

Little 'trouble': 'Big Trouble' is lighthearted, has little character development, 5

Care more: People should give more to the homeless, 6



TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 71°
Low: 54°



Friday, April 12, 2002

Mustang

DAILY

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Sigma Chi not suspect in death

Police are waiting for results of toxicology report

By Cynthia Neff
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As the investigation into the death of 19-year-old Brian Gillis continues, the San Luis Obispo Police Department has talked to several members of the Sigma Chi fraternity to ascertain the events of April 3, which may have led to Gillis' death. The journalism sophomore was found around 11 a.m. at his Stenner Glen apartment by his roommate who had been gone the night before.

Although further information could not be released, police department Lt. Gary Orback said that the investigation team is waiting for the toxicology test results, which will be available April 19, to determine the cause of death.

Orback said that he has already ruled out the possibility of murder and that there is no evidence to suspect Sigma Chi of having anything to do with Gillis' death.

Orback added that the coroner's office will take the normal routine to test for alcohol and other drugs in Gillis' system. However, he would not comment on whether or not the coroner's office would be testing for specific drugs, such as GHB (gamma hydroxy butyric acid), that do not

normally show up on basic toxicology reports. GHB is a drug closely related to "roofies," otherwise known as the "date-rape drug."

"The coroner's office is doing the tests that it feels will further the investigation," Orback said.

Many Cal Poly students may be anxious to hear the results of the toxicology report, especially since rumors have continued to spread around campus ever since Gillis' death.

Sources who originally spoke to Mustang Daily said they have been asked by members of the Sigma Chi fraternity to not disclose information to the press concerning the events of April 3.

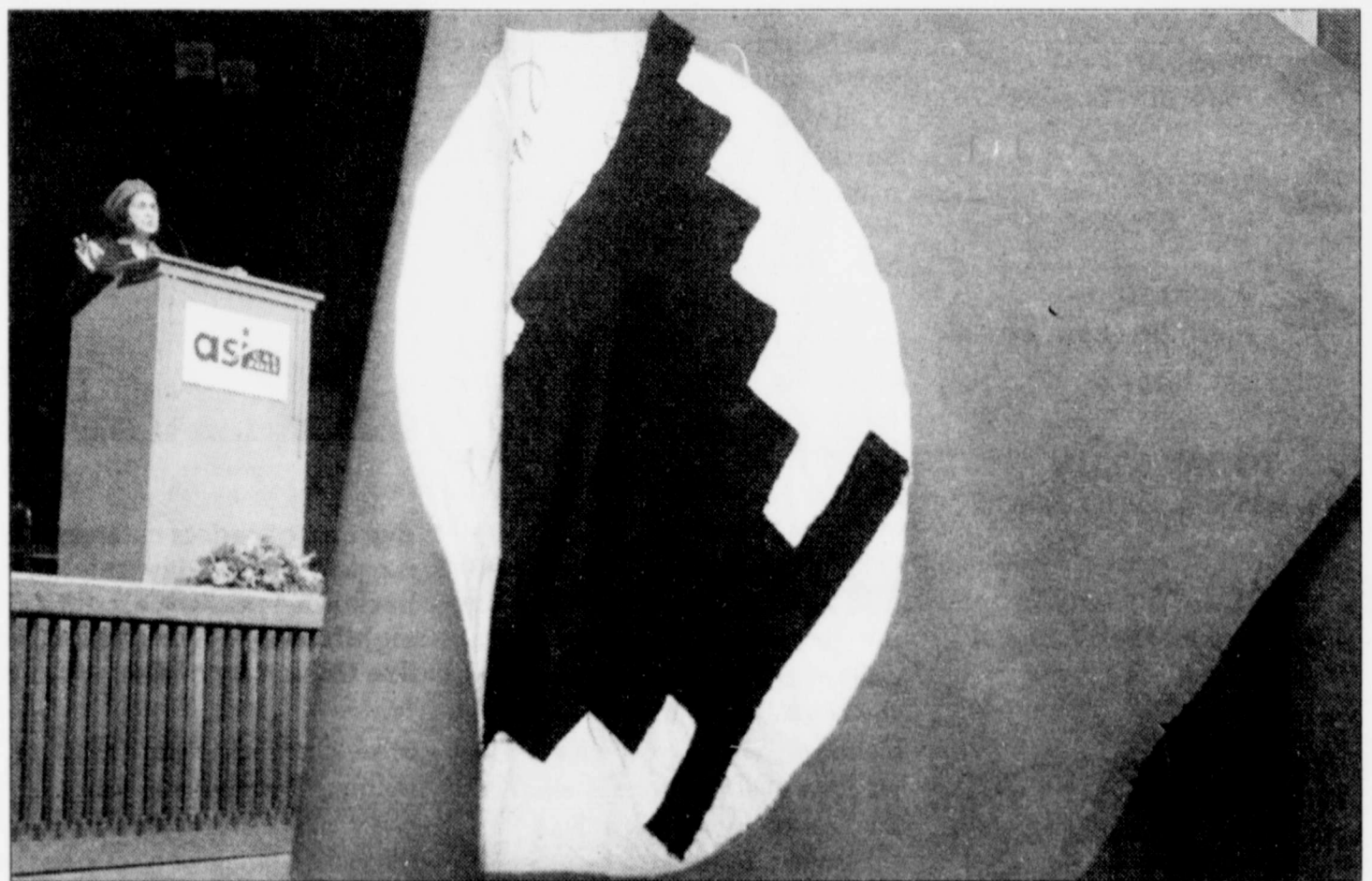
Matt Soderstrom, a member of Sigma Chi, would not comment on the events of that night, nor would he comment on whether Gillis was a habitual drinker.

Soderstrom, a political science freshman and Gillis' pledge brother, said that he did not see Gillis' actions on April 3. He also said that there was no "official fraternity stuff going on" at the Sigma Chi house, and that the members were "just all catching up after break."

He added that Gillis enjoyed

see GILLIS, page 7

Huerta urges students to get involved



AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Dolores Huerta speaks about her experiences with Cesar Chavez and her role in the advent of the United Farm Workers union Wednesday night. Many of the attendees of the speech bore UFW flags like this one, which was signed by Chavez three times throughout the years in many different marches.

By Bryan Dickerson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers union, addressed an eclectic crowd in a near-capacity Chumash Auditorium on Wednesday night.

Huerta, dwarfed behind the giant podium with just her face and red beret visible to a standing and

cheering crowd, called on the assembled — particularly the Cal Poly students — to "make a difference."

"When you come to college, make your voice louder," Huerta said. "Students like yourselves ended the Vietnam War, and it's students like you who can change things."

