

**Brush Strokes 2001:**

Art Center showcases top finalists of local competition, 5

**Save the dunes:** Just let 'em ride, 9**TODAY'S WEATHER**High: 65°  
Low: 44°

# Thursday, December 6, 2001

# Mustang

## DAILY

Volume LXVI, Number 56, 1916-2001

## Unit decrease aims at graduating students sooner

By Lauren Chase  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Imagine if the minimum number of units required to graduate went down from 190 or 200 to 180 for all baccalaureate degrees. That might mean having to take two fewer classes.

This decrease in units is an issue that will go before Cal Poly's Academic Senate in the next few months.

**Title 5**

In July 2000, the California

State University Board of Trustees amended Title 5, which sets the rules about what warrants an undergraduate degree. This change in Title 5 reduced the minimum number of units required for graduation.

The colleges will either have to decrease to 180 units or justify why they haven't, said David Hannings, chair of the Academic Senate Curricular Committee.

"For certain programs to be accredited, they need more than 180 units," Hannings said.

Certain majors may exceed the 180 minimum if there is appropriate rationale and justification for those degrees, Hannings said.

Some faculty members seem less than satisfied that this reduction will make graduation time faster.

"Reducing the minimum number of units is the only thing the (CSU) Chancellor, Charles Reed, can do much about," Hannings said. "But there is so much else going on. It's not the total number of units, it's other things."

Some students are in no hurry to

get out; more than half of students work, and others surf, party and do other things, Hannings said.

"It's a lot of work with questionable benefits," he said. "We also worry about cheapening the degree."

Hannings added Cal Poly doesn't have trivial and frivolous classes.

"We require students to take classes because we think they are important," he said. "The reduction has to come from somewhere and electives is the direction it would probably come from."

V.L. Holland, chair of the biological sciences department, agreed with Hannings on the difficulty of eliminating units.

"We already cut down to 186 and we will need to cut another six," Holland said. "We will have to battle over what course we have to eliminate. All of us think that our courses are critically important."

Holland said the biology department would eliminate one course and decrease the number of free electives by two units.

see UNITS, page 2

## Other ways of getting to class

By Audrey Amara  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

A girl furiously pumps her legs as she rides her red, 10-speed beach cruiser to class. Suddenly, something flies past her so fast that she can't see what or who it is.

No, it's not a bird or a plane — it's Andrew Badger on his electrically powered scooter.

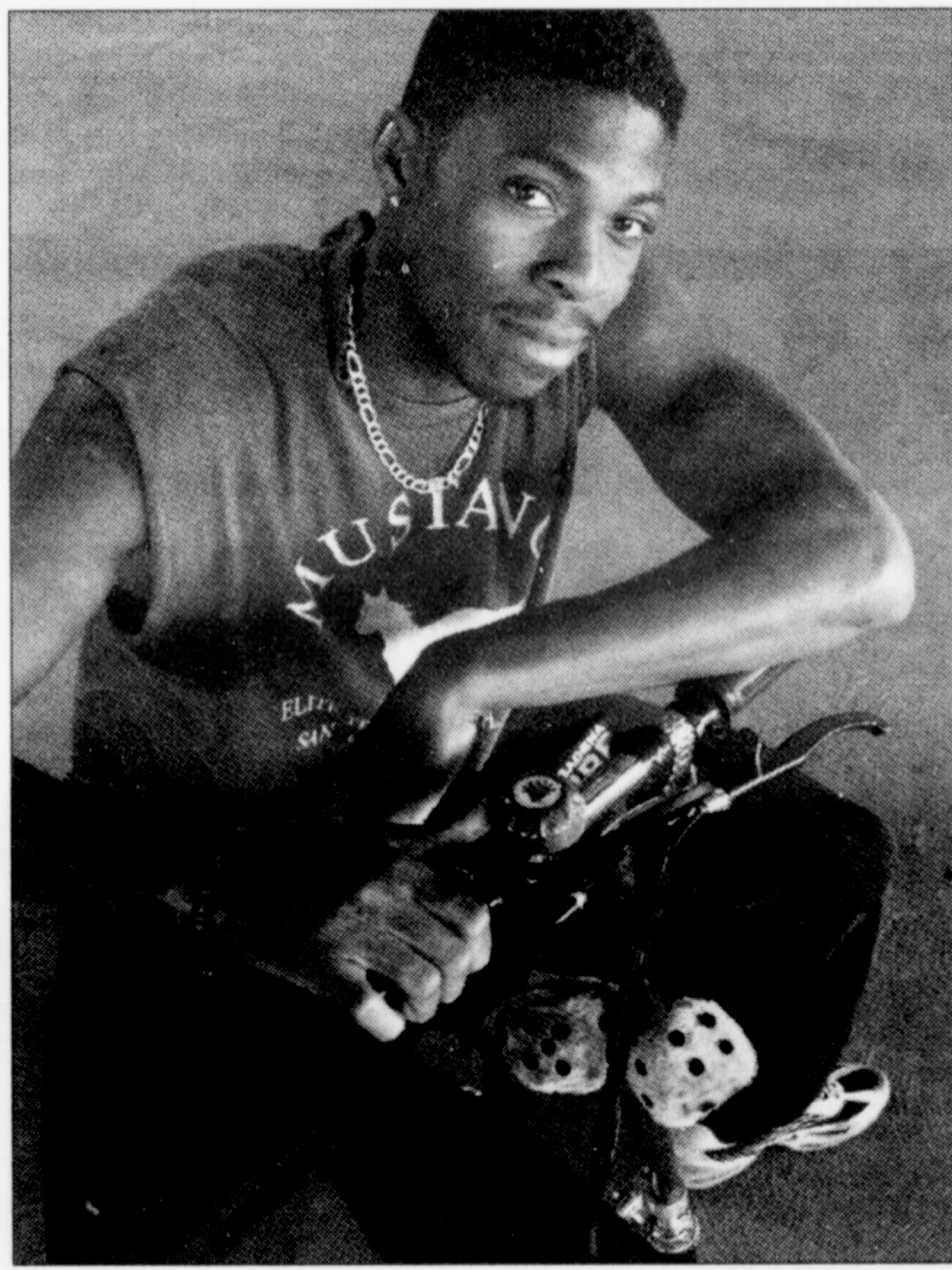
"Watch out bike club, because scooters are starting to be a new trend," said Badger, a kinesiology senior. Bicycles are still a great way of transportation, but students are starting to experiment with alternative, more fun ways of getting to school.

"Z-Turbo (scooter) goes 12 mph for its normal speed, 15 mph with a good wind and 20 mph downhill," Badger said. His record from the business building to the University Union is two minutes.

Badger admits some students get intimidated by such a fast vehicle, but he can't think of one instance that someone had a negative comment.

"If someone wanted to have a negative comment, that is just too bad for them because I just got to class faster and saved more energy," Badger said.

Electrically powered scooters have to be recharged after 10 to 15



AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Kinesiology senior Andrew Badger uses Z-Turbo an electric scooter, for transportation. His scooter comes complete with a bell, seat and fuzzy dice.

see SCOOTERS, page 3

## The playing, the players, the played:

# \*The Cal Poly\* Dating Game

By Emily Schwartz  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

A date. A kiss. Hooking up. Sex. Isn't this the natural progression of a relationship? Maybe 50 years ago.

