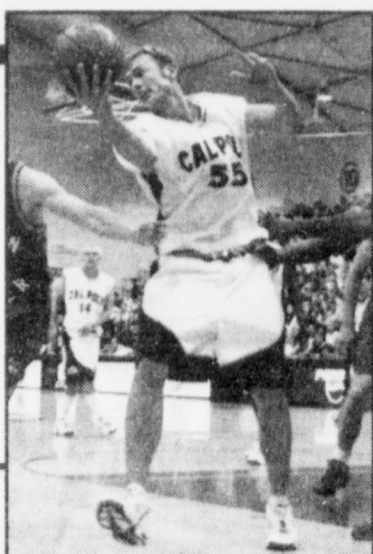


The sky is falling

Idiot's'll believe anything —
and they abound at Cal Poly

Opinion, page 4



Men's b-ball returns

Mustangs, 2-2, hope to
increase shooting percentage

Sports, back page

Look out Oscar

Find out who won a three-
quarter award for football

Sports, back page



High 64°
Low 41°

MUSTANG DAILY

Wednesday

December 2, 1998

C A L I F O R N I A P O L Y T E C H N I C S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y S A N L U I S O B I S P O

El Niño's not-so-little sister is on her way

By Britt Fekete
Mustang Daily

La Niña is on its way, and compared to the seemingly endless rains El Niño brought to the Central Coast last year, this winter could be worse.

La Niña, meaning "little girl," is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific. El Niño is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures.

According to the Oregon Climate Service web site, El Niño winters have brought consistently mild temperatures. On the other hand, La Niña winters tend to be cooler. The stronger Las Niñas are often very cold.

For the past two years, California has been hit with massive winter flooding, with El Niño last year and the January floods in 1997.

According to Eliza Chan, an official with Federal Emergency Management Agency, this winter will be no exception.

"Some are predicting that California will be dryer, but they are also saying that Washington, Oregon and Northern California will be wetter," Chan said. "If you look at the history of flooding in California (it looks likely)."

Chan said the exact amount of rainfall to Central and Southern California depends on snow melt in Northern



Dawn Kalmar/Mustang Daily

THE BIG SWEEP: Grounds crew member Mark Rapoport gathers leaves in front of the Health Center. Weather experts predict this year's La Niña storms will bring more rain.

California, but stressed that there doesn't have to be a disaster to have flooding.

To prepare Californians for a third year of harsh weather conditions and flooding,

FEMA is urging residents to act now to help reduce flood damage. FEMA officials,

see **SISTER**, page 2

Rumors run rampant in missing cases

Similarities spark speculation
between Newhouse, Smart case

By Alan Dunton
Mustang Daily

Rumors regarding the disappearance of 20-year-old nutrition junior Rachel Newhouse penetrate virtually all conversations in San Luis Obispo and are slowly trickling across the state. Those who have been in town long enough to remember when Kristin Smart disappeared seem to be trapped in a bad reoccurring nightmare that just isn't supposed to happen in our "small town."

"It's devastating to find out that it happened to the same community," Denise Smart, Kristin Smart's mother said. "It's a beautiful city, but reality is every co-ed needs to take every precaution."

Although local authorities will not comment on the similarities between the Smart and Newhouse case, characteristics of the two cases appear to mirror one another. Both cases involve young, presumably intoxicated Cal Poly students.

The San Luis Obispo Police Department on Nov. 30 released a statement saying Paul Flores has been eliminated as a suspect in the Newhouse case, but does however still remain a suspect in the Smart case. The police obtained a warrant on July 15, 1996 to



NEWHOUSE:
Missing.



SMART:
Missing since 1996.

see **NEWHOUSE**, page 2

Faculty labor union disputes lack of contract

By Whitney Phaneuf
Mustang Daily

California State University system faculty members are still working under last year's contract and may not receive their promised salary increase until January.

The California Faculty Association and the CSU system have been deadlocked in negotiations over the new contract since February. The CSU wants to lock in a four-year contract, while the CFA is looking for a one-year contract. Normally, faculty contracts are renegotiated in the spring.

On Monday a group of Cal Poly faculty members and union supporters protested CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed's visit at the Cal Poly theater. English professor Kevin Clark said he was there to show his

"The majority of the faculty is feeling depressed about the issue. They have been working hard and are not being rewarded."

— Myron Hood
chairman of Academic Senate

support for the CFA. He said that Reed is trying to make working life difficult for the faculty.

"He is more interested in life of the bottom line than the life of the mind," Clark said.

History professor Manzar Foroohar said she took part in the protest because she thinks Reed has been treating the faculty badly.

"His ideas and decisions have a negative impact on the overall educational system," Foroohar said. The

CSU has not compromised on the new contract since February, according to Terry Jones, CFA president. The main issues of contract renegotiation concern a salary increase, merit pay and retroactive pay.

"The majority of the faculty is feeling depressed about the issue. They have been working hard and are not being rewarded," said Myron Hood, chairman of the Academic Senate at

see **UNION**, page 7



Dawn Kalmar/Mustang Daily

PICKET IN THE RAIN: California Faculty Association members and union supporters picketed Tuesday in front of the Cal Poly Theater, where CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed was speaking. The CFA is protesting the CSU's decision to introduce meritorious pay into salary contract negotiations.

El Niño damage dollars distributed through state

By Louise Attard
Mustang Daily

California communities affected by El Niño landslides will receive more than \$22 million in grants, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the governor's Office for Emergency Services.

The money is for communities' use in acquiring 165 residential properties affected by landslides during last winter's El Niño storms.

In Monterey County, 10 properties in Watsonville received \$1.5 million in disaster relief grants. The city of Laguna Niguel received the majority of grants from FEMA, totaling \$6 million dollars from 32 properties. The area that received the most property acquisition approvals was Sonoma County, with 44 properties

and \$3.4 million in FEMA grants.

The total cost of the various local acquisitions was approved for \$30 million, of which 75 percent is the federal share.

"FEMA gives money to local governments who will use the money for communities to relocate or move out of harm's way," said Eliza Chan, a public affairs officer for FEMA.

The residential properties are now uninhabitable or remain at risk from further landslide activity.

"Their homes are either damaged or destroyed by El Niño storms," Chan said. "Some may be at risk from further sliding or are not able to return to their homes."

Funding from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, administered in California by the OES, was

made available after the El Niño disaster struck. In August, the two agencies used HMGP dollars for a statewide landslide acquisition or relocation program. Local communities that suffered landslides applied for buyout funds through OES, which reviewed and prioritized all proposals. OES then recommended eligible projects to FEMA for its review and funding.

Chan said the people who receive money because of the landslides "voluntarily give up their property in exchange for new land somewhere else." Any structures that remain on the acquired properties will be demolished. The land will be kept as open space and maintained by the local government.

Richard Andrews, director of OES,

"Their homes are either damaged or destroyed by El Niño storms. Some may be at risk from further sliding or are not able to return to their homes."

— Eliza Chan
FEMA public affairs officer

said in a statement that financial aid has never been provided for local governments before to buy or relocate homes affected by landslides.

"This is the first time California has applied mitigation funds to reduce landslide risks," Andrews said.

In the past, FEMA and the state used mitigation funds in California to acquire properties from other disasters such as floods and fires.

"Local governments were very

responsive in providing excellent and detailed application information which enabled us to get mitigation projects to FEMA for approval," Andrews said.

Martha Whetstone, regional director for FEMA region nine, said FEMA's ultimate goal is to ensure safety of the communities.

"This is a major cost-effective step in helping affected cities and counties become more disaster resistant."

SISTER

continued from page 1

stressing prevention and preparedness, hope property owners will take proactive measures before flooding begins.

Chan said the most important thing California residents can do is to assess their risk. Family members should create an evacuation plan

from their home if necessary. She said it is also important to find out if they live in a flood zone by talking with neighbors who have lived in the area for a while and city planning officials. She said it is a good idea for property and business owners to buy insurance.

In a news release, Martha Whetstone, FEMA regional director for California, said preparing for flooding will save lives and minimize damage.

"Now is the time to be prepared, before the seasonal rainstorms become more frequent," Whetstone said. "No one wants to witness the devastation and destructiveness of the last two years."

Whetstone said homeowners' insurance does not cover flooding, and because of the 30-day waiting period, coverage doesn't begin instantly.

Other things residents can do to

prepare include buying extra flashlights and batteries, planning and practicing evacuation routes, and keeping disaster supplies, such as a portable battery-operated radio, first aid kit and emergency food and water, no hand.

"A lot of the preparation steps apply to other disasters," Chan said. "These are very easy and inexpensive things to do."

San Luis Obispo residents who

rent their houses and apartments, as many students do, can prepare themselves by keeping emergency kits and identifying things that the landlord can fix, Chan said.

"I think it's (La Niña) here and I think we need to start preparing," Chan said. "Every dollar spent now to prepare is \$2 saved later, not to mention the headache and grief."

NEWHOUSE

continued from page 1

to search Flores' Santa Lucia Hall dorm room, but all private property had been removed. Search dogs trained to smell human remains, went straight to Flores' dorm room.