Among the diverse assembly of

scholars, farm workers, union members, students and political activists was social science junior Ali Schlageter, who attended the event for motivation.

"I'm a person who wants to get involved in activism for all people who suffer," Schlageter said. "You always want to look for inspiration

see HUERTA, page 7

Fee disagreement freezes meeting



AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Gail Wilson, a Cal Poly alumna, points out a problem she had with the college-based fee referendum proposal to an Academic Senate representative, middle, and Bob Detweiler, interim vice president of Student Affairs, at a meeting Thursday. The gathering was part of a Campus Fee Advisory Committee meeting that discussed problems with the closure of last month's meeting.

Forum gives candidates opportunity to take a stand

By Kelly Foster
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORTER

ASI's budget increase from \$600,000 to \$1.4 million is the reason behind this Sunday's free forum, which will be held in the Sierra Madre main lounge at 8 p.m.

Associated Students Inc. presidential candidates will speak about what the extra money can be used for next

year and introduce their platforms for the upcoming election.

"With the fee referendum increase, ASI's budget is going to be almost doubled," said Lilian Andrade, Sierra Madre Hall resident advisor and organizer of the event. "This is pretty important."

see FORUM, page 7

'MIT of the Philippines' visits campus to set up exchange

By Theresa Ngo-Anh
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The president of the Mapua Institute of Technology (MIT), along with two other university representatives, paid Cal Poly a visit Thursday to discuss the possibilities of starting an educational foreign exchange program between the two colleges. The visit from the Philippine university was made possible through a joint effort by the Pilipino

Cultural Exchange and Cal Poly's Cultural Exchange Program.

MIT is a technology school in the Philippines. Nieves Villamin, advisor of PCE, was very enthusiastic about the visit.

"Mapua is the MIT of the Philippines," Villamin said. "We have been trying to set up a program with a university comparable to Cal Poly's cal-

see PCE, page 7

Weather WATCH

5-DAY FORECAST

SATURDAY
High: 72° / Low: 55°

SUNDAY
High: 69° / Low: 51°

MONDAY
High: 65° / Low: 51°

TUESDAY
High: 65° / Low: 43°

WEDNESDAY
High: 70° / Low: 44°

TODAY'S SUN

Rise: 6:35 a.m. / Set: 7:34 p.m.

TODAY'S MOON

Rise: 6:50 a.m. / Set: 7:40 p.m.

TODAY'S TIDE

AT PORT SAN LUIS

Low: 4:43 a.m. / 0.53 feet

High: 10:47 a.m. / 4.21 feet

Low: 4:36 p.m. / 0.91 feet

High: 10:46 p.m. / 4.90 feet



Students spend spring break with SEALs

By Bridgette Vanherweg

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

While most students were throwing back tequila in Mexico or hanging out by the pool at home, six Cal Poly ROTC cadets sweat and strained at the mercy of special forces instructors in Coronado, Calif., during spring break.

"When most students were partying in Tijuana, these students went down to Navy SEAL land," said Maj. Paul Buechner, assistant professor and training officer at Cal Poly.

SEALs (Sea, Air, Land) teams go through what is considered by some to be the toughest military training in the world, according to the Navy SEALs Web site.

Two freshmen, two sophomores and two juniors successfully competed in the 10-day training program held March 23 through April 2. Freshmen Michael Moyer and Ryan Adams, sophomores Samuel Bonner and David Grammier, junior Patrick Hane and senior Eric Goltry made up half the cadets who graduated from the program of instruction. All six cadets are now eligible to compete in the Combat Diver Qualification Course (CDQC), a four-week-long program held this June at the Naval Air Station in Key West, Fla.

Combat divers are a branch of the military's special forces community, which includes the Army's green berets and Navy SEALs.

Only five other cadets from the University of Arizona, Eastern Kentucky University, University of Wisconsin at Madison and University of Arkansas completed the program.

"This was more training than competition," Buechner said. "Our cadets were competing for the opportunity to train at Key West."

Cal Poly senior and Navy reservist



COURTESY PHOTO

A group of cadets catches their breath after a series of 25 meter sub-surface swims. The cadets are taking part in a 10-day training program. Fourth back is Sam Bonner, a civil engineering sophomore, fifth back is Eric Goltry, a political science junior, seventh back is Patrick Hane, a social science junior, and eighth back is Ryan Adams, an architectural engineering freshman. The other cadets are from colleges like University of Arizona and the University of Arkansas.

Mike Clegg also participated in the training program. He was the only Navy SEAL instructor who trained the cadets, along with six green beret instructors.

Every day, the cadets woke up at 4:30 a.m. to get ready for the first physical fitness event lasting from 5 to 7 a.m., which included a fast run on the beach and calisthenics, Buechner said. After a quick breakfast, the cadets spent the next four hours doing breath-hold exercises. The afternoon normally consisted of a 1,000- to 3,000-meter ocean swim, depending on the day. The cadets then spent their evening delving into

diving physics and physiology.

"It was a lot of physical activity with a lot of stress," Buechner said.

Goltry, a political science senior, ranked highest among the 11 graduates, taking home the honor grad title.

"It was incredibly hard — definitely the most challenging thing I've ever done," Goltry said. "We all trained really hard, but once we graduated, it was all worth it."

Goltry began physical training with the ROTC in winter 2001 but has only been under contract with the university's program since last fall.

"Major Buechner trained us incredibly well. I have to give all the credit to him," Goltry said.

Buechner himself spent 15 of his 20 years in the Army with the Army special forces branch before retiring in 1999.

The six cadets continue to train six days a week with Buechner, swimming at the Rec Center and Crandall pools and working out, Goltry said. They will soon start one-man comp training, where the cadets will have their masks covered with duct tape, their breathing hoses tied in knots, and other obstacles while underwater.

Poly launches programs beyond California

By Leslie Edwards

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly Extended Studies has recently set up camp at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., and will begin training military personnel next month in order to improve their job performance.

On March 25, Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker and Air Force officials launched two certificate programs at the base. One is an Oracle Database Administrators certificate program and the other is an Information Technology certificate program.

"This is the first time that Cal Poly Extended Studies has offered programs in another state," said Dennis Parks, dean of Cal Poly Extended Studies.

Cal Poly Extended Studies works mainly with older adults who have returned to college for various reasons, Parks said.

"We currently serve about 4,000 students in regular programs and courses, and around another 6,000 students through conferences," Parks said. "We offer both credit and non-credit programs to returning students."

Ellen Sheffer, program develop-

ment coordinator for Extended Studies, is responsible for getting the courses started, hiring coordinators and instructors, as well as planning exactly what will be offered at the base.

"The courses are open to active military, retired military, and dependents (spouses and children), as well as the Gulf Coast community," Sheffer said.

