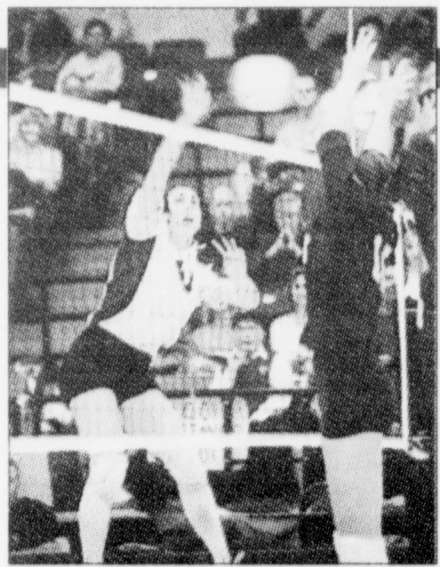


**Tourney time again:**Volleyball heading back to  
NCAA Tournament, 8**Home sweet home:**

Some in SLO need one, 4

**High: 69° / Low: 48°**For extended weather forecast,  
see **Daily Dose**, 2

# Monday, November 27, 2000

# Mustang

## DAILY

Volume LXV, Number 55, 1916-2000

## Thefts in dorms leave police clueless

By Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard  
MUSTANG DAILY MANAGING EDITOR

Some students returned from the Thanksgiving holiday to an unpleasant surprise this weekend: nine North Mountain dorm rooms were burglarized and University Police estimate that \$1,400 worth of goods were stolen.

No suspects have been found, said University Police Officer Don Hubbell, although it was most likely more than one thief.

The burglaries took place sometime between 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23 and 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 24, in the Shasta, Whitney and Palomar dorms, Hubbell said.

"One student called one in and then we started looking around and found more broken into," Hubbell explained.

Hubbell said the perpetrators broke into dorm rooms through open windows and were able to access adjoining dorms through doors that were left open.

"The majority of them were from windows that were left open," Hubbell said.

It would have been fairly easy for the burglars to pull open the old

crank-style windows and break the locking mechanism, he said. In many of the dorm rooms, the windows were left open two to three inches when the students left for the four-day weekend, Hubbell said.

A variety of items was stolen from each room. Hubbell said small amounts of cash, televisions, video games and CDs were taken as well as personal items such as pocketknives and belt buckles. He said the most seemingly random item taken was a fish tank with fish. Even the fish food was stolen.

University Police called all students at their homes to inform them of the incident. Josh Burson, a math and philosophy senior, lives in Whitney dorm room 1. He received a call from University Police at his home in Sacramento informing him that his room had been broken into.

Burson was baffled by what was taken from his room; the thieves apparently left valuable items such as a calculator and a computer and instead took some of Burson's CDs and a few bars of soap.

"I think they weren't really intelligent criminals," he said. Burson

see **DORM**, page 2



DANIEL GONZALES/MUSTANG DAILY

Business administration junior Adrienne Tuttle displays a jewelry box that was displaced in her room. The contents, however, were not stolen.

## Bush wins in Florida recount

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Secretary of State Katherine Harris rejected Palm Beach County's hand recount Sunday, throwing out 180 votes Al Gore would have picked up in his struggle against George W. Bush.

The partial returns counted by hand "fail to comply" with state law, Harris said before she certified Bush as the winner of Florida's drawn-out election. She instead accepted results from the last machine count, on Nov. 14.

The three-member board worked around the clock in hopes of completing its review before a 5 p.m. deadline. After Harris rejected their request for more time to finish counting 800 to 1,000 ballots, they faxed the incomplete results — dozens of pages of raw, precinct-by-precinct figures, leaving the tedious math to the secretary of state.

That done, canvassers went back to work and finished their marathon review of questionable presidential ballots two hours later. Red-eyed and weary, election workers hugged each other and smiled when the counting was done. The county planned to submit amended totals.

"I don't know what another two and a half hours would have meant, but why not?" asked a frustrated Charles Burton, the head of the canvassing board. "We all want to finish the job we started to do."

The Palm Beach board met virtually nonstop through the weekend in hopes of completing a recanvass of some 14,000 questionable ballots. The board lost a crucial day when it took Thanksgiving off.

The board labored as Gore's lawyers served notice the campaign would "contest" the results of the county's recount — the formal word under Florida state law for challenging the results of a certified election.

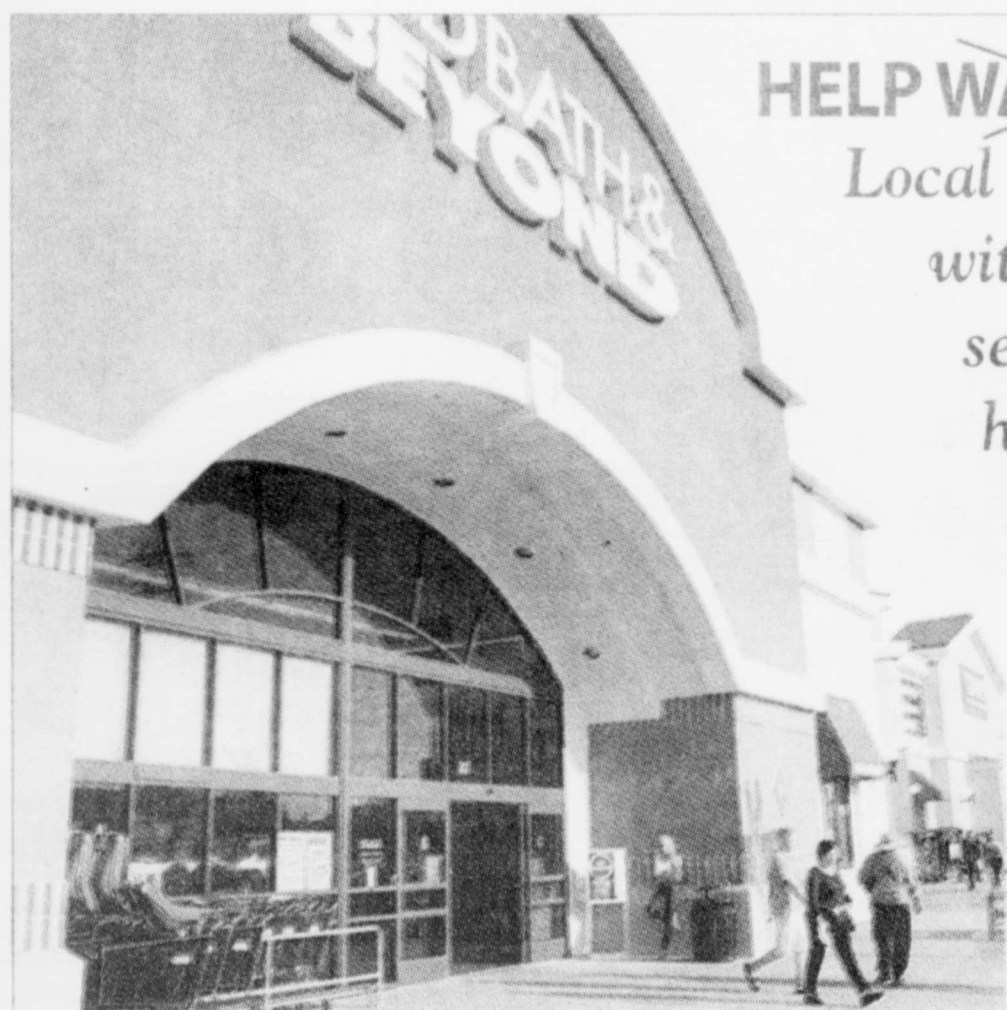
At a news conference in Tallahassee, Gore lawyer David Boies referred to the likelihood of an incomplete recount, as well as to the relatively tight standard canvassing officials used to determine how to count questionable votes.

