

**'Tis the Tasteless Season:**

Mustang Daily explores the scarier side of the holidays, 13

**Survivor:** Getting through the holidays with or without someone, 4

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

High: 73°  
Low: 47°



# Mustang DAILY

Thursday, December 5, 2002  
Volume LXVII, Number 56, 1916-2002

## Homeless for the holidays

By Diana Krutop

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Three months ago, Michael\* returned home from work to find that his wife of 20 years had left with their car and all their money. Neighbors later told him she had taken off with her lover.

"She left my clothes hanging on the dresser," Michael said. "It hurt me so bad that I packed my things, put my thumb into the wind and hitchhiked aimlessly around the country."

Michael is not used to being homeless. He spent the past 30 years of his life working as a truck driver and a stonemason.

This year, Michael will be spending the holiday season alone on the Central Coast.

"I have always spent the holidays with my family, including kids and grandkids," he said. "Now I find myself alone. This is the worst thing that could happen to me. I dread the holidays. I've got no one, and I'm not used to that."

And this is just one person's story.

According to the Economic Opportunity Commission's Web site, 2,500 to 4,000 people in San Luis Obispo County are homeless. Nearly all of these individuals will remain homeless well into the holiday season.

"People categorize and stereotype homeless people," Michael said. "They don't realize that sometimes it isn't because of drugs, alcohol or a mistake they made. Sometimes it's just because the rug was ripped out from beneath them."

Michael is currently looking for a job and said he is determined to start his life over again.

"I have two sons in Alabama," he said. "I don't want them to see me like this. I want to begin again, get back on my feet and have something to show them."

He stresses the importance of appreciating the necessities in life — food, shelter and companionship.

"I have found that the basics are the most important and everything else is just icing on the cake," Michael

*"I miss a place to lay my head and a good meal."*

**Michael**  
homeless man

said. "I had all those luxuries, but all those things I don't miss. I miss companionship with my wife and friends. I miss a place to lay my head and a good meal. All the material things really mean nothing when you've lost it all."

John\* and his 13-year-old son Steven are also homeless. John injured his back on the job, can no longer work and had to split up his family after becoming homeless.

He is waiting to have surgery and hoping that the EOC can help him find housing. This year, the two hope the holidays will bring a roof over their heads.

"I just want a good Christmas for my kids," John said. "I want to keep them together."

This is the first time Gerald\* has been homeless and it has been a learning experience for him.

He said he believes that it is a national tragedy when a person is put out on the street because there are not enough beds in the shelter or at the overflow.

"We are all grateful to be (at the homeless shelter)," Gerald said. "But we live under the constant threat of being houseless. It's a hard reality."

Homeless or not, the holiday season affects everyone. "A person would have to be soul dead or brain dead not to experience it," Gerald said.

At the shelter, individuals can fill out a wish list consisting of three items, he explained.

"A vast majority of people here put things like world peace," he said. "We all have hopes and aspirations."

If you are interested in learning how you can volunteer at the shelter, contact the EOC at 781-3993.

\*Only first names are used in the article.

## Lighting up in SLO



ANDRE NIESING/MUSTANG DAILY

The Christmas tree in Mission Plaza was lit up Wednesday during downtown's Holiday Open House. There will be a the annual Holiday Parade downtown at 7 p.m Friday.

## Children's center helps kids, parents

Editor's Note: A Mustang Daily reporter recently spent time interacting with the children at the Orfalea Family and Associated Students Inc. Children's Center.

By Abbey Kingdon

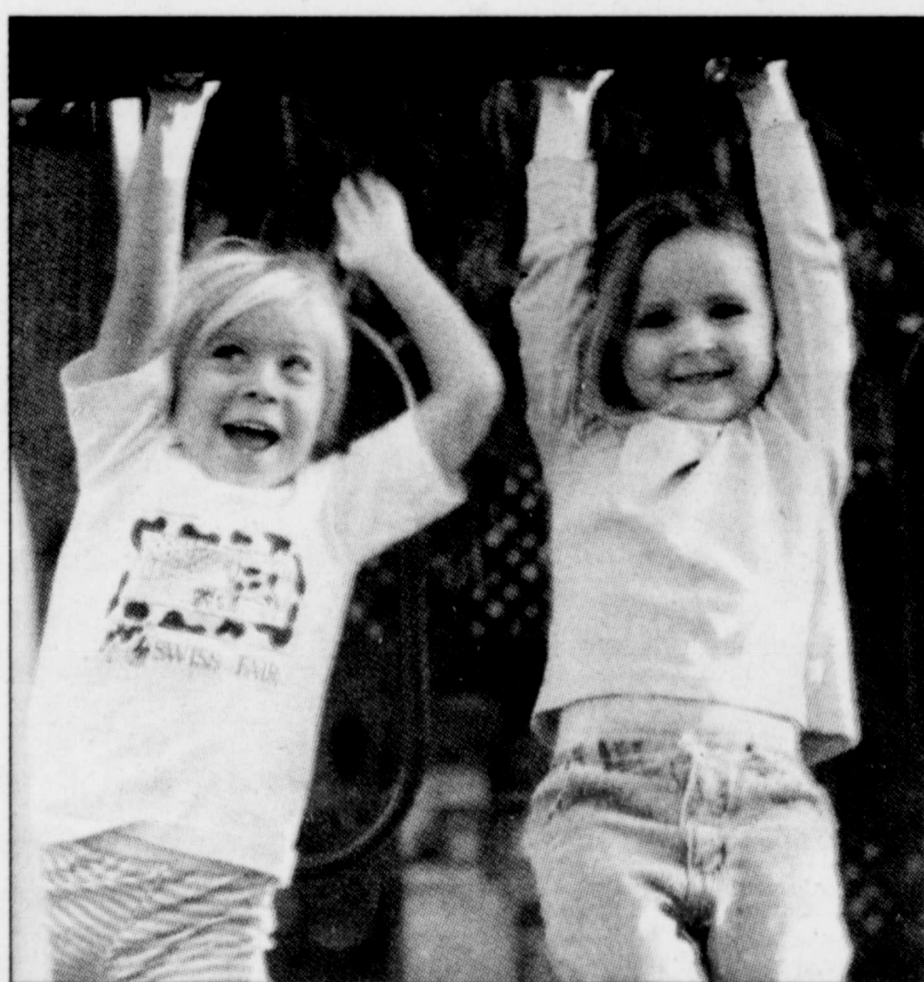
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Alizabeth, one of the more articulate 2-year-olds in the room, invited me to sit at her table for lunch. I entered the mini-world of tables, chairs and kitchen sinks that reached, at most, my knees.

Upon sitting down, Alizabeth and a friend sparked immediate interest in my notebook and took turns skimming through the pages, adding their own scribbles to my collection of notes. Then the lights dimmed and classical music began to play. Without being asked by one of the adults in the room, Alizabeth and her friend cleared their lunch plates. They strolled over to their mats for naptime, where fellow 2-year-olds were curling up for the afternoon.

The Orfalea Family and Associated Students Inc. Children's Center provides childcare for Cal Poly students, faculty and staff. While their parents are busy with academics, the children are learning social skills, even as infants.

"We want the children here to walk away with skills for appropriate social interaction and self-confi-



BRIAN KENT/MUSTANG DAILY

Anya (right) and Billie, two children who attend the children's center, play on the monkey bars at the facility's playground.

dence," said Lori Curry, a head teacher at the Children's Center.

"We want them to learn to know themselves and express themselves," she added.

Curry is head teacher of the transition (2-year-old) room; she works with an assistant and two student

employees, creating a 4-to-1 ratio of adults to children. The ratios vary from 3-to-1 in the infant room to 8-to-1 ratio in the pre-kindergarten room.

"We are known for having good

see CENTER, page 2

## Read it and weep

## ITS taking e-mail precautions

By Laura Dietz

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The e-mail says it is from a professor at Cal Poly. Why would he send such a big file? He uses terrible grammar for a professor, too. Read it or delete it?

Employees at Cal Poly Information Technology Services say deleting any unusual e-mail is a safe solution. However, more steps can and are being taken to protect the school, the students and their computers from the many viruses that are circulating the Internet, they said.

