

'We were' naive:

Gibson movie tells true story of Vietnam battle, 4

Insanity: Mentally ill should pay same price, 6**TODAY'S WEATHER**High: 60°
Low: 37°

Friday, March 8, 2002

Mustang

DAILY

Volume LXVI, Number 96, 1916-2002

Awards luncheon honors women, celebrates history

By Sarah E. Thien
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Outstanding women at Cal Poly were the honored guests Wednesday at the Women's History Luncheon.

The event was sponsored by the Cal Poly Women's Center and held in Chumash Auditorium. The highlight of the program was the presentation of the Woman of the Year awards. Two awards were given, one for faculty and another for staff.

Lorraine Donegan, a professor in the graphic communications department, was the recipient of the Woman of the Year award for faculty. Donegan has been teaching at Cal Poly for four years and began her tenure track in fall 2001. Donegan graduated from Cal Poly and is especially attached to the school.

"It helps me in my teaching," she said, "I can really identify with my students, (because) I know exactly what they're going through."

Donegan was nominated by student Hue Ma. In her letter, Ma said that Donegan "creates a very friendly environment when you approach her about anything."

2002 Woman of the Year winners

Staff — **Andrene Kaiwi-Lenting**, Student Life and LeadershipFaculty — **Lorraine Donegan**, Graphic Communication

Andrene Kaiwi-Lenting, assistant director of Student Life and Leadership, was chosen as the Woman of the Year for staff. Kaiwi-Lenting was also nominated last year, but this is the first time she has taken home the prize.

"I was among a lot of amazing women," she said. "It was an honor just to be in the same category as these women."

Kaiwi-Lenting has worked at Cal Poly for eight years and is in charge of Week of Welcome and Open House, and is co-chair of the summer advising program — anything that has to do with new students, she said. Kaiwi-Lenting is in a great position to recruit new students because she also graduated from Cal Poly and, like Donegan, said she has a special affinity for the school.

Woman of the Year award recipients are chosen by a panel of four students who work in the Women's

Center, said Erica Meza, luncheon coordinator. Students submit nominations for the panel to judge based on merit and the effect they have had on that student's life. Haley Myers, Woman of the Year coordinator, said that it doesn't matter how many nominations a person gets, but how sincere the nomination is.

Every nominee was honored at the luncheon with a plaque, and excerpts from their nomination letters were read.

Myers said that the Women's Center often receives repeat nominations.

"We can't choose them again to win the next year," she said, "but it's good that we can still honor them because they're making a huge impact in student's lives. They need to know how important they are."

see AWARDS, page 2

Lawyer referral service makes finding help easier

Local bar association offers nonprofit program available to SLO County residents

By Matt Szabo
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Many people will get into legal trouble at some point in their lives, but with the cost of legal advice, few can afford fair and adequate representation or services. The San Luis Obispo County Bar Association is trying to change this paradox with a new nonprofit program called the Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS).

"There's a community need to find legal assistance and legal help," said Katarina Hunt, LRIS director. "The bar association and the court are fulfilling a community service to find attorneys."

Although the service is available to anyone who lives in San Luis Obispo County, Don Ernst, attorney and president of the SLO County Bar Association, said it is especially relevant to Cal Poly students.

"Cal Poly students have an inordinate need for small-claims and landlord tenant information," he said. "Cal Poly has needed services for a long time. They are part of the com-

munity."

When a person calls the LRIS hotline, an LRIS representative will listen and try to answer the person's question. If an attorney referral is requested, one will be set up with an attorney within 10 business days.

The first half-hour of consultation with an attorney costs \$30, unless the matter pertains to traditionally free areas like criminal defense and personal injury, Hunt said. In those cases, the consultation is free. In any case, the \$30 does not go to the lawyer, but instead to the LRIS to help cover its costs.

After the initial half-hour meeting, the patron can become the attorney's client or simply walk away.

Another aspect of the LRIS is that if the question doesn't require speaking with an attorney, the LRIS will consult with various community services to try to find an answer to the person's question at no cost.

"The Lawyer Referral and Information Service is designed to furnish the community with infor-

see REFERRAL, page 2

New club addresses women's issues

By Kristy Charles
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"I want women to be informed; to be confident and stop doubting ourselves; to accept and support each other — and I want to stop the detrimental competition among women that leaves us feeling like we don't add up," said Haley Myers, an English senior and founder of the Cal Poly Women's Awareness Club (CPWA).

Myers started CPWA last quarter with the purpose of providing an outlet for the discussion of issues concerning women, such as nutrition, self esteem, self-abusive behavior, racism and sexism.

The idea for the club originated from a Women's Studies class, called Feminist Theory, taught by professor Mary Armstrong. Myers said she enrolled in the course to pursue variety within her English major. Often she and her classmates found themselves wishing to further discuss issues brought up in class. After asking around and realizing that no such club existed, Myers made the decision to start her own.

"At first I didn't have a lot of sup-

port," Myers said. "This was a surprise. Some of my closest relatives and friends told me that nothing like that would catch on at Cal Poly, or basically that it was an empty pursuit and a waste of my time."

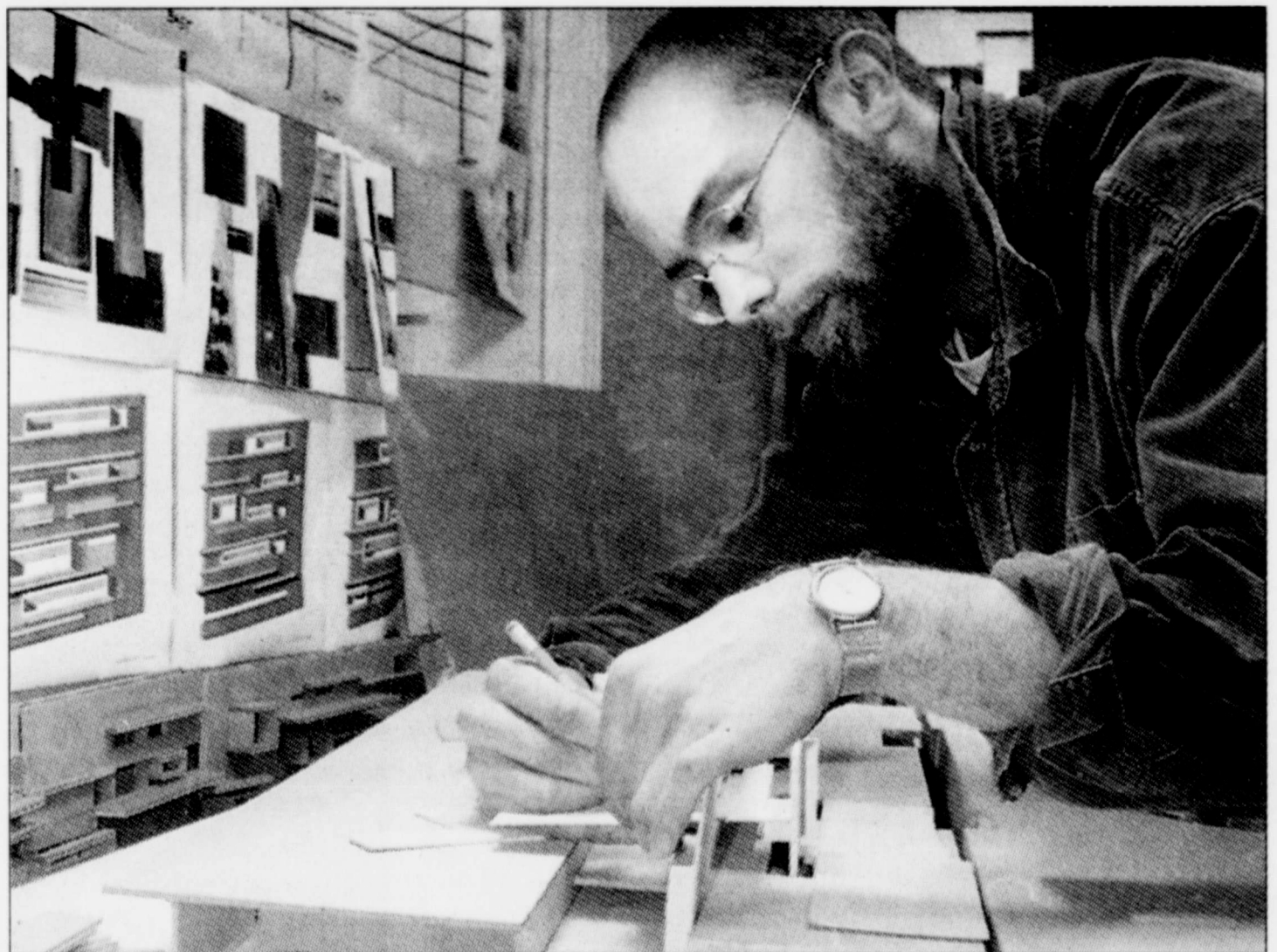
Myers continued to pursue the idea despite the lack of support, and she eventually found a place to hold her meetings — at the Cal Poly Women's Center. There are now around 15 students who regularly attend meetings, as well as 40 people Myers keeps in touch with via e-mail.