Palm Beach was one of four Democratic-leaning counties where Gore asked for a manual recount as part of his effort to overtake Republican Bush in the state that stands to pick the president.

The developments unfolded as hundreds of demonstrators, some backing Gore, others Bush, milled noisily outside. A downpour interrupted the peaceful demonstrations, at almost exactly the same time Burton stepped to a microphone to announce the marathon recount was over.

"Count my vote!" about 200 Democrats chanted. "Don't hide my vote under a Bush" read one sign.

Nearby, some 500 Republican supporters waved signs in support of Bush and chanted: "Hey hey ho ho! Al Gore has gotta go!"



## HELP WANTED NEEDED

Local retailers cope  
with lack of  
seasonal  
holiday  
help



DANIEL GONZALES/MUSTANG DAILY

Left, shoppers leave the new Bed Bath and Beyond store in The Promenade Sunday. Already existing stores, like Gottschalks at right, are experiencing employee shortages this holiday season. Part of the problem is that new stores are accepting many seasonal applicants.

By Megan Shearn

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Madonna Plaza retail stores are no exception to the national trend of the lack of employees this holiday season. Store managers believe the shortage stems from the strong economy and the newly built The Promenade.

"We have 136 employees currently, but ideally we need to be at 150," said Jerry Nunes, Mervyn's Team Human Relations coordinator.

Stores usually hire holiday help to meet the needs of the increased shopping during Christmas time.

Nunes attributes this employee shortage to the booming economy.

"The economy is doing well enough, and it's getting harder because new businesses are coming into town," he said. "People can choose where they want to work."

Some of the new businesses are in the neighborhood around Mervyn's — namely The Promenade. Nunes gave the competition with The Promenade as another reason to the hardship in finding employees.

Lack of help means employees need to help out in all aspects of the department store.

"We are doing the best we can," Nunes said. "If I'm not here to conduct interviews, team leaders are doing them."

Material engineering sophomore Don Craw was hired at Mervyn's in October for seasonal help. He works in receiving and says the shortage of employees means longer hours for him.

"It's hard to get time off during the holidays because there aren't enough people to cover the shifts," Craw said.

Cathleen Stanley, a manager for Gottschalks in the Juniors and Ready-to-Wear Petites department, said she has been working for three years in

retail and said the holiday season is the hardest season to hire employees.

In Stanley's department, she is short four employees, and the shortage poses an inconvenience for her current employees.

"I'm asking my associates to work longer and harder, and it's double the work during Christmas time," she said.

Stanley also said, like Nunes, that The Promenade is a reason for hiring competition in the plaza.

"I think it (shortage in seasonal help) has a lot to do with the new

see **HELP**, page 6



# daily dose

## TODAY'S SUN

Rise: 6:49 a.m. / Set: 4:51 p.m.

## TODAY'S MOON

Rise: 8:15 a.m. / Set: 6:28 p.m.

## TODAY'S TIDE

AT PORT SAN LUIS

Low: 3:38 a.m. / 2.60 feet  
High: 9:15 a.m. / 5.80 feet  
Low: 5:11 p.m. / -0.40 feet

## 5-DAY FORECAST



### MONDAY

High: 69° / Low: 48°



### TUESDAY

High: 77° / Low: 48°



### WEDNESDAY

High: 75° / Low: 46°



### THURSDAY

High: 71° / Low: 46°



### FRIDAY

High: 69° / Low: 44°

## DORM

continued from page 1

added that his roommate has not returned home yet and there could be more items missing that he isn't aware of.

"All the major stuff is here, but there may be small stuff gone," Burson said.

The University Police took a CD case and other items from Burson's room to be used as evidence. In their search for the perpetrators, the police finger-printed items in each of the burglarized rooms.

"We took finger print evidence," Hubbell said. "If we're lucky, that might pan out."

The police department currently has no suspects, and Hubbell said they can't determine if the thieves were students at Cal Poly or even members of the community. The University Police also contacted suspicious-looking people who were on campus over the weekend.

"This was a crime of opportunity — it's obvious to anyone that the campus is vacated," Hubbell said. There is no security in the dorms over holiday weekends, he explained. Students just lock up and leave.

Hubbell can't remember a burglary of this magnitude occurring in the dorms, and he said Cal Poly has a history of safe dorm rooms.

As University Police search for the perpetrators of the burglaries, Hubbell urged students to lock doors and windows when they leave their room and even when they are home. He said students can help by contacting University Police if they have any information regarding the thefts, regardless of how farfetched their information may be. The number is 756-2281.

"We're all in this thing together," Hubbell said.

# Holiday shopping season takes off

By Jenifer Hansen  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Turkey Day has come and gone, marking the start of a busy holiday shopping season, and local businesses felt the rush of shoppers searching for after-Thanksgiving sales Friday.

The world's largest retailer, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., reported on CNN.com that Friday sales reached \$1.1 billion, slightly higher than last year's day-after Thanksgiving sales of \$1 billion.

Mary Lou Morphis, assistant manager of Wal-Mart in Paso Robles, said the store was busy all weekend, especially on Friday. The store opened earlier than normal at 6 a.m. to a full parking lot and customers sprinting in to take advantage of a special "blitz" sale. The sale offered special items, such as computers, at extremely low prices between the hours of 6 and 11 a.m.

Morphis said customers bought televisions, scooters, houseware items and cosmetic gift sets, all of which were on sale this past weekend. She said she thought this weekend's sales were just as busy as years past.

The official launch of the holiday shopping season may have begun this past Friday, but last-minute shoppers and bargain hunters are expected to bring in bigger sales the weekend before Christmas Day, according to an article on CNN.com.

It seems shoppers may spend less money than normal this year. According to a Gallup poll on CNN, the average amount a household will spend on holiday gifts this year is \$797, down from last year's average of \$857. Contributing to the lower numbers this year may be rising fuel prices and the stock market's instability, according to CNN. Consumers may be more cautious about spending on nonessentials, such as scooters and robotic dogs.

Two popular gifts this year are the scooter and a Techno "robot puppy." A spokeswoman for Uncle Tom's Toys in San Luis Obispo said that most people already have the scooter; it was a hot item this summer. She agreed that electronic toys such as the robotic dog are always more popular at Christmas time; however, customers are simply buying classic toys such as Lego's and board games.