George Westlund, information technology consultant for Cal Poly, said there are more than 100,000 computer viruses and the number increases exponentially.

Doug Scheel, PC and Local Access Network coordinator for ITS, said there is no current way to counting the viruses that may be circulating among computers at Cal Poly, but they do affect the campus computer network.

"Every time there is a virus around the world and there are alerts on television, we get it at Cal Poly," Scheel said.

Agribusiness senior Erin Smith experienced e-mail viruses first-hand during the summer.

"I kept getting these e-mails from Cal Poly (e-mail) addresses and I had no idea who they were," she said. "They had attachments and I thought 'This is messed up,' so I deleted them."

Most viruses are spread through e-mail,

although some come from Web sites and some from file sharing that occurs, like when a student shares information saved on a floppy disk with another student, Scheel said.

Nationally, on average 70 to 80 percent of viruses computers get are from e-mails, he said.

Liberal studies junior Amy Hutchcraft said she screens her e-mail because she receives about 30 random messages at her Cal Poly account each day and is aware of the effect a virus could have on her computer.

"A virus would be so debilitating to a computer, so I do not open them if I do not know who they are from," she said. "It is not worth my time."

Westlund said some signs that an e-mail may be a virus are that the e-mail is from an unknown person, the grammar in the subject line is terrible or there is an attachment, commonly about 40 kilobytes or larger.

Scheel said a computer is most likely infected if it begins acting abnormally.

"If it is really slow, if files are disappearing like (Microsoft) Word documents, (students) need to find out why," he said.

ITS began a three-pronged approach last summer to combat the spread of viruses. The first step involved setting up a firewall, which protects on-campus computers from hackers off campus, Scheel said.

see VIRUSES, page 2



## Weather Watch

### 5-Day Forecast

**FRIDAY**  
High: 66° / Low: 50°



**SATURDAY**  
High: 68° / Low: 44°



**SUNDAY**  
High: 69° / Low: 49°



**MONDAY**  
High: 68° / Low: 41°



**TUESDAY**  
High: 68° / Low: 41°



### Today's Sun

Rises: 6:57 a.m. / Sets: 4:50 p.m.

### Today's Moon

Rises: 8:33 a.m. / Sets: 6:16 p.m.

### Today's Tides

Low: 3:38 a.m. / 1.9 feet  
High: 9:56 a.m. / 6.5 feet  
Low: 5:15 p.m. / -1.3 feet  
High: 11:55 p.m. / 3.7 feet

### Clarification:

In Wednesday's article "Annual ballet brings holiday spirit," it was reported that there is a free performance on Dec. 14. The performance is only for needy families through the EOC shelter and is already full.

## VIRUSES

continued from page 1

ITS has also installed Symantec's Norton Anti-Virus software on all personal computers on campus that work with the Internet server, he added.

"If it finds a virus, it removes it from the computer and sends it to the server," Scheel said. "If it is a new virus that has not been seen before, it is removed from the server, evaluated and information is sent back to the server."

The third part of the approach will be implemented happening this month, he said. An e-mail anti-virus scanner is being added that will scan incoming and outgoing e-mails.

If an e-mail contains a virus, the sender and the recipient will be notified. Either the virus will be removed from the message or, if that is not possi-

ble, the entire message will be deleted. The message's recipient will be notified that a message from the specific person had to be deleted and to contact the sender for details.

Westlund said that deleting messages is not the only thing e-mail users can do to cut down viruses.

"By deleting e-mails, you are keeping yourself safe but not necessarily helping people that have infected computers," he said. "Everybody can delete the virus and it will keep circulating. Deleting it before opening the message does not necessarily mean the computer is not already infected."

By looking at the arpa headers, which track the computers the message is sent among without opening the message, it may be possible to determine where the virus came from, Westlund said. Then, the recipient of the offending e-mail can complain to the Internet Service Provider (ISP), such as Yahoo,

EarthLink or Charter Communications, he added. Each provider has a different format for complaints, he said, which complicates things for users who are not computer savvy. Most service providers then notify the sender that his or her computer has a virus and take it offline for a period of time, he said.

There are several ways for students to protect their computers, Westlund said. These include installing anti-virus software and keeping programs up to date.

Westlund added that running an old or outdated anti-virus program does not

protect against newer viruses, which are typically the worst to deal with. Some of the newer viruses have the capability to turn off the anti-virus program, infect files and turn it on, without the user ever knowing.

Scheel said that this year Cal Poly purchased a site license from Symantec that makes anti-virus software free to all students. Students can access the software in several ways. One way is to request it from the computer lab on the first floor of the Robert E. Kennedy Library. They can also download the software from [software.calpoly.edu](http://software.calpoly.edu).

## CENTER

continued from page 1

ratios," said Lisa Claudeanos, graphic communications senior and student employee at the center. "This is one of the reasons we have a big waiting list."

About 100 families are on the waiting list, said Gail Kennedy, administrative assistant of the Children's Center.

Nearly 120 children are enrolled in the center, and of these about 60 percent are student-parents, Curry said.

"The center helps out a lot," said Amy Malone, a horticulture senior and parent. "I wouldn't know what to do without it."

Malone's 2-year-old daughter, Tamsen, has been coming to the center since she was 8 months old.

"Watching the children grow and develop is the best thing about working here," Claudeanos said. "I first worked with a group of 2-year-olds, and now they are 5-year-olds. They have gone from babies to having their own personalities and interests."

Children at the center range in ages from four months to five years. After 5 years old they go to regular school, Claudeanos said. There is no limit to how long employees can work at the center, and many have found it hard to leave.

Claudeanos has worked at the center for four years, and Curry has been in charge of toddlers for more than 10 years.

Each teacher has a curriculum based on the age and development of the children in that group, Claudeanos said. The babies and toddlers play with mirrors and toys with colors and shapes. The pre-kindergarten class learns about letters, numbers and science, such as studying insects, Claudeanos said.

"Each classroom develops its own goals depending on each child," Curry said. "The rooms are divided by age, but the ages vary in each room as we look at the children developmentally."

When Malone drops Tamsen off at the center, she said she does not worry about her daughter's safety, which is a big relief.

"Tamsen loves going to the center," Malone said. "She loves the staff and children in her room."

Alizabeth scampers away from the napping mats to greet a friend walking in the door with his father. Her little friend smiles confidently and waves to Alizabeth as he turns away from his father's hand.

The two toddlers chatter away before settling down for a nap. They excitedly share stories, which makes them look like miniature college students indulging in social life.

## Announcing A New CLA Publication

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## National Briefs

**Bush blames al-Qaida for Kenya attack, condemns terrorism everywhere**

WASHINGTON — Voicing fresh terrorism fears that stretch from Africa to the Middle East, President Bush said Wednesday he believes the al-Qaida network was behind last week's attacks in Kenya and that terrorists have disrupted the Israel-Palestinian peace process.

Bush, fielding reporters' questions at a White House bill-signing ceremony, declined to criticize the Israeli government, whose troops fired Tuesday on a taxi at a West Bank checkpoint, killing a 95-year-old Palestinian great-grandmother.

"I am concerned that terrorists have disrupted the ability for peace-loving people to move the (peace) process forward," Bush said. "... And so I fully understand the Israeli government's attempts to stamp out terror, because we'll never have peace as long as terrorists are able to disrupt."

He did not directly reply when a journalist asked if he believes the terrorists at work in the West Bank are part of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. Bush did finger bin Laden operatives for last week's coordinated attacks on Israelis in Kenya — a hotel bombing and the firing of missiles at an Israeli charter flight.

**Federal court weighs constitutional arguments over new campaign finance law**

WASHINGTON — Opponents of the nation's campaign finance law told

a federal court Wednesday that new limits on donations and election activity violate the Constitution's guarantee of free speech and would have a devastating effect on the national political parties.

Bobby Burchfield, a lawyer for the Republican National Committee, told a three-judge federal panel that his party would have to lay off 40 percent of its staff by the end of the year because of the new restrictions.

