divided into five parts, each one focusing on a different aspect of evolution. For those like me with no religious views, Part IV may resonate deeply.

Part IV delves into spiritual evolution, discussing humanity rather than science. This chapter reads more like a self-help book, but it also shows how readers can apply “evolutionary spirituality” in real world situations.

Perhaps the greatest aspect of this book is that it shows the reader there is meaning behind evolution and science, that it is not just a mechanistic system of events and changes.

This is not a new concept for me. Evolution seems like a miraculous system of events to me, but apparently others think it’s too meaningless to be connected to a god.

This book is much more spiritual than scientific and though it belongs in the self-help section of bookstores, it is still a good read.
Let James Cushing bring out the wild animal in us all.

The Cal Poly English professor and lifelong Bob Dylan-obsessive has select passions and strong desires to impart what he knows to anyone he can. This includes the importance of the “wild animal instinct” of human beings.

“You need to discover it’s there and protect it. Give it space because it’s vulnerable, strong and potentially violent,” Cushing said. “You get a sense of it when you’re looking at a Picasso, like he was not human but a beast looking at human life.

“It’s like the way Bob Dylan sings these days; his voice is beyond shot. He sounds like a cornered animal.”

It’s been a good year for Cushing. In April he was invited by Prescott College to give a special presentation. He was also honored at the Foothill College Writers Conference in July for his published works.

“I think he’s extraordinary,” said Carl Wooton, a 14-year English lecturer. “We talk a lot about what we read, write and teach. He has an extraordinary range of knowledge in music, literature and art.”

English lecturer Claudia Royal added, “He’s an ebullient personality that never fails to surprise.”

Cushing teaches three classes at Cal Poly, including ENGL 333, British Literature in the Age of Romanticism and ENGL 388, Poetry Writing, which he deems significant for its psychologically and emotionally therapeutic values.

Kristin Siekman, a nutrition junior, took ENGL 251 with Cushing in winter 2007.

“Great Books is one of the best classes I have had at Cal Poly, mostly because of Cushing,” she said. “Professor Cushing is the most eccentric teacher I have ever had.

“He’s so out there... we’d spend class discussing O-V-E in the sun on Dexter Lawn. With his crazy ties and hippo socks that are always showing, he definitely kept us paying attention.”

Cushing’s interest in literature began when he was about 4 years old and his mother gave him a book with thick cloth pages sewn together. “The first thing that got me interested was the thrill of being able to open up a book and read the words,” he said. “My earliest memories have to do with reading.”

“I distinctly remember the deckled edge of the pages, turning the pages and being amazed that the images would change,” he said.

Cushing has written two collections of poetry, “You and the Night and the Music” and “The Length of an Afternoon.” His poems are introspective and observational views that include references to food, literature, and loved ones.

The force behind his infrequent urges to sit down and write, Cushing said, resists explanation and understanding.

“I know I have to work on a poem, partly inside my head and partly outside, when I start hearing a voice I recognize and don’t recognize at the same time,” he said.

“It’s a particular verbal impulse I fail to understand. It makes me say, ‘Let me describe to you what I’m feeling.’

The editing process is lengthy, with multiple drafts being created before he feels his poem is ready to be sent out.

see Cushing, page 8

Sara Wright

Let James Cushing bring out the wild animal in us all.

The Cal Poly English professor and lifelong Bob Dylan-obsessive has select passions and strong desires to impart what he knows to anyone he can. This includes the importance of the “wild animal instinct” of human beings.

“You need to discover it’s there and protect it. Give it space because it’s vulnerable, strong and potentially violent,” Cushing said. “You get a sense of it when you’re looking at a Picasso, like he was not human but a beast looking at human life.

“It’s like the way Bob Dylan sings these days; his voice is beyond shot. He sounds like a cornered animal.”

It’s been a good year for Cushing. In April he was invited by Prescott College to give a special presentation. He was also honored at the Foothill College Writers Conference in July for his published works.

“I think he’s extraordinary,” said Carl Wooton, a 14-year English lecturer. “We talk a lot about what we read, write and teach. He has an extraordinary range of knowledge in music, literature and art.”

English lecturer Claudia Royal added, “He’s an ebullient personality that never fails to surprise.”

Cushing teaches three classes at Cal Poly, including ENGL 333, British Literature in the Age of Romanticism and ENGL 388, Poetry Writing, which he deems significant for its psychologically and emotionally therapeutic values.

Kristin Siekman, a nutrition junior, took ENGL 251 with Cushing in winter 2007.