Air Force interest in Cal Poly was initiated as a result of Cal Poly's distance-learning program at Vandenberg Air Force Base, which began operating in 1999.

"In the future, we will be adding other information technology programs as the need arises and as requested by the Air Force," Parks said.

Initially, 30 to 50 students are expected to participate in the program, but no students are officially enrolled just yet. In the beginning, Cal Poly will not offer degree programs at Keesler Air Force Base, but that might change over time.

"We are only offering non-credit certificate programs, which cannot be used toward a graduation requirement," Parks said.

Although no academic credit is being offered, the training provided

is intended to improve job performance, which is greatly beneficial to Air Force personnel, Parks said.

"Keesler is one of the centers for computer training for the Air Force," Parks said. "We believe it will be a good partnership for Cal Poly to work with the Air Force in the development and training of their faculty, who will be teaching at the base."

Another exciting thing that Keesler has done for Cal Poly, which hasn't been done for any other participating colleges, is to allow a state-of-the-art Cal Poly lab on-base. Sheffer said the lab is strictly to be used for classes being offered through the new program.

"Keesler Air Force Base wanted technology training, which the program offers, but we hope to be able to go in there and provide them with other services in the future as well," Sheffer said.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, University of Southern Mississippi and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida are also involved with training programs at Keesler Air Force Base.

For more information, call Cal Poly Extended Studies at 756-2053.

POLY calendar

12

* **WriterSpeak Series** - English professor Kevin Clark - Phillips Hall, 7 p.m.

* **Istanbul Oriental Ensemble** - Cal Poly Theatre, 8 p.m.

* **Talent show** - First Baptist Church, 8 p.m.

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National Briefs

True cost of smoking revealed by CDC

ATLANTA — For every pack of cigarettes sold in the United States, the nation pays \$7 in medical care and lost productivity, the government said Thursday.

The comment was based on a study, prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which reported that the nation's annual cost per smoker is \$3,391, putting the annual total for all smokers at \$157.7 billion.

The CDC estimated the nation's smoking-related medical costs to be \$3.45 per pack. It said that job productivity lost due to premature death from smoking was about \$3.73 per pack, placing the total cost per pack at \$7.18. In 1999, Americans could buy a pack of cigarettes for an average of \$2.92.

The agency also reported that smoking results in approximately 440,000 deaths per year in the United States, which is 10,000 more than the government's estimate in the early 1990s.

The study also reported that smoking shortens the life of an average man by 13 years and the life of an average woman by 14.5 years.

There are 22 billion packs of cigarettes sold to Americans every year.

— Associated Press

Astrophysicists report new matter on stars

WASHINGTON — Astrophysicists reported Wednesday that a pair of strange stars may harbor an

unusual matter that has never been seen before.

Chandra X-ray observatory astronomers said the possible detection of two "quark" stars and that the stars could revamp the understanding of outer space and the sub-atomic world.

The stars were originally thought to be supernovae, which are the highly compressed cores of exploded stars. The gravitational collapse of the stars causes their atoms to break down to tightly packed neutrons, creating an incredibly dense, hot star about 20 miles across.

The two stars in question are too cold and too small to be supernovae, causing the scientists to hypothesize that the neutrons may have collapsed even further to particles called "quarks."

Quarks were previously believed to never be in a "free state," but the stars may be "giant conglomerations of quarks in free form," said one researcher from Columbia University.

Even more odd is that the quarks are likely to have transformed into "strange quarks," which unexpectedly slow the radioactive decay time of some elementary particles. These "strange quarks" are not found inside normal atoms.

A quark star could be two or three times more dense than a neutron star. One teaspoon of the matter that makes up a neutron star weighs as much as an ocean liner.

One of the stars is 400 light years away, while the other is 10,000 light years away. A light year is equal to 5.89 trillion miles.

— USA TODAY

Nicotine-spiked lollipops banned by FDA

TUCKER, Ga. — The Food and Drug Administration ordered three pharmacies to stop selling lollipops that contain nicotine.

The pharmacies were selling the flavored lollipops as a tool to aid those who want to quit smoking. The FDA declared the lollipops illegal Wednesday, saying that the type of nicotine the druggists were adding to the candy had not been tested for safety and that the quantity of nicotine was enough to potentially endanger a small child. Anti-smoking groups argue that children could become hooked on the lollipops, leading them to become smokers later in life.

One of the pharmacists still believes in the lollipops because they do not have the same dangerous toxins as cigarettes and they mimic the hand-to-mouth motions of smoking.

The FDA also declared a nicotine-laced lip balm illegal, and is currently looking into other unconventional products, such as nicotine lozenges and nicotine water, that consumers were using to aid the process of quitting smoking.

— Associated Press

International Briefs

South Pacific

LUCENA, Philippines — At least 23 people died when a fire engulfed a ferry in the Philippines on Thursday. Of the approximately 270 people on board, at least 246 were rescued, but a few were still missing, coast guard

officials said more than 12 hours after the vessel caught fire. The survivors are not expected to be found.

Survivors reported fights among passengers over life vests.

Many of the dead drowned after jumping overboard, officials said. Flames overtook the 680-ton ship within minutes. The cause of the fire has not yet been established.

The ferry was en route from the central Philippine island of Masbate to the port of Lucena, about 65 miles southeast of Manila.

About 90 survivors were treated for burns, shock and other injuries.

Overloaded ferries are a major problem in the Philippines and have been involved in several larger tragedies in recent years.

The ship was also carrying cattle and coconut meat.

— Reuters

North America

TORONTO — "I don't want to be suing my school," said Marc Hall, 17, at a news conference at the Ontario legislature. "I just want to go to the prom with my boyfriend."

Hall's lawyer, David Corbett, is seeking an injunction to force the Durham Catholic District School Board to allow Hall to take his 21-year-old boyfriend to the school's prom. He also requested the Ontario Superior Court for an injunction to stop the school board from canceling the prom if Hall should win the case.

The school board, which banned the couple from the prom, said that it supports Hall's right to be homosexual, but refuses to support homosexual lifestyles.

The board's position violated Hall's constitutional rights and the Ontario Education Act, which calls for fair and equitable treatment of students without regard to sexual orientation, Corbett said.

Earlier this week, Hall appealed to the school trustees to overturn the decision, but was turned down.

The federal constitution requires the Ontario government to help operate Catholic schools within the province.

— Associated Press

Europe

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Hours after parliament adopted a law that allows arrests and extraditions to a U.N. tribunal, a former Serbian police chief, indicted for war crimes, shot himself in the head in front of the federal parliament building Thursday.