He said his party would no longer be able to coordinate election activities with state and local parties.

Burchfield told the judges the new law won't reduce special interest influence in elections as its supporters claim because interest groups will still be allowed to engage in the same election activities they always have — such as ads and get-out-the-vote drives — even if the political parties can't.

**Patient left on operating table sues surgeon**

BOSTON — A patient who was left on the operating table with an open incision in his back while his doctor went to the bank sued the surgeon Wednesday for malpractice.

Charles Algeri, 45, claims in the lawsuit that a nerve in his right leg was injured because Dr. David Arndt left for 35 minutes in the middle of a back operation. His lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

Arndt's attorney, Claudia Hunter, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Mount Auburn Hospital suspended Arndt's privileges in July after he left during the surgery so he could deposit a

check. The state Board of Registration in Medicine later suspended Arndt's medical license, saying he created an immediate threat.

Another surgeon who had walked into the operating area to deliver Arndt's paycheck told the board Arndt asked him to stay for a few minutes while he took a break. The other surgeon, who was not credentialed to perform the surgery and had not scrubbed in, said he thought Arndt was only stepping out to the restroom.

A state Public Health Department report on the hospital's response rejected Algeri's contention that his back operation was botched because Arndt had walked out. A review of his condition did not suggest a link between the incident and his complaints of pain and other problems, the report said.

## International Briefs

**Powell supports crackdown on lawlessness, opposes human rights abuses**

BOGOTA, Colombia — Secretary of State Colin Powell is showing solidarity with President Alvaro Uribe's efforts to crack down on the country's rampant lawlessness but also is signaling a no tolerance policy for human rights abuses by Colombia's security forces.

Powell, who was meeting with Uribe Wednesday morning, told reporters he is looking for ways to provide additional help to Colombia as it confronts "narcotraffickers and narcoterrorists."

He noted that the administration plans an increase in assistance to \$500 million from \$300 million. The funds

will be earmarked for training and equipment and also for nonmilitary sectors, including social and economic investment.

Uribe has been in office for a little more than 100 days. He hopes that a tougher line against two leftist insurgencies will open the way to serious peace negotiations. A right-wing paramilitary group announced a unilateral cease fire in recent days. All three groups finance their operations with drug trafficking revenues and all are on the State Department list of foreign terrorist organizations.

**Up to 30 Kurdish fighters killed or wounded in battle with Islamic militia**

SHASHIK, Iraq — Kurdish militiamen battled Islamic militants believed to be linked to al-Qaida in northern Iraq early Wednesday, and as many as 30 militiamen were killed or wounded, Kurdish military officials said.

Militants from the Ansar al-Islam seized two hilltop positions of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan near the city of Halabja, said Sheik Jaffar Mustafa of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Kurdish militia that is the de facto authority in the area.

Mustafa said he believed his force had suffered as many as 30 casualties, but he could not give an exact figure since some of his forces were on leave and his side had been unable to retrieve bodies from the battlefield.

He also said he did not know how many among the casualties were dead, nor how many Islamic militants had been killed or wounded. Some of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan fighters

died while sleeping since the Ansar al-Islami launched its attack before daybreak.

**U.N. food aid chief warns of unprecedented Africa hunger crisis**

UNITED NATIONS — Africa faces an unprecedented hunger crisis with 38 million people threatened by starvation, the head of the U.N.'s food relief agency warned the Security Council on Tuesday.

James T. Morris, executive director of the World Food Program, said the only obstacle to ending hunger tomorrow is "lack of political will."

But instead of making the political decisions and earmarking the money to eliminate hunger, "U.N. member states have unwittingly adopted policies that make the idea of ending hunger little more than fantasy," Morris said.

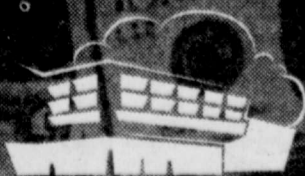
In southern Africa, where more than 14 million people in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique need food, donors have pledged only 56 percent of the \$511 million needed, he said.

In the Horn of Africa, 6 million Ethiopians and more than 2 million Eritreans need food due to drought, the legacy of political disputes and violence, Morris said. Violence and hunger also "go hand in hand now in West Africa," especially Liberia and Ivory Coast.

Briefs compiled from The Associated Press wire service by Mustang Daily news editor Andra Coberly.

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# Holiday survival guide for couples and singletons

Dear Santa,  
This year I've been a really good girl. I only ditched 50 classes instead of the usual 60, went to the gym every day (unless I was hung-over) and never dated more than four guys at one time. In light of my angelic behavior, I have a teensy-tiny wish list: First, I want two backstage passes to the Justin Timberlake concert, a hotel suite and handcuffs. Also, J. Lo's 25-carat pink diamond, and if you could give her some sort of disfigurement, that would be nice, too. And if you think I've been naughty, you can leave a stocking full of the cheap, ghetto condoms that break all the time. I'll have the Godiva chocolates waiting by the fireplace for you, like always.

Love, little Shallon Lester.

Ah, those were the days...when the holidays meant nothing more than greed, selfishness and gluttony. But times have changed; while I used to shovel in gingerbread like oxygen, fitting into my Diesel jeans keeps those frosted little bastards at bay. I also try to work as much as possible so I don't find myself skulking around Irvine, pestering my Cocker Spaniel to stave off boredom and insanity. But by far, the biggest holiday challenge is getting a relationship through those awkward family-laden, gift-giving months.



## Sex and San Luis

People usually question their lives around the holidays: What am I thankful for? What are my resolutions for next year? What exactly is eggnog? But if you're not single, other issues pop up: What gifts are appropriate? What if their family hates me? Can I resist the kissing-orgy of New Year's Eve?

Presents are the trickiest of all. In new relationships, you're afraid of getting something too expensive and looking overly interested, or vice versa. But there are no clear-cut rules as to what to get because each couple is different. I'd say that the gift should be proportionate to the level of confirmed commitment. If you're just kinda sorta dating but haven't had "The Talk," then give them a card and bake cookies.

If you're an established boyfriend or girlfriend at the two-to-four month mark, step it up; get them something that will remind them of you, like cologne, a subscription to Maxim or goldfish. Just be careful; the present may outlast the relationship. Or, to do something interactive, go horseback riding or to a concert. You'll bond and look creative. After five months, you know your sweetheart pretty well and it shouldn't be too hard. For help, just go to Tiffanys.com.

Single people need gifts too. That's why I've started the "Just Because I'm Single Doesn't Mean I Look Like A Goblin" Outreach Program. Help us by donating things for needy sexy people, like gift certificates to Fanny Wrappers or Condom Revolution. This year, we really are in desperate need for MAC makeup and push-up bras; it'd break your heart to see all the single girls out there with no cleavage. And as an added bonus, anyone who donates a Venus Butterfly vibrator will receive a free football phone. It's about caring, OK people?

With gifts out of the way, family is the next hurdle. Every family has their own little quirks, so don't let them embarrass you. Mine, for example, smuggles cocaine from Colombia using Barbie dolls and will feed you cheesecake until you beg for death. Oh, ha ha, I'm just kidding...we never eat dairy.

Boys, be careful how treat your family around your girlfriend, especially your mother. Maybe it's because I'm Italian and mistrustful, but if a man doesn't get along with his mama he's not much of a man, capisce? Ladies, remember that his family doesn't want to hear about your hilarious adventures downtown, the last guy you dated or the fact that you're a sex columnist.

If you're single, dealing with your own family can be more disturbing than a Carrot Top Christmas album. Just don't find solace in the See's candy or you'll end up alone Dec. 31.

New Year's Eve is perhaps the greatest holiday in the world; it's the only day you can kiss as many people as you want. Singletons of the world rejoice! You are free and unimpeded to prowl all night without worry of a significant other waiting for your midnight call. If coupled, this is a stressful holiday to celebrate apart. But go easy on your partner if the champagne gets to them and a ball-drop kiss occurs with another.

Christmas vacation is perfect because it gives us relationship breathers. Being with family and old friends reminds us who we really are and what we really need. So get some turkey, get some pie and get some perspective on your life. There is plenty of time for togetherness once school starts in January, when you can crawl into bed with your honey and whisper your resolutions into his or her ear.