Smart was last seen May 25, 1996 returning to Muir Hall from an off campus party. Newhouse was last seen Nov. 12 leaving Tortilla Flats, on Nipomo Street downtown, where she was attending a fraternity event. The circumstances under which she left the nightclub are not known. Unlike the Smart case, investigators have no

suspects. There is some evidence, however, that may aid investigators in discovering her whereabouts. Blood was found on the Jennifer Street Bridge, a possible route home for Newhouse, but results from tests have been inconclusive, according to authorities.

Smart's case was originally handled by Cal Poly Police who led search efforts on foot, horseback, helicopter and with infrared scanning equipment. The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department took over the search from Cal Poly on June 26. One Sheriff led search lasted eight hours and included a helicopter that observed the perimeter of campus, a K-9 unit of five dogs, a dive team that searched ponds and 16 Sheriff Posse members on horseback. Complimenting the numerous professional searches were many volunteer searchers who combed surrounding areas for evidence. So far, the use for volunteers has not been requested by

investigators in the Newhouse case.

Smart's investigation remained a missing person case until according to Mike Kennedy, Cal Poly public safety investigator, her case didn't look like she was the victim of a crime, just a missing adult under unusual circumstances.

Newhouse's case, which originally fell under the jurisdiction of the San Luis Obispo Police Department, was upgraded from a missing person's case to a criminal investigation five days after initial reports of her disappearance. According to the San Luis Obispo police the case turned into a criminal investigation because they had reason to suspect foul play. Currently, officials have not commented on why they believe that.

In a Nov. 18 Mustang Daily article Chief of Police Jim Gardiner said he believes Newhouse's disappearance had something to do with her drinking so much.

The San Luis Obispo police

department requested FBI involvement in the case and received it Nov. 17, less than a week after the missing person's report was filed.

Helicopters and search dogs were both used in searches for the two missing Cal Poly students. With Smart, the FBI didn't become involved until June 11, 1996, roughly two weeks after she was reported missing. It was believed early on that she might have left the area. The FBI investigated passport use and airline travel records. Her parents said she had runaway in the past.

Unlike the Newhouse case, people throughout the state reported seeing Smart at various locations.

Soon after both girls were reported missing, rumors circulated about their whereabouts.

Both young women have reward funds set up, with \$75,000 in Smart's and \$60,000 in Newhouse's.

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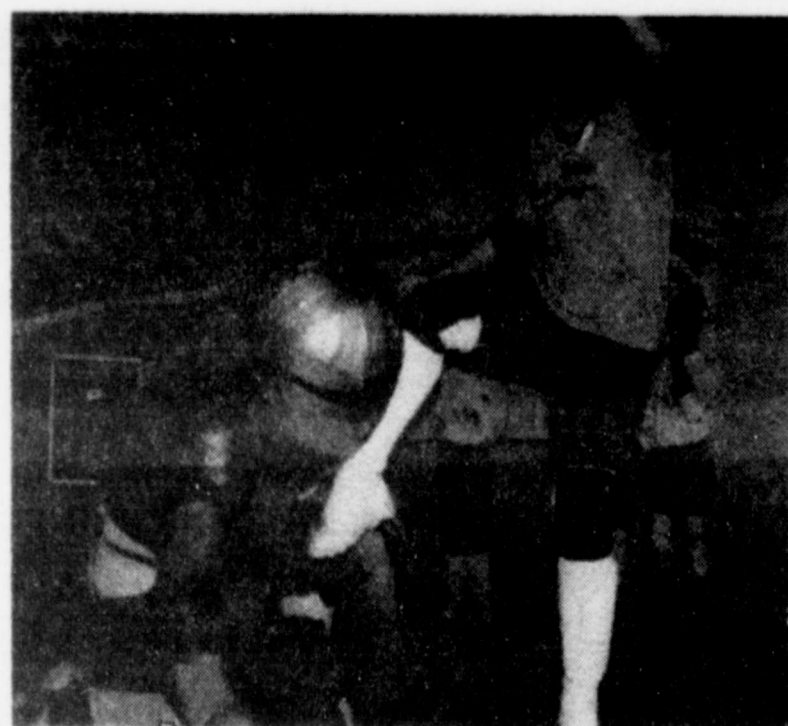
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Ice resurfacing machines may pose air pollution hazard in skating rinks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ice rink spectators may want to think twice before giving a round of applause to the guy driving that colorful ice resurfacing machine. His work may be hazardous to their health.

A new study by Harvard University researchers concludes that gasoline- and propane-powered ice resurfacing machines may produce hazardous levels of nitrogen dioxide in rinks.

It's sort of like running your car in the garage, said Jonathan I. Levy, one of the researchers. "If you leave the engine on in the garage for a period of time, you know that the pollution levels rise. Obviously, an ice rink is larger ... but it is a similar idea."

The solution is increased ventilation, Levy says. "Basically, ventila-

tion levels (in ice rinks) tend to be not that high because, if you bring in too much outside air, you have trouble keeping ice quality."

The resurfacing machines are best known by their brand names, such as Zamboni, Olympia and others. They smooth the ice and spread a film of water that quickly freezes, improving the ice surface between periods of hockey games and in the intermissions at ice shows.

The increased levels of nitrogen dioxide immediately after the machines operate have led to reports of respiratory problems including coughing, tightness of the chest and shortness of breath, the researchers said.

In one case, a group of Minnesota hockey players had breathing prob-

lems a half hour after the ice was resurfaced.

"The jury is out" as to whether there is long-term damage, said Levy, a doctoral student who took part in the research, reported in the December edition of the American Journal of Public Health.

There is some evidence that chronic exposure to high levels of nitrogen dioxide leads to a greater risk of respiratory infection in children and worsens asthma symptoms," Levy said in a telephone interview.

The researchers studied 19 ice rinks in the Boston area over three years and found that rinks with propane-powered ice resurfacing machines had average nitrogen dioxide concentrations of 206 parts per billion.

Students wary of corporate influence in education

BERKELEY (U-WIRE) — Students are drawn to UC Berkeley because of its standing as a public institution, representing an open exchange of ideas, independent research and uncensored academic dialogue.

What many of these students may not know is that corporations are becoming increasingly present on this campus and others across the country — a presence that could ultimately threaten the tenets of public education.

In the past 12 years, state funding has declined from 52 percent of the total budget to 34 percent of the budget. As a result, the university has had to look elsewhere for funding.

"There is no question this reduc-

tion in state funding has created a greater interest for this university to raise money privately and build relationships with industry," said UC Berkeley Assistant Chancellor John Cummins.

According to last year's budget, 66 percent of the university's total funding came from private sources. Of this money, a reported 29.5 percent — \$51.3 million — is from corporations. In 1977, private sources contributed \$12.6 million to the university. In 1997, this number jumped to \$174.2 million.

These facts beg the question, in what direction is the university headed, toward the privatization of a pub-

lic school? And, even more important, will this merger with big business have an effect on education?

Of the university's many colleges, the College of Natural Resources, the College of Engineering and the Haas School of Business receive among the highest amounts of private funding. These schools, not coincidentally, have the closest ties to big business.

"There is no question that professional schools have ties to their corporate sector based on their alumni," Cummins said. "This relationship may give those schools an advantage over the humanities, but there are things the university can do to counterbalance this."

For example, he said, the university can work to raise additional funding for the humanities departments through focused and specialized attention from the university's development office.

Recent groundbreaking deals between the university's colleges and private firms have drawn heightened attention to the debate over privatization.

The College of Natural Resources and the biotechnology firm Novartis signed a multimillion dollar contract last week that will fund research within the college. Although university administrators said the deal is a great step forward for building the

college's integrity, some students and faculty are worried that the agreement may hinder the freedom of university research.

But, according to one College of Natural Resources official, the fear that corporations are somehow running things is unfounded.

"There are checks and balances within the university to ensure that the work here goes on as it is supposed to," said Rosemary Lucier, director of college relations for the College of Natural Resources. "Corporate giving has a definite positive impact on research—it expands the possibilities of what is already going on."

Hey savvy Cal Poly students... El Corral promised us more SO DELIVER!

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UU Hour Question of the Week – What do you want to know about ASI?

Please stop by the ASI Booth in the University Union every Thursday to respond.

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

**NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 6, 1999**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meetings: Tuesday's from 5-7 PM in UU219.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Meetings: Thursday's from 5-7 PM in UU220.

ASI This Week

FREE PIZZA
COMPLIMENTS OF ASI
ASI SYMPOSIUM

Have a question for ASI?
Come and Enjoy FREE PIZZA and
Let Us Know What You Think!

Guests include: Dan Geis, ASI President
and
Amy Luker, ASI Chair of the Board

Thursday December 3, 1998
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
UU Plaza or Chumash Auditorium
(Depending upon weather)

Club Events

ADVERTISE YOUR CLUB OR CLUB
EVENT HERE, COMPLIMENTS OF ASI
Pick up forms in ASI Executive Office
(UU220)

College of Agriculture Council Meetings are every Tuesday
at 5:00 PM in UU220.