Cherie Larkin, assistant manager for Cost Plus World Market in The Promenade shopping center, said the store was busy this weekend. Customers

"Christmas will be decent, but not spectacular. ... You won't see the binge buying you saw last year."

Kurt Barnard

Barnard's Retail Trend Report

were doing a lot of "basket buying," she said. Shoppers are putting together gourmet gift baskets with foods, wine, candles and other sample size items the store offers, Larkin said.

According to an article on ABC-NEWS.com, retail analysts expect a 3 to 4 percent sales increase at stores this

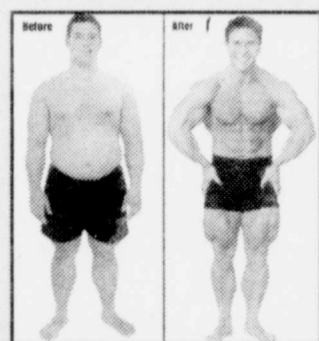
season, compared to last year's 7 percent increase.

"Christmas will be decent, but not spectacular," said Kurt Barnard, publisher of Barnard's Retail Trend Report, in the ABCNEWS.com article. "You won't see the binge buying you saw last year."

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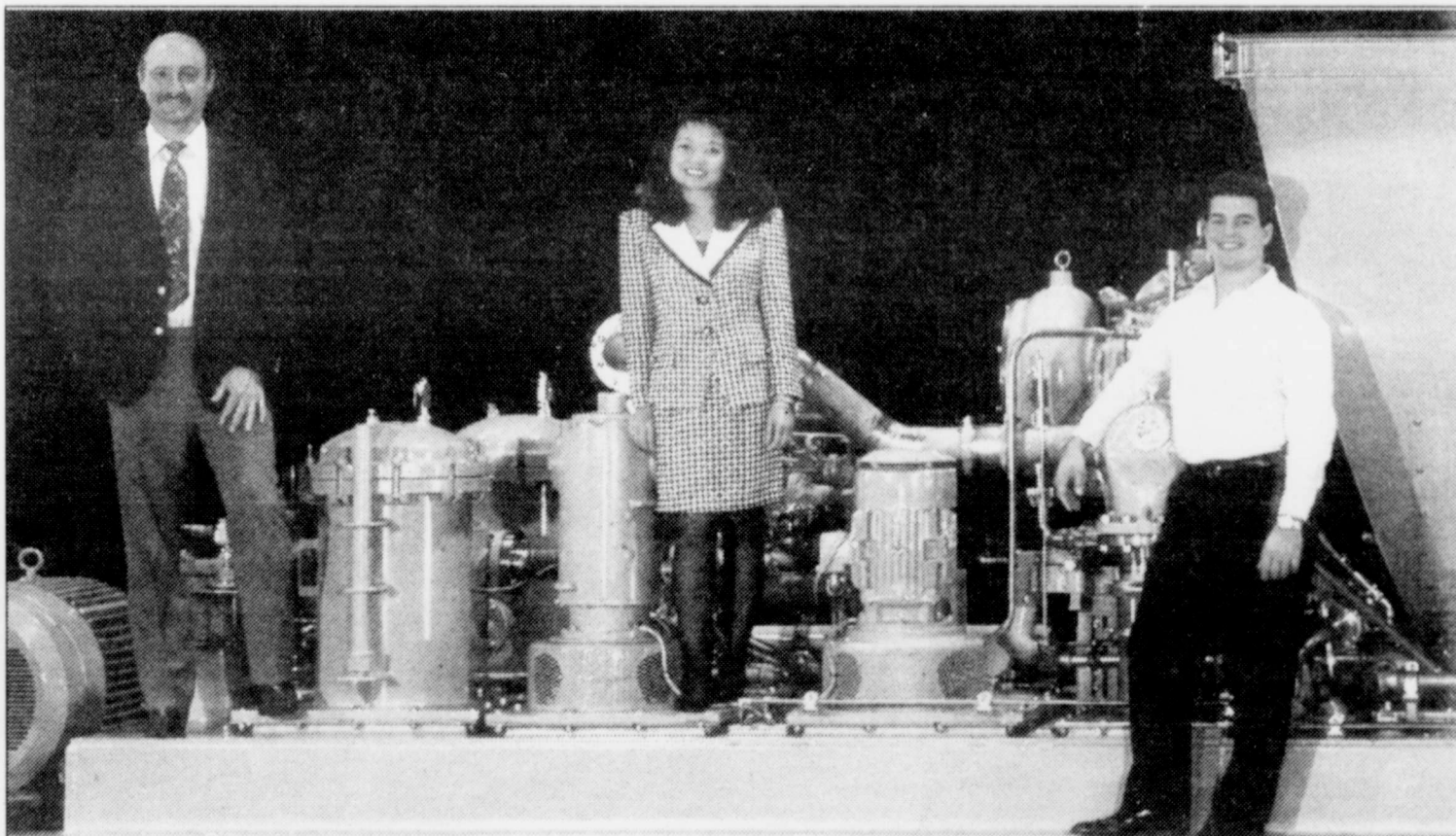
The Kennedy Library and ITS are pleased to announce Extended Library Hours for the Reserve Room and PolyConnect Lab:

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Effective this week,  
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Thanks to Academic Affairs,  
Administration & Finance, and Student  
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## ask adam Why isn't there much franchise food on our campus?

For those of us that have visited other college campuses, it is easy to wonder why we have such a deficit in the chain food arena. I spoke with Al Cushman, associate director of campus dining, looking for the answer behind this disparity.

Historically, he said, there have been efforts to bring franchised food outlets to campus. When The Avenue was remodeled in 1994, Cushman said, both Chick-fil-A and Long John Silvers — where Pasta Pasta now stands — were offered at that venue.

"Sales of Long John Silvers was not to our liking," said Cushman explaining why the captain jumped ship at The Avenue.

Before all that, though, Tapango's Dexter location was planned; however, it was slated to be Taco Bell Express instead.

Cushman said Taco Bell backed out of that licensing deal because of pressures from the off-campus Taco Bell.

"The larger factor is space consideration," Cushman told me. He said that most chains want 800 to 1,300 square feet of dedicated space in order to come on to college campus. Right now, The Avenue can only offer about 100 square feet. He said that many fast food restaurants are seeing universities as their "new

horizon" and are working to decrease their space needs.

Cushman said Campus Dining is consistently in contact with chains to see if their restaurants can fit in the space available on campus. These include Steak Escape, Panda Express, Wendy's and Burger King.

He said that some of these not only have a problem with the space limitations, but won't enter The Avenue while yielding the chicken market to Chick-fil-A. Cushman said that the Chick-fil-A agreement specifies that no competing chicken items would be sold. So, if Wendy's were to enter the food court, it would have to do so without its Spicy Chicken Sandwich, something Wendy's is not prepared to do.

Future building, however, will be planned with larger spaces for fast food chains. Cushman said the Northwest Complex, part of the Master Plan, will have enough space for franchises.

