

**Crash and burn:**

Airline service leaves much to be desired, 4

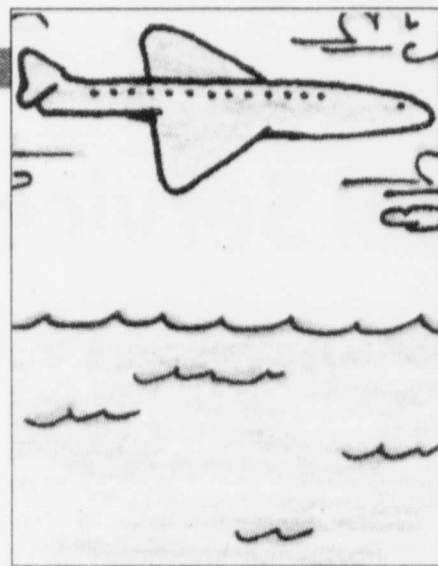
**Homeless? New Web**

site lessens housing woes, 3



High: 60° / Low: 43°

For extended weather forecast, see Daily Dose, 2



# Mustang

## DAILY

Tuesday, April 10, 2001

Volume LXV, Number 110, 1916-2001

## Poly poultry recognized as top grower

By Katriona Corey

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly has the competition in the bag, at least when it comes to raising chickens.

Once again, Cal Poly was recognized as the number one grower for Foster Farms, the largest poultry company in the Western United States.

This is the eighth time Cal Poly has been distinguished in the three and a half years since they became free-for-service contractors for Foster Farms said Robert Spiller, Cal Poly animal science professor. Cal Poly was recognized because it was able to raise a flock of 7,000 chickens for 2.16 cents less per pound than the average grower, he said.

Spiller said that Cal Poly is the only non-professional grower on a permanent contract with Foster Farms.

"The challenge is that we start each flock of chickens with four students who have never raised a chick in their life, compared to other growers who do this for a living," Spiller said.

He said Cal Poly has a very small facility, which can accommodate up to 7,000 chickens compared to other growers with an average of 400,000.

Foster Farms gives Cal Poly a flock of hatchlings where three to four students, through an enterprise project, raise them to full-grown chickens, Spiller said. He said the flocks stay in the facility for about 46 days.

Joe Gardner, an animal science sophomore, was one of the students working on the fall quarter project.



AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Joe Gardner, left, animal science sophomore, and Jon Chapman, animal science senior, display some of the chicks grown for Foster Farms at the poultry unit.

see POULTRY, page 2

## Dean of Ag to be named to D.C. post

By Jenifer Hansen

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Although it is not yet official, one of Cal Poly's own might be on his way to work for the president.

President George W. Bush will nominate College of Agriculture Dean Joseph Jen to be the U.S.



JOSEPH JEN:  
Agriculture dean.

Department of Agriculture's Undersecretary of Agriculture for Research, Education and Economics, according to a university Public Affairs news release.

The White House and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman made the announcement Thursday, according to the news release. Although the nomination has yet to be confirmed by Public Affairs or the College of Agriculture, a Washington Post article from Friday stated that President Bush had indeed chosen Jen for the position.

Jeff Bliss, director of the university's Public Affairs, said that Jen had not yet been officially nominated.

"The announcement was made that they intend to nominate Jen," he said.

Bliss added that the Public Affairs office did not have further information on when the nomination would become official.

Lisa Hersch, public affairs assistant for the College of Agriculture, said that Jen's official position on the impending nomination is to not comment on the matter until it is officially confirmed. White House officials have asked the College of Agriculture

see JEN, page 2

## Forum scheduled to discuss television and media issues

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Some of the television industry's leading journalists will come to Cal Poly tonight for a media forum looking at the glamorous and not so glamorous sides of the news medium.

"The Good, the Bad and Television," sponsored by Cal Poly, will begin tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Cal Poly Theatre. The free forum will allow candid comments from some of the biggest names in television.

Topping the forum will be Don Hewitt, creator and executive producer of "60 Minutes." Added to this list are: Dee Dee Myers, former White House press secretary under President Bill Clinton and current adviser for NBC's "The West Wing; Howard Rosenberg, Pulitzer-Prize winning television critic for the Los Angeles Times; Meryl Marshall-Daniels, chief executive officer of the Academy of Television Arts and Science, the organization that awards the Emmys; Todd Purdum, writer for The New York Times; and, Terry Anzur, journalism professor at the University of Southern California and former television news anchor.

The panel will be moderated by Margaret Warner, chief interviewer for PBS's Lehrer News Hour.

The forum is at 7:30 tonight in Cal Poly Theatre.

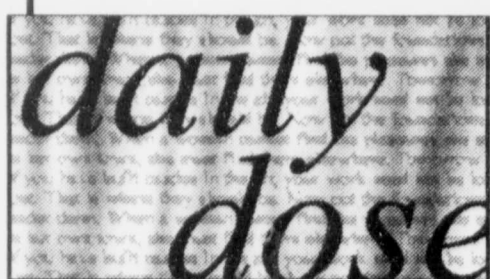
## Teachers wanted



Left, Sean Reedy, a Cal Poly graduate student working on his multiple subject credentials, is interviewed by Holland Locker, administrator of the division of Human Resources for the Fresno Unified School District at the teacher recruiting symposium in Chumash Auditorium Monday.

COLLIN HESTER/MUSTANG DAILY





## TODAY'S SUN

Rise: 6:36 a.m. / Set: 7:32 p.m.

## TODAY'S MOON

Rise: 10:34 p.m. / Set: 8:30 a.m.