College of Engineering Council Meetings are held every
Monday at 6:00 PM in UU220.

College of Science and Math Council Meetings are held
every Monday at 7:00 PM in the UU Galerie.

College of Architecture and Environmental Design Council
Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 PM in Bldg. 5-105
or 106.

College of Liberal Arts Council meetings are held every
Tuesday at 6:00 PM in Bldg 10-241.

College of Business Council Meetings are held every
Tuesday at 7:00 PM in Bldg 3-206.

Congratulations to the new Finance Committee members:

College of Agriculture: Amy Christensen
Laura Kubota

College of Business: Raphael Lopez
College of Engineering: Patrick Fihucane
College of Architecture: Aaron Aveiar

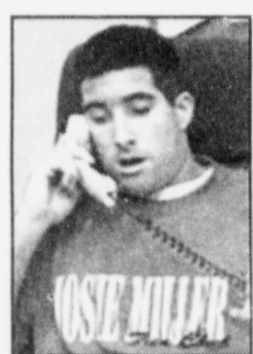
College of Science & Math: Lisa Winn
Tom Zarella

Students-at-Large: Luis Ledezma
Brandi Belsey
Benjamin Ores

Some people are just idiots

There's nothing like a nice trip to an international airport to fan out the lingering taste of Thanksgiving. The San Francisco airport, a moron mecca, was the location last Sunday where I witnessed the breakdown of reasonable actions, logical thought and sympathy toward others.

The scene in front of the United terminal was one straight out of any amusement park's bumper car ride. If it wasn't for my twin brother's aggressive driving ability, and the fact that we were in a road-commanding sport utility vehicle, you might not be reading this.



Al Dunton

Inside the terminal, where flights were being delayed and canceled up and down the board, grown men became unglued, twitching in their seats as the thought of spending a night at the airport inched toward reality. One man, personally insulted that the desk clerk couldn't make his plane appear on the runway, took revenge by looting the complimentary drink cart, amassing a pile of six packs of Coke and bags of peanuts. If this guy wants to fly in bad weather, and risk dying just to make it home in time to catch WWF high-

lights, then I'm all for it.

Paul Flores has been ruled out as a possible suspect in the recent disappearance of 20-year-old Cal Poly nutrition junior Rachel Newhouse. Okay Captain Chelquist. I really hope the FBI, San Luis Obispo Police Department and Cal Poly didn't entertain the idea for too long that this guy drove all the way up here from Irvine to get mixed up in another missing girl case. Instead of telling the news media useless stuff like that, why don't you give us the results from the blood tests, unless of course they're still inconclusive.

In my four plus years, writing papers, articles and columns, I have never left a classroom with a graded paper in hand and a bad taste in my mouth. I, like many of my seasoned colleagues, can't understand how a teacher can request an in-depth analysis, with four to five points fully explained, in only one page. Are you kidding me? If I sneeze I get more than one page. You want perfection, we're for that, just allow us room to roam.

NFL referees have come under fire this year because of inconsistency in decisions and the increased frequency of calls. I'm here to say that we fans need to turn up the heat. I encourage letters to sports editors, as well as league officials, voicing concerns about the shoddy game-calling we've all witnessed this season. Refs throw flags so often, it's weird to see a down without one. Oftentimes flags are thrown, just because the ref assumes something will happen, or because they like the pretty yellow color arcing through the sky, only to be retracted later. Football players are tough. Let them play.

Have you ever experienced writer's block? It's an affliction that turns gifted writers into slugs at the keyboard. Forcing something because of deadline only makes the situation worse. I need a vacation. See y'all next quarter.

Alan Dunton is a journalism senior.

OUR IMAGE OF PROFESSORS AS TIME MARCHES ON...



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Smoking tax can save lives

Editor:

As a society, we condemn people who kill for money or greed, but we commend those who kill for God and country. We consider men who "sleep around" to be stallions, while promiscuous women are labeled as tramps. We joke and sneer at roadside workers, ditch diggers, laborers, field workers, sanitation workers and janitors; but still complain there are too many potholes, flooding problems, not enough good food at the store, trash on the streets and unsanitary public restrooms. Then when our lives are inconvenienced — and only then — do we recognize that the jobs these people perform are necessary to our existence.

In a society filled with such immense double standards, it is not difficult to understand the narrow-minded, self-centeredness apparent in the column by Aron DeFerrari.

Our society is consumed with self-advancement and the overall attitude of "Every man for himself." However, when it comes to smoking, it is not just a solitary venture. When a person smokes in a public place, every person in the smoker's vicinity is put at risk. Second-hand smoke kills, and no one has the right to endanger another human being for strictly personal satisfaction. DeFerrari said the recently passed legislation that increases the excise tax on cigarettes will cost the taxpayers millions of dollars. Well, I have a question for him: How many lives are going to be wasted until it does become cost-effective?

Furthermore, he questions why a capi-

talist society would stop its own "capitalist machine" by impeding the advancement and distribution of a sought-after product such as cigarettes. Unfortunately, what he fails to recognize is that as much as he (and his fellow smokers) would like to believe this legislation was put into affect merely to antagonize him and others, the freedom-stomping autocratic self-indulging bastard public servants were actually trying to save some lives! Is there no end to this lunacy?

In an embarrassing stoop to the land of the obscure, I must take issue with his final argument. Granted, I have not been to a fast food place in a while, but I don't remember there being any lethal burgers on the menu. I don't recall any terrorist group ever holding hostages with a lump of grease, screaming "Turn our comrades free, or Ronald McDonald gets it!" I don't think meat eaters have to stand ten feet away from the outside door at the local burger joint. The point is, as soon as hamburgers have a secondary effect to others, let me know and I'll be the first to sign the petition to have them banned.

Finally, he is absolutely correct. The government has no right to assess his personal risk in the marketplace. However, it is the government's sworn duty to protect citizens from harm and make this a country worth living in ... or at least be able to try to continue living in. In his defense, sometimes it is a little hard to see the truth through all the smoke.

Jason Champeau is an English junior.

A plea to distracted drivers

Editor:

There is a problem at Cal Poly that affects all of us with half a brain and even a minimal amount of driving skills. People on this campus have absolutely no idea how to drive in parking lots.

I know you have to be fairly intelligent to get into this school, so why is it that I walk around all day with the overwhelming feeling that everyone is so damn stupid? It's like as soon as their front bumper crosses into the lot, all practical driving knowledge leaves their brains.

Now I realize finals are coming up and people have a lot on their minds, but please, that is no excuse for four different drivers to have narrowly missed hitting my car in the span of about five minutes. And then these people honk at me like it's my fault they are driving full speed down the middle of the aisle.

People are in such a hurry to snag the next available spot or rush to stalk the poor people who are walking to their car that they pay no attention to any other car that might hinder their mission to get to class on time.

Don't you people realize that a car accident will make you a lot later to class than driving carefully to a spot will?

So please, remember that you are not the only person looking for a space, there are others out there. Think with your brain when you drive, not your lead foot.

Trisha Thorn is a journalism senior.

