

**Grinding it out:**  
Wheelmen place fourth in  
nationals, 8  
**Creating a mini you:**  
A risk not worth taking, 6



## TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 57°  
Low: 41°



# Monday, December 3, 2001

# Mustang

## DAILY

Volume LXVI, Number 53, 1916-2001

## Local group strives to revive native plants



AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

**Co-director of the Environmental Council Gianna Pietravalle plants acorns on an eroded hillside at Whale Reservoir. The graphic communication junior joined others in an attempt to revive the habitat in the area.**

**By Stephen Curran**  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

For San Luis Obispo resident Lionel Johnston, a Saturday morning does not mean what it does to others. It does not mean sleeping, yard work or shopping. Instead, this retired ironworker and volunteer with EcoSlo uses his Saturday mornings to help clean up the environment.

Along with help from Cal Poly students, sororities and Boy Scout troops, Johnston used Saturday morning to replant a hillside by the Whale Reservoir near Cayucos, which, according to Johnston, is slowly eroding into the water supply.

To help combat this, Johnston and his team of volunteers spent the morning planting native species along the hillside, which has seen the ravages of weather.

"The only thing that can stop erosion is the native plants," Johnston said.

Currently, the Whale Reservoir is owned by the Whale Rock Authority, a joint power authority that provides water to Cal Poly, the California Men's Colony and portions of the city of San Luis Obispo. The effects of the run-off are highly preventable, said Neil Havlik, natural resources manager for the city of San Luis Obispo.

"It's kind of like a disease that's preventable," he said. "It might not be life-threatening, but it's an unhealthy situation."

The problem, Johnston said, dates back to California's original European settlers, who planted species native to northern Europe, causing a dramatic change to the California landscape.

"California doesn't look like

California, it looks like northern Europe," he said. "It's a dysfunctional environment, even though it looks OK."

Soil scientist and volunteer Peter Fisher was also on hand, and said that a more long-term approach is needed to keep further erosion from occurring. As mud and silt continue to wash into the reservoir, it can have a damaging effect on native animals, smothering many native fish, including the now-decimated Steelhead Salmon.

The answer, Johnston said, lies not in concrete barriers and elaborate irrigation systems, but in preventative placement of native plants.

"My question is this: if Cal Poly owns part, they should be reseeding it," Johnston said. "It's not rocket sci-

see RESERVOIR, page 5

## Unocal donates pier to Cal Poly

**By Lacie Grimshaw**  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Some students may soon be able to look out of their classroom windows and see a new sight — the ocean.

With the recent donation of the Unocal Pier to Cal Poly, after learning about marine life in a class, students may be able to step outside of their classroom into the "lab" — the ocean — and study that same marine life firsthand.

Unocal donated the historic Unocal Pier in Avila Beach and an endowment to Cal Poly on Thursday. The pier and endowment will help establish a marine science and environmental research center for students and the San Luis Obispo community.

For over two years, Unocal and Cal Poly have been in discussions over the donation of the Unocal Corporation's historic pier at Avila Beach and endowment to Cal Poly. Together, the donation from Unocal totals \$21.5 million. All donations will go toward the development of the Cal Poly Marine Science Foundation and Research Center.

"I couldn't think of a better group to lease to," said John Koepf, from the Port San Luis Harbor District. "It's a very optimistic situation."

Mark Smith, Unocal vice president for real estate, remediation services and mining, presented the pier to Cal Poly.

see PIER, page 5



**Senior Josh Ruiz stands out of the rain in a tractor garage at a farm unit, Sunday. Ruiz is double majoring in Agribusiness and Crop Science, and is planning on returning to Cal Poly for graduate work.**

AARON LAMBERT/  
MUSTANG DAILY

**By Kat Corey**  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Some students need a miracle to graduate from Cal Poly in four years. Most freshmen come here knowing they won't be out in less than five. But, believe it or not, a few are leaving here with not just one, but two degrees. Some are even doing it in four years.

Fourth year senior Josh Ruiz will graduate this June with degrees in both agribusiness and crop science. Ruiz's decision to double major came about early in his college career. He applied for his second major after his first quarter at Cal Poly. He said he liked the farming knowledge that crop science offered, but also wanted the office skills that came with agribusiness.

"I couldn't make up my mind and I didn't want to lose out," Ruiz said.

Meshing crop science with

agribusiness will put him in a position where he manages workers in an area he knows well.

"It makes it easier for me to manage someone because I've done it myself," Ruiz said. "I will know what's going on out there (in the field)."

Double majoring is not for everyone. Ruiz has been dedicated to it since day one. Since his freshman year, Ruiz said he hasn't had a quarter with less than 20 units. He has a goal to graduate in four years and is sticking to it.

"There has been a lot of times where I have had 20 to 25 units and I could have easily dropped one or two classes, but I didn't," he said.

Along with this heavy school load, last year Ruiz was president of his fraternity and vice president of the agribusiness club on campus. He said the last few years have been stressful, but that there is no better feeling than what he will have accomplished.

Graduating with a double major definitely sets a student apart, Ruiz said. He already has a job lined up at River Ranch Fresh Food in Salinas, Calif., which is anxiously awaiting his graduation. Ruiz said his soon-to-be employer told him that it was not his grades or the two majors, that really makes him appealing. It's the effort and dedication that it takes to graduate with two degrees.