“Great Books is one of the best classes I have had at Cal Poly, mostly because of Cushing,” she said. “Professor Cushing is the most eccentric teacher I have ever had.

“He’s so out there... we’d spend class discussing O-V-E in the sun on Dexter Lawn. With his crazy ties and hippo socks that are always showing, he definitely kept us paying attention.”

Cushing’s interest in literature began when he was about 4 years old and his mother gave him a book with thick cloth pages sewn together. “The first thing that got me interested was the thrill of being able to open up a book and read the words,” he said. “My earliest memories have to do with reading.”

“I distinctly remember the deckled edge of the pages, turning the pages and being amazed that the images would change,” he said.

Cushing has written two collections of poetry, “You and the Night and the Music” and “The Length of an Afternoon.” His poems are introspective and observational views that include references to food, literature, and loved ones.

The force behind his infrequent urges to sit down and write, Cushing said, resists explanation and understanding.

“I know I have to work on a poem, partly inside my head and partly outside, when I start hearing a voice I recognize and don’t recognize at the same time,” he said.

“It’s a particular verbal impulse I fail to understand. It makes me say, ‘Let me describe to you what I’m feeling.’

The editing process is lengthy, with multiple drafts being created before he feels his poem is ready to be sent out.

see Cushing, page 8
**Cushing**

continued from page 7

"I want it to be a surprising to read as it was surprising to arrive at," Cushing said. "It can't be predicted or forced, it can be welcomed and prompted."

"You can put yourself in situations where it's likely to stimulate something. A slight amount of boredom can be helpful as well."

After 19 years of teaching, Cushing still is pleased with his occupation and has no plans to retire anytime soon. "It's working very well for me," Cushing said.

"I'm fundamentally happy doing what I'm doing, only I want to keep doing what I'm doing better and better."

Cushing lives in downtown San Luis Obispo and is content with his location in California. "It's possible to lead a creative life on the Central Coast. It's actually an area in which the arts are taken with a degree of seriousness."

He does, however, recognize the need to "bug out" of San Luis Obispo before getting "Cal-Poly'd" out.

He was born in 1953 in Palo Alto but moved to New York when his salesman father was promoted. There, he attended an all-boys Christian military academy. He later graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz and earned his master's degree and doctorate from UC Irvine.

The birth of his daughter, now 24, was one of the greatest influences on his life.

"When she was born, there was this new thing to do in my life," Cushing said. "I had to do two things lead her gently into the civilized world while protecting her wild animal nature."

The biggest problem Cushing feels that society faces today is excessive self-consciousness, referring to an example to customers at Fanny Wrappers, where his girlfriend Marlen works.

"People pull out their cell phones and ask for reassurance," he said. "California blue jays don't worry. I think rats are disgusting, but they have a nobility about them because they retain their animal nature."

Cushing has hardly been religious. "I've never trusted the religious because they seem to try to offer a coherent rational explanation about a nature that resists coherent rational explanation."

He doesn't feel his position holds him back, however. "I'm not a Rastafarian, but I can enjoy Bob Marley's music."

He enjoys listening to music and spoken-word recordings such as that of "The Nonsense Verse of Edward Lear" and poems of Lewis Carroll.

Cushing has been on the radio for 26 years, starting with a stint on KPIR in Los Angeles and then KCBI in San Luis Obispo for 11 years before setting at KPQR and hosting a jazz show. Catch him on Thursdays from 8 to 10 pm.

For a parting quote, Cushing roused a statement by American poet Randall Jarrell, who said, "A good poet is someone who manages, in a lifetime of standing out in thunderstorms, to be struck by lightning five or six times."

"It tends to drown pity instead of admiration," Cushing said, "but there's a lot of truth in it; one has to have a certain amount of calm/alert/openness."

---

**SKYDIVE TAFT**

- Over 20 years experience.
- Excellent safety record.
- State-of-the-art equipment.
- Personalized video of your skydive
- 80 Open 7 days a week, year-round (weather permitting)
- Personalized video of your skydive $90
- Excellent safety record.
- Over 20 years experience.
- Tandem discount rates for students, birthdays, military, fire and police. $140.00
- www.skydiveataft.com

---

**Argentine tango comes to Cal Poly**

**Students and community members watched professional tango dancers Chrissy Cote and Darren Lees at the first-ever Halloween Tango Concert on Saturday.**

**Whitney Diaz**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

Skirts swirled and feet twirled at the first-ever Halloween Tango Concert and Dance hosted by the Cal Poly Ballroom Dance Club Saturday night.