For many college students, the art of dating has been replaced with "hooking up," a trendy umbrella term that can mean anything from kissing to sexual intercourse. Hooking up has recently become the social norm on college campuses, according to a study conducted last year

by the Journal of Sex Research. After surveying 550 undergraduates, the study showed that 75 percent of

college students said they had experienced at least one hook-up.

A more recent study, conducted for the Independent Women's

Forum, suggested that although 83 percent of 1,000 college women said they viewed marriage as a "very important goal," it has been diluted due to today's vast number of college relationships that revolve around hooking up.

To find out if these norms and other related issues hold true at Cal Poly, we asked students of various dating sta-

tuses about their thoughts and expe-

see PLAY, page 11

**The Singles**

Chuck Nunley —  
electrical engineering senior  
Kathy Maldonado —  
business junior

**The Hook-Ups**

Raymond Castillo —  
construction management senior  
Nikki Lewis —  
Cuesta studio art major

**The Casual Daters**

Kimani Lovan —  
kinesiology junior  
Whitney Barca —  
economics senior

**The Engaged**

Jeff McKeown —  
graphic communications senior  
Stephanie Biggers —  
food science senior

## Mentorship program guides future Cal Poly entrepreneurs

By Collin Hester  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Starting up and running a business can be an overwhelming and strenuous process for many people. With the help of local female entrepreneurs, Cal Poly students gain the essential skills of becoming good leaders in the workforce.

The Women Entrepreneurs Mentor Program (WE Mentor) is a new organization at Cal Poly that aims to connect female students with entrepreneurs by

promoting entrepreneurship, technology and globalization in the community.

"What it's all about is helping Cal Poly students reach entrepreneurs in the community to expand their leadership skills, help them put business plans into place, to offer guidance and assistance, and to help them be stronger and better business people," said Polly Mertens, WE Mentor member and business administration graduate student.

Though the program is geared toward helping women, men are wel-

come too, Mertens said. WE Mentor accepts all majors and years.

The program will hold its first annual Entrepreneurial Leaders Conference on Tuesday, Dec. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo. Students and business professionals will be present at the conference. Guest speakers include Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif., Orfalea College of Business Dean William Pendergast and Guitar Centers Inc. founder Ray Scherr.

According to the WE Mentor Web

site, the topics to be discussed are developing and encouraging entrepreneurial leadership, attributes of a successful business, challenges within the technology industry, and mentoring and helping people reach their potential.

WE Mentor formed in May by the Orfalea College of Business under Colette Frayne, a global strategy and law professor. The program is comprised of 50 members and has more than 15 mentors who are business owners from the San Luis Obispo community. The

mentors assist students based on their real world experience.

"(As a mentor) my objective is to find out what (the students') needs are and either help them or point them in the right direction to get those needs met," said Peggy Carlaw, Mertens' mentor.

Mertens said Carlaw is helping her a great deal with the business she is looking to launch in the next three months. Carlaw has given her advice, literature

see WE, page 3



# DAILY Weather

## TODAY'S SUN

Rise: 6:57 a.m. / Set: 4:50 p.m.

## TODAY'S MOON

Rise: 11:08 p.m. / Set: 12:06 p.m.

## TODAY'S TIDE

AT PORT SAN LUIS

High: 3:31 a.m. / 4.17 feet

Low: 7:56 a.m. / 3.20 feet

High: 1:26 p.m. / 4.97 feet

Low: 9:01 p.m. / -0.20 feet

## 5-DAY FORECAST



FRIDAY

High: 68° / Low: 41°



SATURDAY

High: 66° / Low: 41°



SUNDAY

High: 65° / Low: 42°



MONDAY

High: 65° / Low: 41°



TUESDAY

High: 61° / Low: 41°

By Whitney Kobrin  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Local organizations, along with the rest of the nation, are showing their holiday spirit by extending help to another country.

A community committee is working on a fund-raiser for the children of Afghanistan, said Angie Hacker, Associated Students Inc. president. The Student Community Liaison Committee (SCLC) is organizing the fund-raiser, which began Monday and will continue through Jan. 15. Hacker said she anticipates that because of timing, the fund-raiser will be an effective holiday event.

Derek Juerta, ASI commissioner of Community Relations, coordinated the fund-raiser. Juerta said the idea of this fund-raiser is more legitimate because of President George W.

Bush's request that donations be made to the Children of Afghanistan. Controversy regarding the way funds were being used by the Red Cross deterred the SCLC from fund-raising for the Red Cross, he said.

The fund-raiser is comprised of two parts that include donations and civic outreach, Juerta said.

Donations can be made at various places on the Cal Poly campus, including Kennedy Library, Campus Market, the University Union information desk and the Rec Center, Juerta said. Civic outreach will include contacting the Lions Club, Rotary Club and the Children's Center on campus.

"At the Children's Center, we will give letters to the parents requesting donations," Juerta said. "We will also

send letters to the heads of other civic organizations."

Juerta said the goal of the fund-raiser is to raise a few thousand dollars for the children of Afghanistan, and he anticipates success.

After Jan. 15, the donations will be collected and given to ASI, which will send a check to the White House for the benefit of the Afghan children.

The SCLC is a group made up of administrators, students and staff from Cal Poly and Cuesta College as well as prominent members of the community, such as members of the City Council, the mayor, the chief of police, city administrators and members of Residents for Quality Neighborhoods, Hacker said.

"The SCLC was organized to increase communication between dif-

ferent sectors of the community, and has been a part of the San Luis Obispo community for nine or 10 years," she said.

The idea for a fund-raiser came after the SCLC started talking about the national response to the Sept. 11 tragedy, Hacker said. The community held reflections and marches, and the SCLC began plans to create a response to the event.

Currently, the SCLC is working on establishing off-campus donation sites. Fliers are being posted around campus, urging students to donate what they can.

Donations can also be sent to the ASI executive office, Cal Poly State University at San Luis Obispo. Checks should be made out to the American Fund for Afghan Children.

## UNITS

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### Through put

The CSU Board of Trustees is trying to increase "through put," Hannings said.

"Through put" allows more people to get through the same size campus faster," said Susan Currier, the associate dean for the College of Liberal

Arts.

Currier added the reduction wouldn't overwhelmingly change things in regards to "through put," although she thought it should help.

However, this change won't affect anyone at Cal Poly just yet, said Mary Whiteford, Academic Programs Analyst.

"Perhaps we would see some change for the next catalogue," she said. "But we haven't seen the proposals from the departments."

There is speculation that this

reduction will have the most effect on liberal arts majors rather than polytechnic majors.

"It will have a broader impact on our college," Currier said. "We have some programs that will remain high, but most traditional academic, not professional, programs will be making changes."

The College of Agriculture will be looking at curriculum packages winter quarter.

"There will be some programs that we will be moving to 180 and there will be others we will provide

rationale and justification for more than 180," he said.

Paul E. Rainey, the associate dean of the College of Engineering, said his college will be looking at what they can do to reduce units, but he doesn't foresee a drastic change.

"I don't know any way we could get down to 180 units," Rainey said.

He said that the college would not have a problem justifying more than 180 units.

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Saturday, 8:00am - 4:00pm

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## National Briefs

## Stray bomb kills 3 U.S. soldiers

WASHINGTON — On Wednesday, a U.S. bomb carrying 2,000 pounds of explosives missed its Taliban target killing three American soldiers and wounding 19 others north of Kandahar, Afghanistan where the Taliban is making its last stand. Two of the special forces soldiers died immediately, the third died on his way to the hospital.