Vlajko Stojilkovic, who headed the police during former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's reign, was undergoing medical treatment, hospital officials said.

A police officer who witnessed the suicide said that Stojilkovic walked in front of the building at about 7 p.m., hesitated for a few minutes, and then calmly shot himself in the head with a pistol.

Milosevic is currently on trial in Geneva.

— Associated Press

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

Asking relatives to leave Mideast isn't easy, families find

By Susan Baer
THE BALTIMORE SUN

(WIRE) WASHINGTON — Robert Taubman has lived all of his 82 years in Baltimore. But his daughter Nancy, who left her hometown after graduating from the University of Maryland 35 years ago, has lived in Israel since 1967, building a life and a family that now includes six children and 14 grandchildren.

Over years of Middle East conflicts and bloodshed, Taubman has never asked his daughter to bring her family back to Baltimore. This time he had to.

"Why don't you come home?" the World War II veteran asked his daughter.

Nancy Highkin, 56, who goes by the Hebrew name Nechamah, didn't even pause. "Dad, I am home," she told her father.

The State Department, citing a "deteriorating security situation," has warned Americans to defer travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, and urged Americans living in the region to consider leaving and relocating to a safe place. But those here who have family members living in what has become a war zone — in both Israeli and Palestinian towns — are finding that it's not that simple.

While they worry about the safety of their daughters and sons, brothers and sisters, Americans here also know that those who have chosen to live in what Christians, Jews and Muslims all call the Holy Land, where the decades-old Arab-Israeli

▼ "We don't want to burden them by pressuring them to come home when, in their consciences, they know they can't."

George Gessert
son is staying in West Bank

conflict is once again roiling with anger, inflamed passions and violence, don't leave easily.

For those living in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza — whether for a year or a lifetime — ties to the region are often ones of spirit or soul or something indefinable, and their devotion is often resistant to the threat of bullets or bombs.

Feisal and Hind Khalil, Palestinian-Americans who split their time between homes in Glassboro, N.J., and Ramallah on the West Bank, are terrified because their 26-year-old son Zaid, a New Yorker, volunteered to go to Bethlehem to assist Palestinians at a refugee camp. Last week, he was hit in the leg by shrapnel.

"He stuck the phone out the window and you could hear the machine-gun fire" said his brother, Sam Khalil of San Francisco. "I'm scared for him — he's my kid brother. But he's also pretty hard-headed, and no one can tell him what to do. I respect his convictions. I think it's terrific he feels that strongly."

Indeed, those on the other end of calls and e-mails back home from the Middle East are often caught between worrying for the safety of

their loved ones and honoring their choices.

Taubman, for instance, says he and his wife, Ruth, are concerned for their daughter and her family and call more often these days.

"But I support her for having the courage to live there," he said. "I think it's wonderful that she believes God will take care of them."

"No one is there without being really committed," said Miriam Galston, a law professor at George Washington University whose aunt, uncle and cousins live in Israel. It is "their commitment and our respect for their commitment" that prevents Galston from ever suggesting to her relatives that they return to the United States, she said.

"That's different from wishing they were nearby," she added. "We worry a lot. Thank goodness for e-mail."

Similarly, George and Kate Gessert of Eugene, Ore., have had to make peace with their son's decision to stay on the West Bank — where he and his wife of two months had originally gone on a tree-planting peace mission — to try to assist

see MIDEAST, page 7

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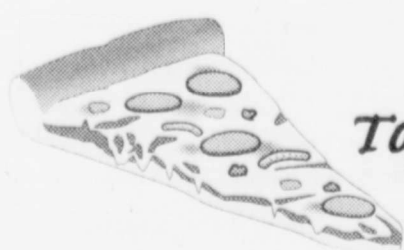
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Lampoon films keep getting 'Wilder'

By Amber Hodge
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"What are you going to do after you graduate?" is a question often heard through the halls of any university. But for the main character in "National Lampoon's Van Wilder," graduation is the last thing on his mind.

For seventh-year Coolidge College student Van Wilder (Ryan Reynolds of "Two Guys and a Girl"), college is about enjoying the party for as long as he can make it last. Well known and popular on campus, Van has a personal assistant to attend his classes, take notes for him and answer his phone messages, while Van drives his own golf cart. Van is always there to give advice to his fellow dormmates about what to wear on a first date and how to raise money for athletic teams. He also encourages the basketball team to do well; after all, they are a bunch of NBA players.

As another year starts at Coolidge, Van thinks it's just time for new "student bodies" and wild parties. Van has a reality check when his income, supplied by his father (Tim Matheson, "Animal House"), is cut off after he realizes how long his son has been in school. Van Sr. feels that there is no need to spend more money on his son Van, since his life is not going anywhere.

Together, Van, his personal assistant, Taj (Karl Penn), and best friend, Hutch (Teck Holmes, MTV's "The Real World"), come up with different

"... some scenes go to the extreme, including one that shows the consumption of dog semen. However, that doesn't seem to be unusual for screenwriters David Wagner and Brent Goldberg, who also wrote the spoof short "Saving Ryan's Privates."

schemes to earn money to keep Van from dropping out of school. This includes topless tutoring and party liaisons.

When hard-nosed Gwen (Tara Reid, "American Pie") is forced to write an article about infamous Van for the school newspaper, he is then faced with the reality that he's been in college too long and has gotten nowhere. Annoyed with his avoidance to be interviewed, Gwen gathers information, such as transcripts, in unethical ways.

As he spends more time with Gwen, he realizes that she's more than just a nosy journalist. At this point, the story between Van and Gwen becomes predictable like other movies geared toward college-age viewers.

Just as things are finally looking up for Van, everything goes wrong. Van is forced to change his careless behavior, and as a result, he does, but only



COURTESY PHOTO/WWW.MOVIEWEB.COM

Van Wilder (Ryan Reynolds), center right, hangs out with his college pals: Panos Patakos (Jason Winer), left, Hutch (Teck Holmes), center left, and Taj Mahal Badalandabad (Karl Penn), right.

for a few days.

Unlike National Lampoon's other party-crazed college film, "Animal House," "Van Wilder" focuses on a fraternity being full of stuck-up snobs, including Gwen's boyfriend Richard (Daniel Cosgrove).

With jokes as funny as the original "American Pie," Walt Becker's far-fetched film holds out to be just as funny, without the same innocence. Becker's debut film, "Buying the Cow," is scheduled to come out this year.

Since this movie is rated R, some

scenes go to the extreme, including one that shows the consumption of dog semen. However, that doesn't seem to be unusual for screenwriters David Wagner and Brent Goldberg, who also wrote the spoof short, "Saving Ryan's Privates."