Susanne Kelley, coordinator of Women's Programs at Cal Poly, was Myers' first contact at the Women's Center. Kelley said that the purpose of the club fits perfectly with the mission statement of the center, which is to create a healthy and safe environment for women and encourage leadership skills.

"We've always had a variety of clubs at the Women's Center, like Take Back the Night, the Remember club, NOW and VOX," Kelley said. "We need more awareness on women's issues because we're a minority on campus and the univer-

see WOMEN, page 2

Students see light at end of tunnel



ERIC HENDERSON/MUSTANG DAILY

Steve Saude, an architecture junior, puts together his ARCH 352 design project Wednesday. He is designing a recycling center. The class focuses on a single project in which students design several versions of models that increase in detail and scale throughout the quarter. Toward the end of the quarter, students begin sleeping in their design labs to make sure their projects get finished.

Weather WATCH

5-DAY FORECAST



SATURDAY
High: 64° / Low: 45°



SUNDAY
High: 65° / Low: 45°



MONDAY
High: 64° / Low: 44°



TUESDAY
High: 68° / Low: 45°



WEDNESDAY
High: 69° / Low: 47°

TODAY'S SUN

Rise: 6:23 a.m. / Set: 6:05 p.m.

TODAY'S MOON

Rise: 3:24 a.m. / Set: 1:15 p.m.

TODAY'S TIDE

AT PORT SAN LUIS

High: 5:53 a.m. / 5.03 feet
Low: 1:21 p.m. / -0.37 feet
High: 8:18 p.m. / 3.85 feet

By Andra Coberly
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Two days after the attacks on Sept. 11, members of Running Thunder climbed to the "P," which overlooks campus, and painted it to resemble an American flag.

This Sunday, nearly six months after the national tragedy, Running Thunder will once again climb the hill, but this time to repaint the "P" white and light it at sunset. Scott Barton, industrial technology sophomore, is the publicity person and "P" keeper for the Running Thunder. Barton said although the tragedy will stay with people for awhile, it is time to move on.

"It is the six-month anniversary, and as a community it is time we took the flag off the 'P,'" he said. "If we waited till the year anniversary, it would feel unpatriotic."

Running Thunder is Cal Poly's spirit club that maintains and pro-

pects the "P," as well as Cal Poly pride and spirit. The group will host a ceremony at the base of the "P" beginning at 3 p.m., and the event will include a free barbecue, music and an opportunity for prayer or meditation. The event will end at 6 p.m. with the lighting of the 50-foot "P." Associated Students Inc. President Angie Hacker, Cal Poly President Warren Baker and San Luis Obispo Mayor Allen Settle are all scheduled to speak at the ceremony. The local police and fire departments and the ROTC will attend the event in full uniform.

The ceremony will give Cal Poly students, staff and the San Luis Obispo community a chance to remember how they are connected and how they came together during the tragedy, said Travis Ervin, city and regional planning senior and president of Running Thunder.

"The community has made it through the mourning stage and it

"The community has made it through the mourning stage and it is now time for growth. We came together as a nation. Now, we need to focus on who we are as a community."

Travis Ervin
president of Running Thunder

is now time for growth," he said. "We came together as a nation. Now, we need to focus on who we are as a community."

Because the American flag is traditionally folded when it is put away, the "P" will be painted white in the pattern of a folded flag, Barton said. As a folded flag has the upper left corner folded down, the "P" will keep a piece of the flag painted on its upper left corner, Ervin said.

"The 'P' has become a remembrance point," he said. "There was

an out-pouring of support. People see it and remember how we came together. And now we can still remember it."

While the American flag on the "P" represents the unification and the mourning caused by the attacks, Settle said the "P" in general has become a symbol of what Cal Poly is as a part of the local community and part of higher education.

"The campus is an integral part of the community," he said. "It also represents the polytechnic and learning by doing part of Cal Poly."



WOMEN

continued from page 1

sity is predominately male-driven."

CPWA is not an established Associated Students Inc. club, which means it receives no support, financial or otherwise, from the association. Registered clubs also prohibit community members from attending, Myers said. She said she hopes that the club will eventually include non-students.

At every CPWA meeting a controversial or uncomfortable topic is suggested for the next meeting, Myers said. Then, she researches the topic, posts fliers around campus, and writes a closing remark to tie the topic into each woman's life.

"There are not a lot of resources for women at Cal Poly," said Mary Armstrong, director of women's studies and assistant professor of English. "I hope female students realize what an opportunity this is to talk about controversial issues."

Armstrong said that there are a lot of myths and untruths associated with talking about women's issues.

"People say you're male-bashing or finger-pointing and they don't understand that you're trying to do something constructive," she said. "(CPWA) is a place where your perspective is valued."

Myers leaves for Cal Poly's London Study next quarter, but there are several members who would split her responsibilities and continue the meetings, she said. A goal for next quarter will be to become more

involved with the community and to participate in more events such as talking to high schoolers about eating disorders and self esteem, or doing beach clean-ups.

Jennifer Stendel, a landscape architecture freshman and club member, said that she had no idea that the Women's Center or the women's studies minor existed before joining the club and knows that many other students feel the same way.

"A lot of the topics we cover are political or hard to talk about," Stendel said. "That's why we're creating a more open environment to foster discussion. Next quarter I hope that we'll publicize more and get more people involved, as well as getting more involved with off-campus or community service events."