Pentagon officials have not released the names of the victims and do not yet know if the error was human or mechanical.

Hamid Karzai, the newly designated head of the provisional government in Afghanistan was in the area where the bomb landed, but was not seriously wounded.

— AP

## Man arrested for anthrax hoaxes

SPRINGDALE, Ohio — Clayton Lee Waagner, 45, who was on the FBI's 10 most wanted list, was arrested Wednesday outside a Kinko's store. He is wanted for other crimes, but most recently he has claimed responsibility for a total of 550 anthrax hoax letters that were mailed on two different occasions to East Coast abortion clinics. He also claimed he was anointed by God to kill abortion providers and is a member of the "Army of God." He has openly referred to himself as a terrorist against abortion providers.

U.S. Marshals said when he was arrested he was carrying \$10,000 and computer components. They also said he had a loaded handgun in a stolen Mercedes Benz.

Waagner is not connected to the

actual anthrax campaign that has killed five and infected 13 others since October. But he is wanted for multiple bank robberies and escaping from Dewitt County jail in Clinton, Ill. He was awaiting sentencing on charges of motor vehicle theft and gun possession by a felon. He was facing a 15-year to life sentence. There was a cumulative reward of \$100,000 for his capture.

— Reuters

## International Briefs

## Middle East

Israel — These are the latest developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Palestinian police ordered the house arrest of Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassen Wednesday, sparking angry demonstrations in

Gaza. Police said Hamas militants opened fire early Thursday on Palestinian police outside his home, but a Hamas source inside the house disputed the report.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Wednesday Arafat must meet five demands before a political agreement between Israel and the Palestinians would be possible. The demands included the arrest of leaders of militant organizations, dismantling those organizations, destroying all illegal weapons, imposing real preventive actions to stop those who plan terror attacks, and halting incitements.

— CNN News

## South Asia

Afghanistan — The man appointed to head the Afghanistan government for the next six months has said the country needs economic opportunities and democratic elections in

order to move forward.

Hamid Karzai, an ethnic Pashtun, told the BBC that former Taliban figures could play a role in a future government if the Afghan people wanted them, but "foreign terrorists" would be expelled and tried.

Delegates from four Afghan factions agreed on Wednesday to set up a transitional government headed by Karzai after 20 years of war. UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi welcomed the agreement, saying the international community would stand by Afghanistan. But he warned that the new government carried a "huge responsibility" and the eyes of the world would be upon it.

— BBC News

Briefs compiled from various news services by Mustang Daily contributor Anne Guilford and managing editor Tori Walsh.

## WE

continued from page 1

and support to help put together schedules and review business and marketing plans to get her business underway, Mertens said.

The program is still in the startup phase while mentors have been giving people direction, said Jessica

Butterfield, WE Mentor advisory board member and business senior.

"People have a lot of great ideas and have the motivation, but don't really know where to get started, and (the mentorship) facilitates that environment as the catalyst to progress forward," she said.

Mertens said the mentors enjoy what they do and are willing to provide assistance because they believe it's a good

way to give back to the community.

"They're the type of people that pursue challenge in life," Mertens said. "(They like) being able to help a fellow woman or man get their business off the ground and gaining skills."

According to the Web site, the program has three tenets — to provide programs, resources and mentors for women to improve their leadership potential and the quality of their lives,

to encourage diversity in the workplace and to nurture the growth and development of entrepreneurship in the county through practical assistance, applied education and public recognition.

"It's a way for the business community and academia to build a bridge together," Butterfield said.

WE Mentor not only benefits entrepreneurs, Mertens said, but it is also for those who want to improve their lead-

ership skills.

"You can be a part of this program and not have to have a business plan tomorrow," Mertens said. "You can just be with interesting men and women who have started their business, hear about their experiences and help enrich what you know."

For more information, visit [www.cob.calpoly.edu/we-mentor/](http://www.cob.calpoly.edu/we-mentor/).

## SCOOTERS

continued from page 1

miles by being plugged into an outlet. One charge will last Badger all day.

"It's not very hard to carry a five-by-three charger," he said. "I can pretty much charge it wherever I go."

With every cool vehicle comes the possibility that it will get stolen. Badger doesn't usually worry about Z-Turbo getting stolen because it is with him all the time. He also has a key

that is needed to turn it on.

"Without the key, it's a dead piece of metal and that would be pretty boring," he said.

A license isn't required for electrical scooters because they don't exceed 20 mph, Badger said. This doesn't mean scooter owners can be unsafe.

Badger does his part by not riding at night and is working on finding a suitable helmet he can wear while riding Z-Turbo. Meanwhile, campus police are keeping their eyes open for commuters who are being dangerous when riding their vehicles.

Trafton Chandler, an agriculture systems management sophomore, learned his lesson about riding on campus last year. He is the owner of a red Honda Elite, a gas-powered moped.

"I did a little lap around the police station before I knew it was the police station last year," he said. Chandler had been on a leisure ride before class to warm up the engine of his moped. His main problem was that he didn't have a muffler on it, so it was making a loud noise. Chandler said he was pulled over and got a lecture by a

campus police officer.

"He asked if I had a license, why I wasn't wearing a helmet and if it was stolen," Chandler said.

These vehicles make noise, and more complaints are coming in from professors, said University Police officer Oscar Carballo.

"We are just trying to look out for people's safety," he said.

Owners of all vehicles are supposed to abide by the rules of the road, and most students are cooperative, he said.

Carballo has seen the worst injuries when students use their vehicles

recreationally. He classifies skateboards as one of the biggest safety issues. Recently, a student in Sonoma fell off a skateboard and killed himself, Carballo said.

The price of the ticket for skateboarding on campus has also been raised, since the old price didn't seem to discourage that many students, Carballo said.

"Some (students) would even say they don't care about paying for a ticket because they can afford it," he added.

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COHAN CENTER

Saturday, December 8, 8pm

## Cal Poly Choirs "A Christmas Celebration" Concert

Presented by Cal Poly Music Dept.  
COHAN CENTER

Sunday, December 9, 3pm

## Joyous Sounds of Christmas

Presented by the San Luis Obispo  
Vocal Arts Ensemble  
COHAN CENTER

Sunday, December 9, 3pm

## SLO Youth Symphony Christmas Concert

Presented by SLO County Youth Symphony  
CAL POLY THEATRE

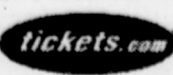
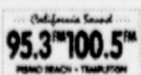
Sunday, December 9, 6pm

Second Sunday at the Center  
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Saturday, December 15, 8pm

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By Jana Larsen

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

# Local artists let loose

As you walk into the gallery at the San Luis Obispo Art Center, you will notice a bench in the middle of the room; have a seat. The pictures on display for the Brush Strokes 2001 Exhibition are worth taking a long, ponderous look at and even a second look.

The Twelfth Annual Brush Strokes 2001 Exhibition is on display until Dec. 10 at the Art Center at Mission Plaza. A renowned artist from Laguna Beach judged the artwork and chose 36 paintings from the 200 entries by the Oil-Pastel-Acrylic-Group (OPAG) members of the San Luis Obispo Art Center.

The show awards more than \$1,000 in prize money to the participants. It is open to anyone in the state of California, the only criteria is that the artist must be a member of the Art Center. Ken Auster, winner of the national Annual Plein Aire Painting Competition, was hired to judge the art at the center.