PS - Big ups to the Monday night belly-dancing class - the recital rocked! I don't think the world is ready for our jelly. Keep on being bootylicious!

Shallon Lester is a speech communication senior and Mustang Daily columnist. E-mail her your relationship battle stories at shallonlester@hotmail.com.



## Letters to the editor

### Freedom of speech must be respected

Editor,

I've been reading the letters about the sheep display over the past few days and I have to ask: Is this really the most important thing we have to worry about?

Students seem to have this knack for getting upset about some relatively little issues. As far as whether or not it should have been put up in the first place? Doesn't matter. The decision was made. Let's move on. It is always important to try to not offend people, but the fact of the matter is that sometimes it happens. It is a part of life, especially in a nation with the right to freedom of speech. That right isn't to protect those who say what we want to hear, it's to protect those who say what we don't want to hear. I know, some readers will say that the display wasn't "speech," but you get my point.

Basically, I think students need to stop for a moment and think when they see something that bothers them. Is it really worth using all that energy? Most of the time the answer is no. Sometimes it's important to voice your opinion. It is just as important, however, to learn to let it slide. If you want to get annoyed, do so about something you

can change. Getting annoyed about something you can't is just a waste of time and emotion. Accept the things you can't change and then change the things you can. It's a simple philosophy, but it works.

Diane Ward is a graphic communication senior.

### Letter policy

Letters to the editor do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing.

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#### By fax:

(805) 756-6784

#### By e-mail: [mustangdaily@hotmail.com](mailto:mustangdaily@hotmail.com)

Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

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Your letter will not be printed unless you submit it in the correct format.

# Mustang DAILY

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# The Ultimate College Christmas Shopping Guide

*From the expert shopper to the stumped student, the Mustang Daily will aid your Christmas gift ventures*

What many fail to understand is that Christmas shopping is incredibly simple.

An hour of planning can prevent hours of window shopping or years of disappointment from family members by an incorrect gift.

With the quarter ending and the Christmas requests piling, you need all the help you can get with placing those nice little packaged presents under the tree.

We've provided you with a few tips that enable a smooth holiday season by making your life easier during the gift giving time of year.

## Make a budget

This will prevent you from maxing out your credit card, or spending more than you intended.

## Make a list

Before you hit the town, make a list of some ideas that you have for gifts you wish to give people.

Endless and fruitless hours can be spent gazing at gifts you would never even consider getting, but you look at them anyway.

It will also help prevent you from getting off track by being pulled to the items that you like, instead of the items that the intended receiver would appreciate.

Keep track of what you get people and what they got you.

Reserve a notebook where you can keep track of each gift you gave and then what you got in return.

It will help you write your thank you cards as well.

## Write thank you cards

People like to know you appreciate their thoughtfulness.

*"The best of gift giving has been implemented through being thoughtful and unique. Some of the most creative ideas have come from spontaneous inspiration."*

ciated their thoughtfulness.

## Get it done early

For a number of reasons, getting your shopping done before you go home will enable you to have a stress free vacation.

The more prepared you are for Christmas, the greater excitement people have for receiving your present.

## Don't spend a fortune

Make a collage, burn a CD, make a necklace, write a letter or take a friend out to lunch.

The best of gift giving has been implemented through being

thoughtful and unique.

Some of the most creative gift ideas have come from spontaneous inspiration, thoughtful remembrances and not from a designer store.

## Don't overspend on details

Look for Christmas cards that are on sale, and then write a personalized letter and slip it inside. Use newspaper instead of tissue paper for wrapping breakables (but don't use newspaper for wrapping up clothes!).

Take apart paper bags and tie them with string, reflecting the old-fashioned Christmas wrapping. Simplicity is elegant.

Despite the oblivion of many busy students, the stores in San Luis Obispo can be great. There are many interesting stores that offer unique inventory that the normal retail chain will never carry.

Below are a few noted stores in San Luis Obispo that are student friendly.

Included on the next page is some gift ideas for those on your list.

If you are completely stumped as to what to get our loved ones, simply take a peak and it might provide you with some inspiration. Good luck!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday, December 13- Last day of finals

Tuesday, December 24- Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25- Christmas

Tuesday, December 31- New Year's Eve

Monday, January 6- First day of school for Winter 2003 quarter

## Top 10 Entertainment Gifts

### Movies

1. Fight Club
2. The Royal Tenenbaums
3. The Godfather Collection
4. Lord of the Rings
5. Minority Report
6. There's Something About Mary
7. Snatch
8. Ocean's 11
9. Office Space
10. Legally Blonde

### Music Albums

1. The Best of U2—1999—2001
2. Norah Jones— Away from here
3. Coldplay— A Rush of Blood to the Head
4. Eminem— The Eminem Show
5. Jack Johnson— Brushfire Fairytales
6. 8 Mile Soundtrack
7. Phantom Planet— The Guest
8. Christina Aguilera— Stripped
9. Indie.Arie— Voyage to

## The College Gift Guide to San Luis Obispo

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**CAL POLY**

**San Luis Obispo**

**Hearst Castle  
San Simeon**

**Moro Bay**

### KEY

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Law's Hobby Center             | 15 La Cuesta Inn        |
| 2 Okhee's Cafe                   | 16 The Movie Experience |
| 3 Hearst Castle                  | 17 TRAVELTIME           |
| 4 Dizzi's                        | 18 Central Coast Laser  |
| 5 A Better Bike Shop             | 19 Yost Management      |
| 6 Hemp Shack                     | 20 Foothill Cyclery     |
| 7 uptown Jeans                   | 21 Taj Palace           |
| 8 No Dice Network                | 22 Domino's             |
| 9 Sea Barn                       | 23 Hudson's Grill       |
| 10 PAC                           |                         |
| 11 El Corral Bookstore           |                         |
| 12 Fast Frame                    |                         |
| 13 Psychic Palm and Card Reading |                         |
| 14 Central Coast Tattoos         |                         |

• Avila

Hwy 1

Foothill Blvd

Chorro St.

California Blvd.

Santa Rosa St.

Monterey St.

Higuera St.

Marsh St.

Broad St.

101



*parents***What to get them:**

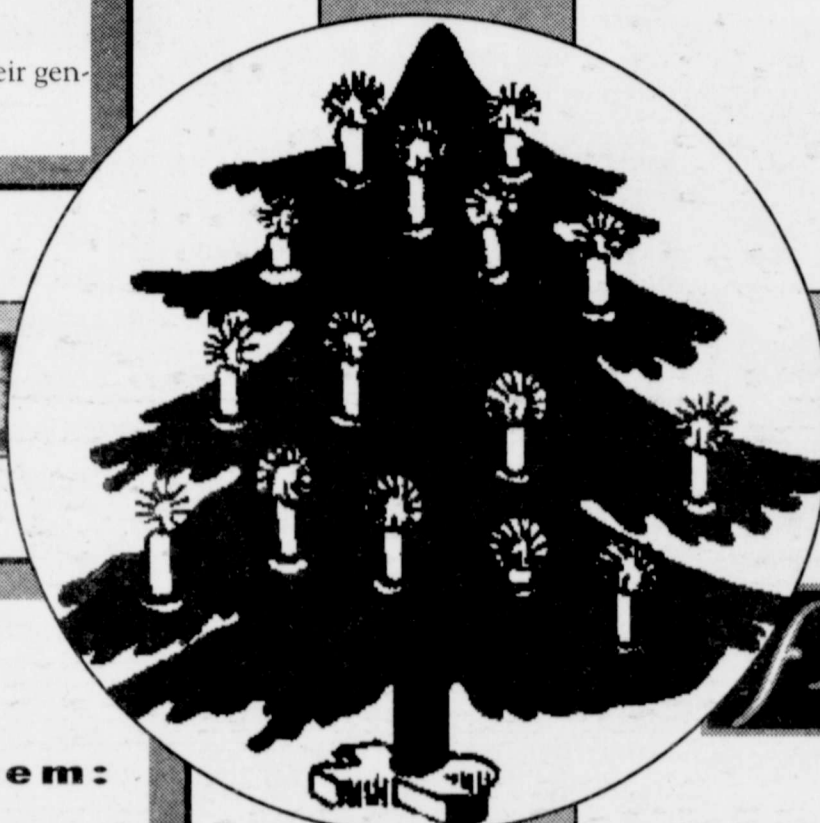
- A Cal Poly mom and/or dad sweatshirt
- Send them on a date to their favorite band concert
- Cal Poly chocolates
- A magazine subscription— Purchase the current magazine and wrap it
- A family portrait— take a picture with the siblings and then frame it
- Cal Poly Craft Center— Make a vase, or paint a pot for less than \$20
- Send them to a rendez-vous for the weekend at a hotel or resort on the coast
- Local San Luis Obispo wine and food
- Fancy cooking supplies
- The Beatles Anthology or music of their generation