In the less distant future, however, are a few exciting new licensed food additions. Julian's will be remodeled this upcoming summer. In this update, Cushman said Mrs. Field's Cookies is being considered. Additionally being explored is the inclusion of Cinabon in Campus Market.

Except for these small-scale retail outlets, franchise foods will continue to hit a dead end at The Avenue until more Campus Dining locations are built or national brands are less demanding.

Have a question about campus? Ask Adam. E-mail him at [ajarman@calpoly.edu](mailto:ajarman@calpoly.edu).

## Lebanese attacks countered

KFAR CHOUBA, Lebanon (AP) — Israel — still engaged in violence with the Palestinians — faced fresh security problems Sunday in Lebanon, where it rained missiles and machine gun fire in retaliation for a Hezbollah bombing that killed one soldier.

The assault was Israel's first cross-border retaliatory attack since pulling its troops from southern Lebanon in May to end Israel's 18-year occupation of a border enclave there. The Israeli army confirmed striking back with gunfire after the roadside bombing in Chebaa Farms near the Lebanese border. One civilian was slightly injured on the Lebanese side.

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, in comments on state-run television, called the Israeli raids a "grave precedent that may entail serious repercussions for which Israel is alone responsible."

The violence at Chebaa Farms — an uninhabited strip of land in the western foothills of Mount Hermon where the borders of Lebanon, Syria and Israel meet — occurred against the backdrop of continued Israeli-Palestinian clashes.

On Sunday, Israeli soldiers killed four armed Palestinians as they traveled from a Palestinian-controlled area of the West Bank into an Israeli-controlled part, a military official said.

## POLYWEEK

Monday	Nov. 27	Friday	Dec. 1
NOTHING LISTED		8 PM FALL CONCERT, Cal Poly Chamber Orchestra. Performing Arts Center	

Tuesday	Nov. 28
8 AM - 6 PM COLLEGE CLOSE-OUT SALE, Alpha Phi Omega. UU Plaza	

Wednesday	Nov. 29
10-11 AM STUDENT/TEACHER BREAKFAST, Industrial Technology Society. Bldg. 3 Room 321.	

6-8 PM PANEL DISCUSSION, Student Community Services. Cal Poly Theater.	
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7-9 PM OPEN HOUSE, Alpha Chi. Alpha Chi House.	
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Thursday	Nov. 30
NOTHING LISTED	

Saturday	Dec. 2
8 PM A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, Cal Poly Choir. Performing Arts Center.	

Sunday	Dec. 3
NOTHING LISTED	

► PolyWeek runs each Monday in Mustang Daily. To submit an event for consideration, e-mail information to [arts@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu](mailto:arts@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu) by the Friday prior. Please note Mustang Daily reserves the right to omit submitted events for any reason. Club meetings and similar general events will not be listed.

► Mustang Daily regrets any inaccuracies in PolyWeek, but is not held responsible for them.

## New study shows ecstasy use on the rise; marijuana use drops among teenagers

NEW YORK (AP) — Teen-age marijuana use has dropped for a third straight year, but a jump in the use of the "club drug" ecstasy raised new concerns for parents, according to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America's annual report.

The nonprofit group's 13th survey, being released Monday, questioned 7,290 students in seventh through 12th grades nationwide. The margin of error is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

Use of ecstasy, a favorite at dance clubs and all-night raves, has doubled among teens since 1995, the survey found. One in 10 teens has experimented with the drug, it said.

The report found the number of teens who have tried ecstasy at least once had increased from 7 percent to 10 percent over the past year. In contrast, the 40 percent of teens saying they had tried marijuana was down from 41 percent last year.

It was the third consecutive drop-off in teen marijuana use since 1997, when 44 percent of teens said they had used the drug at least once.

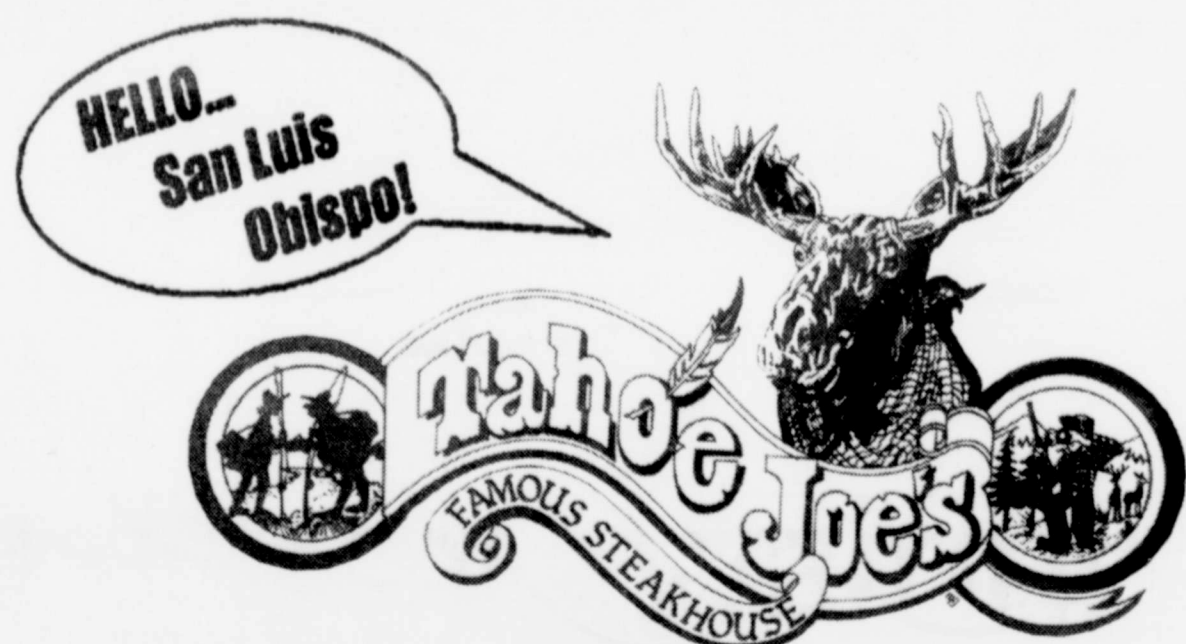
"We appear to be turning a very important corner," said Richard D.

Bonnette, the partnership's president and chief executive officer. "But as we turn one corner, troubling developments are coming at us from other directions — specifically with ecstasy."

The survey found that more teens were turned off than on by marijuana. Fifty-four percent felt smoking pot would make them behave foolishly, up from 51 percent in 1997. Fewer believe most people will try marijuana: 36 percent now, compared with 41 percent in 1997. And just 21 percent said they had used marijuana in the past month, down from 24 percent in 1997.

Those numbers are significant because they address attitude changes since the partnership, along with the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy, started a national anti-drug ad campaign in July 1998.

"This study confirms the trends we've seen over the last three years — a steady decline in the number of teen using drugs," said Barry McCaffrey, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. "This is very good news."