POLYcalendar

march 2002
8

* History Day Celebration - Amory Lovins - Chumash Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
* Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest' - Cal Poly Theatre, 8 p.m.

AWARDS

continued from page 1

Student scholarships and a Her Story exhibit were also present at the luncheon. Myers, Tracy Leavens and Hyung Kim all received scholarships ranging from \$350 to \$475, to recognize their commitment to advancing women's rights. Her Story, compiled by Jennifer Roberts, celebrated women making a difference in the community.

The biggest exhibit at the event was a giving tree designed by family

members to honor local resident Ella Porter. Porter is building a day-care center in Paso Robles. She said it will be a place where all children can come, she said, whether they are handicapped or not.

"It was a total surprise," she said. "I don't quite see myself like this."

Attendants of the luncheon bid-ded on items in a silent auction to raise money for the Women's Center. A sequined purse, a full-body massage from Bliss Spas and various dinners for two were all up for bid. Cal Poly sororities Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Chi Omega and Sigma Kappa also donated items.

REFERRAL

continued from page 1

mation," Ernst said. "Part of that information is low-cost and reasonable access to a qualified lawyer. It's just one more resource the community has."

The program has only been in place since Jan. 15, but Ernst said approximately 40 to 60 lawyers have signed up for the service thus far.

Although being involved with the LRIS may indirectly get attorneys

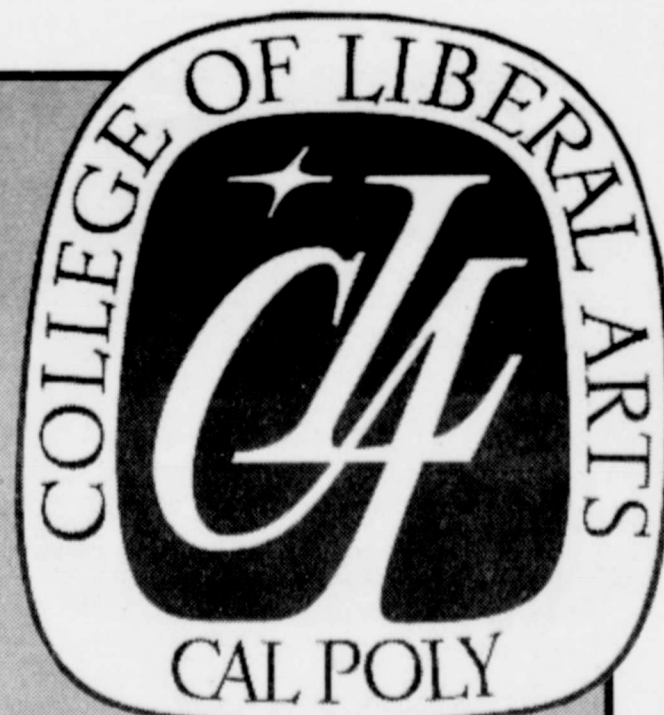
more clients, that is not the primary goal.

"They're doing this because they're committed to community service," Hunt said. "They are general panel attorneys that together encompass all areas of the law."

The LRIS can be contacted by calling 788-2099 on Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until noon. After operating hours, leave a message and a representative from the service will return the call the next business day.

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March

Monday 11th

Open Forum for the College and Fee
Proposal(s) in Mott Bldg, Room 205

10:10 am

National Briefs

Greenspan address optimistic

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy is well on its way to recovery, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told the Senate Finance Committee. But when Greenspan spoke to the House of Representatives just one week ago, he sounded more cautious in his optimism. Normally, his reports to the houses of Congress are the same.

Greenspan changed his tune after receiving new data that indicated that the economy had been growing much faster in the last three months of 2001 than previously believed. But the "dimensions of the pick-up remain uncertain," Greenspan said. He is also encouraged by the level of U.S. consumer spending.

In his presentations to both houses, Greenspan indicated that the proposed "economic stimulus package" was probably unnecessary.

But, there are still some elements that could dampen the recovery, including the burden of debt held by consumers, rising unemployment, and the drop in the value of stock investments.

Greenspan said the current recession was caused by "sharp cutbacks" in capital spending by companies, which "interacted with and were reinforced by falling profits and equity prices."

— BBC News

NOAA predicts El Niño

WASHINGTON — A warming trend in the Pacific Ocean last month provided additional evidence of an imminent El Niño this spring, said representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Thursday. The intensity of the weather phenomenon remains undetermined, as does its possible effects on weather in the United States, but it is expected to continue until early 2003.

El Niño is an abnormal warming of the waters in the eastern Pacific

Ocean. It generally occurs every two to seven years. The last El Niño was during 1997-98, and was blamed for droughts and flooding in North and South America and the South Pacific. It caused \$34 billion in damage worldwide and displaced 6 million people. It has also been blamed for 24,000 deaths.

Usual effects on the United States include light rainy seasons in the Southwest, warmer weather in the Pacific Northwest, and heavier rain and snowfall in the East Coast and Gulf Coast states.

The NOAA has said there is a 50 to 60 percent chance that an El Niño will occur this year. They said there is a 25 percent chance it will occur in any given year.

— Reuters

Seats sought by sisters for first time

LOS ANGELES — For the first time in history, sisters may be serving together in the U.S. Congress. Democrat Linda Sanchez and her sister Loretta Sanchez both won Tuesday's primary election. Loretta Sanchez is running for re-election in Orange County and is the favored candidate. Linda Sanchez is expected to win a seat in November for south-east Los Angeles County.

The two sisters are doing some joint campaigning, but have said that they will be pre-occupied by their own elections. Linda Sanchez said that she would be her own person in Congress, and that she and her sister are qualified in very different ways. Loretta Sanchez is a businesswoman, whereas Linda Sanchez is a lawyer. They have both said that they will be pursuing different political agendas.

— Associated Press

International Briefs

South Pacific

MANILA, Philippines — New video footage of an American missionary couple being held hostage in the Philippines has been released.

The couple, who appeared to be happy, was shown reading a statement from their captors.

In the video, Martin and Gracia Burnham were surrounded by hooded, heavily armed guards. The statement said that their captors, the Abu Sayyaf, were targeting Americans, Europeans and other Westerners because of U.S. policies in the Middle East. The statement also indicated that the Abu Sayyaf considers itself to be part of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. The statement also detailed grievances the group had with U.S. support for Israel, sanctions against Iraq and Libya, and support for the Philippine government's "illegal and immoral annexation and occupation of Muslim lands."

The video was released to Reuters News Agency. The cameraman told Reuters that he was a former Muslim rebel, but would not identify himself or say where the video was shot. He did say the video was taken in mid-January when he was given access to Abu Sayyaf's hideouts in Jolo and Basilan. The cameraman's statements could not be independently verified.

U.S. Special Forces have been in the jungles of Basilan since January with Filipino forces, in an attempt to flush the island of bandits and secure the release of the Burnhams and another hostage, a Filipino nurse said. The Burnhams were kidnapped in May 2001 with another American and 17 Filipinos. The other American was beheaded. Sixteen Filipinos were released after their families paid large ransoms.

— CNN News

Central America

HAVANA — President Fidel Castro pledged that any Cuban who invades a diplomatic mission will never be allowed to leave the island of Cuba. The 130 people arrested in last week's occupation of Mexico's embassy. They will be tried as criminals.