*sister***What to get them:**

- A bath set— girls love bathing, so get her something that smells delicious
- Jewelry— silver and turquoise are in style
- Gift certificate to get a manicure or pedicure
- Make her a pseudo gift certificate and write, "good for one pair of shoes."
- Check out Uptown Jeans, Dizzi's and Sea Barn for discounted designer clothing
- Sibling snapshots— get a frame that holds two pictures and place one recent and one childhood photo
- Magazine subscription — (ideas)— Cosmopolitan, Shape, Vogue, InStyle
- Check out the tour dates for her favorite band and then take her to the concert.

## BRIGHT

## IDEAS

*brother***What to get them:**

- A gift certificate to Domino's
- The Sports Illustrated Swimsuit calendar, accompanied by the Tomb Raider poster
- A tattoo
- DVD's and CD's
- Magazine Subscription— (Ideas) Maxim, GQ, Rollingstone, Sports Illustrated, Playboy
- A lift ticket to a ski resort
- A George Foreman grill
- A BBQ set, accompanied by a cookbook
- Check out the tour dates for his favorite band and then take him to the concert
- A surfboard or snowboard (ask the 'rents to subsidize the cost)
- A keg

*friends***What to get them:**

- A train ticket to come visit you
- Books
- Candles
- DVD's and CD's
- Homemade cookies/candies
- A gift certificate to a movie theatre
- Posters
- A house plant— bamboo plants are easy to take care of and won't die easily
- A case of beer, or a bottle of wine
- Take them kayaking for a day
- Make them a burned CD of all your favorite and memorable songs that you share together.
- A self—made gift certificate that says, "good for one lunch at (their favorite restaurant)"

*roommate***What to get them:**

- A large supply of toilet paper
- Send them pizza during finals week
- The CD or DVD they keep borrowing from you
- A house plant
- A goldfish
- A case of beer, or a bottle of wine
- A basket full of condiments
- A case of Top Ramen
- Clean their room for them
- A grocery store gift certificate
- Movie theatre tickets
- A Cal Poly sweatshirt
- Go on a surfing/camping adventure
- A coffee cup with a pound of coffee

*significant other***What to get them:**

- Buy a plant that flowers— (Guys, so she'll stop expecting you to be her flowers. Girls, so he can pick you flowers once they grow)
- Split the cost and go to a theme park for the day
- Cologne or Perfume
- A week—long trip to Mexico
- Make a romantic dinner together
- Lingerie or boxers
- Girls— buy your boy a round of golf (or something that relates to his favorite sport) and tell him to go have fun with his friends
- Guys— send your girl to a day spa and then take her shopping
- Go to a symphony or theatre production in the city
- A puppy, or something furry and cute



For someone who has everything: What about a \$80 million sub?

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Can't think of the perfect stocking stuffer for those well-heeled friends on your Christmas list this year?

What about a customized jet for \$70 million? Or a Formula One supercar? Or a \$80 million submarine?

Those are some of the suggestions from the Robb Report and the duPont Registry, two publications who cater to folks not too concerned about economic downturns.

"I think a lot of our readers haven't really been impacted by the economy slowdown. They are recession resis-

tant," said Brett Anderson, senior vice president and editorial director for the Robb Report.

The submarine is one suggestion from the Robb Report, which comes up each Christmastime with a list of 21 perfect gifts for its money—is—no—object readers.

The duPont Registry's holiday gift catalogue also features highbrow stocking stuffers: A \$450,000 Bentley Estate Station Wagon is described as "the ultimate family vehicle for the truly refined lifestyle." A pair of McLaren Formula One supercars go for about \$1.5 million apiece.

There's also a 1968 Mercedes-Benz 600 Presidential Landauet, originally built for Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, for \$295,000. And its only got 30,000 miles on the odometer.

The well—to—do also are hanging out at home a lot more.

"There's a lot of spending on home — entertainment theaters, wine cellars, commercial—grade kitchens," Anderson said. "They are creating their own theater and restaurant in the home. It's cocooning."

Tom duPont, chairman of St. Petersburg, Fla.—based duPont

Publishing, said the duPont Registry items are designed to impress. But they also reflect America's trend with staying home.

"Along with the nesting there is nesting going on in the garage," duPont said Wednesday. "People with resources are buying classic and luxu-

ry cars — the everyday car, the week-end car and the commuter car."

The duPont Registry and Robb Report publications definitely aren't for the Chia Pet crowd. The average annual income of a Robb Report

see GIFTS page 8



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## Gifts

Continue from Page 7

reader is \$800,000, with an average net worth of \$4.9 million.

Robb Report offers a 144-carat diamond necklace at \$10 million, a customized private jet for \$70 million, the new \$350,000 Daimler-Chrysler Maybach 62 sedan, a \$1.6 million Formula One Ferrari race car, a residence in London's fabled Regent's Park for \$29.9 million and a \$1.25 million 24-day America's Cup vacation.

Too expensive? How about an original copy of Ian Fleming's "You Only Live Twice," signed by the author, for \$75,000?

Anderson said there's been a subtle attitude in the buying habits of the rich because of the dot-com bust

and stock market slide. Conspicuous consumption is seen as tasteless by some.

"People are more interested in discreet luxury," Anderson said. "Back in the heyday of the dot-com boom executives were buying \$200,000 and \$300,000 Ferraris and there was a lot of show there."

"What has changed is Robb readers are going back to basics — spending on the home, classic cars and historic artifacts and antiques. They want things that have cultural resonance, things that aren't purchased necessarily an outward symbol of success."

"People are more self conscious about displaying wealth."

On The Net:

## Tower Records enters holidays struggling to save itself

WEST SACRAMENTO (AP) — Tower Records, the storied 1960s music chain that launched the music megastore and became a cultural retailing icon, strolls into its 43rd holiday shopping season this weekend struggling with debt and on the ropes.

The West Sacramento, Calif.-based Tower hopes four weeks of strong sales will reverse a new image as the tottering giant inside a stumbling music industry. Among the chain's troubles: deep-discounting rivals, changing consumer habits, lack of hits and its own missteps in the 1990s as the music business began a dramatic shift.

Tower exemplifies the even deeper woes in a recording industry beset by piracy, computer CD "burners" and fans who download from the Internet rather than buy from stores.

As 2002's countdown to Christmas begins, the family-held chain of 113 stores in 21 states — known for steep prices, deep selection and superstore band appearances — is in the hands of a corporate restructurer.

The company that grew up on rock 'n' roll and matured into a hip center of world music recently cut 90 jobs and sold 51 profitable stores in Japan. More closings are imminent. Tower has also overhauled management, begun experimenting with new non-music merchandise — and has reported its first sales gain over last year: up 2 percent the first two weeks of November.

As part of its restructuring, the company has even begun reviewing its CD prices, which often prompt mainstream record buyers to scoff and buy elsewhere.

"Where Tower prices, where they've historically priced, to be perfectly honest, is not competitive," argues one New York investment analyst, Colin McGranahan of Sanford Bernstein.

Tower's typical CD can cost up to \$18.99, compared with \$13.99 or \$14.99 at Best Buy, Wal-Mart and Amazon.com.

see Tower, page 11

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Mon. and Tues., Dec. 30—31: 7 a.m. to 5p.m.