## TODAY'S TIDE

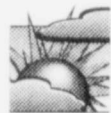
AT PORT SAN LUIS

Low: 6:35 a.m. / -0.46 feet

High: 12:54 p.m. / 3.95 feet

Low: 6:08 p.m. / 1.55 feet

## 5-DAY FORECAST



## TUESDAY

High: 60° / Low: 43°



## WEDNESDAY

High: 56° / Low: 39°



## THURSDAY

High: 59° / Low: 39°



## FRIDAY

High: 64° / Low: 41°



## SATURDAY

High: 63° / Low: 43°

## JEN

continued from page 1

not to talk about the details of the nomination, Hersch said.

Jen has been dean of the College of Agriculture since 1992 and is recognized as an expert in the areas of post-harvest handling of fruits and vegetables, pectin chemistry and food enzymology, according to the news release.

Originally from Taiwan, Jen earned his Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural chemistry from National Taiwan University. Eventually he came to the United States where he received a master's degree in food science from Washington State University and a Ph.D. in comparative biochemistry from University of California, Berkeley; he also earned an MBA from Southern Illinois University.

Jen has published over 60 scientific articles, edited two books and worked as a consultant to the United Nations, American food companies and foreign governments.

## Auditors question Postal Service

WASHINGTON (AP) — Auditors are looking into whether U.S. Postal Service managers misinformed their governing board by claiming that a contract with Federal Express will save the debt-ridden agency more than \$1 billion.

A spokesman for the Postal Service office of inspector general, which reports to the presidentially appointed Board of Governors, said Monday it is reviewing the \$6.3 billion, no-bid contract with FedEx.

Air cargo carrier Emery Worldwide complained to the Postal Service governors last month that they were "materially misinformed" before approving the deal in January.

The FedEx contract will "cost USPS much more, both now and in the future, and will lead to reduced service levels" for the American public, said the two-page letter from Emery.

The Postal Service recently notified Emery and another carrier that their postal contracts will be terminated, with FedEx replacing both. Emery challenged the FedEx contract in U.S. Claims Court but lost.

The Justice Department said Monday it is continuing to look at possible antitrust implications of the FedEx contract.

Postal Service spokesman Azeez Aly Jaffer said "it's unfortunate" that the companies are debating

this in a court of public opinion.

"Trust me, it's a terrific deal," Postmaster General William Henderson told the House Government Reform Committee at a hearing last week.

Several secret discussions last year between Henderson and FedEx chief Fred Smith about a possible "strategic alliance" triggered extensive negotiations, resulting in the seven-year contract. Shortly after announcing the deal in January, Henderson said he is leaving the postal service in May. He has not announced his plans beyond that.

The claimed cost savings are based on contract details that are being withheld as confidential, proprietary information. The only person in Congress permitted to see all provisions of the contract is Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., who chairs the reform committee.

University of Baltimore law professor Charles Tiefer, former deputy general counsel to the House of Representatives, said the public's money "is rarely given away with this kind of secrecy unless they're building the atomic bomb for the first time."

Tiefer, an expert in government contracts, said the contract puts FedEx in a "long-term semi-monopoly position." The contract includes a nonrefundable \$100 million upfront "signing bonus" so FedEx can offset its start-up costs; Tiefer said "the government rarely

bestows" such bonuses.

Postal Service manager Paul Vogel, who helped negotiate the FedEx contract, said, "There are always start-up costs."

"Any company is ... going to recoup them," Vogel said. "If you pay up front then it's a cost that's done with."

Emery is appealing an unsuccessful court challenge to the contract, under which FedEx will carry the postal service's two-day Priority and overnight Express mail.

In her decision upholding the FedEx contract, federal claims court Judge Christine Miller was nonetheless critical, saying the quasi-governmental agency's "objective" from the start of negotiations was "a sole-source award" to FedEx.

The postal service hired a consultant simply to justify the objective, Miller said, noting that in an internal plan drawn up last August, the postal service said the consultant should "assist the Postal Service in developing the business case for a contractual relationship with FedEx."

But eliminating Emery from consideration so early in the evaluation process was not "unlawful" or "irrational," the judge concluded.

FedEx spokesman Jess Bunn said Monday the company is confident the contract will be upheld on appeal.

## Technical fields pay graduates higher salaries

WASHINGTON (AP) — College graduates with engineering and computer science diplomas get the best-paying jobs, while an education degree yields the lowest monthly income, the Census Bureau concludes.

Full-time workers age 18 and older who graduated from college with engineering diplomas made an average \$4,680 a month in 1996, while those with degrees related to computer work averaged \$4,416 a month, the bureau said in a report released Tuesday.

Education majors made the least money, averaging \$2,802 a month in 1996. The figures were the latest available, and were based on a survey separate from the 2000 Census.

"Majoring in a technical field does pay off, even if you don't finish a four-year degree," bureau analyst Kurt Bauman said.

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\*Based on occupancy, based on double occupancy, based on U.S. dollars. Prices are subject to change. Prices are subject to change. Prices are subject to change.

## POULTRY

continued from page 1

He said that it was a good hands-on experience learning the ins and outs of the poultry business. He said he spent about 10 to 20 hours working on tasks such as cleaning the litter and controlling the ventilation.

In addition to being the number one grower in 1999, Cal Poly set the highest "COBB Score" in the history of Foster Farms, Spiller said. He said this score is assigned to all flocks, which measures its performance based on livability, body weight, percent condemned at the plant and feed conversions.

Spiller said there is a combina-

tion of conditions that helped them achieve this distinction.

"On average the weather is better over here compared to places like Fresno, plus we just do a good job of giving these birds special attention," he said.