"We will guarantee the security of

the embassies," Castro said during a three-hour speech.

Castro's government has said that 13 of the men who invaded the embassy had previous crime records for charges including robbery and theft.

About 150 people were arrested by the government when chaos erupted around the embassy due to a rumor that Mexico was giving visas to anyone who showed up.

Several other incidents were related to the embassy stir, including a group of young men who stole a bus and crashed it into the embassy gates before rushing inside. Others entered the grounds by scaling fences. Mexico said that none of the 21 men who actually entered the embassy have requested political amnesty.

The rumors were based on a speech given by Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda in Florida last week, in which he allegedly said that the doors of the embassy were "open" to Cuban citizens.

Castro has said that the incident has not harmed the Mexican-Cuban relationship.

— Associated Press

Africa

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — The last imprisoned journalist in Ethiopia has been released, Reporters Without Borders said Thursday. For the first time since 1993, there are no journalists in jail in the Horn of Africa.

Tamrat Zuma was freed March 4 after spending 10 months in jail, the group's secretary general said. Tamrat was the editor of the private weekly Atkurot. He was arrested in May 2001 when he was accused of slander and "inciting violence."

At any given moment, 30 press professionals are being taken to court and risk being imprisoned, the secretary general said.

Almost 180 journalists have been imprisoned at different times in Ethiopia since 1991, when the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front took power after

ousting dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Ethiopia's current prime minister, Meles Zenawi, acknowledged the importance of an independent press in a democratic society, and that private newspapers that operate in a responsible and constructive manner would receive all official information that is made available to the state-run media.

— Associated Press

Europe

DUBLIN, Ireland — A proposed amendment to Ireland's strict anti-abortion laws was narrowly rejected by voters, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said Thursday.

The Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy bill would have allowed a woman to get an abortion if her life was at risk, but the use of threats of suicide by the woman as for grounds for an abortion would have been banned. The bill was defeated by 50.42 percent.

The measure also would have imposed criminal punishments of up to 12 years in prison for those seeking abortions when there was no danger to the woman's life.

In Ireland, the people have voted twice before on abortion issues, including in 1983, when politicians were barred from ever broadly legalizing abortion. They also voted in 1992 to legalize the right of Irish women to receive information on foreign abortions services and to travel to receive them.

About 7,000 Irish women had their pregnancies terminated in England last year. Recent studies say that almost 10 percent of Irish pregnancies ends in an English abortion clinic.

— Associated Press

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



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Student loan breaks pushed to encourage federal careers

By Stephen Barr
 THE WASHINGTON POST

(WIRE) WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of House members introduced legislation Thursday that would permit the government to offer tax-free loan forgiveness as a way of encouraging college graduates to pursue federal careers.

The bill would essentially put the government on the same footing as educational institutions and other nonprofits that link repayment of student loans to public service.

Currently, when federal agencies repay part of an employee's student

loan, the amount forgiven is considered taxable income to the worker. In contrast, loan repayments provided by nonprofits to encourage students to work in government are not taxed as income.

The House members nicknamed their proposal GOFEDS — Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act.

Supporters said they hoped the bill would help make federal agencies more competitive in hiring. By most accounts, college graduates — especially students saddled with school

see BREAKS, page 7

Sports card and collectible show

Sunday March 10, 2002

10 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel

333 Madonna Road, SLO.

Admission is FREE.

There will be football, basketball and baseball cards, memorabilia, and supplies. For information call **Central Coast Sports Card 541-1250.**

'Soldiers' plays up gore, emotions of war

By Cynthia Neff

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"November 1965: a place our country doesn't remember, and a war our country doesn't understand."

These are the Mel Gibson's opening words in the Vietnam War film "We Were Soldiers." Also starring Chris Kline, Greg Kinnear and Sam Elliott, the film delves into the first battle of American involvement in the war in North Vietnam. It would be the first time the soldiers of America and North Vietnam would meet in combat.

Based on the novel, "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young" by Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore (Ret.) and United Press International civilian war correspondent Joe Galloway, the film stays true to Moore and Galloway's memoirs. When Moore is put in charge of the 7th Cavalry, he notes that he is in control of the same regiment as Gen. George Armstrong Custer, a symbolic reference that is brought up in several points of the film as the fighting becomes hopeless.

The day after learning of his new assignment, Moore is forced to leave his wife, Julie (Madeleine Stowe, "Imposter"). Along for the ride is Jack Geoghegan (Kline, "American Pie 2") as the prototypical clean-cut, promising lieutenant, whose life takes an unfortunate turn too soon. He leaves his wife, Barbara (Keri Russell, from the television show "Felicity"), and newborn baby in the care of the many other "army wives." These wives form a support system when the

Although I appreciated watching the vivid battle scenes, after an hour of watching tragic deaths, it was time for the show to end.

dreaded "letters" begin to arrive soon after the young troopers spend a full day fighting in the Valley of Death.

In the three days of combat that ensue, many lives are lost in a vividly grotesque and realistic re-enactment of the battle. From the hopelessness of a stranded — and surrounded — platoon, to a soldier's ironic final words: "I'm glad I could die for my country," the scene captures the horrors of war.

Texan reporter Joe Galloway (Barry Pepper, "Saving Private Ryan") shows up on the front lines during the slaughter to get a scoop, but unexpectedly becomes part of the story himself. He said he wanted to help people understand the war, but he leaves the battlefield burdened with horrific memories and bewildered by the reality of what he had photographed.

To his credit, writer and director Randall Wallace ("Braveheart" and "Pearl Harbor") portrays a few scenes from the Vietnamese perspective during the fighting, but perhaps not enough, as Moore once refers to the enemy as "heathen bastards." However, once the audience realizes that the Americans were outnumbered by 4,000 Vietnam guerrilla fighters to the American's 400-man regiment, all sympathy for the enemy quickly dissipates.

There are several underlying themes throughout the film. The futility of war was clearly recognizable and illustrated through both


Galloway's photographs and in the articles he subsequently published about his experience in the front lines. The family unit was also emphasized, especially in scenes with Moore and his five children and Geoghegan with his baby girl. To accentuate the bleakness of the war they would face, the film took a few extra minutes to show the difficulty the men had in leaving their homes. Although Gibson effectively shows that he truly cares for his men and accurately portrays the steadfast Army general, his morose characterization of Moore is saved by the occasional comic relief of Sgt. Major Basil Plumley, played by Sam Elliott.

Although I appreciated the vivid battle scenes, after an hour of watching tragic deaths, it was time for the show to end. This film is definitely not for the weak stomach, and although I think it is an important film to see for the historical background, it won't be one I'll pay to see again on the big screen.



COURTESY PHOTO/WWW.MOVIEWEB.COM

Mel Gibson stars as Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore in the film 'We Were Soldiers.'



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All application materials are due by
5 p.m. April 12, 2002

'The Benjamins:' all about the formula

By Kevin B. O'Reilly
THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

(U-WIRE) CHICAGO — Who would have thought that the man who wrote "F--- tha Police" would star in a film where he's in charge of chasing the bad guys? Rapper and showbiz mogul Ice Cube doesn't play a cop in "All About the Benjamins," an action comedy which he co-wrote with Ronald Lang, but he is a Miami bounty hunter with a tenuous hold on right and wrong.