Wed., Jan. 1: CLOSED

Thur. & Fri., Jan. 2—3: 7 a.m.

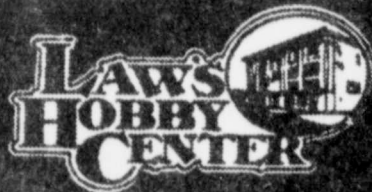
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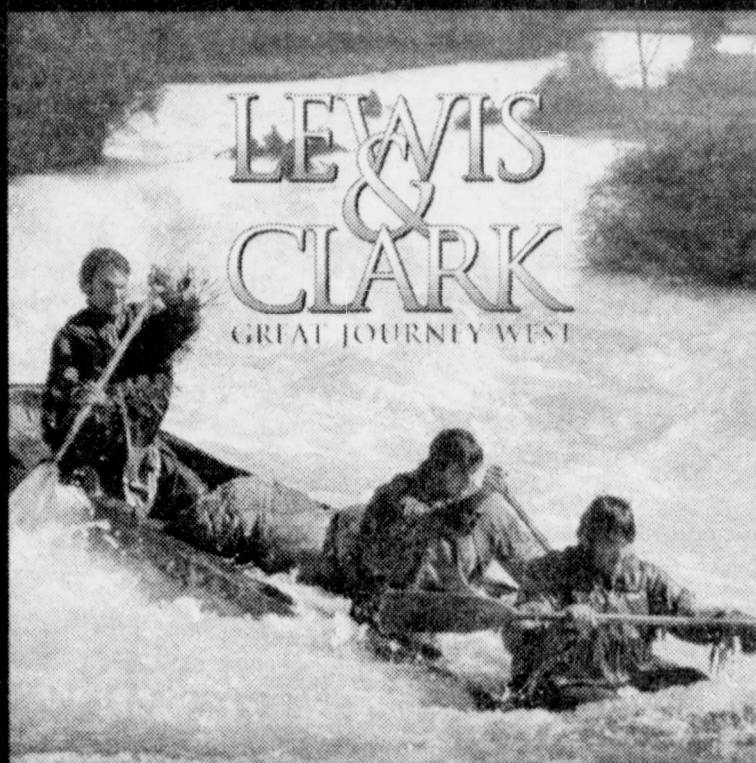
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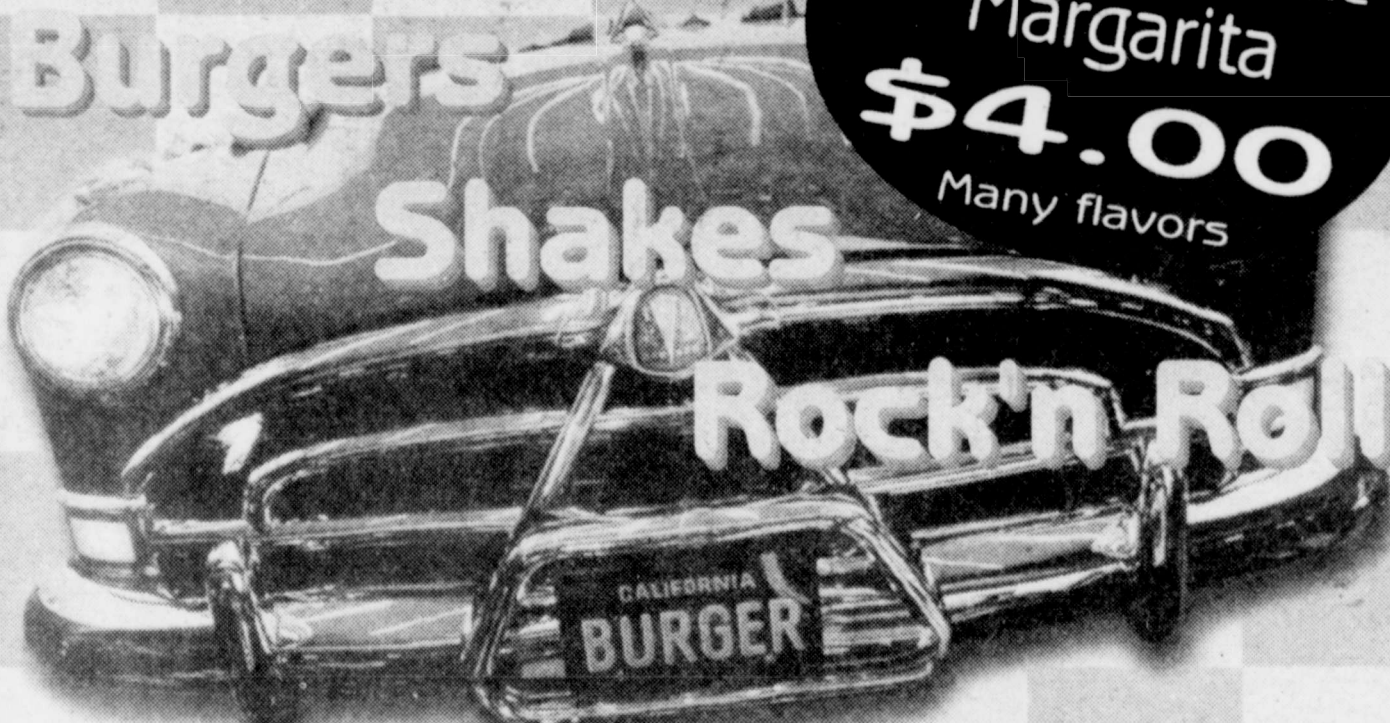
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HO HO HO...

Happy Holidays  
from all of us here at the Mustang DAILY



# Tower

continue from page 8

But the chain has a loyal base of older, more affluent customers who spend heavily on music and appreci-

ate its wide selection. "It seems to me," says Lee Landenberger, 46, of Atlanta, an ex-radio DJ who spends \$2,000 a year on music and liberally

burns CDs for friends, "their rationale all along has been, 'We charge a lot and always have, but we have such a huge catalogue of stuff that's going to bring you in.'"

After \$167 million in losses over four years, Tower aims mainly now to keep its brand alive, regroup and rebuild. And in the season when record retailers typically rack up 30 percent of their annual sales, Tower's managers see a chance for new life.

Under the eyes of watchful creditors, they're fast remaking Tower into a "full entertainment" store.

"We're looking for things that can

move the needle quickly," says Betsy Burton, 50, a corporate turnaround specialist hired Sept. 18. Alongside Tower's mix of Eminem and Pavarotti, Burton is blending "fun things for the holidays, unique toys and collectibles, pop culture and off-beat things." She's pushing gift cards and E-gift cards, while moving in DVD videos, small electronics and more video games, which are seeing double-digit sales growth again this year.

A similar 1980s Burton strategy — adding major brand beauty products to Supercuts stores — turned around

that ailing chain.

"You can generate some momentum, and everything feeds on itself with new energy in the store," she says. "It's important to do some things, and do successes early on."

Music purists may sigh, but Burton says it's the path to the corporation's one true goal at the moment: to reach the end of 2003 earning more money than the interest payments on its \$200 million debt.

Tower's troubles started in 1998 when it borrowed \$110 million to fuel an expansion drive in Asia, South America, Canada and Great Britain. In 1997, Tower's founder, Russ Solomon, now 77, boasted in a magazine interview that his company "can compete with anybody." Solomon also predicted an industry shakedown where companies would die and "the good ones will get bigger."

Not long after, Tower began its four-year streak of losses in a market turned upside down by free music downloads on Napster and successors

see Tower, Page 12

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## Tower

continued from page 11

such as KaZaa.

Today, music fans like Eric Chu, 17, are increasingly turned off by CD prices. Though record industry officials call CDs a bargain compared to other entertainment options, Chu browses at Tower for hip hop, rap and rock music, then downloads at home.

"I would like to support the music industry," says the San Francisco high school senior. "But I'm young and I don't have much money."

Investment analysts consider comments like that when they look at Tower's restructuring strategy and competitive struggle and view retail stores as long-run losers in the paradigm shift to cyberspace.