Professional dancers Chrissy Cote and Darren Lees taught a tango class one hour before the concert.

"There's a lot of interest in the tango in this town," said Cal Poly alumna Christopher Elsbree, who helped organize the event.

One hundred and thirty-nine were in attendance as the Ballroom Dance Club presented the first-ever live band concert and dance sponsored in part by SLO Tans. The event began with the Argentine tango dance lesson in Chumash Auditorium at 7 p.m. and the concert started at 8 p.m., featuring critically acclaimed ensemble Tango No. 9 of San Francisco and performances by Cote and Lees.

"People assembled themselves into a frenzy during Tango No. 9's two-hour set at 9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Tickets were $12 in advance, $16 at the door and $10 for students with a valid I.D.

There were 60 advanced ticket sales and many people bought tickets at the door.

"I think we've ever done anything like this," club president Danielle Sanzari said. "We do put on dances, but this is a good deal because people can get a concert and a lesson all in one night."

The performances by Cote and Lees during the concert portion of the night enthralled the audience; people stood, clowned and moved to find a better view of the dancers.

"We only choreographed the entrances," Lees said of their performances. "Real tango is improvised."

The two danced three numbers to songs played by Tango No. 9. Backstage between each number they changed costumes.

Teaching was a learning institution; we're supposed to be doing great things for the advancement of the human species, not coming up with T-shirts like "Computer scientists do it in newspapers." "TRENDASAURUS does it in newspapers."" Brian McMullen is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist.
Party manners

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Allah or else?

Americans are apt to believe that terrorism is a corruption of Islam. On Wednesday night, the film “Islam: What The West Needs to Know” was shown. It seemed to believe that Islam is a political entity. The documentary presented Islam both as a religion and an organization that is fueled by conquest and war. The primary responsibility of the Muslims is to prepare the non-believing world for the domination of Islamic Sharia law, using whatever means necessary — violence, politics, deception, etc.

In response to this documentary, during the Q&A Cal Poly Muslims and their sympathizers attempted several tactics. They targeted the “criterions” of the interviewers (those that do not fit one’s political agenda) to attack the Cal Poly Republican for not bringing the opposing side (who must they do that), and dominate the entire show as fear-mongering propaganda (as if appeasement in the 1930s worked). A few attempted weak argument based on mistranslations and out-of-context remarks. But none of them denied the fact that Islam is a political ideology of world domination.

At least they were being honest. We at Cal Poly have the courage and integrity to stand up and fight for something they believe in, whether or not we support their opinions. As a guest at the event with no affiliation with the club, I commend the leadership of Cal Poly Republicans for not only promoting Islamic studies, but also encouraging the public to critically engage with the ideas being presented.
Volleyball hits home with win over Davis, Pacific

Rachel Gellman

The No. 24 Cal Poly volleyball team (16-7, 10-1) tightened their grip on first place in the Big West Conference standings this weekend with wins over University of the Pacific and UC Davis as they returned to Mont Gym after three weeks on the road.

"We all contributed to this win. Everyone played a really well all-around game, both defensively and offensively," senior setter Chelsea Mott said. "We just had a little more fight in us.

"We really happy for the girls. That was a tough match," head coach Jon Stevenson said. Outside hitter Ali Waller and middle blocker Josly Houston snuck down 11 and 10 kills respectively for the Mustangs, libero Kristen Mott had a match-high nine blocks.

"We all contributed to this win. Everyone played a really well all-around game, both defensively and offensively," senior setter Chelsea Mott said. "We just had a little more fight in us.

"We really happy for the girls. That was a tough match," head coach Jon Stevenson said. Outside hitter Ali Waller and middle blocker Josly Houston snuck down 11 and 10 kills respectively for the Mustangs, libero Kristen Mott had a match-high nine blocks.

"We all contributed to this win. Everyone played a really well all-around game, both defensively and offensively," senior setter Chelsea Mott said. "We just had a little more fight in us.

"We really happy for the girls. That was a tough match," head coach Jon Stevenson said. Outside hitter Ali Waller and middle blocker Josly Houston snuck down 11 and 10 kills respectively for the Mustangs, libero Kristen Mott had a match-high nine blocks.

"We all contributed to this win. Everyone played a really well all-around game, both defensively and offensively," senior setter Chelsea Mott said. "We just had a little more fight in us.