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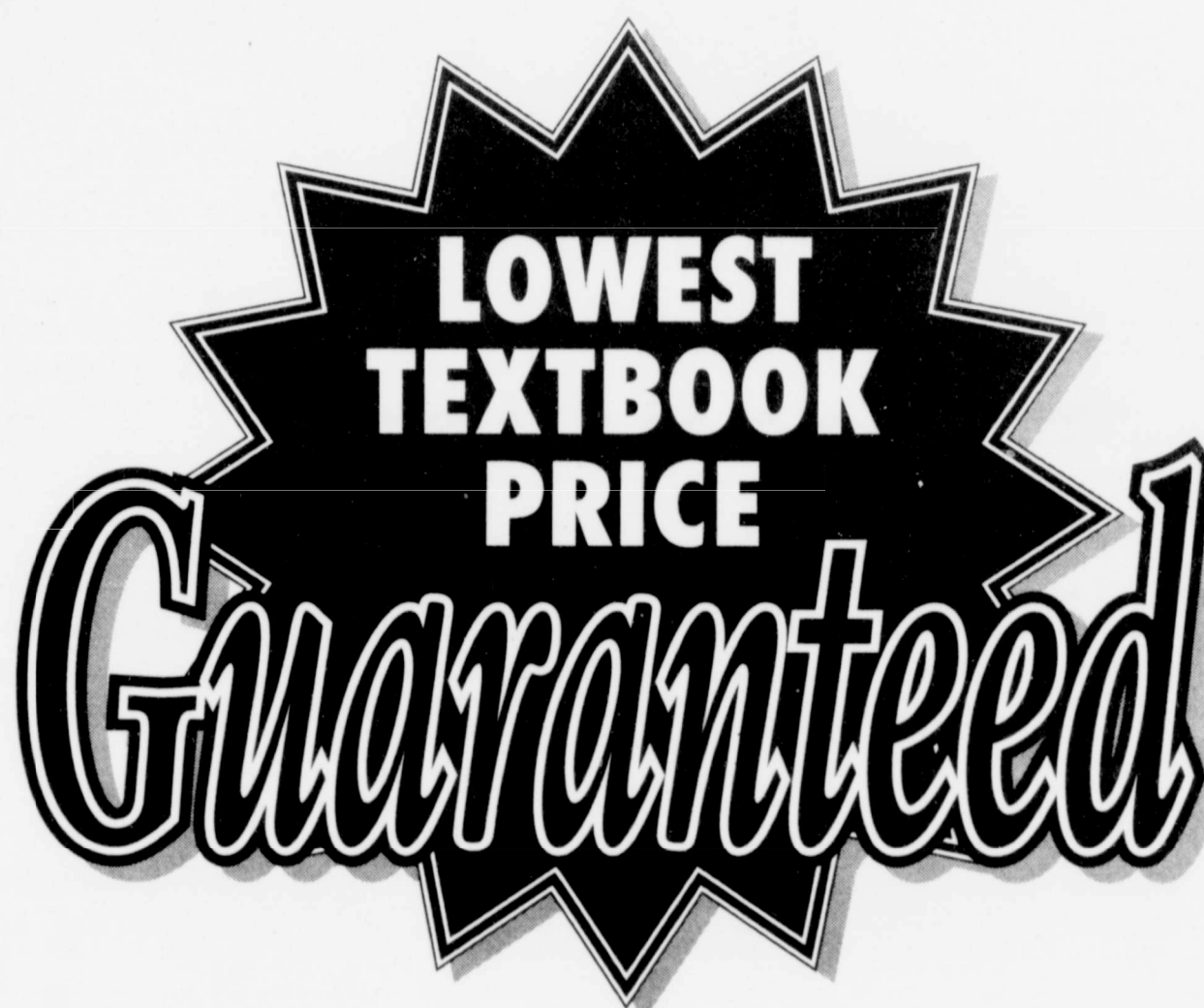
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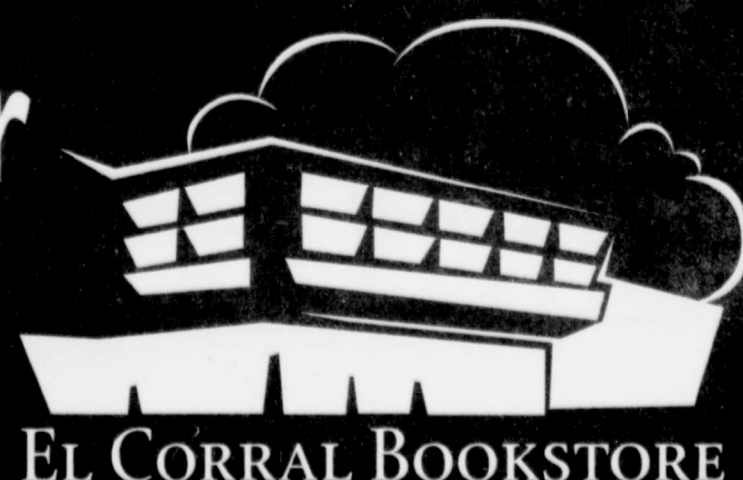
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ON TOP AGAIN: Water Polo players are now attracting the attentino national television shows. The team's nearly-nude digitally enhanced calendars are the focus of reports on shows such as Hard Copy and Extra! The calendars are on sale at El Corral for \$5. The team will be in the University Union on Thursday for autographs.

Dawn Kalmar/
Mustang Daily



Water Polo calendar rises to the surface

By Dawn Kalmar
Mustang Daily

Digitally remastered water polo calendars are now on sale. Shoppers aren't the only ones taking notice, though. Hard Copy and Extra! have

interviewed the team and the programs are slated to air before Dec. 11.

"Actually they interviewed us in our clothes for a while," said Ryan Lehman, one of the players standing in the University Union plaza Tuesday. "I demonstrated a deck

change because they had never seen one, I guess. I get my towel ripped off so I don't know if I'm going to be naked on TV or not," he said.

Associated Students Inc. and Rec Sports are now supporting the fundraiser they contested last month. The

controversial portions of the photo have been digitally remastered, adding Speedos and erasing body hair from some of the players in the picture.

"But I assure you they were not clothed in the actual taking of the

picture," Lehman said.

The team will be holding a special signing session in El Corral on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Calendars are \$5 and can be purchased at the bookstore or from the individual players.

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In Front of El Corral

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Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm

Dexter Lawn

Mon. - Fri., 8:30am - 4:30pm

University Square

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Stripper pleads innocent to felonies

PLEASANTON (AP) — A male dancer who allegedly stripped nude at a Halloween party pleaded innocent to four felony counts of sexual contact with teenage girls, saying he had no idea the high school freshmen and sophomores were underage.

Steven Schmitt of Walnut Creek was paid to perform a 45-minute routine for as many as 50 girls — most of them 14 and 15 years old — at the party on Oct. 30.

"This, to him, is a setup. He was exploited," said his attorney, William Gagen, after Monday's arraignment. "He wouldn't have been there or stayed there if he had thought the girls were underage."

Gagen and Deputy District Attorney Deborah Streicher both blamed Carye McGrath, the mother of the party's 15-year-old host, for sanctioning the party.

Her hands shaking, McGrath, 39, of Pleasanton was arraigned Tuesday in Alameda County Superior Court on one count of exposing minors to lewd entertainment. She was scheduled to enter a plea Wednesday.

Schmitt was charged with three counts of lewd and lascivious conduct with minors 14 or 15 years old and one count of oral copulation with a minor under 16. Prosecutors say the dancer touched three girls on their breasts and one under her underwear, and that one guest performed oral sex on him in front of the other girls. If convicted, Schmitt could face up to 12 years in prison.

There is no evidence that Schmitt

forced himself on the teens.

The daughter and several friends passed out fliers at school advertising a "Girls Night Out." Each guest was charged \$3 to \$5 for the dancer and food. Schmitt showed up about midnight wearing a policeman's uniform. But before the dancing began, McGrath said, "No touching, no licking and no crowding," some girls told police.

Schmitt then played music, ripped off his costume and began dancing around the living room in a floral magenta thong. The girls wrote on dollar bills where they wanted to be touched and he followed through, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Waving a \$20 bill, one girl performed oral sex on the stripper, the prosecutor said.

Judge rejects Nine Inch Nails copyright-infringement lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday threw out a suit that claimed Nine Inch Nails lead singer Trent Reznor stole songs for his 1994 album, "Downward Spiral."

The copyright-infringement suit was dismissed by U.S. District Judge William Rea, who had put the trial on hold in February in hopes that both sides would settle.

"We're celebrating," said Jamie Broder, Reznor's lawyer. "We're very happy about this."

Los Angeles songwriter Mark Onofrio sued Reznor in August 1997, claiming Reznor stole six of his songs, including some that appeared on "Downward Spiral" and one that appeared on the "Natural Born Killers" movie soundtrack.

He later dropped the claims on three songs.

Onofrio's attorney, Michael Blaha, said an appeal was likely.

"We respectfully disagree with the court's decision," Blaha said. "I think an appeal is more likely than not. Our deadline to consider it is Dec. 29."

Onofrio said he met Reznor through an online chat room and asked if Reznor would listen to some of his songs. The complaint said Reznor agreed and the music was mailed to Reznor's Los Angeles home.

UNION

continued from page 1

Cal Poly.

The CFA, the nation's largest higher education union, represents the entire CSU faculty. Since mediation between the CFA and the CSU has failed to negotiate a settlement, the process will now move into fact finding.

The fact-finding process is carried out by a three-member panel made up of a CSU representative, a CFA representative and a neutral party. Evidence is presented to the board on all issues which are in dispute. Then the panel will issue a report recommending a settlement. If either party rejects the report, the CSU will submit its final offer.

"What's important here is that the people who evaluate are faculty peers," he said. "Last year 97 percent of the merit increases were recommended by faculty."

The CFA is asking for a 6 percent general salary increase, pointing out the study conducted by California Postsecondary Education Committee which shows a salary lag between CSU faculty and comparable universities. CFA members maintain that compensation should include decreasing the merit award or abolishing it completely.

"It's just illogical. The whole university community finds fault with merit pay. They've put blinders on and increased merit pay by 100 percent. We think the moral thing to do is to figure out a way to close the salary gap," Jones said. The gap has been getting wider each year, according to the study done by CPEC.

"We have seen our salaries fall 11 percent behind those at other universities," Jones said. "How can we maintain the quality of our universities while allowing this to happen?"

retroactive pay. The increases will be implemented when there is a contract," Swisher said.

Hood said he supports the CFA and believes Chancellor Reed has disgraced the faculty.

"Reed has said, 'The faculty is the workhorse of the CSU,' yet the fact that he's willing to say the faculty doesn't deserve retroactive pay shows a lack of respect," Hood said.

Currently, 21 out of 22 academic senates within the CSU system have passed a resolution in favor of the CFA. Fetzer said this shows that it is not just a small minority supporting the CFA. He noted that at Gal Poly, 60 percent of the members of Academic Senate — the legislative body of faculty and staff which makes policy recommendations to the presi-

dent — are not in the CFA.