Indeed, New York-based Nielsen SoundScan, which tracks music shipments, reports the recording industry shipped 22.3 million fewer CDs, cassette tapes and albums in 2001 than 2000. The Recording Industry Association of America reports CD shipments fell 7 percent in the first half of 2002, after falling 5 percent

last year.

Meanwhile, RIAA cites estimates that music fans illegally download more than 2.6 billion music files a month on the Internet.

"The terrestrial retailers of music have seen their best day," says Phil Leigh, digital music analyst with Raymond James Associates in St. Petersburg, Fla. "What Napster did during its season in the sun was demonstrate beyond the shadow of a doubt that the consumer is ready for music to be distributed over the Internet."

Bernstein's McGranahan agrees. Tower has done a "decent job" digging out of its problems, he says, but "regardless of what works, it's not going to be selling packaged material in stores."

But RIAA chairwoman Hilary Rosen says, "I'm not that pessimistic. I think that shopping is a social experience and learning about new music is a social experience, and you don't get that on KaZaa."

"I believe retailers have to re-energize music stores as social desti-

nations," she says, and Tower "set the bar for the in-store experience" where people wander aisles "checking stuff out."

Burton, agreeing that a big shift to digital distribution is under way, notes that Tower's Internet site now offers paid downloads from the

Universal Music Group catalogue. But she says people will always enjoy the ambiance of big music stores and seeing bands perform.

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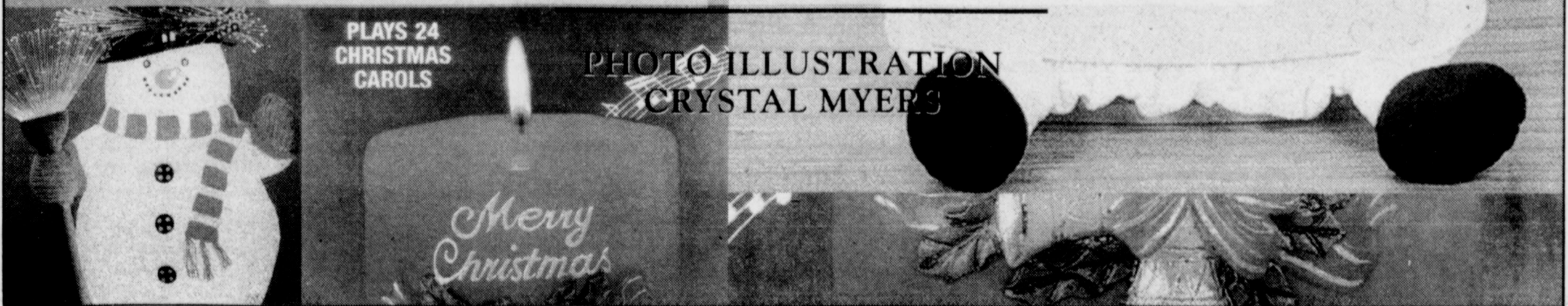
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What is it about Christmas that lends it so easily to tacky commercialism? Winter holidays like Kwanzaa or Hanukkah have a more subdued aesthetic involving candles and their holders, while spinning under the moonlight in winter solstice celebration looks pretty cool too.

But Christmas, or at least its commercial version, is bright, shiny and synthetic. Even the consumables like fruitcake and eggy beverages are of questionable taste. This week Mustang Daily explored two Christmas traditions: Catalog gifts and eggnog.





## Consumer Culture

## Gifts to show that you care and might be a little disturbed

By Rebecca Howes  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

*Editor's Note: The Harriet Carter catalog is an entertaining cruise through the discount bins of American retail. Reporter Rebecca Howes reviewed the small publication bulging with ceramic and plastic items that never quite made it to the joke store or the "As Seen on TV" shop in the mall. Warning: Ms. Howes is a little cranky, and the following is only a fantasy of hers. No one was actually hurt.*

On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me one glowing throne, two slippers singing, three pot-



COURTESY PHOTO

Potty humor meets 'X-Files,' a gift for the constipated conspiracy buff in all of us.

ties putting and a partridge in a pear tree. Christmas is a time for family and for sharing the spirit of the season.

Yeah, right.

For some, Christmas is a time to tell certain family members how you feel by buying an appropriate gift that you can later pass off as a joke. Here are some gift ideas from the Harriet Carter catalog. You might find them useful for the know-it-all, the stinker, or the intestinally challenged member your family.

•Gift #F1868 (\$19.98)

The scene is Christmas morning. You have made it this far without killing that one member of your family. You know who: The one who is always right, the one who argues with everything that comes out of your mouth, no matter what. This is the day you've been waiting for. It's pay-back time.

The large gift glimmers under the tree. The know-it-all is sure that it is for her. Why wouldn't it be? This is the one time she is actually right. When she realizes that, indeed, the biggest present is for her, she utters "Somebody loves me" in a sing-song manner. Clearly, she is irritating everyone. What else is new?

The warning signs are all there before she unwraps the gift. She comments on the cute Christmas wrap, the wrap she believes has angelic little bears celebrating the season. Don't be fooled. This is her attempt at being gracious. It is only an act.

Upon closer inspection of the wrap, she would have noticed that the



COURTESY PHOTO

Just the name 'Toilet Golf' might be more fun than the actual gift.

angelic bears are one-eyed bears with fangs in vulgar positions. She doesn't notice because she is too busy violently ripping the paper from the large box.

Drum roll please. There, in all its glory, is the ultimate gift for the know-it-all in your family: A glow-in-the-dark toilet seat with a card that reads "You're full of it! Love, Santa."

•Gift #C7323 (\$12.98)

Slippers are a gift that you can buy just about anyone. All you have to know is that person's shoe size, and just like that you have a perfect and thoughtful gift that says "I love you and I don't want you to catch cold."

The Harriet Carter catalog puts a

new twist on this practical gift that makes it perfect for the stinker in your family. The one-size-fits-all gift makes them easy to give anyone who deserves them.

These unique slippers are lovingly monogrammed across the toes with the letters OLD FART and are equipped with a device that causes the slippers to make farting noises when the stinker walks. This is the gift that says, "I hope you catch cold and die before your flatulence kills me."

•Gift #F4283 (\$17.98)

The last offering is perfect for the Tiger Woods in your family. Toilet Golf comes equipped with a putting green, putter, and two plastic balls. The putting green is a rug with hole in it so that you can tee off while you pee off.

First of all, if it takes you so long to take care of business that you actually have time to improve your golf game, you should probably see a doctor. There has to be something wrong with your plumbing, and I am not talking about the pipes in your house. Second, if you live with someone who owns Toilet Golf and brags about his or her game, you need to move. Even if their plumbing

is in working order, their brain isn't. No one in his or her right mind would spend hours on end in the bathroom playing golf, making it necessary for

you or your company to resort to peeing in the cat's litter box.

My Christmas wish for you is that you never need to purchase any of the above gifts for your family, but that you do any-

way. There's only one time of year when a tree is allowed in the house (why is that?), so make the most of it by starting a family brawl in which you or a loved one can hurl the tree at each other until it is devoid of all its ornaments, or until one of you loses an eye. Happy Holidays.



COURTESY PHOTO

For \$12.98 you can send mixed messages to a loved one: 'I love you and I don't want your feet to get cold' as well as 'You're old and flatulent.'

## Random Events



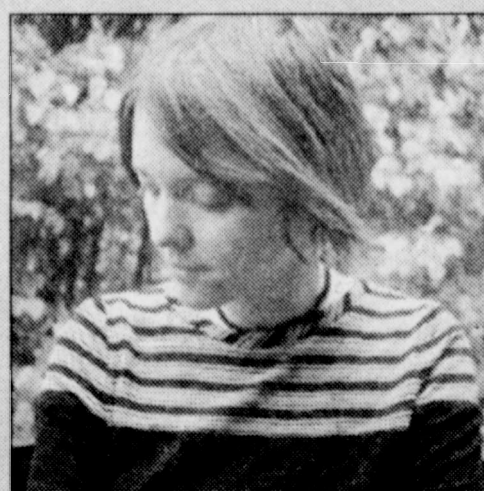
COURTESY PHOTO

The Groovie Goulies join The Voodoo Glow Skulls at SLO Brew on Tuesday, Dec. 17.