Ruiz said he knew from the beginning that he would graduate with two degrees, but many double majors usually come about because of a change later on down the road.

Carol Moore, a Career Services counselor, said students typically progress in a major that they should have changed long before, but they don't want to give it up because they have invested so much time in it. She said they end up adding the major they really want without dropping the other one. A student might be one

quarter short of a double major, so they just end up going for it, she said.

### Jealousy made her double major

Marisa Gray's double major stemmed from a change of interest later on in her college career. Gray, a music and English senior, started at Cal Poly in psychology. It wasn't until her third year that she wanted to transfer out of the major. She wanted to stay in liberal arts, so she went with English. Gray had also been in the Cal Poly choir since freshman year and had taken enough units to get a minor in music. She realized that she wanted to keep taking music classes, so she added the major in her fourth year.

"I was jealous of all this information that people would be getting and I wouldn't," she said.

see DOUBLE, page 5

DAILY  
Weather

## TODAY'S SUN

Rise: 6:55 a.m. / Set: 4:50 p.m.

## TODAY'S MOON

Rise: 7:44 p.m. / Set: 9:44 a.m.

## TODAY'S TIDE

AT PORT SAN LUIS

High: 12:20 a.m. / 3.77 feet

Low: 4:18 a.m. / 2.86 feet

High: 10:32 a.m. / 6.15 feet

Low: 6:12 p.m. / -0.85 feet

## 5-DAY FORECAST



## TUESDAY

High: 57° / Low: 41°



## WEDNESDAY

High: 60° / Low: 37°



## THURSDAY

High: 63° / Low: 41°



## FRIDAY

High: 65° / Low: 41°



## SATURDAY

High: 63° / Low: 40°

## Jesse Ventura could be down for the count, according to Minnesota poll

By Charles Babington

THE WASHINGTON POST

Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, the pro wrestler-turned-politician, has often intrigued and amused state residents during his three years in office. Lately, however, voters seem increasingly weary of his bombast, press-baiting and secretiveness.

Ventura, the Reform Party upstart who bested Republican and Democratic nominees in 1998, hasn't said whether he will seek a second term next year. If he does, a recent poll suggests he may face problems.

The survey by St. Cloud State University found that 56 percent of adults in Minnesota say they would not vote to re-elect Ventura, compared with 36 percent a year ago. Those rating his job performance as poor went from 8 percent last year to 21 percent.

The Politics in Minnesota newsletter recently predicted he won't serve a second term because he's bored and, from a state budget standpoint, "times are getting worse fast."

Ventura always has dealt testily with critics, especially journalists,

whom he often calls "jackals." But his actions grew more controversial recently, with privately paid trips to New York and California, plus a series of tempestuous radio appearances.

In early October, ABC News paid for Ventura's visit to the

Mall of America and the Metrodome might be top targets in Minnesota for terrorists. He lamented that he didn't have more armed bodyguards. He stopped publicizing his daily schedule, sometimes leaving close aides unsure of his whereabouts.

"This is a governor whose three favorite words are 'I, me and my.'"

Roger Moe

state senate majority leader

World Trade Center terrorist attack site. While the network filmed and interviewed the governor, Minnesota journalists were kept away, triggering their complaints.

In a subsequent radio appearance, Ventura denounced local reporters and news organizations. He vowed to wage "war" on them and to get them "running and hiding as fast as the Taliban."

At a time of extraordinary developments about anthrax and Afghanistan, he told Minnesota residents to boycott their major newspapers "and don't watch the evening news."

Ventura later suggested that he,

In early November, Ventura quietly traveled to California, a day after saying he was too busy with terrorism issues to deal with the possibility that the Minnesota Twins baseball team might move or disband. He told critics he had gone to visit his son. Reporters later found he had been paid for a cameo appearance in a film starring comedian Dana Carvey.

"You're darned right I'd do it again," Ventura told a caller to KFAN radio. "I got a chance to meet Adam Sandler and Dana Carvey. Why not?"

In another event, captured by TV cameras, Ventura got angry when a talk-show caller ques-

tioned his leadership.

"He ripped off his headphones, refused to talk to him," said Stephen Frank, a St. Cloud State University political scientist who has written two books on Ventura. "It's OK to holler at the media," Frank said. But it doesn't behoove a politician to "do that to the public."

Ventura's autumn of discontent has emboldened his critics. Some say he has become too self-absorbed to govern well.

"This is a governor whose three favorite words are 'I, me and my,'" state Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (D) told the Star-Tribune of Minneapolis. He said he is giving "very serious consideration" to a gubernatorial run next year. Others planning to run include Tim Pawlenty, Republican leader of the state House.

Ventura, calling a truce long enough for an interview last week with the St. Paul Pioneer Press, defended himself.

"Clearly, these potential candidates are having a difficult time attacking my record," he said. "So, therefore, they're going to attack my style; they're going to attack my personality."

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## National Briefs

## New anthrax developments

WASHINGTON — The fumigation of the office of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., began Friday. Officials are hoping that the chlorine dioxide gas will kill all traces of the anthrax bacterium. There has never been an attempt to rid such a large area of anthrax. If it is successful, the Environmental Protection Agency will use it as a model for future clean-ups.