The CSU statewide Academic Senate delivered resolutions from across the state in support of the CFA's position at the Nov. 11 trustees' meeting in Long Beach.

The CFA staged a demonstration while the trustees' meeting was in order. Jones said the entire faculty was invited to participate in the picket.

"We want to try and drive home to trustees and the chancellor that we want a fair contract," Jones said.

Swisher said the CSU would like to get the contract resolved as soon as possible.

Fetzer is also anxious to see an agreement between the CSU and CFA.

"I'm hopeful there will be an improved atmosphere with (new gov-

ernor) Gray Davis, who is in support of higher education," he said.

Hood said the faculty is trying not to let the dispute affect students, though they should be aware of what is going on.

"It's getting to the point where students should care," Hood said. "It could affect the teaching, though we're doing our best to educate the students in spite of what the chancellor is doing."

Business junior Nicole Beelaard said she didn't know the faculty was working under an expired contract.

"I wouldn't work under an expired contract," she said.

Jones thinks the CSU is sending a message to students that "group force can get the job done as opposed to reason and compromise."

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Health Center nurse warns against pandemic flu

By Xavier Lanier
Mustang Daily

The flu season is here but Cal Poly students are ill prepared. While influenza causes most people to suffer from fevers and aching, it can kill.

Kathleen Ruiz, a nurse at the Health Center, strongly recommends all students get immunized. However, only 500 students have been immunized at the Health Center. This is a problem because college students live and attend classes in close quarters.

Immunization Coordinator Barbara Schwenoha of the San Luis Obispo County Health Department warns that those with a weak immune system are especially susceptible to catching the flu. This includes people with asthma, diabetes, the elderly and people with high levels of stress.

The first week of December is when the flu usually hits San Luis Obispo, just in time for finals. "Stress can make it easy for students to catch the flu," Ruiz said. "We have students going to finals with 104-degree fevers."

Schwenoha says many people underestimate the severity of the flu. "You can feel fine. Then all of a sudden you start feeling chills, within a few minutes you can have a fever of 104," she said.

The health department said last Christmas every Intensive Care Unit bed in every hospital of the county was filled. Many patients had respiratory complications from the flu.

People need to be more aware of the seriousness of the flu said Schwenoha. The worst case scenario is that a strain's antigens will evolve totally and so rapidly that nobody in the world will be immune to it Schwenoha said. This kind of pandemic virus can be deadly even to young, healthy people.

Schwenoha noted the pandemic outbreak of 1918 killed over 600,000 Americans and more than 20 million others around the world. People would die the same day they got sick, she said.



file photo

THIS WILL ONLY HURT FOR A SECOND: According to a Health Center nurse, the flu arrives in San Luis Obispo around this week each year, just in time for finals. In 1918, flu outbreaks accounted for more than 20 million deaths worldwide. Now, the flu vaccine can help stop the spread of certain strains.

There have been four pandemic flu outbreaks in the past 100 years. The last one was about 30 years ago and Schwenoha says we are due to have another one.

Besides pandemic flu outbreaks, there are epidemic years. In epidemic years there is a clear association between the flu and an increase in the national death rate. According to the county health department, there were 19 such years between 1957 and 1986.

The flu virus mutates quickly, making it necessary to annually update

the vaccine. According to the county health department there are three strains of influenza in this year's vaccine. The A-Sydney strain is the newest and struck ports and tour ships in Alaska last summer.

Vaccines take about six months to reach the public. The Center of Disease Control and the World Health Organization track which strains are causing illnesses. By every February they decide which strains will be in the vaccine.

The vaccine is then grown in chicken eggs. After being cleared by

the Food and Drug Administration, the vaccine is ready by August. The Health Center recommends students get immunized by mid-November.

Due to time constraints, only so much of the vaccine can be produced. The county health department only has 8,000 immunizations for convalescent homes, homeless and family care centers.

The Health Center only has 100 immunizations left, said Ruiz. She would like to see more students get their shots.

"A lot of people are just afraid of

the needle or are uneducated about the flu," said Ruiz. "Most of the students we get in here tell us that a parent or friend has motivated them to come in."

Health officials recommend rest, lots of fluids and fever reducing medicine to fight the flu.

Vaccinations are still available at the Health Center for \$5. Injections are given from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays, except for Wednesdays when the doors open at 9 a.m.

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Low-price electronics lure shoppers

NEW YORK (AP) — Holiday shoppers are getting hit by a different sort of sticker shock this year — rock-bottom prices for consumer electronics.

Manufacturers, particularly the Japanese, are slashing prices more sharply than usual this year, in part because slackness in overseas markets is forcing them to try to cheaply unload products in the United States.

Bargains at Best Buy, Circuit City and other major chains have turned novelty items such as DVD players and digital cameras into mass-market products while driving strong demand for traditional gifts, including personal computers.

At the same time, consumers have more reason to be comfortable about buying some relatively new gizmos. Since DVD players hit the market last year, for example, about 2,000 movie titles have been published on DVD. Digital video disks look like

regular CDs but hold seven times more information and are promoted as the replacement to videotapes.

Though retailers remain cautious, some analysts were upbeat that this season will be brisker for electronics than last Christmas' spotty sales as today's gift buyers shift from low-tech products such as clothes and books.

"Things are flying out of stores," said David Strasser, a retail analyst for Salomon Smith Barney Inc. "You've got all the products that are now hitting the sweet spot on pricing."

Among bargains at major retailers since holiday shopping formally began Friday: VCRs as low as \$80, 25 percent off last year's price; new DVD machines for \$300, down from \$500; personal computers at \$700, with lots of goodies included; a five-CD disk player for \$80, down from \$120 for a single-disk player.

Low prices surprised shoppers such

as Laurie Cags, who was cruising the CompUSA store in midtown Manhattan on Monday for a computer to help organize her building contracting business.

"Oh, God," she exclaimed, reacting to a \$1,699 price tag for Hewlett-Packard PC, monitor and printer that's also a scanner and fax machine. "I thought I'd have to spend a little more like \$2,000 to \$2,500."

Long lines of up to 1,000 customers greeted workers at some Best Buy stores Friday, drawn by promotions for a \$599 IBM PC that included a printer and \$288 DVD players, including five free movies and 13 free movie rentals.

Circuit City says its 530 stores saw strong sales for computers under \$1,000, digital cameras and \$400 DVD players, also including movie giveaways.

Experts expect technology to dominate holiday sales

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — (U-WIRE) Days after bargain-hunting computer shoppers lined up outside stores, retailers seem to agree with experts that technology items will dominate other goods as the most-purchased gifts in the countdown to the holidays.

"It was an unbelievable madhouse," Wal-Mart assistant manager Stephanie Bechard said of the week-end's business. "People just ran in here. It was like a swarm of locusts."

Expert forecasts predict a 6 percent increase in retail sales for the holiday season, which will be com-

prised largely of computer and technology purchases.

Some University of Florida students plan to purchase technology as gifts for the holidays, as well as receive it.

"I plan on buying some Norton Utilities software for my parents," criminology senior Garrett Harrell said. "I asked for a new CD-ROM (for Christmas)."

Wal-Mart's cheapest computer — a Hewlett-Packard Multimedia computer — sold for \$898, including the monitor and printer, during the Friday-only special.

Hacker informant becomes a fugitive

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Computer hacker-turned-government informant Justin Petersen, who claims he helped put superhacker Kevin Mitnick in jail, is on the run himself.

The flamboyant, long-haired, one-legged hacker known to computer outlaws as "Agent Steal" is accused of skipping out on his probation in September. Federal marshals have a warrant for his arrest.

In a letter posted on his now-

defunct website, Petersen claims to have found an unspecified job overseas but is thinking about coming home to surrender.

"I am still considering simply turning myself in and getting it over with," he wrote. "Regardless, if I happen to get apprehended, it will be of little concern to me."

The letter appeared after the Daily News of Los Angeles left a message on his telephone answering machine,

which simply notifies callers "I'm gone, baby," the paper reported Monday.

Petersen, 38, a native of Lincoln, Neb., was known to hang out at Sunset Strip clubs. He wore his hair rock-star long and made the rounds with attractive women, even after a motorcycle accident cost him his left leg below the knee. He said he's still living the good life.

"Alas, rest assured I am somewhere having fun with a nice-looking lady,

enjoying the first freedom I have felt in some time," he wrote.

He was on probation after pleading guilty in 1993 to federal crimes committed in California and Texas, including credit card fraud that involved stealing data from a credit-information company.

He also admitted to helping other hackers rig a radio station promotion by seizing control of telephone lines so they could be the winning callers.

However, under a plea agreement, he remained out of prison while helping the government in an "undercover capacity," as one court document put it.

Petersen claimed the FBI paid his rent and flew him to computer conferences to spy on other hackers. He also says he helped prove Mitnick was committing offenses while on probation for previous computer crimes. Mitnick faces trial in Los Angeles in January.