"He actually came and looked at the work instead of jurying the work by slides," said Karen Kile, executive director of the Art Center. "He didn't necessarily choose paintings that were like his style, which is a very free and abstract plein aire style. He did a very good job."

Viewers can feast their eyes on the beauty of the colors of the different mediums used and then open their souls to what the message each piece of art tries to convey. The Best of Show piece, "Magic at Daybreak" by Denise Schryver, allows the viewer to share the magical moment that happens just as the sun rises over the earth and day begins.

see BRUSHSTROKES, page 6

The Arts  
WEEKLY



## BRUSHSTROKES

continued from page 5

"'Magic at Daybreak' is from outside of my studio area on our property," Schryver said. "The light and movement of the clouds and the fog just inspired me. It's that special time of morning when the birds are just starting to chirp and the day is starting to happen."

If viewers feel disconcerted by the images portrayed in the mixed media piece, "Emergence" by Peg Grady, they are sharing the same thought with the artist.

"I like it because it is kind of an uncomfortable painting," said Grady, winner of first place in mixed media.

Grady said she created the piece as she went, not really knowing where the painting would end up. She doesn't paint with an idea in mind, and what she starts with and the final product usually are not the same.

"I react to the painting and to the materials as I work," Grady said. "The three-dimensional part of the white has the black shadow that is positioned all wrong. The white statue has a very feminine look like a diva, and the shadow looks very masculine. Then there is the ladder that disappears and it was really odd. And then I sketched in the hawk that wasn't quite done. I brought it into the house and lived with it for a week and then I looked at it and said, 'Wow, it's done just the way it is.'"

The second place winner in mixed media, "Thread" by Judy Phillips, plays homage to the lives lost in the tragedy on Sept. 11. The message Phillips said she wanted to share with this painting is the fragility of life.

"That painting is in response to the Sept. 11 attack; it was based on the state of the buildings," Phillips said. "By naming it 'Thread', it is to remind us that life does indeed hang by a thread."

The intensity of the emotion wrought by the tragedy can be seen

in the media and colors used by Phillips.

"It is a mixture of oil and acrylic and it looks as if one thing is fighting another," she said. "I did that on purpose to get that open, kind of rough feeling. It was originally a different painting, the surface was one that I had prepared and liked. I wasn't sure what to do with it so I set it aside for a long time. It was very, very dark and black with lots of colors running through it. I then painted the picture as it is now with the dark still underneath."

These three paintings are just a taste of the local talent of the San Luis Obispo area. Many of the paintings are not only by local artists, but are of familiar scenery, such as "Bishop Peak" by Ken Christensen, "Cambria Ranch" by Jim Carlisle and an eye-catching acrylic called "The Fremont" by Tim Huhn.

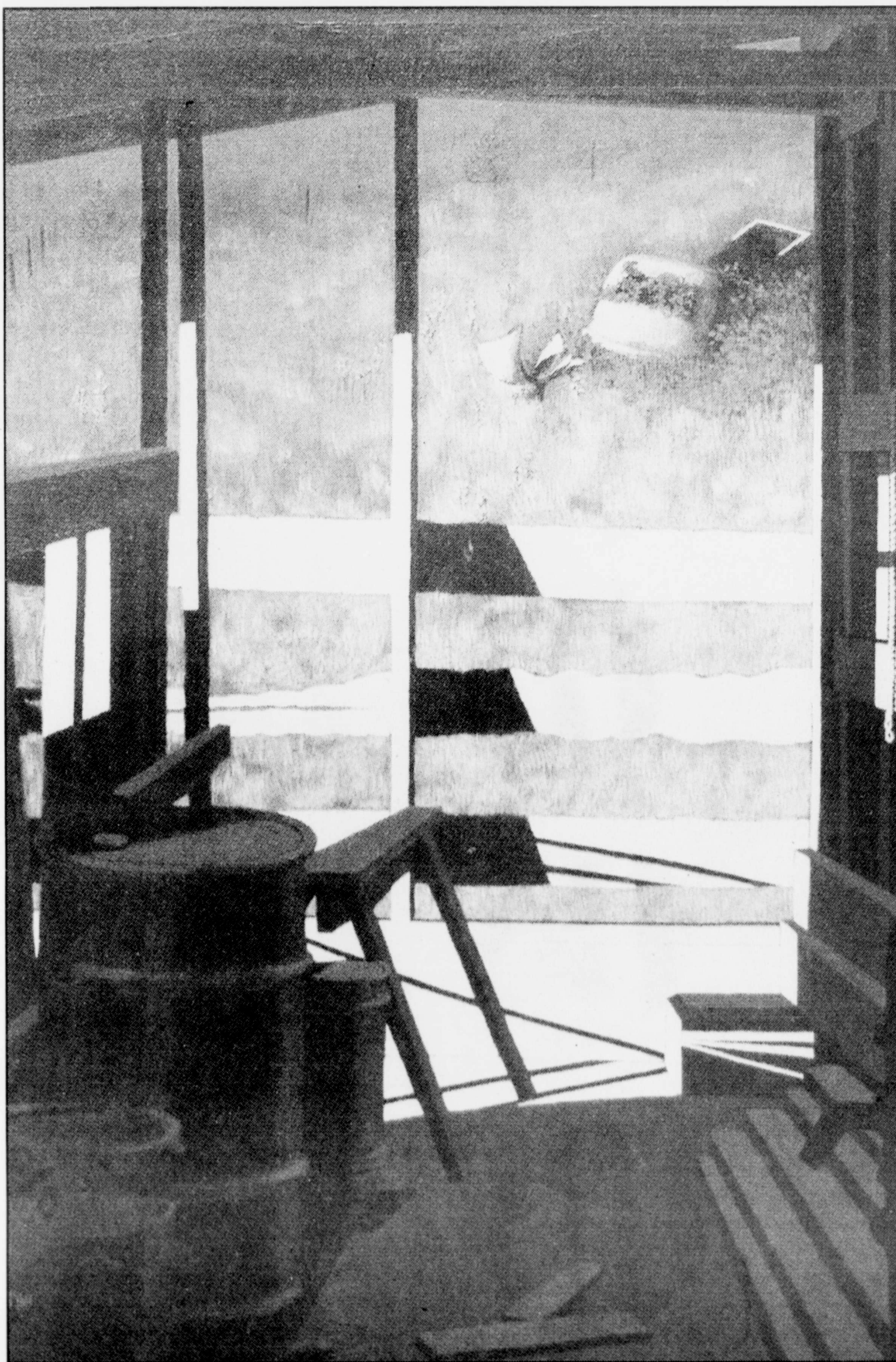
"Duke's Place, Moss Landing" is a painting to delight in and what makes it even more enjoyable is the artist. Peter Phillips, Judy Phillips' husband, has been painting all his life, but only seriously for the last 10 years. But painting isn't the only creation of beauty that he is known for around San Luis Obispo. He is a retired architect from the building program at Cal Poly.

"The last project I worked on was the Performing Arts Center. It was a lovely one to retire on," he said.

The works of the Phillips, along with all of the other art on display at the exhibition, are examples of the great talent living in the Central Coast area.

"Design is the strength of the show and those combining composition and a painterly quality ultimately became the selected works," Ken Auster wrote in his juror statement.


To view the selections of the Brush Strokes 2001 Exhibition, drop by the Art Center at 1010 Broad St. at Mission Plaza. The Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and for more information call 543-8562.