The students' hard work paid off. In addition to getting college credit, they received a 2.16 cents per pound performance bonus, Spiller said. Since the students raised the flock at the lowest production cost, Foster Farms took the difference from the average cost and gave it to them as a bonus, he said.

Spiller said the students get 75 percent of the money and the rest goes to support the poultry unit.

"This is a great incentive for the

students," Spiller said. "The better the students raise the flock, the more they can make."

He also said that Foster Farms doesn't do this to make money — it is purely educational.

"With all the costs to transport the flock all the way over here and back, they really don't make anything," he said.

Spiller said that with enough student interest, they can raise up to six flocks a year. He said they just picked up another 7,000 hatchlings on Saturday.

## Study Spanish in Mexico



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Erhart Agriculture Bldg. (10), Rm. 225

For further information, contact:

Dr. James Keese, Resident Director  
756-1170 or jkeese@calpoly.edu  
Modern Languages and Literature Dept.  
756-2750 or wlittle@calpoly.edu

Extended Education Program



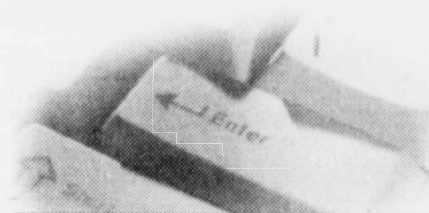
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## Site takes guesswork out of student housing hassle

By Jenifer Hansen  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Two Cal Poly students have created a way to minimize the headaches that go along with the daunting task of securing a place to live.

Architecture sophomore Nick Ladd and computer engineering junior Andrew Hunt are co-founders of a Web site called **SLOrent.com**.

In an attempt to streamline the process of scouring the classifieds and stalking property management offices, Ladd and Hunt established a student friendly site that not only offers rental listings but also textbook exchange, upcoming local concerts and events and instant e-mail notification of available housing.

**SLOrent.com** is a hub of sorts that caters to the various needs of college students, Hunt said. The main purpose of the site is to digitally replace the University Union posting boards. "We're just trying to encapsulate everything 'Cal Poly' and put it on this Web site," he said.

Ladd and Hunt worked as a team to design **SLOrent.com** last December. The site is an outbranch of Teknokratz, a Web site developing company that was formed in 1999 by Hunt, his older brother Rinaldo Hunt, a graduate of Long Beach State, and Tony

Tomarchio, a computer science junior.

As head Web designer for Teknokratz, Ladd used his experience to create the graphics, page layout, site architecture and database design of **SLOrent.com**. Hunt orchestrated different types of marketing including fliers with the "Got shelter?" slogan and e-mail notification in addition to financing the site. The majority of the content on the site, however, comes from the people viewing the site by posting listings.

"It's a constant revolution," Hunt said. "It just builds and builds."

**SLOrent.com** is not associated with a class at Cal Poly or a senior project, he said. Hunt said he enjoys being involved with the creation of "techno-businesses" to help fellow students make their lives easier. Now that **SLOrent.com** is a fully operational site, he said he and Ladd are committed to keeping it up.

Hunt said he encourages students to check out the site and take advantage of all it has to offer by becoming a registered member. Signing up with **SLOrent.com** will give members exclusive online viewing of rental listings put out by property management companies the same day they are released, if not earlier, he said.

Hunt said he felt that everything about the Internet had become too global. By establishing a membership

community, **SLOrent.com** is trying to localize the search for housing, textbooks and entertainment through one easy-to-use Web site, he said.

In addition, **SLOrent.com** provides unbiased and objective information, Ladd said in an e-mail interview.

"The majority of rental sites right now only provide information about their rentals," he said in the e-mail.

While the site has only been up and running for approximately six or seven weeks, close to 300 people have registered as members and are already using the site regularly to either look for housing or post listings, Hunt said.

Ladd said that members of the site can expect more than just rental listings in the future. Upcoming features include a coupon section, romance classifieds and job opening postings.

"We are constantly working to improve the site and add new features," Ladd said in the e-mail.

Hunt said he is aware that other housing search sites on the Web might make competition tough when students begin the scramble to find a place to live next year. The main difference between **SLOrent.com** and other sites is the diversity it has to offer students.

"We're just altruists," Hunt said. "We want people to find good housing and try to weed out the bad housing."



COLLIN HESTER/MUSTANG DAILY

Architecture sophomore Nick Ladd, left, and computer engineering junior Andrew Hunt co-founded **SLOrent.com**. The site makes it easier for students to find housing and upcoming local events.

**SEEMS OBVIOUS**, doesn't it? Nearly a ton of steel, even creeping along at 15 mph, can do some serious damage to flesh and blood. Still, some people walk through streets as if shielded by a protective bubble. Here's a tip: You're not.

## CARS HURT

Here's some others:

- Jaywalking is against the law for a reason – it's unsafe.
- Wear bright clothes when walking or running at night.
- Never assume a driver sees you; look both ways before you step off the curb.

[www.slopd.org](http://www.slopd.org)

**SLOPD**  
SAN LUIS OBISPO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Elections

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# Opinion

## Don't silence other opinions or arguments

There is serious racism still left over in America from the inbreeding, shameful days of the South, 150 years ago. But America has made great strides since then, and the civil rights fight has become a proud and important part of our history and culture. After considering that history, we now come to the present where certain civil rights issues and activists have steered that fight in the wrong direction. In the battle over slave reparations, the small portion of the population that supports this idea has been demonizing and trying to silence any opposition.

Before I go further, let me recognize that the ones asking for censorship are not representative of the majority of people who are concerned with civil rights, or even those for slave reparations for that matter—I'm only concerned with those wishing to silence freedom of speech.