Brain chemical may impact alcoholism, researchers suggest

SEATTLE, Wash. (U-WIRE) — The discovery of neuropeptide Y (NPY), a brain chemical in mice, may take University of Washington researchers a step closer to determining why some people are more prone to alcoholism than others.

A team of five UW researchers recently completed a year-and-a-half long study that measured the effects of NPY levels on alcohol consumption in mice.

"There's a good chance that we'll find that NPY does modulate alcohol drinking in humans," said Todd Thiele, leader of the UW research team.

Thiele said that although there is no evidence to show whether NPY affects human alcohol consumption, he suspects that it's a good possibility.

During the research project, scientists genetically altered mice with different levels of NPY in their brains. One group of mice had no NPY at all while another group was produced with excessive amounts of the chemical.

The scientists provided the mice with two bottles containing their food and water. They replaced the water in one bottle with ethanol solutions and increased the amount over a period of time from three percent alcohol to 20 percent. The three percent solution is equal to about one beer and the 20 percent solution equals roughly half a shot of whiskey.

Each ethanol solution remained with the mice for eight days. During these time periods, the scientists monitored the behavior of the mice.

The mice with no NPY drank signif-

"There's a good chance that we'll find that NPY does modulate alcohol drinking in humans."

— Todd Thiele
Washington researcher

icantly more alcohol than normal mice and experienced fewer side effects. The mice with excessive amounts of NPY drank less alcohol and felt the effects of the solution more strongly.

These results proved that the existence of NPY in an animal's brain is directly related to the individual's alcohol consumption. Thiele said the results did not come as a surprise but proved to be very rewarding for the team.

Thiele and his research team are currently determining which regions of the brain house NPY, in efforts to investigate how the chemical affects alcohol consumption.

"There must be critical regions that are important for modulating drinking behavior," Thiele said.

Once scientists find these regions they can determine why NPY affects alcohol intake.

The next step for the project is to take the investigation to the human level. Thiele suspects scientists will find similar results in humans which could lead to the development of NPY-related drugs for the regulation of human alcohol consumption.



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Tyson pleads no contest to assault charges

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — Mike Tyson pleaded no contest Tuesday to a misdemeanor assault, a decision that could return the former heavy-weight champion to prison.

Although the plea to the two counts is not an admission of guilt, Tyson faces up to 20 years in prison — 10 years on each count — when he is sentenced early next year by a Maryland judge. He also could be fined up to \$2,500 on each count.

The charges stem from an Aug. 31 traffic accident in Montgomery County, Md., involving Tyson's wife, Monica. Tyson was accused of kicking and punching two motorists after the accident.

"You understand that this plea could affect your parole," Judge Steven Johnson told Tyson before accepting his plea.

"I'm truly aware of that," said Tyson, who was released from prison in 1995 after serving three years of six-year sentence for a 1992 rape conviction in Indiana.

Tyson, who is scheduled to fight Francois Botha on Jan. 16, would not discuss his case outside court.

It will be up to Indiana authorities to decide whether the no-contest pleas violated his probation.

By late Tuesday afternoon, Marion County (Ind.) Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford had not heard from

probation officials about Tyson, her clerk, Becky Wagner, said. She said probation officials would decide whether to request a violation hearing for Tyson.

George Walker, chief probation officer for Marion County, was out of the office until Wednesday.

Tyson told Johnson he did not expect leniency or a lighter sentence in return for entering the no-contest pleas.

The prosecutor urged that jail time be included in the punishment.

"The state opposes any probation before judgment," said Assistant State's Attorney Carol Crawford.

Tyson's lawyer, Paul Kemp, said the

plea was an appropriate resolution to the case.

"Mr. Tyson certainly concedes that things occurred that were inappropriate," Kemp said.

Following the August accident, Abmielec Saucedo and Richard Hardick said Tyson attacked them. They have reached a settlement with Tyson to avoid a civil suit.

Kemp said Saucedo and Hardick are prepared to testify at sentencing that they support Tyson's no-contest plea.

"He does not admit to intentionally striking anyone when this incident occurred," Kemp said.

Kemp told the judge that Tyson

became angry when neither Hardick nor Saucedo expressed concern for his wife, who was driving when the accident occurred.

Kemp admitted that Hardick was struck with a glancing blow and Saucedo was inadvertently kicked as the boxer was restrained by his wife and bodyguard.

Tyson is undergoing psychiatric treatment, one of the conditions that led to the reinstatement of his boxing license by the Nevada Athletic Commission in October. The license was revoked after he bit champion Evander Holyfield's ears during a June 1997 title bout.

Freak hit leaves Niners without defensive star

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Bryant Young's agonized scream as he collapsed told Tim McDonald all he needed to know about his teammate's gruesome injury.

"I understand how the leg bends and it wasn't bending like it was supposed to," McDonald said.

Young, one of the league's best players and the San Francisco 49ers' defensive anchor, underwent surgery Tuesday at Stanford Hospital, the day after fracturing both bones in his lower right leg in a freak, sickening collision on the field.

Team physician Dr. Michael

Dillingham inserted a metal rod into the tibia, the main weight-bearing bone between the knee and ankle. The fibula, a smaller supporting bone, was set and will be allowed to heal on its own. He's out for the rest of this season and could miss a part of next season, as well.

"With all things considered, he seemed to be in good spirits and certainly he's getting a lot of support," said coach Steve Mariucci, who visited Young in the hospital before the surgery.

"In speaking with Dr. Dillingham about the prognosis, he shared with me

that there's a good possibility that B.Y. will play next season. Obviously, there are no guarantees, because a lot of healing has to take place and things have to go right."

Dillingham estimated Young would need eight to nine months of rehabilitation before trying to play again. Mariucci said former 49ers center Jesse Sapolu suffered a similar injury early in his career and was able to come back and resume a productive career.

"It's quite a loss for us," said Mariucci, who choked up at times as he spoke of Young. "It's a similar situation to when we lost Jerry Rice, which also was devastating and we needed to regroup and rally and pick up the slack."

Added defensive tackle Junior Bryant: "There is not one person that is going to compensate for him. It is going to have to be all of us."

Young, San Francisco's first-round pick out of Notre Dame in 1994, had 9.5 sacks and was on his way to another Pro Bowl season when he went down in a fast, frightening sequence during the fourth quarter of Monday night's 31-7 win over the New York Giants.

New York's Kent Graham scrambled out of the pocket and Young and linebacker Ken Norton Jr. closed in from opposite directions to make the tackle. Young had grabbed hold of Graham's jersey when Norton plowed into the fray and his helmet struck Young squarely on the leg.

With Young's cleat firmly planted in the soggy turf, his leg buckled, bending at a grotesque angle. Young fell to the ground, his anguish evident to anyone who saw his face or heard his screams.

"I could tell Bryant was hurting pretty bad," said Graham. "It was a Joe Theismann-type injury. It's something you just hate to see."

Theismann was playing for Washington when he suffered a broken leg in a 1985 Monday night game after being hit by the New York Giants' Lawrence Taylor. It was Taylor who immediately after the tackle began frantically waving for a doctor. Theismann never played again.

With the exception of Young, perhaps no one took his injury harder than Norton, who played the rest of Monday night's game in a fog and then left for the hospital, where he stayed at Young's bedside until the early morning.

It must have seemed like a recurring nightmare for Norton, who was also involved in the hit during a 1994 Monday night game that left Los Angeles Raiders running back Napoleon McCallum with a career-ending knee injury.

"This game is so strange," Norton said. "You're so fortunate to play it, but I don't think people realize the chances we take to play this thing."