# WANTED

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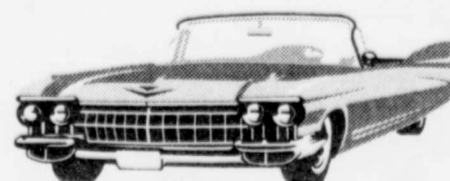
**Daily interviewing will begin Tuesday  
December 5th at Tahoe Joe's Famous Steakhouse.  
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## Many groups offended by team mascots

You know, the last two weeks of bickering in regards to politically incorrect sports teams have been eye opening for me. After reading some of the enlightening letters to Mustang Daily, I feel the pain of the vexed and realize that I, too, am deeply wounded and offended by the American sports scene.

First, I look at the graduate school I desire most to attend after I leave politically aware Cal Poly. The University of Notre Dame dares to slap my Irish brethren and me in the face by naming its team the Fighting Irish. This is a horrible injustice to the Emerald Isle. Do they think all Irish are drunken boxers? Not me, I don't drink or fight. Also, what about the Boston Celtics? I can just imagine my Gaelic forefathers cringing as they look at that stupid mascot. Were my great-grandparents leprechauns? I think not!

Let me continue my grumbling with the degradation of Catholicism by sports. I realize this point was brought up two weeks ago, but I've noticed the best way to get people to join the progressive cause is to drill the

**Michael Deem**

same arguments over and over again. Teams like the San Diego Padres spit on Junipero Serra and his Franciscan companions when they Christianized California. Look at Stanford's Cardinal. Which cardinal are they portraying? Perhaps John Henry Cardinal Newman? Oh my, I can just hear the battle cry of the Catholic Newman Center now! The New Orleans Saints? Are we coupling Mardi Gras with Christian virtue?

Again, I am disgusted. Do we actually think the Saints are God's team? The Vatican has yet to approve this one (I heard the Italians prefer soccer), and the Saints are horrible. Makes you wonder who the real saints are interceding for.

The Sacramento Kings show disrespect toward my European roots. I demand that all who have ties to a once or current monarchical country stand up against such atrocity – but then again, I am a hardcore Kings fan. Amazing how that works. But I'm sure my friend Jeremy laments over the way his Scandinavian heritage is degraded by the Minnesota Vikings and the Oakland Raiders – oh wait, his favorite team is the Raiders.

What about the San Diego Chargers? Do people who use credit cards possess any less dignity than others? What if those who charge everything to their credit cards fall into debt? Are they supposed to accept a team that's named the Buffalo Bills?

The other day I was sitting in a chair at Supercuts and was almost brought to tears feeling sympathy for my stylist. She and all stylists and barbers must rise every morning and try to hold their heads high knowing that a team called the Los Angeles Clippers undermines their profession.

Perhaps we shouldn't stop with the names of sports teams. Let us protest against other institutions that make a mockery of culture. Maybe we can attack the fraternities and sororities for claiming to be Greek. There really is nothing Greek about them aside from their rather indulgent and primitive innovations to symposiums. I wonder how the people of Greece feel about this. Also, to remain consistently PC, let's get Campus Crusade for Christ. After all, the last time we had a crusade for Christ, Muslims were slaughtered. Call me crazy, but Islam might not be thrilled by "W8" signs everywhere. In fact, we can go after every organization and institution in the country since we can twist any title or name into an insult to culture – or maybe we can just get a clue and quit complaining.

Michael Deem is a philosophy junior.



## Special to the Daily

No job, no money and absolutely nowhere to go, and you thought you had it bad? There are an estimated 3,000 homeless people in San Luis Obispo county with only about 80 beds available in homeless shelters.

"There are enough homeless to be sleeping in creeks, cars and moving from couch to couch," said George Moylan, executive director of the San Luis Obispo Housing Authority. "There is

### Guest Homeless Commentary

Why isn't anything being done about this need? The community is purposely blinding themselves from the homeless issue. A new shelter is being planned again this year in Paso Robles, but for the past two years, it has inevitably fallen through the cracks, according to Shawn Ison, Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC) shelter supervisor.

There are currently only two shelters in San Luis Obispo County. Due to the lack of housing, many homeless are forced to camp out in the surrounding areas of the community. The police are citing and even arresting the masses that are forced into this alternative. The truth is, they have nowhere else to go.

What the county does have to offer in response to this is an overflow facility, transitional housing and a day center, along with a few other small programs. The overflow facility houses 20 people (mostly women and children) rotating from church to church, said

Erin Partridge, director of Student Community Services at Cal Poly.

A transitional housing program is in effect, yet it too cannot support the overwhelming need for housing. This program provides apartments and houses bought by the county to shelter homeless. The program also provides vocational assistance, yet there are spaces for only 28 people.

"That doesn't even begin to fill the void," Moylan said.

In addition to these two programs, San Luis Obispo County has a day center built specifically for the homeless. The center provides activities and support for the homeless during the day, yet there is no transportation offered from the EOC shelter to the day center.

"It's too far to walk," Partridge said.

While the center has ample funding, without proper allocation the transportation problem still exists. Although these programs are beneficial, the misuse of funds is robbing the shelters and programs of their full potential.

Michelle Cummings, a staff member at the EOC shelter, said shelters do not receive enough donations to make it through the year without ending up in the hole. The shelter realizes it needs to find someone to represent it in order to increase its funding but is unable to locate a qualified person willing to work for the diminutive salary it can offer.

The existing staff is already overworked and underpaid. In order for the shelter to persist, it relies almost entirely on volunteers, which leads to another problem.

This selfish community needs to help homeless people improve their condition. Moylan said that the community feels that building a facility (or even having a facility in their area) will attract more homeless, making it extremely undesirable. This unsupportive attitude generally leads to a deficiency in awareness about homelessness.

It's not a pressing issue now, as suggested by Moylan. It's more of a social issue. It doesn't have the same political appeal as before, so there are very few powerful people to advocate for any changes in the county which leaves homelessness and the need for shelters in the same place where it began – at the end of the county's list of priorities.

Darci Brown is a social science senior and Michelle Langston is a math junior. They are writing as part of an ongoing series on societal issues.

### Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily.

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words.

Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mailed letters. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to [mustangdaily@hotmail.com](mailto:mustangdaily@hotmail.com)

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"You should know by now not to look for logic in anything I say."



## Letter to the editor

We would like to thank each and every person who gave their time and/or money to support Measure M, the SOAR initiative. From standing in the rain collecting signatures to the very last get-out-the-vote call, the SOAR volunteers formed the largest grassroots effort

ever witnessed in this county. For many of us, this campaign has felt more like family than work and it has been a privilege and an honor to work with all of the dedicated volunteers. We have formed friendships that will last a lifetime.

We would also like to thank all

the voters who voted yes on Measure M. Let's hope that elected officials throughout the county will take heed of your vote by paying very close attention to future planning and zoning decisions especially when it comes to rezoning agricultural and open space.