The crowning example of this would be when David Horowitz submitted his article with 10 reasons why slave reparations are a bad idea to a number of college campuses. Of those campuses that published the list (14 out of 50), six have formed protests over the content, some demanding the resignation of the editor and an apology from the newspaper staff for being "racist."

I am not going to debate whether or not slave reparations are a good idea or not, apparently that can get you a load of howling protesters marching around your lawn, and I don't want to go through that whole mess again. Slave reparations may be good and fair since this country's economic status was rocketed through the cotton trade which was built on the backs of slaves. Or it may be a bad idea, since today's African Americans are four or five generations removed from the slave-holding days, most of our country's population migrated here after 1880 and after 1960 in the post-slavery days, and of the population who were around while slavery was present, very few owned slaves. So why should today's non-descendants of slave owners pay the descendants of slaves? The question is hard to answer, but we will never find a solution until we hear both sides of the argument, equally.

I read Horowitz's 10-point article, and it was an interesting read (you can find his articles easiest at [Salon.com](http://Salon.com)). But through my research on this issue I found no articles disproving his 10 points.

The opposition simply labeled him a racist, and protested the campuses that published his ideas. They did not try to disprove his points, but instead tried to brand him a racist to take the merit away from his articles. It's not right to censor ideas, and it's not right to brand someone a racist just because they disagree with slave reparations. (By the way, a Time Magazine poll showed that 74 percent of the country does not like the idea of slave reparations.) That is a tactic that some people on the left (who are not representative of liberals as a whole) do when they have no real arguments—they just call the person a racist. A minority and non-representative bunch do the same thing on the right—they try and brand anyone who disagrees with them as communists. America is a lot of things (a lot of great things) but if you listen to the wackos on the extremes of the political spectrum, you would think that this country was full of racists and communists! We, in the middle of these two, know better, and hopefully we know that the expression of ideas is a good thing, whether we agree with them or not. Embrace freedom of speech, and mount a protest if you disagree, but don't label anything something that it is not, and never be forced to apologize for what you believe in.

Dan Davitt is a political science sophomore.

## Airline service is going downhill



My last airline experience was an experience to say the least. America West Airlines promised me convenient service to and from Phoenix, Ariz., a comfortably large passenger plane, an inexpensive rate and my complementary drink and snack while aboard Flight 617.

When I arrived at San Luis Obispo Airport, which is unmistakably right out of the "Wings" sitcom series, I was greeted by a friendly construction foreman telling me to move my car out of the way for his bulldozer to come through. After parking at a distance great enough to require a shuttle (and, of course, there not being one) I lugged my baggage to the front desk.

Nobody likes to wait in line. It makes them feel like they aren't the most important person about to board the glorious plane awaiting its passengers' arrival. But after I waited in line, and was told there wouldn't be enough room underneath the plane for me to check my bag, and that I would have to carry it on, I had finally been checked in. Or so I thought.

Ten minutes later, a call came over the loud speaker asking any of those persons who had just been checked in to return to the desk to re-check in. Re-checking in was the airline's way of getting me back into their courtesy clerks' clutches to ask me to courteously give up my ticket and leave the next morning at 5:45 a.m. They would also throw in a \$50 voucher I could use to travel with their airlines again sometime in the year 2002.

Needless to say, I denied their offer and boarded the plane 35 minutes late because of

the time they spent trying to convince customers to leave the next day.

According to a recent study conducted annually by two professors at University of Nebraska and Wichita State, my experience is not an uncommon one. Even though airlines pride themselves on customer service and have spent millions of dollars implementing customer service plans, they just aren't working.

The study surveyed the airline customer experience according to four criteria: on-time arrivals, involuntary denied boarding, mishandled baggage and customer complaints. These areas are watched closely by the airline industry; however, no one seems to be making any changes.

The study said that, among major U.S. airlines in 2000, the number of flights arriving on time fell 72.6 percent. Planes might possibly not arrive at their final destination at all.

When I returned home from Phoenix, just as I was about to board the plane, the customer service desk announced that the plane might land in Santa Barbara instead of San Luis Obispo, but the airline would not know until the plane was in flight. The couple ahead of me asked what would happen if we did land in Santa Barbara. The man taking the boarding passes told them they would have to get a ride home from there. I later found out they were from Paso Robles, and it was nearly a three-hour drive from there to Santa Barbara. I just prayed that the plane would actually land in San Luis Obispo so I could take my midterm the next day while I nervously racked my brain, trying to remember which old friends from high school ended

up going to UCSB, and who I could stay with for the night.

Passengers who were involuntarily denied boarding their flights for which they held tickets increased to 1.04 persons per 10,000 in 2000 from 0.88 passengers per 10,000 in 1999. If I bought a ticket to go someplace, I obviously want to go there. Airlines are no longer doing a service; they are doing a disservice to their customers and making them want to take alternative forms of transportation to their destinations.

Consumer complaints overall increased to three per 100,000 passengers from two per 100,000 the previous year. I don't think these figures accurately reflect the number of people who can be heard grumbling about something bad done to them by the airline of their choice. People just want to go on vacation or go home after a long one, not stand in line to file a complaint. And trust me, the line is long.

While Delta Airlines was ranked best in the survey, Alaska Airlines and US Airways followed close behind. My own personal airline of choice, America West Airlines, came in dead last, and for a good reason. That supposedly gloriously large passenger plane I was assured was actually a 30-seat commuter plane with a cranky stewardess who spilled Coke on me and denied me my free snack.