The anthrax-laden letter, mailed to Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., will be opened at Fort Detrick, a germ warfare research lab in Maryland, about 40 miles away from Washington, D.C. A time has not been set for the opening of the letter, but authorities have given the lab specific instructions for the opening of the letter so that no clues that could help identify the sender are destroyed.

A letter with "tiny" trace amounts of anthrax was found in Connecticut near the community where a 94-year-old woman died of inhalation anthrax. Authorities believe that the letter was cross-contaminated after coming into contact with one of the anthrax-laced letters that were mailed to Senate offices.

Further testing has taken place in Boca Raton, Fla., at the American Media Inc. headquarters. Two people who worked in the building contracted inhalation anthrax; one died. The building has remained closed since; the EPA and other health agencies will de-contaminate it.

The U.S. Postal Service was accused on Friday by the New York Area Postal Union of not doing a good enough job cleaning and testing its facilities. A protest by the union, which represents more than 10,000 postal workers, has been set for Friday outside the main New York post office.

— CNN

## U.S. weighs terrorism extradition concessions

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is considering making concessions on the death penalty and the use of military tribunals in order to gain custody of suspected al-Qaida terrorists held in England, Italy, Germany and Spain. Those countries do not have a death penalty and signed a treaty in the 1950s that bans the extradition of suspects to countries that may use the death penalty. The treaty has also been interpreted by some to prohibit military tribunals.

— Associated Press

## NY blaze injures 42 people

NEW YORK — A blaze in the basement of a commercial building about a mile south of the World Trade Center injured 42 people. Four firefighters were admitted to a hospital burn unit; they are in stable condition.

The fire triggered an explosion that knocked down firefighters and construction workers. One carpenter said that the explosion blew him across the room and that bricks were flying and things were falling off the ceiling.

The fire erupted in part of the 50-

story building's air conditioning system while workers were replacing a storage tank.

— Associated Press

## International Briefs

## Middle East

JERUSALEM — A series of suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Haifa, Israel, over the weekend killed 25 victims and three suicide bombers.

On Sunday, a bomb exploded on a bus in Haifa and killed 16 people, including the suicide bomber, and injured about 35 others. The bomb was detonated shortly after noon.

Late Saturday night in Jerusalem, two bombs were detonated in a shopping complex and killed 12 people, including two suicide bombers. About 180 people were injured. A car bomb exploded about ten minutes later. Authorities said that it was timed to explode as rescue workers arrived to help the wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility of the attacks. Recently, members from two separate Islamic groups, the Jihad and the Hamas, have claimed responsibility.

On Sunday morning, the Israeli army shot and killed two Palestinian men who they said were shooting at cars in northern Gaza. One Israeli civilian was killed in the shootings.

— CNN

## Europe

MOSCOW — A Russian military cargo plane exploded before it was able to make an emergency landing after catching fire Saturday. All 18

people aboard are feared dead. The Ilyushin-76 transporter was operated by Russian border guards and was en route from Bratsk to Andir. It was flying at 24,530 feet when the fire broke out, and the captain told air traffic control he was making an emergency landing. The cause of the blaze has not yet been determined. The plane was carrying food and spare parts.

Earlier on Saturday, engine failure in an Mi-26 helicopter caused the craft to plunge more than 3,000 feet back to earth. Eighteen servicemen were injured. Last month an Ilyushin-18 aircraft crashed northeast of Moscow and killed 27 people. Two weeks before that incident, five servicemen were killed when a military helicopter crashed into a radio mast. In July, all 145 passengers and crew were killed when a passenger jet smashed into a Siberian forest.

— CNN

## South Asia

JAMMU, India — Suspected Muslim militants gunned down seven people belonging to a wedding party on Sunday. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the killings.

Earlier on Sunday, unidentified militants shot and killed two women. Saturday night two separatist guerrillas were killed in a gun battle with security forces.

In the Himalayan region, eight rebels and one Indian soldier were killed in multiple gun battles in the region. Also in the region, 21 residential houses and 30 structures caught fire and were destroyed.

On Friday, six members of a village

protection group were gunned down by suspected Muslim rebels.

These new developments are part of a series of clashes among nearly a dozen militant groups that have been fighting New Delhi's rule in two of India's states since 1989. One of the states, Kashmir, is the country's only Muslim-majority state. Officials say that the violence caused by the separatist groups has claimed at least 3,100 lives this year.

— Reuters

## Middle East

CHAMAN, Pakistan — A Taliban official said that Canadian journalist Ken Hechtman, who has been in their custody, will be released some time on Sunday, on the recommendation of Pakistani authorities.