ERIC HENDERSON/MUSTANG DAILY


Artist Jane Spellman's work, above, featured at the Brushworks 2001 exhibit at the SLO Art Center on Broad Street, is an oil painting entitled "Sunset From Inside Carol's Barn." The exhibit featured more than two dozen pieces from renowned artists on the Central Coast.

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The music will be hot, hot, hot at the local brewery this weekend. Salson, a popular salsa band, will energize music lovers with a rhythmic, pulsating energy that creates a

"It's really funny to see people so conservative at first at a new place; they watch like they're at a concert," said Salson's band leader, Larry Arone. He is also pianist and composer for this salsa group, which has played together for two

## Sizzling salsa group heats up SLO Brew

By Patti Green  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

desire to move the hips and let it all go. Salson will dazzle audiences young and old when they perform Friday night at 10 p.m. at SLO Brew with their original, high-energy salsa.

years.

Arone said that the rhythms are so powerful in salsa music and bring such a great feeling to the listener that nothing else compares.

see SALSA, page 8



COURTESY PHOTO/SALSÓN

The members of popular local salsa group Salsón, above, will perform at SLO Brew in downtown San Luis Obispo Dec. 7 at 10 p.m.

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### 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.

## Gilbert Reed Ballet purs new twist on classic Dickens tale

By Kat Corey

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you combine three ghosts, a cripple and a greedy old man all clad in tights? You get the timeless classic, "A Christmas Carol," brought to the Performing Arts Center (PAC) by the Gilbert Reed Ballet.

The compelling Dickens tale that has touched the hearts of many in the spirit of the holidays has taken a different twist from its original play format. The Gilbert Reed Ballet will present this cherished story without uttering a single word. They will dance the tale of a stingy old man whose humbug Christmas attitude takes a dramatic turn for the better after a life-altering visit from the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

Barbara Halon, executive director of "A Christmas Carol," said it is incredible to see Gilbert Reed's work on stage. He choreographs in a very human way that always moves people, she said.

"You don't need the words," Halon said. "He can tell the story with dance."

George Frideric Handel's breathtaking Water Music score, performed live by the San Luis Obispo Symphony, will accompany the performance. This is the second year the symphony, conducted by Michael Nowak, will perform live for the ballet.

"Mr. Reed always wanted it played live," Halon said. "It is a whole different feel."

This is one of the very few times the symphony plays from the ground. Symphony enthusiasts who are used to hearing it from the stage say that the sound is so much richer from the pit, Halon said. It focuses the music so it doesn't get dispersed like it does from the stage, she said.

"It is monumental for this community to have a live symphony performance with the ballet," said Theresa Slobodnik, who plays Scrooge's betrothed in his Christmas past.

Slobodnik said the message of "A Christmas Carol" is strong in itself, but to be able to dance it is even more powerful.

"Mr. Reed is a master of taking something complicated and simplifying it," she said.

Period costumes from 18th Century London will add nicely to Mr. Reed's masterpiece. Each spirit represents a completely different look, Slobodnik said. The spirit of the past is clothed with white, symbolizing the purity and innocence of Scrooge's childhood. The spirit of the present takes on a more traditional, playful look with holly wreaths and a robe. Finally, the spirit of Christmas to come will have a dark hooded cape, representing the figure of death. In this scene, Scrooge finds out that Tiny



COURTESY PHOTO/GILBERT REED BALLET

**Eric Hoyt plays Ebenezer Scrooge in the Gilbert Reed Ballet's presentation of "A Christmas Carol."**

Tim, played by 7-year-old Nathan Gold, died because his family is too poor to help him. Halon said this scene is the one that stands out for her. People are just riveted by the choreography in the nightmare scene, she said.

"This scene pulls it all together," she said. "Scrooge wakes up and he is a totally different human being."

"A Christmas Carol" incorporates characters of all different ages. The cast of 54 includes teenagers, young adults, children, a core of professionals and even a few senior citizens, Slobodnik said. There are even a few professionals from outside Gilbert Reed's group, including Nickolai Kabaniev, dancing the part of young Scrooge, and Kelly Teo, as The Cadet, both from Diablo Ballet in Walnut Creek.

The group even has a few family ties, Halon said. Her daughter, Valerie Halon, dances the role of the spirit of Christmas present, and the 18th century London houses and streets have been brought to life by her husband, Robert Halon, who has hand painted the sets. Wyn Cuthbert, who plays the role of Bob Cratchit, will dance side by side with his daughter Julia Cuthbert, who also plays his daughter in the ballet.

Hand in hand, the Gilbert Reed Ballet and San Luis Obispo Symphony will mesmerize many in their collaborative performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at the PAC on Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$17 to \$42, including a group discount rate of \$5 off any seat for 10 or more. Children's tickets are \$15. For more information call the PAC box office at 756-2787.



# Poly club makes having a 'ball' as simple as 1,2,3, ... 4

By Stephen Harvey

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Gliding across the floor, history junior Julie Christy dances the waltz at weekly practices in Odd Fellow's Hall. Her dress flows with her movements as she crosses the room with her partner, lost in the music, their graceful steps keeping time.

The Cal Poly Ballroom Dance Club was started in 1995 by a group of students who wanted an activity they could use throughout life. Christy said that sports can only really be played when a person is young, but she has seen the elderly gliding across the floor, ballroom dancing.

"It (ballroom dancing) is a wonderful social activity," Christy said. "It doesn't have the snooty image that is placed on it."

The ballroom dance club is a student-run organization that promotes ballroom dancing, which includes Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Quickstep, Cha Cha, Rumba, Samba, Jive and Paso Doble. Christy said that the club's main goal is to introduce students to the joy of ballroom dancing. Right now there are 20 full time members and a few students who come to practice once or twice.

"We are really trying to expand student involvement," said math junior Rachel Grunsky, vice president of the club. "We are bringing practices back to campus and we may be lowering prices (for lessons) next quarter."

Christy, this year's president, has been a member since her freshman year. The club plans to have one formal dance per quarter in addition to the weekly practices.

Ballroom dance met this quarter on Sundays, but winter quarter they will be meeting Thursdays in building 5, room 225, at 8 p.m. Memberships are \$35 for eight lessons and \$50 for the whole quarter. Students don't have to have any prior experience to join; there are two lessons per night, one for beginners and one for intermediate dancers. After the lesson there is a dance party where students can practice the moves they just learned.

"It's definitely a lot of fun," Grunsky said. "You get to taste a lot of different dances. I like tango; it's a dance you can play with. You can dance to the music. It's a passionate dance."