Next time you think about surfing the Web for a cheap flight, take a look at [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com) or rent a convertible and take a road trip. There's no better way to go on vacation than on your own time, not the airline's.

Jennifer Thomson is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.

# Mustang DAILY

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# Clean up that gross, miserable vomituous mass

It has happened to everybody. Whether it was last weekend or years ago, it has happened. You go to bed not feeling quite up to par, and, at about 2 a.m., it hits. Whatever was in that casserole surprise starts to tickle

## Commentary

do not to choke as you make a beeline, like nobody's business, to the bathroom in hopes that you can get there before your lips part and your stomach erupts like Mt. St. Helens.

Suddenly, what you ate is all over the bathroom floor.

Disgusting? Yeah.

Right about now, you've broken out into a cold sweat sitting on the cold tile floor of the bathroom thanking the toilet bowl for being there when you needed it most.

That's when you see it, right next to you on the floor. It dawns on you that you were not completely on target in your fit of vomiting. You're not sure how you could miss the large white bowl, but a majority of the casserole is sitting next to you. In some instances it actually looks like it's smiling at you. As of that moment, you swear off eating (in most cases drinking) for the rest of your life.

So then you come to a paradox. You could clean it up but the act alone has repercussions. The second you touch that casserole as it soaks into the cheap toilet paper you're using. Either way, the casserole left in that aching stomach of yours is going to rendezvous with the flusher.

Or you could simply get up and walk out, leaving it there for the next patron to view and enjoy.

Normally you're conscience would come into play and keep you from leaving the mess for someone else to clean up. But right now, as you thank the bowl for being a cool place to rest your head, you think. It doesn't take long for you to decide: "Forget it, I've got class at noon and I need my sleep."

This reasoning sounds logical, even innocent.

That is, unless you're part of the janitorial crew that has to pick up that innocent little mess somebody was too thoughtless to clean up. They have to use special equipment and chemicals to clean it, because it's human waste and considered to be a biohazard.

In the dorms at Cal Poly, custodians have another tool they use to help clean up, one of the most dreaded four letter words: fine.

Students who live in the dorms have probably already been informed

of this. A fine of around \$50 can land on anyone who does not clean up any mess of human waste. The interhall council has the possibility of fining the whole floor if they don't know who the culprit is.

And rightfully so.

Think about it this way, if you don't want to pick up your own mess, why would anybody else want to? The only thing worse than your own puke is somebody else's. Seeing someone else yakking is disgusting, plain and simple.

I have a funny feeling that you wouldn't want to clean it up. No, it's not the same funny feeling that you got before you saw the casserole, but that's probably the same feeling that the poor janitors get when they have to clean it up.

Let's get this straight. This is not a ploy from the janitors to get more funding. And, no, this is not a plan to

stop illegal drinking in dorms. This fine applies to both drunk and sick puking. And Cal Poly is not the only school that has instituted this rule. Cal State Chico and Humboldt State, as well as many others, have similar rules that are based on the same premises.

Vomit is a very unsanitary substance, and just leaving it on the floor, on the walls, or even on the toilet seat is unsafe. In order to get rid of it and clean the area thoroughly, the custodians must take care of themselves while cleaning it as well. So next time you're praying to the porcelain god, think about what you're stepping on, or sitting on for that matter, and maybe you'll realize how important it is to clean up after yourself.

Aaron Lambert is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

## Letters to the editor

### U.S. apology implies more than regret Editor,

There is nothing wrong with being the first to apologize in a situation where it is difficult to place blame. An apology given, regardless of whether or not it is owed, can save personal relationships, or end messy conflicts. People often offer apologies when others simply perceive them as having done something wrong. This shows a willingness to subjugate one's pride for the sake of others, and can be a very noble thing to do in many cases.

Should, then, the United States, consider offering an apology to the Peoples' Republic of China in response to the recent air collision between a U.S. spy plane and Chinese fighter jet? The Chinese seem to think so. They have committed to holding captive the naval personnel aboard the U.S. plane until an official apology is rendered. Many Americans seem to agree that an apology is in order, though probably on different grounds than the Chinese. In the opinion of some Americans, the United States can afford to lose face by offering an apology, if it will simply bring about the speedy return of the Navy crewmembers.

But an apology offered by the United States would cost a lot more than a collective swallowing of American pride. An apology would indicate that the United States is not interested in upholding international law, was engaged in illegal activities, is responsible for the death of a Chinese airman, and is willing to bargain at any cost for the lives of its servicemen and women with a totalitarian regime.

The United States was indeed spying on the Chinese. Among nations with the capabilities for gathering intelligence, international waters and airspace are considered fair game. The collision took place in international airspace. China, however, has recently determined that the airspace around its coast is not international. This convention ignores international law. An apology would essentially give China the right to prohibit activity in territory which it has no legal claim to. This precedence is very dangerous, as it could endanger U.S. aid to the democratic nation of Taiwan, or any other U.S. activities within the vicinity of China.

An apology would also be an admission of guilt on the part of the crew of the Navy EP-3 spy plane. Not only would they then be responsible for the accidental death of the Chinese Airman whose fighter jet crashed into their plane, but an apology would also indicate that their mission was wrong. While the Navy crewmembers are probably very eager to return home, they are probably unwilling to impugn the nature of their work for the sake of a trip across the Pacific. They are, after all, members of the armed forces, who chose a career which would involve being put in harms way for the sake of accomplishing their given mission. For the time being, their job is to be in confinement in China. To bring them home at any cost would be a disservice to them, and would discount the mission upon which their lives are held.

Chris Weber is an architecture junior.