Because of the hard work of campaign volunteers and the support from 41 percent of the voters, the

movement started by Measure M will continue in a new form. Please join us on Thursday, Dec. 7 to discuss where we go from here. The meeting will be held at the Parks & Recreation Building at the corner of Santa Rosa and Mill Streets in San Luis Obispo from 7 to 9 p.m. We have maintained the phone number (783-0466) and the Web site ([soarsanluisobispo.org](http://soarsanluisobispo.org)) and

you are invited to call or email us with your comments and questions.

Thank you again to all the wonderful volunteers and contributors.

Happy holidays, and see you on Dec. 7.

The SOAR Campaign Committee: Wendy Brown, Randy Knight, Susan Mullen, Tom Murray, Tina Salter and Jan Scott.

## Don't blame movies for our moral decay

Throughout the tornadic fury that was once research for a project, I came across a jewel of an article claiming that Hollywood was in part responsible for the decline in religion cross the world. I would have dismissed it, had the article not blamed many of the films I consider to be prominent examples of what cinema should be.

The first example cited by this skewed report was the latest

### Commentary

psychotic thriller, "The Cell." The author states a crucial piece of the plot by revealing that the killer committed his horrible acts because of a botched baptism. Hence, the author blames Hollywood for directly relating religion to the imaginative slaughter of an actor – obviously the intent of the writer, producer and director.

The tirade continues to attack films that decay the once shining white moral fiber of America, claiming that Kevin Spacey led many to abandon their families and smoke pot in their garages. The author also states, "American Beauty" glorifies the dysfunctional family and promotes promiscuous sex and deviancy.

The list went on and on, citing scenes from films such as "Stigmata" and "Dogma," insinuating they defame the image of the Catholic Church and defile any self-sacrifice in the name of freedom of religion.

But the author failed to realize that the entertainment business makes its money from giving people what they want. Hollywood doesn't force people to follow the norms and stigmas exaggerated in their films, because the people supplied the wood for this fire.

Maybe some thought Kevin Smith playfully examined the hypocrisy of the Catholic Church or really enjoyed seeing the little guy win for a change in "American Beauty." Maybe some even find it entertaining to watch an unusual plot unfold about a serial killer. Obviously

*"Revived McCarthyism won't make the world a second Eden."*

they do because these films fared very well according to box office returns.

Had the films been the true atrocities they were made out to be, no one would have gone to see them. People would have skipped the matinee and gone to sit through a sermon concerning the decline of morality, but they didn't because they wanted to be entertained. The public wants to be shocked and appalled and see everything turn out all right after an hour and a half.

Movies that are now considered to be boring and dull were once the pivotal stories of a generation. Believe it or not, "Gone With The Wind" met some resistance on the way to the top. Then, it had a great plot, real characters and a universal setting. Now, moviegoers would turn their noses. We have seen the same story rehashed so many times that we need a surprise every two seconds and enough blood to fill a swimming pool to even watch the trailer.

Things such as films, music and literature are a reflection of the times and state of society. There will always be someone who complains about these things because they have nothing else to hold onto – except the strife they created. Revived McCarthyism won't make the world a second Eden.

Attacking movies, music and books won't prevent the decay of anything. We live in an age that is wealthy with information and advancements – some cannot come to grips with such a blatant reality. If you don't like the movie don't buy a ticket, and try not to spoil the show for everyone. And in the now immortal words of Kevin Spacey, "I rule!"

Cass Rains, Oklahoma State University, U-wire.

## No price tag for stolen items

I was one of the unfortunate students to have his room broken into this Thanksgiving vacation. Nothing

### Commentary

from me, but several items of personal significance were taken: a pocket knife from my grandfather, a gift from a friend for being in his wedding, a clock from my mother, a belt my parents bought in Mexico.

The officer who came to my room to record what had been stolen was very helpful, and asked me questions about the appearance and worth of what was missing.

It was easy enough to describe what everything looked like, but I was at a loss to name the value of what had been stolen.

How can I put a price tag on the pocket knife my grandmother slipped into my Christmas stocking one year? It had belonged to my grandfather. He found it in an abandoned cabin one day while hunting. Since he died, it's one of the only things I have by which to remember him.

What monetary value can I put on the leather belt and buckle with a scorpion inside? My parents bought it while on a trip to Mexico and sent it to me a couple weeks ago as a present. The loss is no big financial blow, and it

would be fairly easy to get a new one, but it meant something to me. It was special to get a package in the mail, to know my parents were thinking about me.

Thankfully, I don't base my life or happiness on what I own. I was not devastated or saddened by the theft, but I am troubled by the thieves.

It doesn't bother me that those who took my things may be reading this commentary. What bothers me is that they're reading this, and probably don't care about a word I've said.

I guess I'll never understand.

Ryan Miller is the Mustang Daily opinion editor.

## Hannukah, other holidays overlooked

'Twas the night before Christmas, and what did I do, but sit around wondering what I was going to do the next day.

Growing up in a Jewish household, we usually stuffed the house with rented movies and Chinese food, because that's basically all we could find open.

I always sat gazing out at the snowy morning, thinking about the millions of people sitting around their Christmas trees, opening gifts, smiling at Santa and thanking one another for the new TV set or pair of skis they just acquired. Well, yeah, we did that too, the gift-exchanging thing I mean.

But it was a couple of weeks ago, and instead of thinking about the millions of people celebrating our eight sacred nights of Hanukkah, the five in my family gathered around the menorah, sang our beautiful prayers, and remembered the sacred story of how Hanukkah came to be.

My mom would tell the story, "When all the Jewish temples were being destroyed by evil terrorists long ago, all the oil had been banished in the destruction except for a very small amount of oil that burned for eight nights, in turn, giving light to the eight nights of Hanukkah."

We exchanged the few gifts we could afford to buy or make one another for this year's Hanukkah celebration. I suppose I'm not just speaking for the Jews when those who celebrate other holidays such as Ramadan or Kwanzaa get asked, "What did you get for Christmas?" And every year I have to say, "I don't celebrate Christmas."

"But why not?" Why not succumb to the universal holiday Christmas has become and join in the green, red and gold festivities of the majority? And then for those who know you celebrate another holiday, they feel awkward asking you what you got on every one of the eight nights of Hanukkah,

turning the Jewish celebration into a greedy holiday because we get presents eight nights in a row.

Well, maybe when I was a little girl, I was granted small trinkets every night, like a coloring book or crayons. But now, as we've grown older, we still celebrate the holiday in a more holy sense by recognizing the sacred story behind its celebration and lighting the candles each night, whether we have gifts to

exchange.

To tell you the truth, I feel the over-celebration of Christmas has caused it to lose its significant meaning. And maybe those of us, who can celebrate our holiday more discretely, can feel the powers of it in our households.

Now, I'm definitely not saying Christmas is bad. When I first start to see the Christmas decorations in stores and houses, I get a warm fuzzy feeling inside. And my family has tried to enjoy Christmas, even though it isn't our holiday. One year my dad hung up stockings on the fireplace, but my mom cried because she felt we were disregarding our own holiday. And we have gazed into the creative light displays at Domino's Farms in Ann Arbor from time to time.