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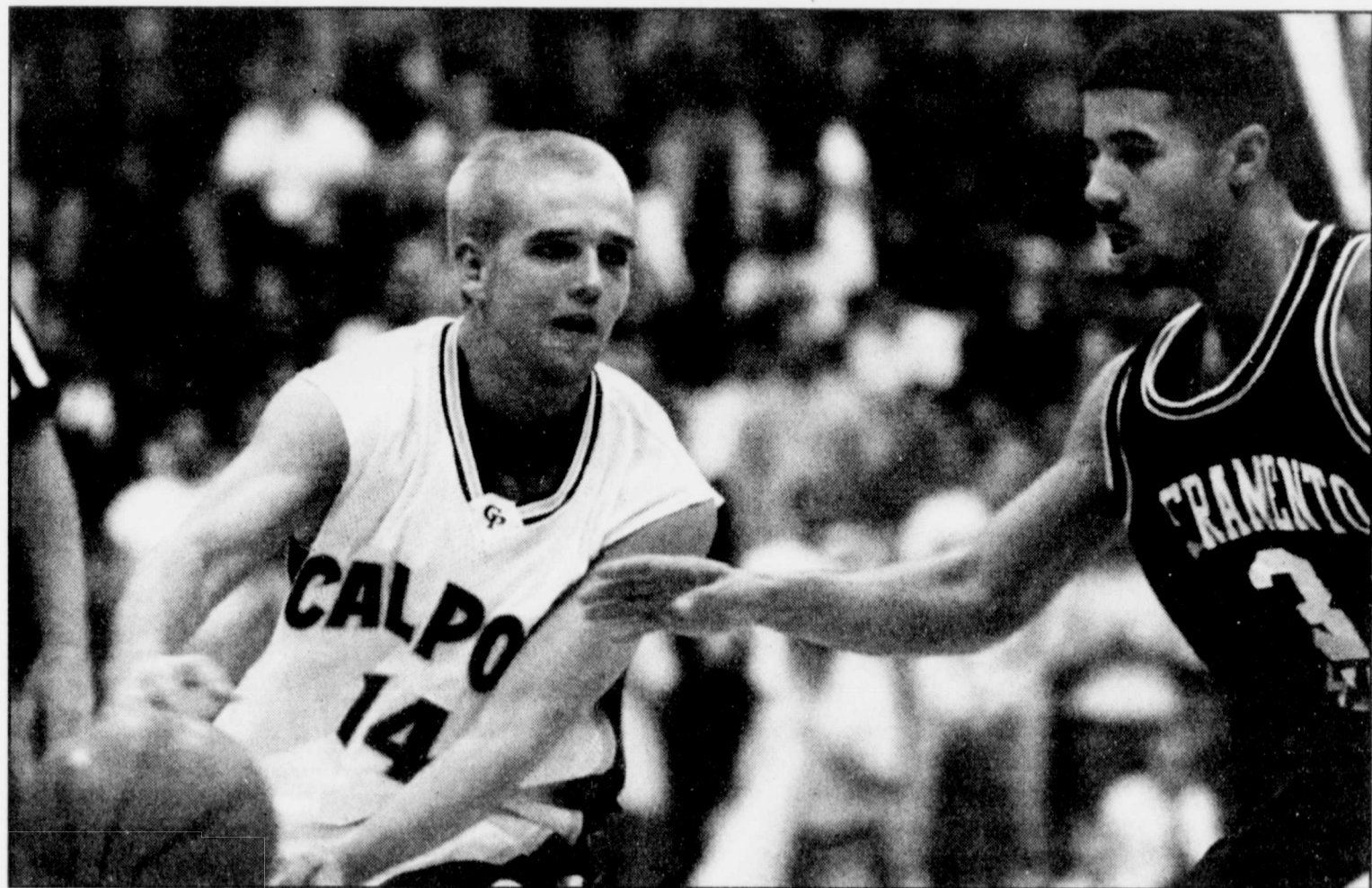
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Dawn Kalmar/Mustang Daily

FLOOR GENERAL: Senior Ben Larson leads the Mustangs in assists this year averaging 6.5 assists per game.

HOMESTAND

continued from page 12

The Mustangs were defeated the last two times they played against Fresno-Pacific. Their last meeting was in 1993 - when Cal Poly was still a Division II team.

Schneider said the Mustangs' plan is simple this Thursday.

"Fresno's team has the ability to run and shoot very well," Schneider said about the NAIA team. "But we will try to put as much pressure on them as possible. We will go in and do the things that we do well."

Schneider stressed the importance of a consistent perimeter and inside game.

"Last year we were losing all our road games. The big guys were playing good, but the perimeter players weren't shooting well," Schneider said. By the end of the year, Schneider said, the team had achieved the necessary balance between the inside and outside games.

"I want the team to get into the form they were in at the end of last year," Schneider said.

Schneider said he sees few weaknesses in the team this year.

"I have no complaints about the team, with the exception of how we

shot the ball in the Portland game," Schneider said. "We just have to be able to grind it out on the road. We have to be able to enjoy playing on the road."

Schneider said he believes the team must go 4-4 on the road to win the league championships this year.

"It's too early to tell, but we've been playing as well as anyone in our league so far," he said. "We're to the point of being one of the better teams."

Schneider said he has no doubt in the Mustangs' abilities to take on some of the tougher teams this season.

"It's a rough schedule, but the team has had excellent play," he said. "We have the ability to score, and to pressure with our defense. In three of four games we've been able to do that, all except for the last game. The team also has great offensive rebounding abilities."

Schneider said the team is benefited by several key players, such as Mike Wozniak, Chris Bjorklund, Jabbar Washington, Jeremiah Mayes, and freshmen David Henry and Jason King.

"Mike Wozniak is becoming one of the better perimeter players on the west coast," Schneider said. "This year he'll break the Cal Poly all-time scoring record."

"It's too early to tell, but we've been playing as well as anyone in our league so far."

— Jeff Schneider
head coach

Wozniak, a junior, is a former Big West Player of the Year. He set a career high with 33 points against Simon Fraser earlier this year.

Schneider is also enthusiastic about Jeremiah Mayes, a sophomore forward.

"He's one of the better rebounders in the Big West Conference," Schneider said. "He has the chance to be the best rebounder in the Big West. He's scoring more, he's a very good defender, and he's developed great ball control. He has extremely strong hands. When he gets the ball it's hard to get it away from him."

Henry, a freshman forward, said while he feels the team has room for improvement, they are on their way to a winning season.

"We're going to bounce right back," Henry said. "We lost the last game and we're going to take it out on Fresno-Pacific. It's too bad for them."

Dodgers acquire Todd Hundley from Mets

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers, looking to beef up their offense, acquired power-hitting catcher Todd Hundley from the New York Mets on Tuesday for catcher Charles Johnson and outfielder Roger Cedeno, The Associated Press learned.

The Dodgers will also receive minor league pitcher Arnie Gooch, a 22-year-old right-hander obtained by the Mets in the Bret Saberhagen trade on July 31, 1995.

Los Angeles wouldn't immediately confirm the trade, but planned to make the announcement later Tuesday night.

Hundley, coming off elbow surgery, played in just 53 games last season and hit .161 with three homers and 12 RBIs. He became expendable when the Mets signed catcher Mike Piazza to a \$91 million, seven-year contract earlier in the offseason.

Hundley, a 29-year-old switch-hitter, set a big-league record for homers by a catcher in 1996, hitting 41 to surpass Roy Campanella's 43-year-old

standard. Hundley also hit .259 and drove in 112 runs that year.

Hampered by elbow problems in 1997, Hundley played in 132 games and hit .273 with 30 homers and 86 RBIs. He thus became the first Mets player to hit 30 or more homers in consecutive seasons since Darryl Strawberry did so in 1987-88.

Johnson, 27, came to the Dodgers along with Gary Sheffield, Bobby Bonilla, Jim Eisenreich and a minor league pitcher for Piazza and third baseman Todd Zeile last May 15. Piazza was traded to the Mets a week later.

Johnson played in 133 games with the Marlins and Dodgers last season and hit just .218 with 19 homers and 58 RBIs. He was immediately traded by the Mets to the Baltimore Orioles for reliever Armando Benitez, a deal that made sense due to Piazza's presence.

The 24-year-old Cedeno, a switch hitter long considered a top prospect, played in 105 games for the Dodgers last season and hit .242 with two homers and 17 RBIs.

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Don Larsen pitched the only perfect game in World Series history.

Congrats Jen Sanders!

TODAY'S QUESTION

Who won the NCAA Basketball National title in 1990?

Please submit answer to: jnolan@polymail.calpoly.edu Please include your name. The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

° Men's basketball vs. Fresno Pacific at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym

° Swimming at Long Beach State at 9 a.m. at Speedo Invitational

FRIDAY

° Wrestling at Las Vegas Tournament at 10 a.m.