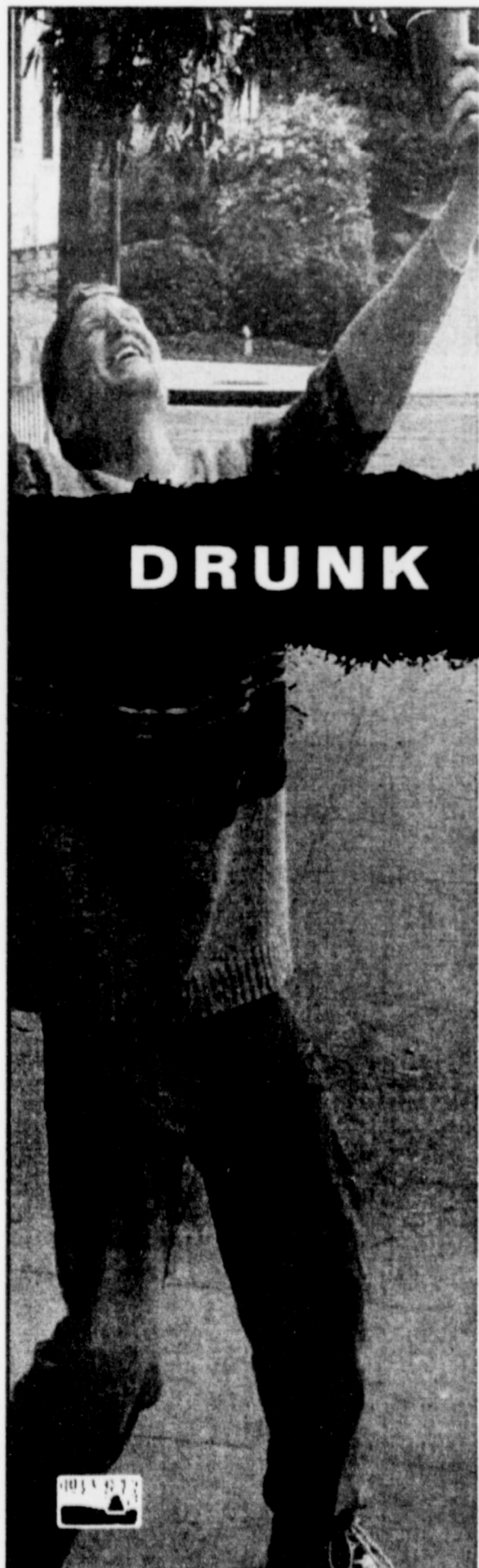
Taliban officials had been considering trying Hechtman on spy charges because he arrived without travel documents and had a satellite telephone and maps of the area. A messenger has reported that Hechtman was in good health and was relaxed, and the Taliban were treating him well.

Originally, Taliban officials denied holding the journalist and said that he had been kidnapped.

Since the beginning of the U.S. military attacks on the Taliban, Oct. 7, eight journalists have been killed.

— Associated Press

Briefs compiled from various news services by Mustang Daily contributor Anne Guilford.



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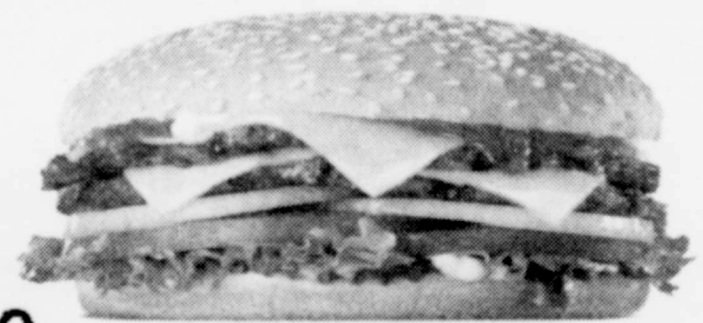
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## Shh! You can't talk to 'them'

My favorite food as a freshman used to be the Cream of Rice at Lighthouse. I'll admit that I enjoyed spending an hour at Lighthouse with my friends during dinner. I do not have and never will have a personal vendetta against Campus Dining. The taste and quality of campus food is always debatable, but that's not where I have a problem. I just think the establishment has a severe problem with paranoia.

What kind of paranoia am I talking about? It's not the security cameras designed to catch someone sneaking out some cookies or an apple. It's not about people criticizing the quality of food they serve. What I'm talking about is an unhealthy fear employees have of cameras and people who ask innocent questions.

Last May Mustang Daily did its annual Best of Cal Poly edition. In the category of best Julian's drink, the winners were mocha java blast and vanilla latte. As with all the other categories, we asked people why they thought these products were the best. I walked into Julian's, told the friendly employee about the story I was working on, and asked her what it was about those drinks that made them so popular. Just as she started to answer, a supervisor walked toward us, glared at me and demanded, "Who are you? What are you asking?"

I explained to her that I merely wanted to know the employee's personal opinion on what it was about those drinks that appealed to customers so much. No criticism, no in-depth undercover investigation into Julian's workplace conditions – just a fluff article that might actually portray the shop in a good light.

But no, I apparently wasn't allowed to ask an employee a simple question. The supervisor looked at the employee and said, "You can't talk to them without approval," – "them" being the evil Mustang Daily.

I then asked the supervisor if she, or anyone else, could answer my oh-so-controversial question. No, not without the Campus Dining director's permission, so you should probably go now, was all she said.

For some reason campus organizations like Campus Dining and Rec Sports see Mustang Daily as something rising from the pit of hell, chasing after them with accusations and trying to catch them in an unflattering light.

I don't know how many times a photographer has come back from an assignment to shoot inside a dining facility or the gym without any pictures.