But we've always left feeling eerie, as if we are going through the motions of something we don't belong to. Maybe we are being ethnocentric. Maybe we are just feeling ignored. Or maybe the history of our Jewish culture and religion lives and breathes inside of us, making it difficult to appreciate what once tried to slay our culture; that which wasn't accepting of us.

And it is especially during this time of year, when the lack of attention and acknowledgment that Jews exist is hung in our faces with a neon sign, or Christmas

light that is. I guess every year I go through the motions of our ceremonial Chinese meal out and movie-watching and Christmas Day.

But, what really got me this year was that it seems Michigan State's campus only recognizes the majority with its decorative light displays on campus buildings.

Yes, "Happy Holidays" and "Peace on Earth" signs do exist, but

*"To tell you the truth, I feel the over-celebration of Christmas has caused it to lose its significant meaning."*

are these signs taking the easy way out from recognizing other individual's holidays by summing them all up in a generalized sign?

That's how I feel I guess. Now, I myself am not a very religious Jew. But I do recognize my ethnicity as Jewish and I do know we have holidays as well that often get overlooked, especially when school breaks are labeled Christmas or Easter break, maybe hoping the Jewish holidays fall upon the same day. Well, how about Passover, Hanukkah, or the most sacred of all, the high holidays of Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah? Must I be in a Jewish Studies course to have an excused absence on those days? I don't think so.

However, one would think during Yom Kippur, a holiday of which we must fast all day, one would be excused from traveling to class. And what about Ramadan? This Islamic holiday includes so much fasting, how is one expected to perform at his or her highest? Since the majority doesn't take part in the celebration of Ramadan, Kwanzaa, or Hanukkah, must those of us who do face the fact that we may not be excused from class on the day of a midterm?

Erin Schwartz, Michigan State University, U-wire.

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## HELP

continued from page 1

retail stores that opened at The Promenade," Stanley said.

Cherie Larkin, assistant manager for Cost Plus World Market, a new store at The Promenade, said that she has plenty of employees for seasonal help.

"We had tons of people applying and still have lots of applications," she said.

The same scenario goes for Bed Bath and Beyond, another new store in the Promenade.

"We're not short at all," said Lisa Terry, assistant store manager. "But we're always hiring."

Big 5 Sporting Goods is another store

on the wrong side of The Promenade. The store is also short on seasonal help, but Kathy Hallisey, assistant store manager, said they hope to be up to full staff by next week.

"We're currently at 85 percent of our level, but we need to be at 100 percent," she said.

Hallisey has seen the seasonal employment shortage the last two years.

"The economy is good and kids don't need to search for jobs," she said.

Hallisey also said that due to the fact that San Luis Obispo is a college town, it's hard for retailers to schedule college students because they tend to be gone when the store needs them.



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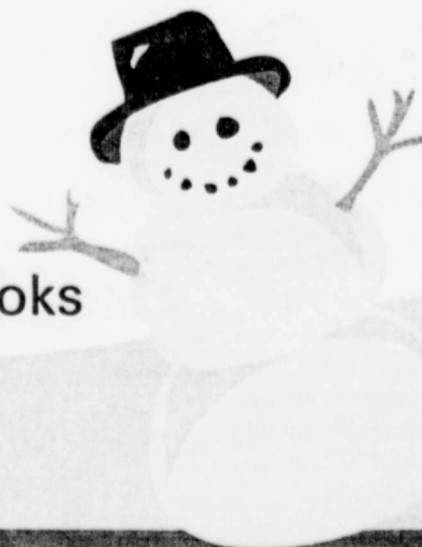
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NFL Scoreboard

Cleveland	7	New Orleans	31	Atlanta	14
Baltimore	44	St. Louis	24	Oakland	41
Pittsburgh	48	Buffalo	17	Miami	17
Cincinnati	28	Tampa Bay	31	Indianapolis	14
Chicago	10	Philadelphia	23	Tennessee	13
NY Jets	17	Washington	20	Jacksonville	16
				Kansas City	16
				San Diego	17
				Denver	38
				Seattle	31

BASKETBALL

continued from page 8

second half, shooting under 30 percent after hitting 42 percent in the first half. Senior guard Michelle St. Clair was held to seven points in the second half, after posting 21 in the first.

"In the second half we made more of an effort to make sure we knew where she was," said Cal Poly center Heather Journey, who scored a career-high 15 points and had four rebounds. "We were more focused on picking up our defense because we knew our shots would fall."

Osorio remained hot down the stretch for the Mustangs, finishing with 17 points, six assists and six rebounds. Sorosky finished with eight points and six assists, while center Caroline Rowles had 10 points.

Junior point guard Odessa Jenkins led the Mustangs with seven rebounds. St. Clair led all scorers with 28 points.

Osorio had another solid night off the bench Wednesday as the Mustangs defeated Gonzaga 60-51 in Mott Gym.

"It's nice," said Osorio, who tallied 16 points. "This is the best start since I've been here. We just came with it tonight."

Cal Poly didn't trail in the game until the second half when the Bulldogs burst out of the locker room with a 12-2 run and took a three-point lead.

But Cal Poly's bench answered with a 11-2 run of their own.

"We had a stalemate there where we couldn't hit a shot and they started hitting theirs," Mimnaugh said. "Then we had some key substitutions and took the momentum back."

Sorosky hit three of four from downtown, while Osorio was a perfect nine of nine from the free-throw line.

Journey added seven points and three rebounds off the bench for the Mustangs.

Rowles and Jenkins added six points apiece as both teams turned in miserable nights from the floor. Cal Poly hit 37 percent from the field, while the Bulldogs shot 35 percent.

"We made some pretty good decisions on the court," Mimnaugh said. "The ball just didn't fall for us tonight."

After hitting five of 10 from the three-point line in the first half, Gonzaga (1-1) cooled off from beyond the arc and wound up shooting 35 percent in the game.

Erin Bergman hit four of five three-pointers and led the Bulldogs - losers of 11 of its last 12 games - with 18 points. The Mustangs travel to UC Riverside on Tuesday.

Raiders trample Falcons

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - The Raiders kept rolling toward the playoffs.

Rich Gannon threw for 231 yards and two touchdowns, and David Dunn scored on an 88-yard kickoff return as Oakland beat the Atlanta Falcons 41-14 Sunday for its eighth victory in nine games.

After Atlanta scored on the game's opening possession, the Raiders (10-2) reeled off 38 straight points. Tim Brown and James Jett each caught a TD pass, while Tyrone Wheatley and Zack Crockett each rushed for a score.

With their 10th victory - Oakland's best total since 1993 - the Raiders matched Minnesota for the NFL's best record. They also moved a step closer to their first division title since 1990, and their first postseason berth since 1994.

Backed by screaming, near-capacity crowds at the Coliseum, the Raiders have scored 121 points in their last three home games. While the offense was having another strong day, Oakland's 26th-ranked defense sacked Atlanta quarterbacks Chris Chandler and Doug Johnson six times.