We know right off the bat that Cube's character, Bucum, has a penchant for getting into trouble. He can't even arrest poor old Anthony Michael Hall, trailer-park trash who skipped on his bail, without getting shot at and jumping through a Confederate flag-draped window. Fortunately, Hall gets his in the end, in the form of several firm jolts to the groin area courtesy of Bucum's stun gun. Must be payback for the execrable "Johnny Be Good."

But Bucum really wants to get ahead in the world, and he can't afford a new Bentley or the \$600 exotic fish he so loves on a meager bounty hunter's salary. His next walking payday is Reggie Wright (played by Mike Epps), a small-time crook who Bucum has brought in several times before.

One knows they will team up sooner or later and give us "48 Hours"-like hijinks, the only question is how well this duo can hold up the screen. A convoluted plot about a lost lottery ticket and a crew of bad dudes (and



COURTESY PHOTO/WWW.MOVIEWEB.COM

Rappers Ice Cube and Mike Epps star in the action comedy 'All About the Benjamins.' Ice Cube co-wrote the script with Ronald Lang.

one hot chick) headed up by a mean Scotsman with scars on each cheek pushes things along, but none of that matters.

The action sequences, save for the stellar hip-hop soundtrack which backs them, are routine. There are no big action set pieces to save the movie from first-time helmsman Kevin Bray's paint-by-numbers direction. The comedy pays off well, though. Doing his best Chris Tucker impersonation, Epps is very funny as the outlandish Reed.

He can't go back to jail, he tells Bucum, because "they'll be biddin' on me like at a car auction: 25, 35, 45, 55 — sold to the man with the corn rows!" For his part, Cube is a very good straight man. There's a scene where he tells Epps to jump 10 feet to the ground and assures his captive that he'll catch him. Epps jumps and Cube doesn't lift a finger, but his

wincing reaction is priceless. It's the funniest moment in the movie.

Which means I've just saved you \$9, because this is one flick you'll want to save for video or cable. If you do get around to seeing it just for the music and the funnier moments, consider for yourself the kind of character Bucum is. He is presumably on the good side of the law, but in the end he can't resist the easy cash that comes his way. I doubt the movie is intended to be morally uplifting, and it shouldn't be held to that standard, but Cube's story is disturbing nonetheless. It simply reinforces some misleading ideas about the criminal lifestyle.

Then again, "Pulp Fiction," it could be argued, glamorizes that lifestyle too. The difference is that "Pulp Fiction" is full of inventive, original ideas. That's not what this movie is all about.

'40 days' won't even last that long in theaters

By Cory Dugan
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Being Catholic, I can remember having to give up certain things for Lent to prove my strong relationship with God — like gum, coffee and television. However, to attempt to give up sex with religious devotion in mind and then make a movie about it is taking things too far.

I'll admit that I'm usually a sucker for films of the teenybopper genre, but this movie is completely ridiculous. When striving to make a film to which teens will flock, there is certain formula that should be followed in order for the film to be a success. In my opinion, the two best films under the "teen" classification are "American Pie" and "American Pie 2" — I loved them both. Despite an influx of corny lines, these films worked because of their outrageous humor. "40 Days and 40 Nights," however, did not have enough stomach-bellowing, eye-watering laughter to save it from total cheesiness.

The kind of sarcasm that "40 Days and 40 Nights" practices works best when the main character is a twit — uptight, arrogant, and otherwise irritating. In this case, the main character, Matt Sullivan (Josh Hartnett), is likable and reasonably normal, so all the belittling and embarrassment directed toward him makes director Michael Lehmann ("The Truth About Cats and Dogs") come across as petty and cruel. This approach is fine if we're not supposed to care about a character, but because the

filmmakers intend for us to sympathize with Sullivan, it doesn't work. It's impossible to laugh at someone you're supposed to be forming an emotional bond with.

This film might have had a chance if the overall premise of the movie wasn't so stupid. Giving up sex for Lent is fine, but how it was portrayed in the movie was over the top. Near the end of the film, when I thought the movie couldn't get any worse, it again strayed down the wrong path. On his last day of celibacy, Matt begins to have hallucinations of women walking around naked and riding the bus naked. Could this film dig deeper into the realm of improbability? I doubt it.

I accept that logic and intelligence are not among the primary (or, in some cases, desirable) traits necessary to enjoy a comedy. However, calling "40 Days and 40 Nights" moronic may be a gross overestimation. For audiences to enjoy it, the film needs to be a lot more amusing. If you're rolling in the aisles, convulsing with laughter, it doesn't matter how inane the material is; but when the humor is flat and repetitious, as it is in this film, the absence of a credible story line becomes a major drawback. The level of comedy, which varies from crude to insulting, reminds me of the dirty jokes that fifth graders snicker about in bathrooms, when the mere voicing of a four-letter word is a source of great amusement.

So, if you're desperate to give something up for Lent, make it movies like this one.

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treatment isn't. It stands for Minor In Possession and whether you're the minor holding the beer when the party gets broken up or the older friend who provided the beer, you're busted. Did you know:

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- Open kegs at college parties or giving alcohol to minors to keep them off "other drugs" doesn't make sense.

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www.slopd.org

Local Showtimes

Fremont

<i>We Were Soldiers</i>	(3:45), 6:45, 9:45
<i>Dragonfly</i>	(5:00), 7:45, 10:15
<i>The Time Machine</i>	(4:30), 7:00, 9:30
<i>All About the Benjamins</i>	(5:10), 7:35, 10:00

Downtown Centre 7 Cinema

<i>A Beautiful Mind</i>	(3:30), 6:30, 9:30
<i>40 Days & 40 Nights</i>	(3:15), 5:45, 8:00, 10:40
<i>Black Hawk Down</i>	6:45
<i>Crossroads</i>	(5:00), 7:30, 10:00
<i>I Am Sam</i>	6:15
<i>Lord of the Rings</i>	(4:30), 8:10
<i>Queen of the Damned</i>	9:30
<i>Gosford Park</i>	(3:00), 9:15
<i>Return to Neverland</i>	(4:45), 7:00
<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i>	(3:45), 9:50

Sunset Drive-In

San Luis Obispo

For showtimes please call 544-4475

Palm Theater

San Luis Obispo

<i>Amelia</i>	7:00, 9:15
<i>Lantana</i>	6:45
<i>In the Bedroom</i>	4:00
<i>John Q</i>	4:00
<i>Monster's Ball</i>	9:15
<i>Brotherhood of the Wolf</i>	9:15
<i>Kandahar</i>	4:30, 7:00

Mentally disabled deserve same fate

As courts consider a national ban on sentencing mentally disabled criminals to the death penalty, I can't help but question why the idea even arose.

Is it not discrimination to treat the mentally handicapped any differently than the average person? To make distinctions between the treatment of the average person and a mentally handicapped individual would fall under the term discrimination. Why then is it acceptable to treat that portion of society differently when it is in their favor?

Punishment is only likely to be effective when it makes examples of criminals for the rest of society to see and learn from. Ideally, the rest of society will fear the punishment criminals receive and therefore be discouraged from committing crimes. This goal will be unattainable if we continue to make exceptions to the rules, even if those exceptions are for a small fraction of society.

Most of us are familiar with the phrase, "you do the crime, you do the time." Any crime that is severe enough to result in the death penalty should not be second-guessed by the mental capacity of the criminal. A murderer is a murderer regardless of how intelligent or mentally disabled he or she is.