Grunsky found out about ballroom dance last year at one of the socials. Ballroom dance, Salsa Club

*"(The club is) really trying to expand student involvement. We are bringing practices back to campus and may be lowering prices."*

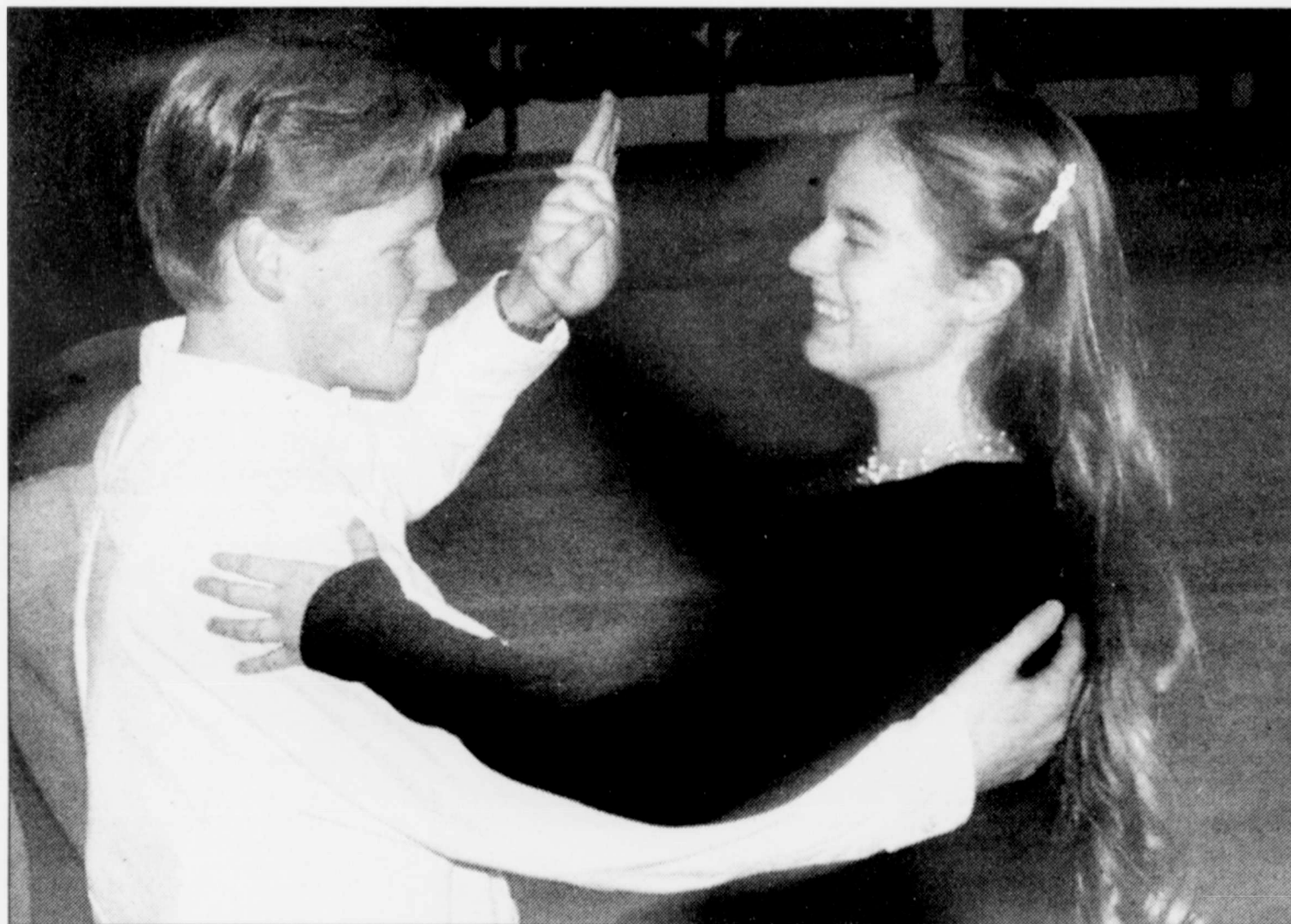
**Rachel Grunsky**

ballroom dance club vice president

and Swing Dance Club work together to put on some of the major dances. Grunsky was a member of the swing club when she found out about ballroom dancing. The dances are put together with beginners in mind, with different skill levels, dance styles and age classes.

The ballroom dance club also attends one competition a quarter. Next quarter they are traveling to UC San Diego on March 2 for a competition. In the spring they will travel to Stanford for a competition.

The ballroom dance club has a Web site at [http://www.calpoly-ballroom.org/CPBDC\\_main\\_2.html](http://www.calpoly-ballroom.org/CPBDC_main_2.html). Their site has a list of their practice dates and the club officers, as well as information about the different dance styles.



AKRON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Ballroom dance club president Julie Christy helps a new member of the club learn to waltz on Friday at the Oddfellows hall.

## SALSA

continued from page 7

co-composer and lead vocalist in the band. She said she has been inspired by Placido Domingo, Benny More, Mercedes Sosa and Albita.

Five other musicians make up Salson's seven-piece group. Arone writes the arrangements musically and Franck works with the arrangements, creating the lyrics. Two other members play the trombone and trumpet and two members play percussion, including timbales and bongos. Arone said that after the quality of music is recognized as great, the listeners are "blown away" and that usually by the second set they are inspired to dance and groove.

"It took about three or four months to become tight with the band," Arone said. There have been changes along the way in the musicianship over the years, but it looks like these musicians are here to stay, he said.

There seems to be such incred-

ible energy among people who have seen Salson perform during the Friday night music in the Mission over the summer or at Farmers Market. Arone and Franck share the same idea when booking gigs: it isn't only for the money. It's about connecting musically, the audience loving the musician's celebration and enjoying the music. They have an extensive following, Arone said, which includes an e-mail list.

Before Friday's performance, the Cal Poly Salsa Club will arrive at 9 p.m. to energize the audience with free salsa dance classes.

Sometimes members in the dance group call Jeff Berkman "the godfather of Cal Poly Salsa." He is a civil engineering graduate student at Cal Poly, and he helped get the "salsa scene" started in this area. He said the group enjoys teaching free lessons.

"Salsa keeps evolving," Berkman said. "Movements are stolen from all styles of dance, originating from watching hot salsa dancers in clubs."

Get tickets for this sizzling hot band at SLO Brew for \$5.

**Correction:** In the story entitled "The two sides of Poly's political rope," which ran Tuesday, Dec. 4, there were three campus groups that participated in the "Support the Troops" rally. The College Republicans Club initiated the rally in support of the war effort, Raise the Respect aimed to bring awareness about the dangers of discrimination and racism during times of war, and Progressive Student Alliance protested against the war.

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## and to all a great pie!



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## People and birds can share the Oceano Dunes

There has been an ongoing debate about whether or not the Oceano Dunes should be closed down completely to protect the endangered Snowy Plover. Protected by state and federal law, the Snowy Plover nests on the sands of the Oceano Dunes year round.

Friends of Oceano Dunes reports that a lawsuit has been filed by the Environmental Defense Center and the Sierra Club to close down the dunes for all months except October. This closure is for the protection of not only the Snowy Plover, but the Least Tern and the Steel Head Trout during their mating seasons.

**Commentary** Complete closure of the dunes is not a good idea. The Snowy Plover and the rest of the animals should be protected, but shutting the dunes to the public is not necessary. Closing off the dunes to all public access would end years of recreational enjoyment.

Since as late as the 1940s, people have had fun on the dunes. Horseback riding, surfing and four-wheeling would all stop if the dunes closed. The dunes are meant to be enjoyed by everyone, despite the ongoing efforts to close them for the sole purpose of the birds.

Yes, the birds are sensitive to disturbances like loud noises and dogs, and they do nest in unprotected areas that could be damaged by recreational vehicles or beach-goers. However, people are already working hard to protect the animals. For example, there is already a bird sanctuary almost twice the size of the recreational area.

It would be better to keep the dunes open and continue to improve the bird sanctuary and other measures that preserve wildlife, instead of kicking out the community altogether.