The Falcons spent the week in the San Francisco Bay area after last Sunday's 16-6 loss to the 49ers. The extra focus that Atlanta coach Dan Reeves hoped for didn't show up Sunday, as the Falcons (3-10) lost their fourth straight and ninth in the last 10 games.

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Allan Hancock College		6:14			10:14	3:18
Santa Maria AMTRAK Bus / Marian Hospital		6:22			10:22	3:26
NIPOMO						
Nipomo Recreation Center (P-n-R Lot)		6:34			10:34	3:38
ARROYO GRANDE						
Arroyo Grande City Hall		-	6:45	7:00	10:50	3:54
Halcyon / El Camino Real (P-n-R Lot)		6:47			-	-
GROVER BEACH						
Ramona Garden Park		-	6:55	7:11	11:01	4:05
PISMO BEACH						
Dolliver Street at Wadsworth Ave		-	7:00	7:21	11:11	4:15
SHELL BEACH						
Shell Beach Road at Esparto Ave		-	7:11	7:26	11:16	4:20
SAN LUIS OBISPO						
So. Higuera/South Ave. SLO GREYHOUND Station		7:13	7:27	7:42	11:32	4:36
SLO AMTRAK Station		7:16	-	-	11:37	4:41
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER		7:22	7:36	7:51	11:41	4:45
Cal Poly Campus	Ar	7:30	7:44	7:59	11:49	4:53
SOUTHBOUND Bus Stops		AM	AM	AM	PM	PM
SAN LUIS OBISPO						
Cal Poly Campus	Lv	7:40			1:05	5:05
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER		7:48			1:13	5:08
SLO AMTRAK Station		7:52			1:17	5:12
So. Higuera/South Ave. SLO GREYHOUND Station		7:57			1:22	5:17
SHELL BEACH						
Shell Beach Road at Esparto Ave		8:13			1:35	5:38
PISMO BEACH						
Dolliver Street at Wadsworth Ave		8:15			1:43	5:43
GROVER BEACH						
Ramona Garden Park		8:28			1:53	5:53
ARROYO GRANDE						
Halcyon / El Camino Real (P-n-R Lot)		-			-	5:39
Arroyo Grande City Hall		8:39			2:04	6:04
NIPOMO						
Nipomo Recreation Center (P-n-R Lot)		8:55			2:20	6:25
SANTA MARIA						
Santa Maria GREYHOUND BUS Station		9:10			2:35	6:10
Town Center Mall Transit Terminal		9:13			2:38	6:13
Allan Hancock College		9:20			2:45	6:20
Santa Maria AMTRAK Bus / Marian Hospital	Ar	9:28			2:53	6:28

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## Mustangs' record remains perfect with weekend win

**Women's basketball comes from behind to beat Sacramento State on Saturday**

By Brian Milne  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly women's basketball team is off to its best start in 10 years.

The Mustangs have jumped to a 3-0 record this season, their best start since 1990-1991 when they won their first three games out of the box en route to a 14-13 season.

"It feels great to be 3-0 right now, so of course we're happy," said senior guard Stephanie Osorio. "It's just the beginning though, there's more to come."

On Saturday, Cal Poly erased an early 11-0 deficit and outscored Sacramento State 43-30 in the second half, finishing with a 75-68 victory at Mott Gym.

"They came out a little bit flat, today being their first game out," said Cal Poly head coach Faith Minnaugh. "I don't know if it was the Thanksgiving turkey stuffing in them or what."

It took the Mustangs more than seven minutes to get a point on the board, but they responded with a 17-2 run to take the lead midway through the first half.

Osorio, who came off the bench with 10 points in the first half, capped the run with a pair of three-pointers before the Hornets pulled together another late run to take a 38-32 lead into the locker room.

Then things fell apart for Sacramento State (0-3), which has lost its last 20 games on the road.

"Their outside shooters started getting hot," said Sacramento State coach Carolyn Jenkins. "They also picked up the defense and we couldn't keep our cool."

The Hornets went cold in the

see BASKETBALL, page 7



DANIEL GONZALES/MUSTANG DAILY



DANIEL GONZALES/MUSTANG DAILY

Above, Jennifer Sorosky came off the bench for the Mustangs and scored eight points in 10 minutes of action against Sacramento State.

Left, Stephanie Osorio led Cal Poly in scoring with 17 points. She also pulled down six of the team's 38 rebounds.

## Volleyball going back to NCAA Tournament

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Cal Poly's late-season surge at the Long Beach State Thanksgiving Tournament was rewarded Sunday as the Mustangs were selected to return to the NCAA Tournament.

Head coach Steve Schlick's squad will face South Florida in the first round. The Bulls finished 28-5 and won 21 of its last 22 matches.

The match will take place on either Nov. 30 or Dec. 1.

In Long Beach on Friday, Cal Poly fell to No. 2 University of Hawaii 3-1, breaking the Rainbow's 36-game unbeaten streak. Melanie Hathaway led all players with 25 kills, 13 digs and four blocks.

In the regular season finale for both teams, Cal Poly swept Oregon State 3-0 on Saturday. Worthy Lien set the pace for the Mustangs with 13 kills and four blocks.

## Men's hoops defeated by Islanders

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The men's basketball team fell flat in the opening half and was never able to recover as they fell to Texas A&M Corpus Christi 86-72 Sunday afternoon.

Islander forward Michael Hicks torched the Mustangs for 40 points and 14 rebounds, while center Damian Kirkaldy backed him up with 11 points and four rebounds.

Cal Poly, led by center Chris Bjorklund's 29 points, shot only .336 from the field in the first half, falling behind 43-29 at the break. Forward Jamaal Scott fouled out halfway through the second half and finished with five points.

The poor shooting for the Mustangs continued at the foul line, as the team only made 12 of 29 free throws.

### Sports Trivia

#### Yesterday's Answer:

The Chicago Bulls retired jersey number four in honor of Jerry Sloan.

Congrats Steve Corino!

#### Today's Question:

Where did Isiah Thomas play college basketball?

Please submit sports trivia answer to: [sports@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu](mailto:sports@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu)  
Please include your name. The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.

### Scores

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL		VOLLEYBALL	
Gonzaga	51	Hawaii	3
Cal Poly	60	Cal Poly	1
Sacramento State	68	Oregon State	0
Cal Poly	75	Cal Poly	3

### Briefs

#### Chargers start one-game winning streak

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Chargers were spared a dirty dozen losses, thanks to John Carney's strong right leg.

Carney kicked a 52-yard field goal with 2:14 left to give San Diego a 17-16 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday, stopping its season-opening losing streak at 11.

The Chargers tried to give this one away by committing five turnovers, including two interceptions by Ryan Leaf.

### Schedule

#### TUESDAY

- Women's basketball vs. UC Riverside
- at Riverside
- at 7 p.m.

#### THURSDAY

- Men's basketball vs. Cal State Monterey Bay
- at Mott Gym
- at 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

- Wrestling at Las Vegas Tournament
- at Primm, Nevada
- at 10 a.m.

#### SATURDAY

- Women's basketball vs. Northern Arizona
- at Mott Gym
- at 2 p.m.