Reynold's charming Van keeps the movie going, as he did for ABC's "Two Guys and a Girl" for so long. The methods that Gwen uses to gather information makes her character unbelievable as a journalist, though Reid and Reynolds play off of each

other in their love-hate relationship. Holmes' Hutch seems as fun-loving as Teck himself in "The Real World."

The movie is definitely uplifting and light, but it is a representation of what one dreams college to be like — not what it is like in reality. If every college was like Coolidge, no one would ever graduate, and partying would be a new career. It's worth seeing, but be prepared for no real serious storyline and a lot of laughs. Of course, this movie is all about fun anyway.

'Big Trouble' has bite

By Katherine Gernhardt
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Martha Stewart, squirt guns, goats, hallucinogenic frog venom and a nuclear warhead all play prominent roles in director Barry Sonnenfeld's new film, "Big Trouble."

The comedy, featuring Tim Allen and Rene Russo as part of an eclectic ensemble cast, was originally slated for release on Sept. 21, 2001. However, because the plot is based on a bomb that ends up on an airplane, Touchstone Films decided to push the release date back after the events of Sept. 11.

"Big Trouble" is set in Miami and involves several intertwining storylines. Two hit men are trying to kill a businessman. A teen-ager is trying to "kill" a classmate with a squirt gun. Russian men are selling illegal firearms (and a large nuclear bomb) with a sleazy bar as a cover-up operation. A homeless man who loves Fritos makes the trip from Boston to Miami in a fishing boat.

The characters are brought together through various plot twists, which are usually obvious, sometimes violent and almost always funny. However, at times the action is so disjointed that it is easy to lose track of the point of the movie — the nuclear bomb.

The two main characters are a bit flimsy and fit all too easily into stereotypical movie molds. Allen plays a newly divorced dad, emotionally wounded yet still witty, while Russo plays a bombshell wife unhappily married to a slimy executive.

Allen's role as Eliot Arnold is similar to those he has played in several movies and his television series "Home Improvement" — a man's man who can save the day and gets himself out



COURTESY PHOTO/WWW.MOVIEWEB.COM

From left to right, Sofia Vergara, Ben Foster, Patrick Warburton, Tim Allen, and Rene Russo are amazed at the lengths to which some people will go to cause 'Big Trouble.'

of several tight situations with wisecracks and "machismo."

Russo plays the role of Anna Herk well, though the character is not as sophisticated as some she has portrayed in past films, such as "The Thomas Crown Affair." Anna Herk's provocative, brightly colored clothes and makeup, fake eyelashes and platinum hair contribute to the impression that she is meant to be a "trophy wife" type of character.

Some characters were quite entertaining, and casting highlights include Janeane Garofalo as a no-nonsense police officer, rapper Dwight "Heavy D" Myers and Omar Epps as cool FBI agents, and Johnny Knoxville of MTV's "Jackass" fame as a bumbling ex-convict.

Zoey Deschanel plays a smallish role as Russo's daughter, Jenny. According to upcomingmovies.com, the producers were first in talks with "Dawson's Creek" star Katie Holmes to play her character.

The refreshing part about these sup-

porting roles is that they were appropriately funny without coming off as overly contrived. Patrick Warburton, perhaps best known for the character Puddy from "Seinfeld," appears as Garofalo's ladies-man police partner and proves an effective foil for her trademark dry humor.

Sonnenfeld's past directing credits include the blockbusters "Wild Wild West," "Men in Black," "Get Shorty" and "The Addams Family." In this film, the director makes a cameo appearance in the form of a voice on the radio.

"Big Trouble" is based on the novel of the same name by humor columnist Dave Barry. Sonnenfeld is not new to producing and directing movies based on books, as he has done for Elmore Leonard's books "Get Shorty" and "Out of Sight."

"Big Trouble" is lighthearted and enjoyable, as long as you're not looking for too much character development. And, to find out how Martha Stewart fits in, you'll have to go see for yourself.

Local Showtimes

Fremont

Changing Lanes	(5:00), 7:45, 10:10
The Rookie	(4:45), 7:30, 10:20
National Lampoon's Van Wilder	(5:15), 8:00, 10:30
Big Trouble	7:15
Blade 2	4:30, 9:30

Downtown Centre 7 Cinema

A Beautiful Mind	(3:00), 6:00
Panic Room	(5:00), 7:30, 10:20
Ice Age	(4:00), 6:30, 8:45
Clockstoppers	(4:15), 6:45, 9:15
High Crimes	(5:10), 8:00, 10:40
Lord of the Rings	9:00
Frailty	(5:20), 7:45, 10:10
The Sweetest Thing	(4:40), 7:00, 9:30

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Palm Theater San Luis Obispo

Kissing Jessica Stein	1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:15
No Man's Land	1:30, 7:00, 9:15
Iris	4:15
Amelia	7:00, 9:15
Monster's Ball	4:15

Homelessness not just a weeklong problem

Everywhere you turn you can't escape the sea of orange shirts and ribbons. Who can miss the chalk messages sprawled around campus opening our eyes to the reality of

Commentary

homelessness? I think it's great that Student Community Services and Beyond Shelter are sponsoring this campus- and community-wide Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. It shows San Luis Obispo that the students care about important issues outside of the microcosm that is Cal Poly.

But how many of us give our time and efforts to the homeless cause year-round? If I flaunt an orange ribbon on my shirt for a week, donate a bottle of shampoo and toothbrush, and fast for a day, does that rid me of

the daily social responsibility of helping those in need?

Before we pin on that ribbon, we need to make a promise to ourselves that caring about the homeless is not just a weeklong effort. That ribbon should be a pledge to ourselves that we continue to help the less fortunate beyond the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

The awareness week is definitely a necessary event. Wake up Cal Poly! "The average homeless person in the United States is only 9 years old," according to one of the chalk messages on campus. A 9-year-old shouldn't have to worry about his next meal and whether or not he has a place to sleep at night.

As students, we can help to make a differ-

ence. Beyond Shelter, a group that focuses on aiding the homeless year-round, is always looking for volunteers. They provide services from getting a group together to cook a meal for a homeless family to being an "Evening Friend" and playing with children at the overflow shelters. The need for student volunteers is in constant demand.

It just isn't enough to devote our efforts for a week and then move on with our lives. Eventually, we will all graduate and find jobs, and make lives for ourselves. But for the homeless, the quest for a stable career is far from their reach. Most of their day is spent tending to their immediate needs: food and shelter. They don't have the time or the resources to compete in the job market.

If more students were willing to help

these people out, such as food, shelter and child care, homeless adults would be more available to focus on finding jobs for themselves.

Get involved! Not only will it enrich your life, but also when you wear that ribbon on your chest it will actually "mean" something. The ribbon will be a symbol of your service, not just a meaningless piece of fabric you wear because it is a "popular thing" to do this week.