"What happened?" we would ask.

"Campus Dining hates us," was all they could reply.

Of course, every business has the right not to allow photography on the premises. However, most places still allow photos unless there's quite a good reason not to, like when someone's privacy needs to be protected.

The paragraph in the Campus Dining employee handbook on this issue says that media requesting information or taking pictures must first obtain permission from the director. The reason given for this is to ensure the student customers' privacy isn't invaded. Well, that's a cheap way to disguise paranoia of the media. Asking an employee a question about Campus Dining (whether or not it's their personal opinion is irrelevant) has nothing to do with the privacy of students who happen to be dining there at the time. As for the invasion of cameras, photographers always talk to the subjects of their photos anyway, so invasion of their privacy isn't really an issue.

I'm not criticizing their right to regulate photography, but I'm questioning their paranoia of any kind of publicity and the vagueness of this "policy." What is there to hide? I probably wouldn't be so bitter if someone had calmly explained the policy to me as I stood there at the counter. Campus Dining would benefit, too. Instead of creating a scene by glaring and yelling at me, they could politely explain what steps I take to correctly go about doing what I'm doing. But that doesn't change the fact that the policy is lame.

The Buzz represents the thoughts of the Buzz and the Buzz alone. It does not represent the views of the Mustang Daily staff. All questions or complaints should be directed to the Buzz.

# Cloning ethics outweigh advances

Scientists at the Roslin Institute in Scotland created controversy in 1997 when they revealed that they had cloned a sheep named Dolly. Following the announcement, apprehension loomed about the day when scientists would seek to clone human beings.

That day has finally arrived.

On Nov. 25, a Massachusetts company announced that it had successfully cloned human embryos, bringing the world to the crossroads of scientific research and ethical concerns.

## Commentary

The company, Advanced Cell Technology (ACT), grew embryos but quit developing them once they reached six cells. If the experiments are continued, scientists may be able to grow cells large enough to create special stem cells. These cells then may have the ability to grow into various types of human tissues.

This process of creating cells, called therapeutic cloning, could lead the way in treatments for strokes, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, AIDS and cancer. But it also means that scientists would be growing human embryos for the sole purpose of destroying them.

It is this idea that raises a highly justified controversy of ethics across the globe.

President Bush opposed the practice of cloning embryos in a Nov. 27 article in

*"The means of experimenting with human embryos does not justify the consequences that could result."*

The New York Times: "We should not, as a society, grow life to destroy it." The same article expressed views from other countries also opposed the research. In Germany, the president of the Association of German Doctors called ACT's work "unethical." The European Commission noted that it would not fund projects similar to that of human embryo cloning.

In July, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would make reproductive cloning and cloning to create tissue for disease treatment illegal. The bill is still awaiting a decision from the Senate, which said more time was needed to weigh the possibility of new treatments against ethical concerns.

If the Senate passes the bill, human cloning could become banned throughout the United States. It is already banned in some states.

Experimenting with human embryos could give rise to many great strides in the medical arena, which is good. But it won't stop there. There is an old saying: "Give a man an inch and he wants a foot; give him a foot, and he wants a new pair of shoes." With each little bit of leniency humankind is given, there comes a growth of expectation, a desire to go beyond what

was previously thought possible.

So what happens when therapeutic cloning isn't enough? Is the world prepared to witness the arrival of the first cloned human baby?

Clonaid is another company that said it has also cloned human embryos. This company, however, wants to take things much farther than ACT; its goal is to give life to the first human clone, according to a Nov. 26 article in The Washington Post.

The idea that companies like Clonaid actually exist is beyond me. And the fact that they want to clone humans is one that sends chills up my spine. Our world has become so crazed with the advancement of technology that it is now willing to toy with human beings.

The means of experimenting with human embryos does not justify the consequences that could result. Experimentation is a drawn-out process. How long would it take to get it right? How many deformed babies would it take to justify the cause? Cloning is risky business; it shouldn't be the next feat in a worldwide competition.

Stephanie Perry is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

## Work at Abercrombie lacks individualism

(U-WIRE) MUNCIE, Ind. — When my brother was in high school, he wasn't pretty.

He had little glasses, shaggy long hair down to his chin, oversized-ragged jeans

that he wore with his beautiful underwear hanging out, and he

walked like Igor because the crotch of his pants was down at his knees.

Yup, my brother was the pimp. After high school, he went to college, made the dean's list and by the time he was done with his degree, only Polo could touch his body.

So, let's get this straight. In high school, my brother wore pants with a 38-inch waist. He started lifting weights in college and bulked up a little (which includes gaining a little weight), and now he wears a 32-inch waist.

Now, he is a manager at Abercrombie and Fitch. Which leads me to my next point. Since he's manager, I was lucky enough to get a job with him over the winter break.

After refusing to wear their clothes for so long, I broke down.

I'm a traitor to nonconformity, I know, but I needed the job and I had a connection – it literally fell in my lap, along with a pair of jeans and two shirts.

I am now an employee of Abercrombie and Fitch, the store where

*"I've never worked at a place where you couldn't tell the difference between the customers or the employers."*

the hottest of the hot go and buy clothes that are sizes too small for them.