The public and the birds have co-existed for years – why should that change? Obviously if both have gotten along in the past, both can continue to do so. Compromises should be made on both sides, but the final line should not be drawn.

Lots of things can be done instead of denying the public access. One is to keep things the way they are. At the moment cars are free to drive the beach, but once a Plover is spotted a makeshift fence is erected. The fence keeps the Plover safe and reminds the drivers to watch for birds.

Another idea is to put money into the bird sanctuary instead of a major lawsuit. Think about all the money that could be used not only to protect the Plover, but to keep the beach open to the community.

The Oceano Dunes were created with animals and the public in mind. Oceano is the only beach in the state that allows vehicles to drive on it.

Let's not forget the economic impact of completely closing down the dunes. Friends of Oceano Dunes suggest that there will be a loss of \$110 million from visitor fees if the dunes are closed. With figures like that, how can Oceano afford to close the dunes?

If you would like the dunes to remain open, write to your local congressperson; if you support closing the dunes, check out the Sierra Club Web site.

Lacie Grimshaw is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

## Letters to the editor

### People shop at Abercrombie for the ambience

Editor,

As a seasonal Abercrombie and Fitch Brand Rep, I'd like to explain how the things that Kurt Hafer was ripping on in "Abercrombie has more than one downfall," Dec. 5, are in fact the very things that make A&F such a hot commodity. Frankly, the clothing at A&F is no more expensive than Gap or Banana Republic. What you're essentially paying for is the overall "shopping experience" you clearly do not get at Goodwill. Does Hafer think wood-plank flooring and elaborate wall paneling pays for itself? How about those wall-size prints of much sought-after A&F models – world famous photographer Bruce Webber isn't doing it for his health. Those very same pictures (which are changed every season) are then applied to the shopper-bags. And judging by how many of my friends have them up on their walls, I'd say those are in pretty high demand, too. I've even had customers offer to pay me just to give them bags without purchasing anything else. As for their PR crown jewel, the "quarterly," according to Chris Streeter, former general manager of University Graphics Systems, the modest \$6 newsstand price probably does not cover the printing cost of producing a 300-page, multi-color, perfect-bound book.

So getting away from the whole A&F model thing, another benefit you're "paying" for is the fact that any item purchased can be returned at any time, for any reason, without a receipt, and even without the tags on it. Or what about the fact that a full shift of employees stays up several hours after closing to keep the store in perfect order, keeping

that stack of super-thick cotton T-shirts in the perfect color order as set out by the home office (men's in ascending size-order, women's in descending). Those very same strict guidelines from the home office include major "updates" of reorganizing the sales floor and re-dressing of dozens of mannequins to exact home office standards, on a weekly basis, quite often till 2 in the morning at my store. As for that audio system Evan Williams was poking fun at ("Work at Abercrombie lacks individualism," Dec. 3), you're paying for that, too. Four-hour long custom remixed and licensed CDs are changed every month with versions of songs heard nowhere else, pumped out to the sales floor by one of the most powerful audio systems I've ever seen. How about that Trinitron flat screen television your parents sit and watch from leather couches while you pay for your supposedly overpriced clothing? That television shows only A&FTV, a sports/adventure/music segment custom produced by Abercrombie – once again, a new one every month.

None of this is free, nor is the clothing overpriced. You're getting exactly what you pay for, and quite a bit of what you didn't previously realize you're paying for. I dare you to name any other store that offers this level of quality and consistent service and experience at a better price. Retailers like Old Navy, Target and Ross exist for a reason; when shoppers want something that involves more than picking up clothes off the floor of a warehouse-like setting without customer service, they come to Abercrombie.

Daniel Gonzales is an architecture senior and Mustang Daily photographer.

### Then there are people who shop there for the nudity

Editor,

In response to "Abercrombie has more than one downfall," Dec. 5, who's looking at "random numbers, meaningless Japanese symbols, mythical sports teams, weird slogans"... or even prices? The real reason I shop at Abercrombie is for the guaranteed hot, sexy employees and the two-story tall images of naked men! Clothes? Who's looking at clothes? That's why they require proof of age when you purchase one of their soft porn catalogues. I truly enjoy being a victim of marketing.

Bianca Maran is a landscape architecture senior.

### 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.

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## The subject of his obsession

(U-WIRE) CHICO — For the sake of baring my already overexposed, surprisingly toned soul for your reading pleasure, at absolutely no charge (note: expect a slight surcharge), I am here to discuss the obsessive-compulsive disorder club, of which I am currently a member.

I didn't ask to be a member, of course. The obsessions and compulsions sought me out, knocked on my mind's door 10 times, washed their hands, counted to 30 and re-washed their hands. And then they entered my body.

The disorder progressed in degree over the years, although, early on, I had no name with which to label it. Being the egomaniacal only child that I am, I figured I was the one human experiencing these commanding, life-altering thoughts.

At mom's house, for instance (my mom, not yours), there were certain parts of the walls that I felt compelled to touch as I walked past, convincing myself that, if I didn't, something bad would happen. As long as I placed my hands on the wall, I would remain healthy, my abs would remain steel, the Boston Celtics would remain in contention for the NBA title (this was years ago, after all), and life would proceed smoothly.

My little routine got to the point where mom (you'd like her) noticed my behavior and placed paper towels over the spots I was so magnetically drawn to. The paper towels, of course,

put the "ass" in "embarrassment."

"What's with the paper towels on the wall?" a friend would ask, as I periodically had friends who employed the use of language.

Me, being the clever endeavor that I am, would issue the following pat response: "Shut up, dude!" I would then add the extremely brilliant, "Go find yourself a new friend," without forgetting to bellow, from the confines of my front porch, "And stay off my lawn!"

I had other obsessions and compulsions. I counted when I drank anything, for instance. Ten sips was a nice, even number. Couldn't let it be an odd number because, well, you know. ...

And the germ thing – goodness me. I don't think I'd like to see the statistics of just how many teen-age years I spent cleaning my hands, but if I had to give you a rough estimate, I'd say, "All of them, and stay the hell off my lawn."

As a result, hand-shaking has always been something of a dreadful experience, although, in our country (Go America! Flags and stuff!), it's considered an insult to the individual, his or her nuclear family and the original framers of the Constitution if you refuse to grasp said extended hand and rub it all over your body. So usually, I grin, bear it, shake it, slather my face with their palm and then search for the nearest soap dispenser or open flame.

I learned, on a special episode of "Oprah" (someday, I'd like to write an entire column without bringing up this woman or her show),

that what I've been experiencing is shared by one in 50 Americans. (No Canadians could be reached for comment.)

Finally, I had a name for my actions: "Psychosis." Only joking. (Nothing like a good joke about psychosis, eh?)

And I even learned how to deal with some of the thoughts that my brain was sending to my, um, brain. Like, when I heard (inside my surprisingly toned head), "Did you lock your door? Your DOOR. It's unlocked, you idiot. Oh, and even though you never, ever use your oven, you left your oven on. Your door is unlocked and you've burned down your apartment, genius. Also, isn't it about time to wash your hands? Wash 'em. Now. Wash 'em! Now now now."

Yes, when I heard this kind of stuff, the Oprah-esque objective was to ignore these thoughts and break the habits. Which is hard when, if you don't go back and check the door, you think about the damn door all the live-long day. But it can be done. I passed the "door test" this morning, for instance, refusing to return home. And now, I can say with certainty, my apartment is currently being robbed.