The next time you see someone walking around campus in those orange shirts, stop them and say, "Thank you." Praise them for their dedication and ask how you can help.

Theresa Ngo-Anh is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

Obesity worthy of insurance coverage

Is obesity a disease?

That's the question experts are tackling in order to decide whether obesity treatments should be covered by health insurance.

Traditionally, obesity has not been considered a disease, but rather a risk factor for disease that results from poor diet and exercise. While some health insurers currently cover treatments, not all companies may be willing to deal with the increased cost that would result. According to a Jan. 20 article in USA TODAY, estimates suggest that expenses could add up to several billion dollars each year. This would lead to increased health care premiums for everyone, not just the obese.

The thought of having to pay more money may cause many people to jump to the decision that insurance shouldn't cover obesity treatment. But just because it would cost more now doesn't mean that this plan should be given the ax.

About 54 million adults are obese (30 or more pounds over a healthy weight), and nearly 300,000 deaths are attributed to obesity each year, according to the USA TODAY article.

While many people argue that obesity is not a disease, it does contribute to several other health problems, such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and arthritis. If people are covered for obesity, they may be more likely to seek help and thereby eliminate the underlying cause of many diseases that do end up costing in insurance.

The May issue of Glamour magazine presented the case of a morbidly obese woman with diabetes who sought nutrition counseling for her weight. Her insurance, however, didn't cover the cost of the counseling, so she couldn't afford to pay for the services. About a year later, the woman had to undergo a \$344,000 heart transplant, which was covered by her insurance.

My point? If the woman had received consultations, which cost about \$800 a year, her health may not have become so bad and she could have foregone the transplant, saving her insurance quite a bit of money.

As epidemiologist Anne Wolf, R.D.,

"If people are covered for obesity, they may be more likely to seek help and thereby eliminate the underlying cause of many diseases that do end up costing in insurance."

said in the article, "An ounce of prevention now can prevent pounds of treatment dollars later."

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying every person who thinks they are carrying a little extra pudge should be able to head down to the surgery ward and request liposuction or an abdominoplasty (a procedure that removes excess skin and fatty tissue from the abdomen).

On the contrary, not all weight loss programs, such as gym memberships, should be covered by insurance. Elective surgery, too, should not be covered by health insurance companies. If obese people want such surgery, they should only opt for it after they are already able to maintain their weight loss.

Reasonable types of coverage should include visits to the doctor, nutrition counseling, prescription drugs and weight-management courses. These treatments have the potential to instill healthy lifestyle habits among patients that would push them not only to lose weight, but also encourage them to keep the weight off.

About now you may be thinking to yourself, "So what? I don't have a weight problem." Well, does it matter to you that 61 percent of Americans are overweight or obese?

Despite the fact that premiums would be higher for everyone, coverage of obesity treatments can prevent more costly health care in the future. Nevertheless, if the insurance plan doesn't pan out, there is always at least one failsafe method: diet and exercise.

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

Letters to the editor

Will Cal Poly students be democratic in ASI election?

Editor,

How often have we heard about how much the world has changed since Sept. 11? Since then, the American people flew flags from their radio antennae, bought USA T-shirts and reintroduced words like "oppression," "democracy" and "patriot" to common usage. But have we gained a greater appreciation for democracy and the right to elect our representatives?

Since September, the students of Cal Poly have displayed a new appreciation for democracy. The Cal Poly College Republicans became famous throughout the United States for its pro-American rallies, and a new student organization promised to represent us to the city by electing a student to the city council. But are we really any more politically active than last year? Do we care more?

Well, Cal Poly students have had several opportunities to exercise their right to vote in recent months. We've had a couple of fee referendums and a "real" election for representatives. So did huge numbers of us show our newfound democratic values? Not really. We had pretty much the same low voter turnout as always.

Shortly before the Associated Students Inc. elections a year ago, I decided that unless 50 percent of the student body voted for ASI president, I would assume that the majority of people preferred non-democratic leaders. Therefore, everyone who chose not to vote was in favor of a dictatorship, and who better to fill the role of dictator than me?

In the election, a total of 2,861 students (about 17 percent) took the time to affirm their commitment to a democratic system. So, with 83 percent of the vote in my favor, I declared myself dictator.

Now, a year into my dictatorship, we approach another ASI election. So, the question facing you next month will be: Will you spend a minute or two to vote for democracy and against oppression, for a president and

"So did huge numbers of us show our newfound democratic values? Not really. We had pretty much the same low voter turnout as always."

against the dictator? Will you spend the time that it takes to tie a shoe to be a patriot? Or will you rely on others to make decisions for you and passively surrender yourself to the will of the general?

Alexander C. Vassar is a history junior and the unconstitutional dictator of Cal Poly.

NEW

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

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PCE

continued from page 1

iber in the Philippines for the last two years."

The 76-year-old technology-focused school is located in the Philippine capital of Manila. With approximately 15,000 students, it is the largest engineering school in the country.

Like Cal Poly, the school's architecture and engineering departments are extremely competitive.

MIT's President Rey Veal, who was given a tour of Cal Poly's campus along with his delegation, noted resemblances between the two universities.

"Similar to Cal Poly, Mapua's engineering students are very accomplished, as our civil engineering

department students have had the top scores in the country's licensing exam for the last four years," Veal said.

MIT is also working on a joint research project with the University of South Carolina, and has an exchange program with Waseda University in Tokyo.

Cal Poly is currently trying to expand exchange programs in nine European areas including the Pacific realm, said Barbara Andre, associate director for International Education and Programs.

"Cal Poly is in the process of negotiating the agreement for the exchange program," Andre said. "There are just a few details to be worked out. It is anticipated that students will be able to participate by fall 2002."

There are approximately 400 Philippine-American students on campus, making the demand high for

the program.

"I expect at least 10 students to participate per year because of the large Philippine community," said Dr. Taufik, assistant professor in the electrical engineering department.

Members of PCE have been looking for an opportunity to go abroad and discover their heritage.

"I was thinking about going abroad to London before I heard about a possible exchange program in the Philippines," said Michelle Manzanera, a nutrition science junior. "Going to the Philippines gives us a sense of who we are and teaches us to appreciate what we have in the United States."

For more information, visit PCE's Web site at www.calpoly.edu/~pce-club/.

FORUM

continued from page 1

There are four teams signed up to run for elections, each of which will get four minutes to speak at the forum. The president/vice president teams are Alison Anderson/Wendy Martin, Andrew Hunt/Leigh Love, Meital Manzuri/Gabe Carbajal and Jake Parnell/Kaitlin Ayers.