## Reality will hit if actors strike

Last quarter, Wednesday nights provided another chance to get together with friends to see if Ytossie and Taheed would get kicked off "Temptation Island" for having a child together. The anticipation for Wednesday nights was to see if Kaya would kiss another woman while still in love with Valerie or if Mandy would suck on another sexy man's nipple and tell herself, "Billy is going to kill me for this."

### Commentary

We may not admit it, but we were all hooked on watching this show. I had male friends who had pizza "Temptation Island" night to see single temptress Megan being tossed around by all three males. Reality shows may be entertaining, and I'll be the first to admit that I was religiously hooked on "Temptation Island." But as I watched them, I noticed myself thinking about shallow, mindless controversies. Reality shows are taking network space, and if actors decide to strike, as they have been threatening to do, we'll be seeing more reality-based shows instead of new television sitcoms.

In the 1930s, movie stars were crowned as royalty. Ever since then, anyone on television can be viewed as a celebrity. Yet, for the past year, actors have been worried about reality television taking over and canceling scripted programming. Large networks such as CBS, NBC and ABC want to increase prime-time reality shows. This ridiculous notion would come in handy because two strikes could leave networks with nothing new to put on. The two strikes involving writers and actors could be television's most tense period.

The first potential strike, involving 11,000 members of the Writers

Guild of America, would begin at midnight on May 2, when their contracts with motion pictures and television producers expire. The second strike involves 135,000 members of the Screen Actors Guild who demand fewer reality shows.

While these strikes are understandable, if the strikes are not averted, the new fall season could look vastly different this year. Instead of new comedies, dramas and long-awaited premiers of favorite series, we'll be seeing lots of re-runs.

Imagine an out-take special from a reality show like "Temptation Island," featuring the producers' actual comments to Taheed and Ytossie when they found out the couple had a child, rather than the ever-so-polite confrontation that aired. Or picture a special inter-network crossover with "The Real World" cast dropping by the sequel of "Big Brother."

Life as I know it would be over if good shows such as "Friends" or "Seinfeld" aren't produced anymore. If a new contract is not reached by June 30, production would immediately shut down on sitcoms, dramatic series and television movies, as well as virtually all theatrical films, according to an article published by CNN.com. The prevailing television genres would be news programs, reality shows like "Survivor," and game shows like "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?," which don't use actors.

Viewers will see shows like "Redemption Island," where the "Temptation Island" couples reconvene, not at a lush Caribbean resort, but on a barren island off Nova Scotia. Instead of fantasy singles, contestants face an army of angry clergy men who urge them to repent.

In the 1960s, the producers of "Gilligan's Island" often treated the

Minnow's crew rather roughly. Gilligan, the skipper and the rest of the survivors were shipwrecked on an island and were tossed callously into strange pantheons and made to perform for the amusement of the viewers. It was supposed to be horrifying; humans being degraded and forced to overcome capricious obstacles for someone's vicarious entertainment. A generation later, people are being thrown into situations where their tribulations are someone's entertainment. But this time around, we're doing it to ourselves, for money and notoriety.

While the viewer mentality that makes "Survivor," "Temptation Island" and "The Mole" popular shows, this idea has been kicking around since television infancy when Allen Funt pioneered "Candid Camera." Or was it Bob Saget's "America's Funniest Home Videos" or the first time MTV aired "The Real World"?

No one is really sure when the reality show mania started, but we do know the number of reality shows is increasing every season.

Not only do we all want to see celebrities, we also want to be celebrities. But now people feel entitled to fame just by preening for a camera lens: I am filmed, therefore I am. What's implicit about these shows is the premise that life, in general, is not as exciting as someone else's. Instead of movie stars, we have surrogates, people who could be us, but by the luck of the draw, aren't.

Our lives don't have explicit dramatic arcs, so we create them. The world is our stage: Landscapes, cultures, emotions are all mere backdrops. We are consuming ourselves with mindless shows, and we love it.

Adrenna Benjamin is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

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## FALLON

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and 85th the other year. He said the thrill of a tournament that size is one reason why he loves tennis.

"I love competition, and I love winning matches," he said. "Tennis teaches you what you're like in a competitive situation."

After holding the No. 1 spot on his high school team all four years, Fallon received a full scholarship to play tennis for University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Fallon said when he got to UNLV, he was the only American on the team, and there were a lot of pressures and expectations on him to win. Regardless of tennis, Fallon said Las Vegas wasn't a fit for him.

"I didn't want to live in Las Vegas as an 18 year old," he said. "It was lonely, and I'm more of a Southern California guy."

After only one year at UNLV, Fallon transferred to Cal Poly, which he considered to be a perfect fit for him. He said had heard good things about both Cal Poly's academic status and the tennis team's camaraderie.

"I heard the team was really tight, and everybody was friends," he said.

Fallon said his success is partly due to his hard work outside of practice. He said he does a lot of focus drills and running, which he said helps him last longer on the court.

"I'm a fighter," he said. "I usually try to wear my opponent down and out-rally them."

Fallon's goals this season are to be in the top 100 players in the country and to win the rest of his matches.

Not only is Fallon ranked No. 1 on Cal Poly's team, but he is also the captain. He sees both positions as leadership roles for his team.

"It's a big role, since everybody's watching you," he said. "You have to be a leader."

Interim head coach Jeff Spallinger agrees that Fallon is a leader.

"He leads by example," he said. "He's always out there working on some part of his game. His experience shows, and he knows how to win matches."

Spallinger credits Fallon's mental toughness as playing a large role in his success.

"He's a self-motivated, hard-working player having a great season," he said. "He's intense."