SATURDAY

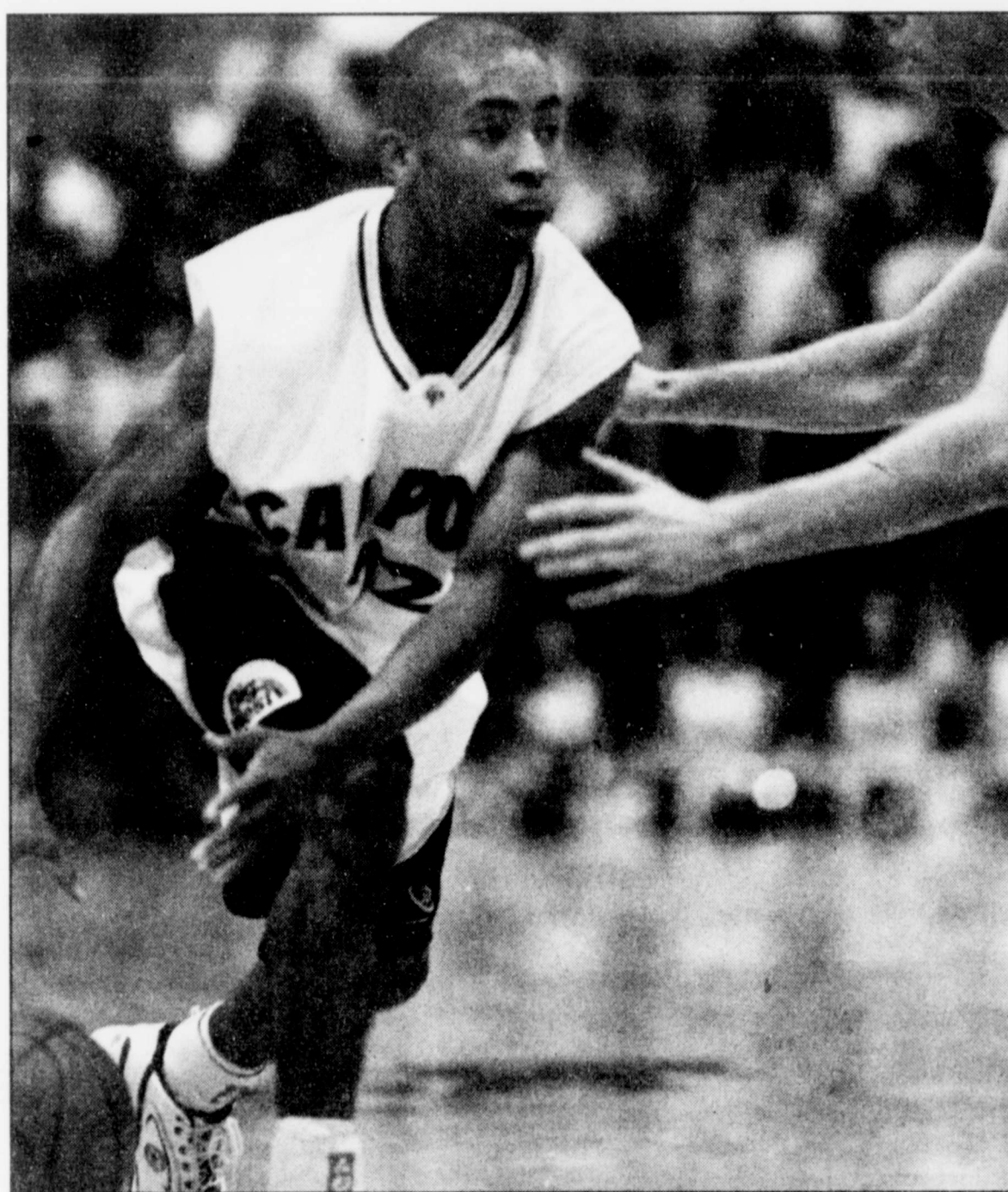
° Women's basketball vs. San Diego at 2 p.m. in Mott Gym

BRIEFS

Two Cal Poly women's volleyball players were named to the All-Big West Team Tuesday. Junior middle blocker Kari DeSoto was named to the First Team, while sophomore outside hitter Melanie Hathaway was named to the Second Team.

DeSoto was the Mustangs' leading hitter this year (.355) and also recorded 343 kills. She was also selected to the First Team last year. As a freshman, DeSoto was named to the Second Team.

Hathaway was second on the Mustangs with 299 kills, second in service aces with 28 and second in digs with 275. She also had 64 blocks. She was named All-Big West Honorable Mention last year as a freshman. "Both (DeSoto) and (Hathaway) continue to elevate their games and continually get better," said Cal Poly head coach Steve Schlick in a statement. "They have played an integral part in the growth of our program and will continue to do so in the future."



Eric McClure/Mustang Daily

LONG DISTANCE: Freshman Jason King has made 44 percent (11 of 25) of the 3-pointers he's attempted this season. He's only taken one shot that was not from behind the arc.

Mustangs hope to shoot better during homestand

By Jen Stevenson
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly men's basketball is unfazed by an inconsistent 2-2 start this season as they begin a three-game homestand this Thursday when they go up against Fresno Pacific in Mott Gym.

The Mustangs will be going into the game following a blowout loss on the road. However, head coach Jeff Schneider isn't concerned about the team's recent performance.

He blamed the team's 103-64 loss to Portland State on Nov. 28 on poor perimeter shooting and the fatigue that comes with traveling to away games.

The Mustangs shot 24.2 percent from the floor in the first half, while Portland State shot 57.1 percent. The Mustangs

improved their shooting in the second half, but still only shot 34.2 percent in the game. From 3-point range, Cal Poly shot 9.4 percent, making three of 32. They are making 34.1 percent of their 3-pointers for the year.

Schneider said he isn't worried about the team's shooting lapse.

"When you watch the tape after the game," he said, "You're never as bad as you thought you were or as good as you thought you were. We didn't play well, but we did do a lot of things properly. We had the shots we wanted, we just didn't make them."

Schneider is confident the team will be back on track for Thursday night's game against Fresno-Pacific.

see HOMESTAND, page 11

Orioles, Belle all smiles after \$65 million deal

BALTIMORE (AP) — Albert Belle dutifully donned his Orioles hat and flashed a broad smile as he posed for pictures Tuesday behind a Baltimore jersey with his name and No. 88 on the back.

The controversial star then talked excitedly about playing with a contender, giving more of himself to the fans and making an effort to be more accessible to reporters.

There's no telling how the union of Belle and Baltimore will play out, but both sides were certainly intent upon creating a positive impression during day one of his planned five-year stay.

Belle was downright cordial at Camden Yards after signing a \$65 million contract that made him the highest-paid player in franchise history, and said his jaded regard for the press is over.

"I make a promise today that I am going to improve my relationship with the media," he said. "It's kind of hard to talk about baseball when you are in last place and you're getting your brains beat out every night."

Belle had until Wednesday to return to the Chicago White Sox and complete a \$55 million, five-year deal that guaranteed him \$35 million in the next three seasons. He repeatedly attempted to convince the White Sox to give him a raise, then insisted that money was not the reason he ultimately joined the Orioles.

"You look at the situation the last two years, October rolls around and you're out there working on your golf game. That just didn't sit well with me," Belle said. "It was a situation where I weighed all my options and I felt Baltimore was my best option."

After the White Sox refused to increase Belle's salary, he was delighted to take more money from what he perceived to be a better team.

"Back in Chicago, they were rebuilding the past two years. With an experienced, veteran team, you don't have to worry about rebuilding," he said.

Belle, 32, is arguably the most talented right-handed hitter in baseball. But he is also known to be one of the most controversial players in the game — he has been suspended six times and has snapped at both the media and the fans.

Yet the Orioles were willing to take a chance on Belle after losing free agents Roberto Alomar, Eric Davis and Alan Mills and watching the World Series champion New York Yankees re-sign Bernie Williams, David Cone and Scott Brosius.

Baltimore is seeking to re-sign free agent first baseman Rafael Palmeiro, which would provide the Orioles the potent 1-2 punch that Chicago had with Belle and Frank Thomas.

"We continue to talk," Baltimore general manager Frank Wren said of negotiations with Palmeiro. "Obviously, if we could have those two guys hitting back to back, we would be a very formidable in the middle of the lineup. That's our goal."

Regardless of how the Palmeiro negotiations pan out, the addition of Belle was essential if Baltimore is to be a factor in the competitive AL East. Belle had 49 homers and 152 RBIs last year, and he should be even more lethal playing in Camden Yards, where the left-field line is only 333 feet from the plate and the left-center alley is a mere 364 feet away.

Flutie, officials and Vikings top first edition of three-quarter awards

Since most columnists give out mid-season awards, I thought a more accurate picture would be seen three-quarters of the way through the season. So here they are, the first edition of the Three-quarter Awards.

Best Team: Minnesota Vikings.

I wasn't convinced before the Dallas game, but after the beating they put on the Cowboys, their road to the Super Bowl got a lot smoother. This team has it all: dominating defense, veteran leadership and three of the best receivers in football.

Worst Team: The Officials.

After the debacle on Thanksgiving before the Lions/Steelers game, I wondered what these guys were thinking. How can you screw up a coin toss? Add that call to the many other blown calls such as the pass interfer-

ence calls in the Bills/Patriots and Colts/49ers games. Those calls, which were clearly wrong, gave New England and San Francisco wins they didn't deserve. Do I hear a call for instant replay?

Rookie of the Year: Charlie Batch.

Before all you Randy Moss fans jump all over me, consider what



Matt Sterling

Batch has done. He was forced into the starting role after starting quarterback Scott Mitchell got injured. He has led the Lions to a 5-7 record in the most difficult division in football, the NFC Central. He's led his team to wins over Green Bay, Tampa Bay and Pittsburgh. As for Moss, the players surrounding him are superstars. Moss had a great game on Thanksgiving, when he started against the Cowboys, but Batch did just as well.

Fan Favorite: Doug Flutie.

This one's a no-brainer. Deep down, everyone wants to see him succeed and it's great to see him do exactly that. Nobody saw the Bills at 7-5 and deep in the playoff hunt at this point before the season started.

Biggest Disappointment: Kansas City Chiefs.

The perennial playoff team has now been relegated to basement duty in the AFC West. Changes need to be made soon, starting with firing Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer. Marty's stale coaching style no longer works for this team, and they need some new excitement. Maybe a high draft pick will bring that since that seems to be where they are heading.

Game of the Year: Jets vs. 49ers, week one.

A 36-30 win by the 49ers will be remembered for Garrison Hearst's 96-yard touchdown run in overtime, but it also showed the Jets would be a force to be reckoned with. The game featured more than 1,000 yards of offense and made for quite a bit of entertainment on opening weekend.