"All of the teams are committed to running," ASI President Angie Hacker said.

She added that each speech would focus on the fee initiative.

Other issues that will be discussed will be student involvement, new ideas for next year, and some "academic system issues," Hacker said.

"Whoever is president next year will have to make sure administration is keeping students involved in decision making," she said.

Top academic priorities for the next year include helping students get their degrees faster and increasing student advising, Hacker said.

Sierra Madre was chosen as the site for the forum in an effort to get students involved in the election process.

"The residence halls are never involved," Andrade said.

Voter turnout for last year's election reached an all-time low. Holding the forum in the dorms will hopefully bring awareness to the students, Andrade said.

The ASI coordinators of the forum have predicted that there will be anywhere from 50 to 150 people attending.

After each speech is given, there will be time for questions from the audience, and following the speeches, there will be snacks and a chance for the students to talk one-on-one with the candidates.

MIDEAST

continued from page 3

Palestinians at a refugee camp near Bethlehem.

George Gessert has talked with his son and daughter-in-law, both 26, about returning to their home in New York — but only gingerly. In Joe Gessert's voice, his father said, he can hear a sense of pride and a

feeling that he's making a difference by being there.

"They're grownups. They're thinking very clearly about things," he said. "We have to respect that. We don't want to burden them by pressuring them to come home when, in their consciences, they know they can't."

"If he had become a fireman, he'd be constantly putting his life in danger. I wouldn't be calling him up saying, 'Get out of that line of work

because it's too dangerous.'"

Others are having a harder time coming to grips with their family members' insistence on staying in the region.

One Baltimore woman, whose 19-year-old daughter opted for life in Israel instead of college, said she has to "keep a wall up" — which means not reading the news or even talking about her daughter to anyone — in order to keep from falling apart.

HUERTA

continued from page 1

wherever it comes from."

Huerta addressed a plethora of topics from the laborer's perspective.

"The people who work with their hands are the ones that create wealth in this world," Huerta said. "If you were on a desert island, who would you take with you, a lawyer or a farm worker?"

Huerta urged support of unions and union products telling the crowd the organization provides pensions, a living wage and health benefits to the world's workers.

Huerta also addressed racism and gave specific support to Latino students.

"I want to tell the Latino students in the audience, when people tell you to go back to where you came from, say 'we are where we came from,'" Huerta said. "When people say we crossed the border, say 'the border crossed us.'"

The crowd then chanted "the border crossed us" until the chant broke apart, replaced with an eruption of applause.

The evening began with an introduction by Cal Poly alumnus Eric Chavez, grandson of Cesar Chavez. Chavez told the crowd about growing up in a house full of labor leaders and how Huerta has been a remarkable influence on him.

"She was the only woman to step forward in 1962 with my grandfather," he said. "I watched hours of UFW footage of her yelling through bullhorns and standing on cars and I cried watching her talk to a 300-

"Students like yourselves ended the Vietnam War, and it's students like you who can change things."

Dolores Huerta
co-founder of the UFW

pound man convincing him to join the union."

Huerta urged the crowd to continue Cesar Chavez's message of non-violence, adding that Chavez once told an assembled group of UFW workers to find another leader if they chose a violent path.

"He made them swear non-violence," Huerta said. "Cesar considered the throwing of cow pies by demonstrators as violent."

The speech ended and was followed by a question-and-answer period.

"We're at a crossroads," Huerta told Mustang Daily. "The Poly student's future is to get involved and help create a just society on all levels. It's their turn now."

After the speech, many UFW veterans milled about to get an autograph signed. Some brought the UFW flag of a black Aztec eagle against a red backdrop for her signature, while others thrust the evening's program in front of her.

Schlageter stayed to ask questions.

"It was empowering to hear that she has faith in students and our ability to make a difference and trust that we will carry on her work," she said. "She epitomizes taking action when you believe in something."

GILLIS

continued from page 1

being a part of the fraternity, and that he had become very involved in it since his recent initiation.

"He enjoyed being a part of (Sigma Chi)," Soderstrom said. "He was just getting his foot in the door."

Soderstrom described Gillis as a "dear friend," and added that many members of the fraternity had become closely acquainted with Gillis during the short time since his initiation.

"He was one of those guys that everyone didn't have a choice to know," he said.

Gillis was from Poway, a northern suburb of San Diego.

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Softball looks to gain in Big West standings

By Navid Niakan

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

With Cal State Northridge coming to town, the Cal Poly softball team is looking to lock up the broom closet this weekend.

The Mustangs (19-19, 4-8) were swept by the Matadors (21-17, 6-6) in three games last year in Northridge. Currently, Cal Poly is sitting two spots behind Northridge in sixth place in the Big West conference.

With a 9-3 record at home compared to 2-8 on the road, the players are excited to defend their home field.

"We're more confident at home and we get pumped up in front of our home crowd," said senior third baseman Jackie Wayland.

The series

will match up the fifth-place Mustangs with the fourth-place Matadors.

With 13 games remaining before the Northridge series, the Mustangs feel a sense of urgency.

"These games matter the most because the conference is very even and spots are up in the air," said senior second baseman Kasey Poet.

The Mustangs are not 100 percent physically after losing junior Natalie Carrillo, who is out for about two weeks with an injury in her throwing hand, and senior Christie Wells, who is out for the season due to a dislocated elbow.

"We lost two key players this last weekend," Poet said. "Carrillo was a very good hitter for us and Wells was a big vocal leader."

Cal Poly trails Northridge by two games in the conference, and this series will have an impact on the standings.

"We still need to do very well because it's not over," Poet said.

The Mustangs will look to sophomore shortstop Roni Sparrey to continue her hitting success from last weekend. Junior Holly Ballard leads

the team in hitting with a .336 average

and Poet has nine doubles this season, which is third in the Big West Conference.

For the Matadors, sophomores Christen Bedwell and Sandra Milchiker have carried the big bats

this season. Bedwell leads the team in seven offensive categories, batting average (.360), slugging percentage (.505), on-base percentage (.459), hits (40), runs batted in (24), doubles (10) and stolen bases (5).

Milchiker leads the team in total bases (60) and runs scored (24). She is second in hits (39), doubles (9), home runs (4), and runs batted in (22).

A pair of games will be played on Saturday, but that doesn't change the preparation of the Mustangs in comparison to playing only one game.

"We prepare the same," Wayland said. "Each game is as important as the other."

On Wednesday, the Mustangs fell to Fresno State in a doubleheader. Cal Poly lost the first game, 3-0, and lost a heartbreaker, 2-1.

Fresno hurler Jamie Southern shut out the Mustangs in game one, holding Cal Poly to two hits, with catcher Carrie Schubert getting both knocks. Jen Graver took the loss, falling to 7-7 on the season.