Both Fallon and Spallinger think the team has a strong season outlook. Fallon said the team is young this year, and if they keep working hard, they will have a good chance at winning the Big West Conference.

Fallon graduates this fall, but he plans to play club tennis in Europe for a few years after graduation.

"I'm just going to have fun playing tennis and see where it takes me," he said.

## Aikman tells football goodbye

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Troy Aikman's NFL career ended with the Dallas Cowboys after all.

The three-time Super Bowl champion announced his retirement at a news conference Monday at Texas Stadium, where he starred for 12 seasons.

"You watch and you think that your time will never come," said Aikman, fighting back tears as he announced his plans. "My time has come."

Aikman suffered four concussions in his last 20 starts — giving him 10 in his career — and has a degenerative back problem.

"I know it's the right thing. I know it's the right thing for me because of my health, concussions, the back problems I've had, it's took its toll," he said.

Aikman said the competitor in him wanted to continue, but he said his family weighed in his decision.

"I think when all things are considered it was the right thing for me and my family," Aikman said. "I just can't do it anymore. If it was just me, then I think it would be a little easier to try to go

on."

Aikman regained his composure as he talked about the 12 years he played for the Cowboys.

"It was 12 of the best years of my life, professionally speaking," Aikman said.

"This man has touched us all and for that we're grateful," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in introducing Aikman. "He restored or embellished our belief that we

want that our athletes can be heroes."

Aikman spoke after a film clip that covered Aikman from a

young child to the Super Bowl.

Aikman said last week he was trying to choose between pursuing a job as a starting quarterback in the NFL or moving into a broadcast booth. He'll likely make the transition to TV, with Fox the frontrunner to hire him.

The 34-year-old Aikman's future has been in limbo since he was waived by the Cowboys on March 7, a day before he was due a \$7 million bonus and seven-year contract extension.

*"You watch and you think that your time will never come. My time has come."*

**Troy Aikman**  
former Cowboys quarterback

## JACKSON

continued from page 8

eliminate players from leaving college early and from entering the draft straight out of high school.

NBA commissioner David Stern has toyed with such a restriction ever since Garnett's decision to enter the draft six years ago. His argument is that the arrival of inexperienced teenagers in the NBA has hurt the game, as teams have been forced to develop unrefined players who struggle in their inaugural seasons. Fans have also complained loudly that the college game has suffered a blow as top players skip their senior or even their junior and sophomore seasons for the financial security of the NBA.

People just don't understand the position these athletes are in. The perspective seems especially distorted here at Cal Poly, perhaps because students value the importance of education and of getting a degree, which is certainly a worthwhile aspiration.

Athletes have very short shelf lives. A blown-out knee or freak accident can ruin an athlete's career in a flash, eliminating them from a very lucrative profession. In addition, few NBA players are able to play in the league by their mid-30s, and arriving on the scene as a teenager offers a player a few more years to make money playing the game they love.

Many athletes come from impoverished families, and the NBA offers them an opportunity to ease their family's financial woes. The opportunity of being a savior to your entire extended family, of having dozens of brothers, sisters, cousins and even your own parents counting on you making the pros — just so they can put food on the table — is tempting for these players.

The NBA, the NCAA and their fans can't complain when players make the early jump to professional basketball. If the players weren't good enough, they wouldn't be drafted so high, as Tyson Chandler and Eddy Curry surely will. The jump to the NBA provides players with an opportunity to shine at the highest level, and to provide their families as well as themselves with financial security.

Jacob Jackson is a journalism freshman. E-mail him at calpolyjackson71@aol.com.

## Bryant may return to Lakers tonight

EL SEGUNDO (AP) — Kobe Bryant wants to return to the Los Angeles Lakers' lineup against Phoenix Tuesday, but a decision won't be made until just before the game.

Bryant, the NBA's third-leading scorer, has missed 10 of the last 11 games recuperating from ankle injuries. He tried to come back April

1, playing 11 scoreless minutes against the New York Knicks before re-injuring an ankle.

Lakers spokesman John Black said Monday that Bryant's availability against the Suns will be a game-time decision, with coach Phil Jackson deciding whether the All-Star guard will be able to help the team.

## RECRUITS

continued from page 8

for walk-ons. Walk-ons are students enrolled at Cal Poly who choose to try out for a sport without being recruited.

The signing period lasts until May 15, and with four scholarships left to offer, Bromley is looking to build the men's team with specific types of student-athletes.

"I want more experience in the front line, which comes from junior college level," Bromley said. "I'd also want the best player from a high school or junior college."

Besides these two criteria, Bromley is also looking for a wing player and a point guard from either high school or junior college.

"We were turning over rocks all

over the country," Bromley said. "We want really good players."

The NCAA has strictly defined timelines for recruiting. Until April 12, recruiting is in the "dead period." During this period, there can be no in-person recruiting contacts, no on- or off-campus evaluations, and no visitation. April 21 through May 31 is the "quiet period" where Division I teams are permitted to make on-campus recruiting contacts.

"(Recruiting) is a cut-throat situation," Bromley said. "We're making up for some lost ground."

Bromley took over as head coach on March 13 and got a late start on recruiting due to the coaching change.

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# Fallon's path to success

**No. 1 men's tennis player Brandon Fallon has brought Cal Poly close to a title**

By Janelle Foscett

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

When Brandon Fallon was only 10 years old, he and his father, Jim, took up tennis at the same time. At first his athletic father could beat him effortlessly, but within two years they were engaging in fierce tennis matches. When he was 16, Brandon could defeat his father with ease, and the journey to his success in tennis began.

Fallon, an industrial technology senior, is currently ranked No. 1 on the Cal Poly men's tennis team. He has an overall record of 17-10 this season, and he has won seven of his last eight matches.