To work there, clothes must be bought-to-fit so we can show off the latest styles, strut our stuff, flip back our hair and smile wicked, sexy smiles to everyone we look at, especially when we're bending over to pick something up off the floor.

The problem with being new at a store like this is, well, when the employees have to dress with the latest fashions, and the people shopping in the store wear the latest fashions, it's hard to keep track of who's working and who's shopping.

We don't get those cool shirts like Old Navy that say "staff."

While folding shirts, one of my co-workers asked if he could help me find anything.

"Uhh," I said. I wasn't sure what to tell him, because apparently he had the same problem I did. "No, I'm doing alright," I told him and walked away with a pile of shirts and continued to fold at another table.

I finally realized who worked at the

store that Friday when the same people were in the store with me for five hours.

Then after I got bored folding shambled piles of shirts, I decided to work the changing room and stand and herd pre-teen girls in and out of the dressing room with hoochie clothes.

Before I worked, I had to read the employee handbook. It said that Abercrombie liked to see individuality in their employees when it came to grooming, as long as it stayed steadfast to the look of Abercrombie.

Individuality? I've never worked at a place where you couldn't tell the difference between the customers or the employees.

Standing my ground by the dressing rooms during the Friday after Thanksgiving shopping apocalypse, the district manager apparently came into the store for a little chat-chat about numbers and saw my non-traditional hair.

So much for individuality; I had to wear a hat over my dyed red hair.

But at least the techno music thumping in the background, foreground, inner ear and inside my chest has a good beat, especially when it breaks 120,000 decibels.

Evan Williams, Daily News (Ball State U.)

# Mustang DAILY

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## Letter to the editor

### Media should not get names of detainees

Editor,

I'm not writing in response to anyone or any article, but I'd like to speak very shortly on the subject of military tribunals. If military tribunals are good enough for our very own military personnel, they are definitely good enough for those guilty or not guilty of vicious attacks on humanity. Franklin Roosevelt-held

military tribunals, and six lives were ended as a result of the death penalty. So, military tribunals had their place during World War II, they have their place in our military establishments, and they'll rightfully have their place in this war on terror.

Also, on the subject of those detained for questioning about terrorists by the Department of Justice: The media are asking for the names of these persons, but for what reason? Are the media running out of stories? Because if those names are released, think how hard it would be for that person to find another job, among other things, guilty or not. Not releasing names is helping those who are detained keep their normal lives when they return to them – if they aren't guilty, of course. The media need to address the real stories and not nit-pick the administration, because they've more than proven their effectiveness thus far. Take yourself back five years, when Clinton was president. If this tragedy had occurred then, would you have been confident in his judgment? Slick Willy couldn't take a marriage seriously, he's a draft dodger, and some of the most disastrous special-forces operations occurred on his watch. Chew on that.

Greg Maita is an industrial engineering junior.

### Letter policy

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 250 words.

Letters should include the writer's full name, major and class standing.

By mail:

Letters to the Editor  
Building 26, Room 226  
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CA 93407

By fax:

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By e-mail:

mustangdaily@hotmail.com  
Do not send letters as attachments. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

### Cal Poly Student Health Center Advice: What Should You Do if You Have a Cold or Cold-Like Flu?

**Your time is precious.** Under most circumstances, there are no medical treatments for a common cold or the flu. Waits can be long at the Health Center or your doctor's office during the cold and flu season.

**What should I do if I get a cold or upper respiratory flu?** Get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids. Over-the-counter remedies can alleviate the symptoms—pseudoephedrine for runny nose and congestion, acetaminophen or ibuprofen for aches and pains. Gargling with salt water [1 tsp of salt per glass of warm water] can help with a sore throat. Cough preparations with "DM" help a dry cough and those with an expectorant help with a cough that produces mucous. *Be sure to read the labels of these products to see if they are safe for you.*

**Go to the Student Health Center** or your family doctor if you're not starting to feel better after 7 days or if you have any of the following symptoms:

- A fever of 101 or more for more than 2 days
- Painful breathing, wheezing, or shortness of breath
- Large tender neck glands or stiff neck
- Pain around the eyes or in the upper teeth
- Swollen red tonsils with white patches
- Unusual fatigue lasting more than a week.

**Want to avoid long waits?** Make an appointment or come in early. The waits are longer later in the day. The Health Center opens at 8 AM each weekday, except Wednesday [it opens at 9].

**Students can make an appointment** by calling the Health Center at 756-1211.

## Learning out of the comfort zone

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. — My dad's a funny guy. He teaches English and Critical Thinking at a junior college and always starts off his first class by scaring the pants off his students.

"True education," he says, "should be like a gun to your head."

This catches a lot of students off guard. The current educational environment is designed to be as

### Commentary

possible, a comfortable, "safe" place. Classrooms should be safe, but safe from hand grenades and anthrax, not ideas. If a classroom is advertised as "safe," that means there's been a deliberate attempt to program out material that could "offend." But if you're really learning, there's always the danger that what you find may upset you. Truth isn't determined by whether it's going to make you happy or not – it just is.

The current climate supports and rewards students who just want to stay the way they are, students who expect teachers to validate the views they already hold. Uh-uh. Doesn't work that way. If your views never get challenged, and you never feel the slightest bit uncomfortable, you're just riding the ideological merry-go-round.