Southern came back in the second game in relief, limiting Cal Poly to three hits in the final five innings to seal the victory for the Bulldogs. Roni Sperry had three hits and scored the only run for the Mustangs.

The first game of the doubleheader will start at noon on Saturday with game two scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The game on Sunday is scheduled for noon.

By the numbers

► The Mustang softball team is 19-19 overall, with a 4-8 record in the Big West

► Cal Poly's team batting average is currently .254.

"We prepare the same ... Each game is as important as the other."

Jackie Wayland
Cal Poly third baseman

Tara Blakenbecker,
Cal Poly pitcher

The great Gonzo gum caper is just plain insanity

Ladies and gentlemen, stupidity has entered the building.

ESPN and sports news networks everywhere have reported that the bidding for Arizona Diamondback Luis Gonzalez's half-chewed piece of Bazooka is now at \$3,400. People all

Commentary

across the country have been going ape over Gonzo's gum. Proceeds from the sale will go to charity, which will be the only recipient looking good after this fiasco.

In a latest development, authorities are questioning the authenticity of the gum. Apparently, the donor of the Bazooka has a shady past. One Jason Gabbert, 32 years of age, allegedly attended a Diamondbacks game and asked a security guard to pick up the gum after Gonzo spit it out near the dugout.

Now the security guard in question has stated that it wasn't the right gum after all and belonged to some other player. On top of that, newspapers have revealed that Gabbert, a former sports writer, once tried to open a fake bank account in Fargo using the name of a Red Sox pitcher. Gabbert pleaded guilty and got off with two years pro-

bation. He also pleaded guilty to being in North Dakota at the time.

Gabbert has also been convicted of passing bad checks in Minnesota and for concocting a fraudulent scheme in Arizona. Both crimes landed him in prison, an event that was also helped along by a misdemeanor charge of buying a vehicle under an alias.

Additionally, the "charity" that Gabbert was supposed to donate the gum money to, his high school alma mater, has denied ever talking to him about the issue.

To make a long story short, Gabbert may not be the most upstanding citizen around, and people have begun to doubt the prudence of buying his possibly phony Bazooka. His crooked past has so tainted the transaction that Gonzalez has agreed to chew a new piece of gum in front of witnesses to verify the item. An Arizona radio station will be the caretaker of the thing and conduct a new auction that's Gabbert-free.

Now to the meat and potatoes of the issue: why the hell would you buy a freakin' piece of gum for \$3,400? Excepting the possibility that you have a wad of hummus that Jesus spit at the Romans, nothing that's been in

▼ "The gum will not look sweet on your shelf, or in a glass box on your TV, or on a chain hanging from your rearview mirror."

somebody else's mouth deserves to be sold or bought or ever kept by anyone. This includes mouthpieces, chewing tobacco, spit-towels used by Jerry Tarkanian, a Red Auerbach cigar or Evander Holyfield's ear.

In fact, the whole memorabilia market needs to be drastically changed. If you go to a garage sale, you buy something you need or will use. The New York Yankees' David Wells knows this very maxim. When he bought a baseball hat once worn by Babe Ruth, the first thing he did was wear it in his next start. Wells promptly threw a perfect game. Now that's useful.

Therefore, buyers of gum beware: you will not hit 57 home runs if you chew Gonzo's gum, or even one. You may taste some dirt or pine tar, and possibly feel like an idiot for swapping spit with someone you'll never know.

The gum will not look sweet on your shelf, or in a glass box on top of the TV, or hanging on a chain from your rearview mirror. Friends will not think you're suddenly the flyest guy on the block, and girls will not try to give you a jump outside some seedy bar like the Mustang Tavern.

Everything started with autographs, which seems harmless enough. But people starting selling ballplayers' John Hancocks, and the personal element of asking your hero to sign a baseball turned into a mercenaries' game. It got out of hand.

Athletes and famous people throw things away for a good reason — because it's trash. I've got plenty of trash in my back yard, so come take your pick now and hopefully 20 years from now I'll be some famous scamming sports writer who passes bad checks in Fargo, and you can profit off my celebrity.

Anyways, do what you want, because it helps the economy and it's wartime. Happy chewing, and keep reading.

Chris Arns is an English senior and was recently charged with attempting to impersonate a good writer. E-mail him at carns@calpoly.edu.

mustang

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BASEBALL	vs. csu northridge	fri, apr. 12	3 p.m.	@csun
BASEBALL	vs. csu northridge	sat, apr. 13	1 p.m.	@csun
BASEBALL	vs. csu northridge	sun, apr. 14	1 p.m.	@csun
SOFTBALL	vs. csu northridge	sat, apr. 13	noon	@calpoly
SOFTBALL	vs. csu northridge	sat, apr. 13	2 p.m.	@calpoly
SOFTBALL	vs. csu northridge	sun, apr. 14	noon	@calpoly
WOMEN'S TENNIS	vs. csu northridge	sat, apr. 13	11 a.m.	@calpoly
MEN'S TENNIS	vs. chapman	fri, apr. 12	2 p.m.	@calpoly
MEN'S TENNIS	vs. ucsb	sat, apr. 13	1 p.m.	@calpoly
MEN'S LACROSSE	vs. santa clara	sat, apr. 13	1 p.m.	@calpoly
MEN'S LACROSSE	vs. claremont	sun, apr. 14	1 p.m.	@calpoly
W. WATER POLO	regionals	sat, apr. 13	TBA	@sonoma

BRIEFS

Tennis seniors bid farewell at home meet

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly men's tennis team will bid farewell to its seniors this weekend, as the Mustangs play their final home matches on Friday and Saturday.

Departing players Erin Carroll and Geoff Gehrke will both start against

Chapman University on Friday. Carroll

► The Mustangs are 6-12, with a 2-1 record in Big West play.

► Erin Carroll leads the team with nine singles wins.

His win total leads the Mustangs, both in duals and singles.

Gehrke has not played this season. Carroll is followed by Davy Jones in the singles win column. Jones has seven match wins on the season.

The Mustangs will face off against the Gauchos of UC Santa Barbara on Saturday in a Big West conference showdown. Cal Poly, currently 6-12, 2-1 in conference, split two matches with Santa Barbara. In the first match, during the regular season, the Mustangs downed the Gauchos, 6-1, but then fell in the postseason, 4-1.

Santa Barbara is 9-9 this year and defeated No. 60 Fresno State last week.

Cal Poly will hit the road for the final three matches of the season next week. The team will visit Northern Arizona University on April 16, with another stop at Arizona State on April 17. The Mustangs will wrap up against the University of Arizona on April 18.