It is quite clear to me that anyone who would commit a crime terrible enough to have deserved the death penalty is likely to have mental problems, whether they deal with intellect or with sanity. In any case, the crime and the crime's ensuing punishment should be the issue, rather than the mental state of the criminal.

The death penalty is most likely to be used in cases when the criminal is unlikely to be rehabilitated. If we do not think that a person with a normal intellect is capable of being rehabilitated, it is highly unlikely that someone with a decreased mental capacity would be able to successfully complete a rehabilitation procedure after committing a crime of the same caliber.

Even if a mentally disabled criminal were able to be rehabilitated, would the prison setting be a suitable and productive environment for a person with mental handicaps? It is likely that these disabled individuals would demand special care that prison employees may not be capable of providing. Would this create a need for specially trained prison employees, and if so, where would the funding for such special training come from?

According to an article by Associated Press writer Robert Tanner, 10 percent of inmates sought to get off death row due to mental handicaps in states where the option became available last year. Tanner said some who support a national ban of executions for mentally disabled criminals suggested the number of these disabled criminals were likely to be 20 percent.

"With 2,455 inmates on death row in the 20 states that allow executions of the mentally disabled, that would mean 245 potential challenges if 10 percent sought reprieves, or 490 if 20 percent did," Tanner wrote.

Based on these numbers, would it be worth taxpayer's money to deal with that volume of appeals? Frankly, I think we do our share by contributing our tax money, paying for the court fees that landed all of those criminals on death row, and not contributing to the problem by becoming members of society who force other citizens to pay court costs.

Banning the execution of mentally disabled inmates would create more obstacles in the judicial system and would be counterproductive to achieving the greater good.

Whitney Kobrin is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letters to the editor

Jesus was never insulting

Editor,

In response to Nainoa Kalama's letter "Porn is more offensive" on March 6, I feel very distraught over your choice to call people "politically correct doodie heads." As Christians, we are instructed to live as Christ did. I do not remember ever reading in the Bible that Jesus called anyone an insulting name. We should be uplifting and not tear down each other. God loves everyone. Yes, everyone: the porn star, the murderer, etc. The fact is that He loved us so much, He gave up His only Son to come to earth and be hated, beat up, spit at, and nailed to the cross — it is amazing. I know I helped nail a hand and I am so overwhelmed by His love and forgiveness. I just pray that everyone would take a minute to reflect.

Keilah Summers is a mathematics senior.

So many stupid people

Editor,

Everyone has the right to their own opinion. That is the beauty of the nation we live in. What annoys me are the opinions expressed in the Daily. On March 4, a freshman wrote two letters that were printed about different topics. He said he hadn't seen much diversity around campus. Well, he hasn't been around much if he is a freshman. I guess a writer like that fiery red head, Barbara Bowden, isn't allowed to be a tad light-hearted about a topic like diversity. Lighten up, people. It annoys me when I see several letters written by the same opinionated student. Maybe people should be more like my friend Laura, who just talks about writing in with her friends, but she never does it. Someone will probably write in about this very letter, calling me ignorant. One thing I have learned from reading the letters is that there are a lot of stupid people at Cal Poly. But there are also many students who can communicate in a clear and effective manner. I'll still be reading letters to the editor come tomorrow.

Megan Leisz is a journalism senior.

CFA should have asked us

Editor,

I was very distressed to see the CFA advertisement in the March 6 Mustang Daily opposing the proposed college-based fee increase. I am especially upset that the CFA action was taken by its executive committee without a poll of the entire membership. (I myself am a member, though that may not last.) The president, Phil Fetzer, told me, "We can't put every serious issue out to the full faculty for a vote." But this is SERIOUS, not just serious, and the CFA has had several months to get its act together on this. The tenure-track faculty in my department voted 11-0 in support of the fee increase.

In the best of all possible worlds, we wouldn't need to ask our students to pony up. But politicians and CSU leaders have pandered to the populace by keeping fees artificially low. My college has not had an equipment budget in years. Many of the micro-

scopes used in the biology department are decades old. Equipment has failed and there is no money for resuscitation. When there is a computer problem in my department, we too often have to wait weeks because the technical support people in my college are so overwhelmed with work. There is also no money specifically allocated for travel. So when my faculty want to attend a professional meeting or a conference, they too often have to take hundreds of dollars out of their own pockets to do so. And then there is the problem of student access to courses. That is a direct result of lack of financial resources, though there are other difficulties as well. I'm currently using every available qualified person in the county to teach statistics and still can't meet student demand. But my dean tells us that if the fee increase passes, it will help us to hire more tenure-track faculty that we so desperately need.

I imagine every one of us could identify some parts of this university that we might feel are not run in the most efficient manner. That goes with the territory of a large organization. But I think we would be spiting ourselves by voting down the fee increase. At the moment I see it as the only straw available for grasping.

Jay Devore is chair of the statistics department.

Club's excuses don't apply

Editor,

Throughout his letter, "See event for yourself," March 6, Brent Vann compares apples with oranges when defending the Cal Poly Republicans' actions toward speaker Reggie Jones.

In none of the articles, including my letter, did anyone bash the Cal Poly College Republicans for putting on the event. In actuality, all of the articles praised Mr. Jones and his message. We only criticized the method of advertising that the CPC used. It doesn't matter if it were the Cal Poly College Republicans, Progressive Student Alliance, or even the Newman Center; if anyone had said in their advertising for such an event "Boycott this Uncle Tom," "Don't go see this conservative sell-out" or "In Yo face Whitey," people would have complained.

Also, bringing in arguments like "It's a different view of black history," "The CPC is more diverse than the campus," and "We fund-raised money to bring this view onto campus" does not make people think: "Well, since the Cal Poly College Republicans are such jolly great diverse people, then of course they can say racist comments about their own speaker."

Brent, just to clarify why the phrases are unfair/offensive/racist:

The phrase "Uncle Tom" is racist because it was a stereotype used in the abolition period that portrayed black males as servants eager to please their white masters. Why is this bad? Because it was used as an excuse to keep blacks in slavery and it justified the claims made that black men were happy serving whites. In actuality, this stereotype was very effective and it slowed down the abolition movement significantly.

By saying "In Yo face Whitey," a person

who reads the poster believes that the speaker, Mr. Jones, is going to be talking in ebony about how bad black people are. Is this what really happened? No. He was a person lecturing an audience about how he thinks that black leadership needs to change directions. He never bashed blacks, and he never acted like a "whitey." Therefore, it was obviously unfair to him because the posters made people assume he was someone he was not.

My assumption that Reggie was hurt by these fliers was because I saw his reaction when someone showed him the fliers. He said, "I was not aware of these posters, and I cannot believe that people would portray me in this way." He continued, "I am not a sell-out, I am not a whitey, I am not an Uncle Tom. What I am is a brother with different views and a man who has hope for the black community."

Lastly, Brent, if all of your other claims are as justified as your claim that I did not attend the event, then you may seriously rethink your ideas. I was indeed at the event. I sat in the middle seat of the second row; you were in the front row. I was there from the start where you offered to raffle off anti-Osama bin Laden posters, to the end when both fliers were brought to the attention of Reggie Jones. I saw the hurt on Reggie's face, I saw his disappointment in whoever would have thought of posting such fliers, and I saw how the rest of the people in the standing audience did not approve of the posters either.