There's been a lot of blowback from the Tolerance and Sensitivity Movement here at Berkeley, especially in the Letters to the Editor sent to The Daily Californian. Every day following an opinion

page, letters pour in criticizing the paper. The language is familiar; "denounce," "outrage," "racist," "shocking" and, most of all, "uncomfortable." It's like listening to a flock of indignant parrots. They're so alike it's difficult to distinguish a letter denouncing the SATs from a letter outraged at U.S. bombing.

People seem to think their discomfort is The One Arbiter of what should and should not be published. They use their unease as a cudgel, bludgeoning the source of unpopular voices with bankrupt language. Endlessly repeating "correct," accepted opinions would be a failure of the mission of the press, which should offer differing thoughtful positions rather than reflexive emotion.

Education should be more a process of ascesis, the religious principle of self-interrogation and evaluation. In a speech before the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics in October, John Hollander, a noted poet from Yale, observed that this kind of self-examination and self-criticism is an exclusively Western concept – Eastern meditation doesn't quite fit what he was talking about. Education should change you, make you open to modifying the views and opinions of the past in order to make more informed, critical judgments. Not to say education should be reprogramming or academic hazing, but it should, as James Burke once said, "remove the reassuring crutches of opinion, ideology

and leave only what is demonstrably true about the world."

As a student, you have to have plasticity, openness and a willingness to hear and evaluate new things. In true education you're always on the verge of an epiphany that can transform your life. The alternative is usually being a "true believer," having an ideology to answer every question and inform every opinion you have. Having all the answers may be comfortable, but ideologues are locked inside a box of their own dogma.

Dad has two other classroom sayings that dovetail here – the meaning of the first is fairly self-evident. "Going to class doesn't make you an educated person any more than going to the garage makes you a car." Many of us who've spent time at Berkeley know this, either as the folks miraculously snoozing our way to a Bachelor's or the irate, hard-working students who detest them.

When the next Herff Applewhite or David Koresh shows up at your door spouting a comfortable, charismatic ideology, there isn't going to be anyone there to tell you what to do. You have to be able to think critically about things, separate the ideology from what you know and, more importantly, what you don't know. If you can't learn that in an institution like Berkeley, then academia has failed America.

Isaac Clemens, Daily Californian (U. California-Berkeley)

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Sunday  
12:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.  
Channel 10

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**Wanted Poly Student to be a n Ad Rep. @ the Daily. Earn Commission. Call Nick 6-1143**

### EMPLOYMENT

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Call Nick @ 6-1143

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# Marcillac, Wheelmen place nationally

By Katherine Gernhardt  
MUSTANG DAILY CONTRIBUTOR

Neither snow, nor rain, nor sleet, nor hail could stop Cal Poly's Wheelmen Cycling Team from capturing fourth in the country at the National Collegiate Cycling Association's Mountain Bike National Championships last month.

The 12-member team was one of 75 teams from across the nation competing in Roxbury, N.Y. The event was held at the Ski Plattekill Mountain Resort Oct. 26-29 and was sanctioned by NORBA, the National Off-Road Bicycle Association.

Cal Poly's Nichole Marcillac placed the highest of the Cal Poly riders, coming in second in the Division 1 women's omnium. The term "omnium" refers to overall standing, and includes results from all races. Therefore, Marcillac is the second-ranked women's collegiate mountain bike rider in the country.

"We're really proud of her," said teammate Frank Thaxter. "She really helped us get that fourth-place finish."

Marcillac finished third in the short track, sixth out of 50 riders in the women's cross-country race, ninth out of 32 riders in the women's downhill, and was Cal Poly's top finisher in the women's dual slalom race, finishing 13th. Cal Poly rider John Denson said that the "short track" is an abbreviated cross-country course of less than one mile, and riders do several laps.

Though it snowed the morning of the cross-country race, Thaxter was pleased with his team's performance. He said that he made sure to spend extra time warming up before his race.

"We just layered (our clothing) up a little bit more," he said. Thaxter said he felt the cold the most on the third and final lap of that race, but that it didn't slow the team down very much.

"We all ended the race really well," Thaxter said.

Marcillac was hesitant to pick a favorite race.

"I loved them all," she said. "They all bring something unique to the experience. That makes the 'whole' your most favorite."

Marcillac said that the cross-coun-



COURTESY PHOTO/WHEELMEN CLUB

**Nichole Marcillac hammers it out during the short track race at the Mountain Bike National Championships at Plattekill Mountain Resort in Roxbury, N.Y. Marcillac took second overall in the nation.**

try race was the most physically challenging for her.

"It snowed, which made the temperature cold and conditions slick and challenging, but it was also really beautiful," she said.

Teammate John Collen agreed, citing weather conditions that made the trail obscure.

"There was one point in the (cross-country) race where the people who were spread out on the course had to follow the tire tracks in the snow because there was so much snow covering the trail," he said.

In the dual slalom, the men's highest finisher was Brian Long, in 11th place. He advanced the farthest of the Cal Poly riders in that event.

Collen explained that the race starts out with about 70 racers, who each ride the course once. The 32 fastest finishers qualify for the final heats, where the riders go head-to-head individually.