Nevertheless, I think I've managed to tone down some of the behavior, although I have, by no means, conquered it.

I'll be counting the days until I do.

Jory John, The Orion (California State U.-Chico)

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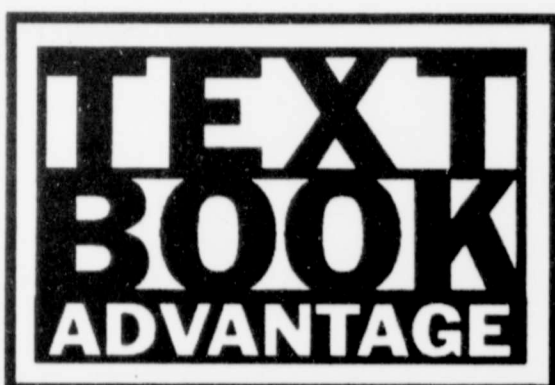


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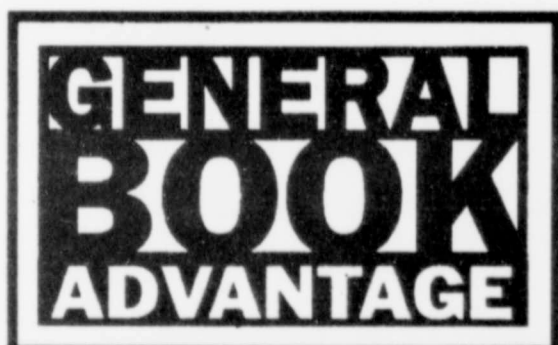
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## PLAY

continued from page 1

periences on hooking up, dating, marriage and the birds and the bees.

**"How you doin'...."**  
The art of hooking up

**Stephanie:** People meet at the bars, hook up, and then it's 'by the way can I get your phone number?' It's hook up first, relationship second. Most relationships here don't start from meeting someone in class and going on a date with them. It's more like two people meet at a party one night, and then try to get to know each other and start a relationship.

**Raymond:** I see more people that just want to hook up than be in a serious relationship with someone. College life is about having fun and a lot of people don't want to be tied down.

**Kathy:** I think hooking up with random people is kind of pointless. It's temporarily filling a void. Why go out and waste your time hooking up with random people? When it's all said and done, the void is still there.

**Jeff:** What I never understood about random hook-ups was, why just hook up randomly if you don't

have an intention of making it last in some way. For me, I would never want to hook up and leave.

**First comes love...**  
The Cal Poly dating scene

**Chuck:** Everyone I know is in a relationship right now. I find that even people at the bars are in relationships. You know, you have 15 to 30 minutes of conversation before they give you the 'oh, my boyfriend this' and then you have to do the courtesy 10 minutes so that they never thought you were picking up on them.

**Kathy:** At Cal Poly, I see a lot of people that just want to hook up rather than be in committed relationships. It's just the age that we're at right now. Girls throw themselves at guys and, well, it's not like guys are going to say no. They're just going to hook up to hook up.

**Kimani:** The Cal Poly dating scene is pretty bad. People here aren't very cultured. I'd say 90 percent of girls here only like a certain type of guy that falls under three categories: fraternity guy, surfer, or cowboy. Most of the relationships I know of are old high school sweethearts. Most of these aren't even genuine or real. People tend to stay in relationships that are comfortable. People look for a safety net in case they're not successful in finding anyone bet-

ter.  
**Then comes marriage...**  
The scary M-word

**Stephanie:** My sister got married around the same age as I am. I saw my sister and her husband build a future together. That's what Jeff and I want to do. The way I see it, I don't need to be financially independent before entering marriage, I want to build our future and financial foundation together. But when it comes to kids, we want to wait until we are financially stable to give them everything we possibly can. If my child wants to play soccer, I don't want to have to have to tell them no because we don't have the money.

**Kimani:** I think about marriage a lot, but I don't worry about it. I'm just having fun. It's college, that's what it's all about — having fun and experimenting. I know there are great girls out there that I'd be really compatible with, I just haven't found any yet. The older I get, the more I realize what I'm looking for in a girl.

**Whitney:** My parents have emphasized the importance of being self-sufficient before getting married. They have always told me that a marriage isn't 50/50. It's 100 percent effort per person at least, if not 150 to 200 percent.

**Nikki:** My family has a history of

getting married and having kids at young ages. My mom was only 17 when she got married and had her first baby. She had three kids by the time she was 21 years old. I get a lot of pressure from my family, not necessarily to settle down and get married, but to start having babies. But I want to get an education and finish school before getting married and starting a family; I don't want to repeat the same mistakes my family has made. I am the only one in my family to go to college, and I totally support myself.

**Chuck:** As far as age goes, I don't think it makes that much of a difference. But I don't want to enter into something like marriage if I can't bring to the table what I need to bring and always need to bring. It's about stability. I want to be able to be financially stable and independent.

**Kathy:** Some people say they want to get married at a specific age, but it doesn't work like that. Meeting that special person is something that happens when you're not paying attention.

**Let's talk about sex, baby**

**Kathy:** Sex is important, but it doesn't have to make or break a relationship. And if it does, well, then the relationship isn't that strong. In my book, sex is something

that you do with the person you want to be with. I don't understand how people can feel sexually satisfied by having sex with randoms.

**Kimani:** Sex is very important in a relationship because you have to know if you're compatible with that person in every way. I think sex is just as important to guys as it is to girls. Girls want it just as bad as guys do, but most girls don't express their sexual desires at Cal Poly. They feed off the fact that casual sex isn't very acceptable in such a conservative environment as Cal Poly. They're too worried about what other people might think.

**Stephanie:** Something that's really important to me is the idea that sex should never be expected. It should be something that comes naturally without being forced or planned out.

**Raymond:** Being intimate is a big part of a relationship. It keeps that fire going.

**Nikki:** I think sex is just a little part of the relationship. If you can't get along together and have a relationship on an emotional level, it doesn't matter how good the sex is; it's not going to last, and it's not going to be good. But if you have a great chemistry together without sex, then sex is going to be good.

**Jeff:** Sex opens yourself up to being really vulnerable; all your guards are down after sex. There's

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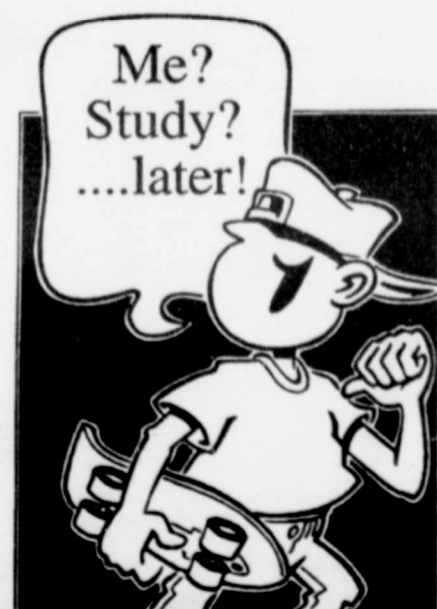
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12/7 10-6, 12/8 9-4

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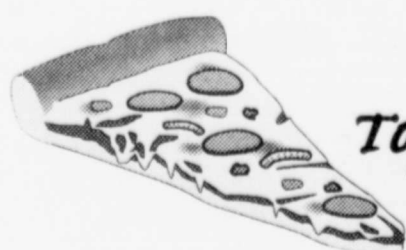
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