"We really happy for the girls. That was a tough match," head coach Jon Stevenson said. Outside hitter Ali Waller and middle blocker Josly Houston snuck down 11 and 10 kills respectively for the Mustangs, libero Kristen Mott had a match-high nine blocks.

"We all contributed to this win. Everyone played a really well all-around game, both defensively and offensively," senior setter Chelsea Mott said. "We just had a little more fight in us.

"We really happy for the girls. That was a tough match," head coach Jon Stevenson said. Outside hitter Ali Waller and middle blocker Josly Houston snuck down 11 and 10 kills respectively for the Mustangs, libero Kristen Mott had a match-high nine blocks.
Football
continued from page 12
Dally earned his second consecutive 100-yard game of the season and his 453-yard passing performance is No. 2 all-time at Cal Poly, behind only Beth Burford’s 566-yard game against Northern Iowa in 2000.
Dally now has 23 touchdown passes this season, tying Burford for the school record.
Burford’s 10 catches and 268 yards are career highs.
The catch total is No. 10 all-time at Cal Poly while his yardage total is No. 3. Burford now has 129 career catches (No. 3) for 2,728 yards (No. 2) and 29 touch­downs (No. 1).
Burford caught touchdown passes covering 27, 85, and 79 yards from Dally.
Dally’s first two touchdown passes were to junior wide receiver Freddie Toliver spanning 36 and 62 yards. Toliver finished with four catches for 134 yards.
The Mustangs compiled 687 yards of total offense, surpassing the 500-yard mark for the fourth consecuti­ve game. Idaho State mustered 379 total yards.
The Mustangs trailed 7-0 in the opening minute when Russell Hill hit Jaron Taylor with an 81-yard scoring play.
After Toliver caught his two touchdown passes, Idaho State tied the game at 14-14 on a 78-yard punt return by Eddie Thompson, the first punt return for a score against Cal Poly since 2003. But the Mustangs scored the next four touchdown­s of the game to open up a 27-point cushion at 41-14 and hold on for the win. Cal Poly’s third straight against the Bengals.
Barnett, averaging 98 yards per game rushing, was held to 12 yards on five carries in the first half before finishing with 177 yards on 22 trips. Hill completed 11 of 24 passes for 227 yards and two scores. Thompson caught free passes for 52 yards, while Taylor added four catches for 149 yards.
Defensively, Cal Poly was led by linebacker Mark Restelli with nine tackles. Safety Mark Cordes added eight tackles and his first inter­ception of the year.
Ryan Plippes and Brad Rife each notched six tackles for Idaho State.
Cal Poly plays the last of four consecutive road games next Saturday, visiting Cedar City, Utah, to take on Southern Utah for a Great West Football Conference contest at noon PDT.
Water polo
continued from page 10
A corner kicks back-to-back, and Ashley Vallis ran into a fence and knocked it over.
In an amazing save midway through the first half, co-captain Erica Leger knocked the ball away.
“T0day’s goal was phenomenal,” Casey (Ryan). That’s a key position. If you don’t have a good goalie, it’s hard to win. He was amazing to then,” said Harris.
In two weeks, Cal Poly will head to Nationals hosted by the University of Arizona.
“We have two weeks. We are going to go back to conditioning and back to fundamentals. We’ll keep doing what we’re doing because it works,” said Lander.
Classifieds
Cross country makes history at Cuesta, wins Big West title again

Michelle Morgan
MUSTANG DAILY

“Any time you come off a team, there is a lot of work to do to retain the same level of accomplished that you had last year,” Conover said. “Laboring to the best of their ability, but also understanding that they are capable of achieving even more.”

Water polo heads o nationals

Jessica Ford
MUSTANG DAILY

Senior Philip Reid celebrates Saturday at the Cuesta Fairbanks Memorial course after defending his title over the 8 kilometer course and setting a new course record. Cal Poly finished in the first five places, a record in Big West Conference history.

MUSTANG DAILY

Water polo, page 11

Senior Philip Reid successfully defended his title over the 8 kilometer course and took home the individual win for the second year in a row. Reid finished with a time of 25:12.4, a new course record.

In fact, the top six finishers of the day all beat the previous course record which was held by former Cal Poly runner Sean Hickeet, who ran the course in 25:38.20 in 2003.

“They put on a wonderful performance,” Conover said. “It’s a testament to what they wanted to get done and where they wanted their season to go.”

UC Santa Barbara took home second place with a score of 53 points overall.

On the women’s side, the top finisher for the team was sophomore Kimberly Donatelli, who placed seventh with a time of 22:16.5 over the 6 kilometer course.