"Cal Poly did really well (in the dual slalom) because you get points for just qualifying," he said. "All of our guys qualified, so we had a really solid team." Collen, Curtis Beavers and Danny Minx were the other riders in that event.

The format is the same for the women's dual slalom.

Marcillac also noted that the weather and specific courses brought about changes in her riding techniques.

"For the downhill we had to change tires to compensate for the icy terrain," she said. "San Luis Obispo doesn't have slick roots or granite slabs, so we had to modify our riding style as well."

Kristi Jereb was close behind Marcillac in the women's cross-country competition, finishing ninth. Harmony Helton finished 29th.

The women's downhill competition had 32 total riders, with two more Cal Poly riders finishing close to one another. Tara O'Connell came in eighth, Marcillac ninth and Helton 26th.

Cal Poly's male riders also fared well. In the men's downhill race, Cal Poly riders took the following places:

Long, 11th; Beavers, 28th; Collen, 31st; and Minx, 35th. The race had 54 riders in all.

The men's cross-country competition drew 91 riders, and Cal Poly finished as follows: Christian Sum, 18th; Scott Silveira, 21st; John Denson, 28th; and Thaxter, 49th.

Denson said he was pleased with his results and that the trip brought the team members a little closer.

"Overall, nationals was also a bonding experience for many of us," he said. "Though one spends a lot of time at regular races, there's nothing like a week of racing, supporting and bonding to really bring the team spirit and 'Poly pride' out of you."

## 3-2 start helps Mustangs gallop back to respectability

Finals are still a week away, but I've already failed. Big time. Allow me to put it into perspective.

Try to imagine taking a calculus final with a hangover at 7 a.m. Colossal failure. As a sports prognosticator, I flopped worse than a Tim Allen movie.

Last spring, on the heels of Big West Freshman of the Year Jamaal Scott's defection to the University of Richmond, I wrote here that the loss of Scott signaled the continuing demise of the Cal Poly men's basketball program.

It seemed like a safe prediction at the time. The Mustangs had just put the finishing touches on a dismal 9-19 season, highlighted by a tumultuous mid-season coaching change.

Unproven assistant Kevin Bromley had officially taken over the reigns from the enigmatic Jeff Schneider. The nucleus of the team had been shredded, both by the devastating departure of Scott and the graduation of three other starters, including Male Athlete of the Year Chris Bjorklund, the school's all-time leading scorer. I saw no reason to believe this team would rise up from the doldrums of the Big West any time soon.

Picked to finish ninth out of 10 teams in the Big West coaches' pre-season poll, all the Mustangs have done is rout three of their first five opponents, and narrowly miss an upset of a team from the vaunted SEC. The thrashings began with a 20-point victory over Saint Mary's in the home opener, then continued

with a convincing 29-point blowout win at home over Portland State, a team that defeated Arizona State earlier this year. After a heartbreaking 69-64 loss to Vanderbilt on the road, the Mustangs jolted Lipscomb on Saturday with a 24-point romp. Granted, Lipscomb sounds more like a product you'd find on a late-night infomercial than a college basketball team. But they upended the Mustangs last season, and thus the easy win further illustrates Cal Poly's resurgence.

With their 3-2 start, the Mustangs have shown an uncanny ability to compensate for their lack of experience and marquee players. A balanced scoring attack and solid contributions off the bench have been the key. Six players average seven or more points per game, and newcom-

ers Jared Patterson and James Allen have provided valuable minutes off the bench.

Sophomore Varnie Dennis has picked up where he left off last season, when he made the Big West's all-freshman team. The 6'9" center has nearly doubled his scoring average up to 15 points per game and has shown a potent stroke from beyond the arc, nailing his first five three-point attempts this season.

After missing all of last season with a back injury, Steve Geary has returned and given the Mustangs the true point guard they sorely lacked last year. Senior Brandon Beeson has been his usual reliable self as the team's second-leading scorer and top rebounder, while David Henry and newcomer Eric Jackson have provided solid outside shooting on the

wings.

The real litmus test will come Dec. 15 against Oregon State at Mott Gym. The long-awaited preseason match-up pits the Mustangs against Pac-10 competition, and could go a long way in proving that this year's edition bears no resemblance to last season's underachieving bunch.

Two things are certain. First, the Mustangs are playing hard-nosed basketball again, spreading the ball around unselfishly, and putting an exciting product out on the floor, which they were often unable to do during last year's debacle.

And second, I won't be making any predictions again any time soon.

Jacob Jackson is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.

mustang

SCORES SCHEDULE TRIVIA

BAR

### SCORES

vs. MEN'S BASKETBALL	64	69
vanderbilt		
vs. MEN'S BASKETBALL	75	51
lipscomb		

### SCHEDULE

vs. MEN'S BASKETBALL	sun, dec 9 2 p.m.
e washington	@e wash
vs. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	sun, dec 9 2 p.m.
santa clara	@santa clara

### TRIVIA

#### today's question

Who is Cal Poly men's basketball's all-time career scoring leader?

Submit answers to: dmintz@calpoly.edu

#### last friday's question

What NBA team owns the record for least rebounds in a game?  
DETROIT PISTONS (2001)

No one had the correct answer!