Fallon grew up in Dana Point. His mother, Pam, taught aerobics at a local tennis club, so Fallon decided to give tennis a chance.

"I loved it," Fallon said. "It's more than just physical - it's a thinking sport."

From there his love of the game grew, and his experience began to mount. He started working with personal coach Andreas Weyermann, who Fallon credits with having a large impact on his game.

"(Weyermann) kept tennis as a big part of my life," Fallon said. "His unbelievable love for tennis rubs off on you."

Fallon's game improved even more, and he soon had the opportunity to play in one of the biggest tennis tournaments in the country in Kalamazoo, Mich. The tournament offers the top 128 junior tennis players in the country a chance to play in the U.S. Open. Tennis greats like Pete Sampras and Michael Chang played at Kalamazoo before they were stars.

Fallon went to the tournament twice, placing 64th one year

see FALLON, page 7



DANIEL GONZALES/MUSTANG DAILY

Industrial technology senior Brandon Fallon is ranked No. 1 on Cal Poly's tennis team and has a record of 17-10 this season.

## Gifted high school players belong in NBA

If basketball fans haven't heard of Tyson Chandler and Eddy Curry yet, they will be acutely aware of the duo very soon, perhaps on June 27. It is on that day that the NBA draft is held, and for the first time in league history, a high school player may be selected with the first pick.

Chandler was the star of perennial powerhouse Compton-Dominguez High in Southern California, a team so loaded that it won the state title even though he sat out the final game with

a n ankle injury.

He's a 7-foot-1 center over whom scouts have been drooling since he was in diapers.

Curry, who carries the nickname "Baby Shaq," was a one-man wrecking crew at the McDonald's All-American Game in March, scoring 28 points in the annual showcase of the best players high school basketball has to offer. He hails from South Holland, Ill., where he used his burly 6-foot-11-inch, 290-pound frame to humiliate opponents.

Some scouts have these two tantalizingly talented centers going No. 1 and No. 2 in the NBA draft, a remarkable feat considering that Darius Miles became the highest pick ever out of high school last year when he was taken No. 3. The NBA is desperate for capable centers, and these two big men have far more ability than any 7-foot players at the college level.

Kevin Garnett's defection to the NBA in 1995 started a trend, leading a few high schoolers each year to test the NBA's waters. He was followed most notably by Kobe Bryant in 1996 and Tracy McGrady in 1997, and all three players are now among the best in the game. Their success has emboldened other high school players to make the jump, and inspired a general confidence among premier high school players that they can play in the NBA.

But the high draft status of Chandler and Curry, as well as the possibility of a record 10 high school players entering the draft this year, has rekindled the debate about youngsters in the NBA. It might lead to restrictions on draft eligibility to

see JACKSON, page 7

## Basketball recruiting is major off-season activity

By Dena Horton

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Although basketball season is only a few months on a calendar, building a team is a yearlong process. The initial signing date, April 11, is approaching and has men's head coach Kevin Bromley and women's head coach Faith Mimnaugh recruiting new team members.

Cal Poly women's basketball has already signed two players and is looking to fill the one additional available scholarship, Mimnaugh

said. Joining the women's team are Holly Richards, a 6-foot-2 post player from Monte Vista High School in Danville, and Michelle Henke, a point guard from La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"We've been actively recruiting junior college and high school players," Mimnaugh said. "We have numerous local products."

The women's team has 15 scholarships to offer, most of which will go to returning players for next year.

For the men's team, four players will graduate this year, leaving

### Cal Poly Basketball Recruits

**Men's team**  
Philip Johnson  
Jared Patterson  
Diaby Kamara

**Women's team**  
Michelle Henke  
Holly Richards

seven scholarships to offer. However, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regulates the number of scholarships awarded to no more than eight in two years or five in one year.

During the early recruiting period in November, the men's team signed Philip Johnson, a 6-foot-11

center from Arroyo Grande High School. Joining the men's team for next year will also be Jared Patterson and Diaby Kamara, students who transferred to Cal Poly this quarter.

Besides recruited student-athletes, Bromley will also be looking

see RECRUITS, page 7

SPORTS BAR	Sports Trivia	Scores	Schedule
	<b>Yesterday's Answer:</b> Tony Gwynn won the League batting title while grounding into a league-high 20 double plays? Congratulations Corey Henderson!	<b>BASEBALL</b> Cal State Northridge 4 Cal Poly 3 Cal State Northridge 7 Cal Poly 14	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> • Baseball vs. Bethany College • at Baggett Stadium • 5 p.m. <b>THURSDAY</b> • Baseball vs. UC Riverside • at Riverside • 7 p.m. <b>FRIDAY</b> • Baseball vs. UC Riverside • at Riverside • 7 p.m. • Softball vs. Cal State Northridge (doubleheader) • at Northridge • noon / 2 p.m. <b>SATURDAY</b> • Men's tennis vs. San Diego State • at Avila Bay C.C. • 1:30 p.m. • Women's tennis vs. San Jose State • at Avila Bay C.C. • 10 a.m.
	<b>Today's Question:</b> Who hit the first home run ever in an All-Star game?	<b>Briefs</b> <b>Tillman named Player of the Week</b> Cal Poly second baseman Kevin Tillman was named Big West Player of the Week for his performance against Cal State Northridge last week. In the three-game series, Tillman went 6-for-11 and drove in five runs. He had a RBI single in Sunday afternoon's four-run rally that gave the Mustangs a 6-4 lead. Cal Poly won Saturday and Sunday's game after dropping Friday's opener.	
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