“I was happy with the outcome because I wanted to get in the top ten,” Donatelli said. “The only thing that kept me going is the team that makes all the difference. If you have chemistry on the team that makes all the difference; it’s hard to just be a runner on your own. It’s these girls that make it happen.”

Conover said he was pleased with the outcome of the women’s race and was proud of the young team, which is made up entirely of freshmen and sophomores.

“All the freshmen can use this as a learning experience and know there is work ahead for them,” Conover said.

“We have a really young team. We’ve come a long way because the team is all young. We’ve come a long way because of what they were willing to do,” Conover said. “They are committed, wonderful, dedicated people who want to continue to make improvements. For them to get this experience was valuable. It speaks well for the future because the whole group is back next year.”

Some of the members of the women’s team expressed their own satisfaction with how the day turned out, echoing Conover’s belief that the team gained valuable experience from this race.

“We have a really young team. We’ve come a long way since last year,” sophomore Brielle McCarey said. “We have a really young team. We’ve come a long way since last year.”

“We have a really young team. We’ve come a long way since last year,” senior Phillip Reid said. “We have a young team. We’ve come a long way since last year.”

Senior Philip Reid celebrates Saturday at the Cuesta Fairbanks Memorial course after defending his title over the 8 kilometer course and setting a new course record. Cal Poly finished in the first five places, a record in Big West Conference history.

“We think next year is the year to look for,” freshman Katie Wolfe said. “It’s a really good experience and we learned what conference is all about. We’re really looking forward to next year.”

The women took seventh place overall with 147 points. The overall winner was UC Santa Barbara, which finished with just 44 points.

The Mustangs will run next in the NCAA West Regional on Nov. 10 in Eugene, Ore. From there they will have a chance to qualify for the national competition.

see Football, page 11

see Football, page 11

see Water polo, page 11

Water polo heads to nationals

The Cal Poly men’s water polo team won the 2007 Pacific Coast Championships over the weekend, advancing them to the National Collegiate Club Championships.

Cal Poly was the No. 2 seed of their Pacific Coast division and was ranked seventh in the nation going into this weekend’s tournament.

The championships were hosted by Cal Poly at the Recreation Center pool. The game schedule for the weekend had to be revised after UCLA withdrew from the championships.

Cal Poly won all three games and was able to secure an 8-5 win over rival UC Davis in the championship game. UC Davis was ranked first in the nation and was the No. 1 seed of the division.

This weekend we had a lot of stuff that we had been working on,” head coach Matt Moeller said. “They put it all together and this last game was the culmination of that. They did amazing.”

Cal Poly played their first game against Saint Mary’s College and won 13-4. Saint Mary’s struggled to make shots against Cal Poly goalies Casey Ryan and Mike Peters. Peters made five saves in the first half and Peters made four saves in the second half.

Top Cal Poly scorers for this game included Daniel Harris with five goals and Brandon Ross and Ryan Siskle with three goals each.

The win against Saint Mary’s advanced Cal Poly to the next round of the championships. Cal Poly played their second game against UC San Diego. This close game resulted in a win for Cal Poly with a final score of 7-6.

Josh Mix and Kevin Heinichen lead the Mustangs drop Bengals, 48-28

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

POCATELLO, Idaho — Junior quarterback Jonathan Dally passed for 453 yards and five touchdowns and rushed for 119 yards and another score as Cal Poly defeated Idaho State 48-28 in a non-conference Football Championship Subdivision game Saturday afternoon in Holt Arena.

Dally completed 16 of 24 passes for 453 yards and rushed 23 times, accounting for 672 of Cal Poly’s 687 total yards as the Mustangs improved to 5-3 on the year. Idaho State, held to just two first downs in the first half, fell to 3-5.

Cal Poly led 34-14 at halftime and opened up a 27-point advantage on 79-yard pass from Dally to junior wide receiver Ramesh Bhardwaj early in the third quarter.

Bengals, 48-28

Josh Ayers
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Jessie Ford
MUSTANG DAILY

The Mustangs capped the 8-minute, 40-second drive with a one-yard sneak by Dally with 2:10 to play for the clinching score.

The Bengals almost scored another touchdown with 10 minutes to play, but Ken Cornish fumbled the ball at the Mustang 1-yard line. Senior defensive end Louis Shepherd touched his fourth fumble recovery of the season and Cal Poly marched 99 yards on 16 plays for the clinching score.

see Football, page 11