Lilian Andrade is a business senior who did attend Reggie Jones' great presentation.

I think, therefore I am

Editor,

Mr. Taylor, I disagree with what you wrote on March 6 ("Club should apologize"), but, nonetheless, you are still entitled to your opinion. As rational beings, I am sure that you realize that humans are not infallible creatures; thus — and I appeal to your intelligence — it is true that we can as individuals and as communities make mistakes.

Since you are a student of history, I further appeal to your knowledge of the past. If you review it carefully, you shall conclude that the past is nothing more than a graveyard of errors. These errors range from simple mistakes to catastrophic blunders, but in all these instances the course of the future has been dramatically altered.

From recognition of error, a more enlightened future arises. It was not anyone's intention to "pull the wool over your eyes" about the truth, because the truth simply remains: It was a mistake. Henceforth, I conclude: The truth shall set you free.

In regard to Miss Lilian Andrade, I would like to extend my sincere regrets. I know she was present at the Reginald Jones event, because I personally invited her. I am sorry for any harm done to her good character, and can only hope that she feels the same for what she has done to mine. I am only human, and, thus being human, any pain of mankind's is also a pain of mine.

Daniel J. Gutierrez is a civil engineering junior and secretary of the Cal Poly College Republicans.

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BREAKS

continued from page 3

debt — do not make the government their first choice because industry usually offers a higher starting wage.

The chief House sponsors are Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, and Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., the committee's senior Democrat. Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Sens. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, and Fred Thompson, R-Tenn.

Joining Burton in announcing the House version Thursday were Reps. Danny Davis, D-Ill., Constance Morella, R-Md., and John Tierney, D-Mass., members of the Government Reform Committee, which oversees programs for federal employees and retirees.

Congress authorized the government to repay student loans for current and new employees in 1991, but the Office of Personnel Management did not issue regulations until last year. OPM officials said there was no need for the recruitment incentive during the 1990s because most agencies were downsizing.

But the times have changed. A number of agencies are staffing up for homeland defense, and virtually all parts of the government face a wave of retirements during the next five years. While the events of Sept. 11 and the

unsteady economy have made the government a more attractive employer, numerous agencies find it difficult to hire workers with specialized skills.

College students and federal employees, in surveys and interviews, have said loan repayments are an important factor in weighing job offers. The typical college debt burden is estimated at between \$14,000 and \$16,000 for undergraduates and more than \$20,000 for graduate students, supporters of GOFEDS said Thursday.

In the last year, a few agencies have started loan repayment programs (the Energy and Defense departments, General Services Administration and NASA) and several are drawing up plans to offer repayments.

Under the government's student loan repayment program, agencies may pay up to \$6,000 per year, capped at \$40,000 total per employee. Employees who receive student loan repayments must agree to stay in the federal service for no less than three years.

Agencies report the amount of their loan repayments to the Internal Revenue Service, and those amounts are subject to withholding at the time the repayment is made.

The proposed legislation will make the current loan repayment program more forceful.

"Government should not tax its own ability to be a better recruiter," said Max Stier, president of the non-profit Partnership for Public Service.

New York band rocks SLO



CRYSTAL MYERS/MUSTANG DAILY

*Si*Se performed at Club SLO Brew Tuesday night. 'Si*Se is a bilingual septet from New York specializing in the fusion of chilly electronic beats with a warm, pan-Latino sensibility,' according to the Los Angeles Times.*

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Student Leaders for Cal Poly Jump-Start Program. Part-time wk, 7/19-8/30, 45 hours over 6 wks \$8.00 hr. Obtain application at Career Services bldg. 116-203 or call 756-5932.

Camp Counselors
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Cal Poly Conference Services is hiring 17-21 new staff for spring, summer, and possibly fall quarters. Cashiering experience preferred. Option of living on campus for summer quarter at highly reduced rate. Flexible hours, part and full-time available. Pay rate is \$6.75- 8.25 hr. Applications at Jespersen Hall Rm. 211, 6x7600. Due March 15th.

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Women's tennis to host three-game series

By Eric Rich
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As students feel the crunch of finals, the women's tennis team will receive no break this weekend as they prepare for three consecutive days of competition at home.

The Mustangs are currently in fifth place in the Big West Conference, with an even 2-2 conference record and a 4-6 overall standing. Although the team will be without No. 1 player Angie Bagheri due to an ankle sprain, players feel they have a good chance for a weekend sweep.

"The one thing about our team is that we really have a lot of depth," senior Stephanie Westrich said. "All the girls can play, and that makes us a strong matchup."

First up for the team is UC Riverside, carrying a dismal conference record of 0-4. The team is currently in last place in the Big West. The Highlander's No. 1 player is Michelle Beyronneau, with a 4-6 record in dual matches.

The match takes place Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Conference rival UC Santa Barbara rolls into town this Saturday for a showdown. The Gauchos bring with them a conference record of 0-3, but boast two nationally ranked players. Uzma Khan is ranked No. 83 in the nation, and has a 13-4 record in dual matches. She is backed by No. 142-

ranked Cindy Ammann, who has a record of 11-2. The two are even more lethal when playing doubles together, with an 8-3 record.

"We defeated Santa Barbara last year and should stack up well this year," Bagheri said. "After their top two players they really don't have that much depth."

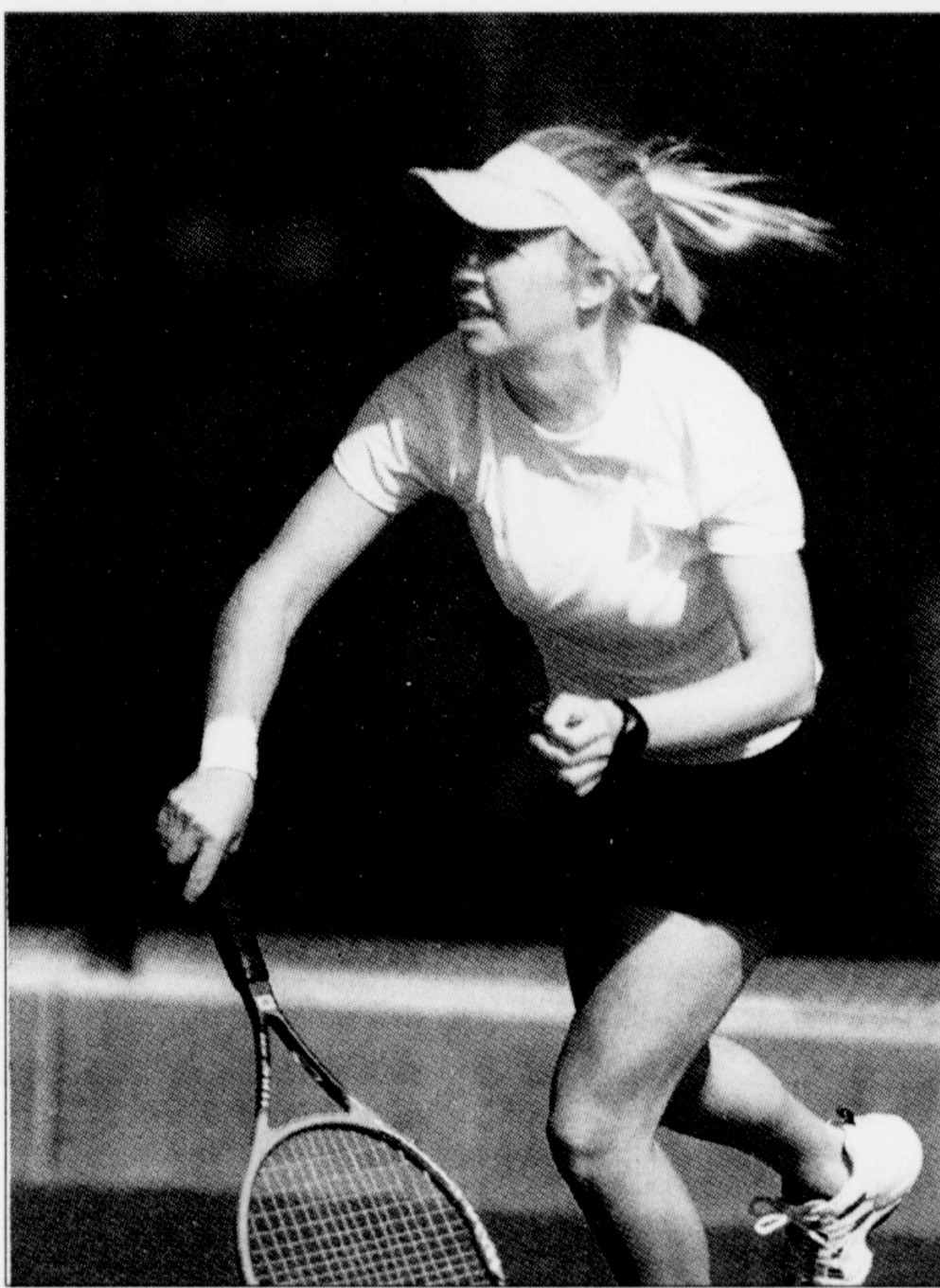
Filling in the top spot for the injured Bagheri is Danielle Husted, a third-year player with a 3-2 record. Westrich will play in the No. 2 slot with a 3-6 record, and play doubles with Kate Romm. Romm and Westrich have an even 4-4 record in doubles this season. The UCSB match is on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Rounding out the weekend for the Mustangs is a match against UC Davis of the California Collegiate Athletic Conference. The Aggies won their conference last year and finished tied for fifth in the nation for Division II tennis. This season, they hold a record of 4-1 in conference matches and a 5-5 record overall. The match is on Sunday at 10 a.m.

All matches will be held at the newly finished tennis courts located behind Mott Gym.

The tennis team encourages students to come out and support the players.

"We just want people to come out and give us home court advantage," Bagheri said. "The games are intense and really exciting to watch."



FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY
Women's tennis senior Jennifer Azevedo returns a shot during a match on Mar. 1. The team will host a three-match series this weekend.

Lacrosse looking to give Chico the 'boot'

By Katrina Telfer
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

There will be a fight for a boot at high noon this weekend.

The men's lacrosse team hopes to dominate Chico State this Saturday in the "Battle for the Boot" at 2 p.m. Coming off three huge wins this weekend in Arizona, the men's

lacrosse team has moved up in the standings and is currently ranked 14th in the nation. The Mustangs beat Fort Luis College, Michigan State and University of Arizona, a team that was ranked 13th in the nation.

The team feels confident after its strong performance, stressing the overall teamwork shown in recent games.



FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY
The Cal Poly men's lacrosse team will face Chico State this Saturday, continuing a classic rivalry named "The Battle for the Boot."

Women fall in first round of tourney

By Aaron Lambert
MUSTANG DAILY PHOTO EDITOR

ANAHEIM — The Mustangs lost more than the game Wednesday night as senior guard Odessa Jenkins walked off the court for the final time in green and gold.

But with the departure of one came the resurgence of another in junior guard Kari Duperron.

Duperron nearly single-handedly kept the Mustangs (11-17 overall) in the game as she hit 13 of 19 free throws down the stretch, leading the team with a personal post-season high of 21 points, 10 of which came in the second half, despite playing with four fouls.

Jenkins also wouldn't give in, leading a highly energized defense which forced 26 Long Beach State turnovers and held the 49ers to 48 percent shooting from the field.

"My team never gives up," Jenkins said. "It's not a phrase in the vocabulary of our players or coaches."

Jenkins left the game with three steals and nine points.

But that wasn't enough, as the 49ers (16-12) overcame a 10-point halftime deficit to come away with a 77-72 win.

"Obviously, we were a little disappointed with the outcome of the game, but I couldn't be prouder of the effort of our team put into this game today and during the season," said Cal Poly head coach Faith Mimnaugh.

mustang sports

SCORES SCHEDULE BRIEFS

BAR

SCHEDULE

BASEBALL	fri, mar. 8	5 p.m.
vs. portland state	@calpoly	
BASEBALL	sat, mar. 9	5 p.m.
vs. portland state	@calpoly	
BASEBALL	sun, mar. 10	1 p.m.
vs. portland state	@calpoly	
MEN'S BASKETBALL	wed, mar. 6 - mar. 9	
at big west tourney	@anaheim	
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	wed, mar. 6 - mar. 9	
at big west tourney	@anaheim	
WOMEN'S TENNIS	fri, mar. 8	1:30 p.m.
vs. uc riverside	@calpoly	
WOMEN'S TENNIS	sat, mar. 9	1 p.m.
vs. ucsb	@calpoly	
WOMEN'S TENNIS	sat, mar. 10	10 a.m.
vs. uc davis	@calpoly	
MEN'S LACROSSE	sat, mar. 9	11 a.m.
chico state	@calpoly	
WOMEN'S LACROSSE	sat, mar. 9	2 p.m.
ucsd	@calpoly	
TRIATHLON	sat, mar. 9	7 a.m.
march warmup	@calpoly	

BRIEFS

Warm-up triathlon includes top schools, Poly alum

CAL POLY REC SPORTS REPORT

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly's Triathlon Team is hosting the first triathlon of the season for the West Coast Collegiate series. It will be held on March 9 on the Cal Poly campus and surrounding area. Shaba Mohseni, a graduating business major, is organizing the event for her senior project. Mohseni is currently the race director for the Triathlon Team, which she has been a part of for the past three years.

Teams from UCSD, UCLA, UC Davis, Berkeley, Stanford and Cal State Long Beach will be competing. The event will also feature Cal Poly alumnus Julie Moss, a professional triathlete. Students, faculty and alumni are encouraged to participate in the event. Signups are available at the service desk in the Rec Center or at www.calpolytriathlon.com, with an entry fee of \$45. All money raised will help send the Cal Poly triathlon team to the national in Memphis, Tenn., on April 20.

Baseball continues home series tonight

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly baseball team continues its recent homestand tonight against Portland State University at Baggett Stadium.

The Mustangs have been struggling as of late, but hope to build momentum on a homestand that when finished will total eight games. First baseman Tony Alcantar has provided an offensive spark, with a team-high .410 batting average. Overall, the Mustangs have batted .313 on the season.

Junior Tyler Fitch, with an ERA of 5.35, will take the mound for Cal Poly on Friday. The game starts at 5 p.m.