COURTESY PHOTO

The spacious soundscapes of post rockers The Swords Project come to Z-Pie this Monday. They're joined by Treluna and Autodealer.



COURTESY PHOTO

Math Rock pioneer turned Folkie, Tara Jane O'Neil plays Z-Pie on Friday, Dec. 6.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Ben Harper documentary 'Pleasure and Pain' comes to Chumash Auditorium tonight.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
CALENDAR of EVENTS

Friday, December 6, 8pm  
CAL POLY UNIVERSITY JAZZ BANDS'  
FALL JAZZ CONCERT  
Presented by Cal Poly Music Dept.  
Cal Poly Theatre

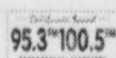
Friday, December 6, 8pm  
"A MODERN GOSPEL CHRISTMAS"  
Presented by House of Prayer  
Cohan Center

Saturday, December 7, 8pm  
SECOND SKIN  
FEATURING JOAN SCHIRLE  
Presented by Cal Poly Dance  
& Theatre Department.  
Cal Poly Theatre

Saturday, December 7, 8pm  
CAL POLY CHOIRS' CONCERT  
"A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION"  
Presented by Cal Poly Music Dept.  
Cohan Center

Sunday, December 8, 3pm  
JOYOUS SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS  
Presented by SLO Vocal Arts Ensemble  
Cohan Center

Sunday, December 8, 7pm  
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Wed-Thurs 3:45 7:15

\*EIGHT CRAZY NIGHTS (PG-13)  
Wed-Thurs 3:15 5:40 8:00

EXTREME OPS (PG-13)  
Wed-Thurs 3:00 5:20 7:45

THE RING (PG-13)  
Wed-Thurs 4:00 9:00

JACKASS: THE MOVIE (R)  
Wed-Thurs 6:45

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SOLARIS (PG-13)  
Wed-Thurs 4:15 6:45 9:15

TREASURE PLANET (PG)  
Wed-Thurs 3:00 5:15 7:45

\*HARRY POTTER AND THE  
CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG)  
Wed-Thurs 4:30 8:00

DIE ANOTHER DAY (PG-13)  
Wed-Thurs 3:00 6:00 9:00

8 MILE (R)  
Wed-Thurs 3:30 6:30 9:00

THE EMPEROR'S CLUB (PG-13)  
Wed-Thurs 3:15 5:45 8:30

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING (PG)  
Wed-Thurs 3:45 6:15 8:45

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## Christmas Cuisine

## Eggnog is best left mixed with rum

Editor's Note: Mustang Daily does not endorse excessive consumption of alcohol, underage drinking or impersonating Michael Jackson.

By Sara Howell  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

In the season of over-commercialization and pre-packaged happiness, few holiday traditions remain sacred. But one seems to stand the test of time. Its longevity can be attributed to its adaptability – even Starbucks has jumped on the coattails of this Christmas phenomenon.

Of what tradition am I speaking? None other than the glorious, rich, creamy eggnog – a true survivor of the cultural wasteland we call Christmas.

Eggnog has the ability to change its shape to cater to even the most obscure tastes. The windows at Jack In The Box announce the arrival of the eggnog milkshake. Starbucks, proclaims the return of the eggnog latté. But one aspect of eggnog stands out to me as giving it the timeless quality we all know and love – alcohol.

As we enter this eggnog season, my friend Lisa and I decided to explore the world of eggnog and alcohol and attempted the delicate task of pairing new flavors together. Everyone knows to pair a little spiced rum

and bourbon with this delicious treat, but what about exploring other options? We wanted to make this Christmas a holiday of equal-opportunity eggnog.

▼ **Eggnog Margarita:** For this holiday treat, pair your favorite eggnog with a little tequila. The

*The garnish could not hide the fact that the vodka had a similar effect on the eggnog as vinegar does on milk – slight curdling.*

tequila has an interesting effect on the consistency of the eggnog itself and it ruins the yummy holiday smell, but if you can palate creamy tequila

then this combo is for you. The downside – the eggnog makes the taste of tequila linger in your mouth for quite some time and thereby creates a gag reflex in any person with a taste aversion to the alcohol, often referred to as te-kill-ya. Unfortunately, this taste aversion is common to anyone who has visited Cancun, Tijuana, Rosarito, San Felipe or any other of the popular spring break destinations, so the eggnog margarita may not have the staying power of the original.

▼ **Eggnog Martini:** Enjoy this martini shaken, not stirred. With so many options out there for martinis, including fruity vodkas and a variety of gins, it is hard to choose what flavor to go for. Since orange spice seems to be a taste associated with holidays, we opted for a citrus-flavored vodka.

We even threw in a garnish of cinnamon stick. But the garnish could not hide the fact that the vodka had a similar effect on the eggnog as vinegar does on milk – slight curdling. While the curdling didn't have the same rotten flavor, it definitely didn't sit well in the stomach. Bottom line: We do not recommend the eggnog martini for

*Eggnog and Jaeger: Although this drink has potential, the taste of Jaegermeister reminds me of my 21st birthday – enough said.*



BETSY FILSON/MUSTANG DAILY

Rows of liquor bottles wait to be mated with a medley of mixers. Not recommended for most booze: Eggnog.

holiday enjoyment.

▼ **Eggnog Pina Colada:** This beverage pairs the tropical tastes of coconut rum with the nutmeg of our eggnog. Surprisingly, the combination isn't as heinous as it sounds. The nutmeg brings out a different taste in the coconut, and the drink is palatable. Due to the thickness often found in coconut rum, such as Parrot Bay or Malibu, the alcohol has little effect on the consistency of the drink and it remains smooth and creamy. Don't let the idea of tropical eggnog throw you – it is an exotic taste that isn't an assault on the senses like one might expect.

▼ **Eggnog Wine Cooler:** We paired the eggnog with a white and a red wine just for kicks, to choose the better of the two. For the white, we picked a fruit-driven chardonnay, and for the red we stuck with a velvety merlot. The

consensus – don't try this at home. Although the white wine was better than the red (can we say creamy, pink and slightly reminiscent of the pink goop that attacked the city in Ghostbusters II?), this wasn't and would never be my blend of choice.

▼ **Eggnog and Jaeger:** Although this drink has potential, the taste of Jaeger reminds me of my 21st birthday – enough said.

After our trials and tribulations in eggnog land, we decided to enjoy a foamy cup of traditional eggnog and spiced rum. Unfortunately, the disastrous mixtures we consumed previously served to create unrest in our stomachs. We were not able to finish our last cup of holiday fun. Instead, we opted for toast and water.

At the end of the night, wrapped in the delirious fog of our eggnog cocktails and warm blankets, we popped in "Miracle on 34th Street" and dozed off with visions of sugary plums – and hangovers – in our head.



BETSY FILSON/MUSTANG DAILY

To make holiday cheer, a little egg, a little milk, but we're not sure where they get the 'nog' from.

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## Announcements

CMRG is actively looking for bacterial skin infection research candidates for our clinical research trial. Call 805-549-7570 for more information. Travel/ time compensation paid.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Meeting on campus! Every Fri 6:00pm, Graphic Arts Bldg # 26 rm. 205. Open to all!

CMRG is actively looking for research candidates who have sprained an ankle. Please call 805-549-7570 within 48 hours of injury for more information about this research study. Travel/ time compensation paid.

## Announcements

CMRG is actively looking for sinusitis research candidates 18 years or older for our clinical research trial. Call 805-549-7570 for more information. Travel/ time compensation paid.

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## Notebook

### Cross Country

#### Jackson finishes 197th at Nationals

CAL POLY SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Terre Haute, Ind. — As Cal Poly's lone representative in the NCAA Nationals, senior David Jackson finished 197th out of 251 runners at the NCAA Division I Men's Cross Country Championship in Terre Haute, Ind.

Jackson finished the 8K course with a time of 32:07.6. He qualified for the NCAA Championship by virtue of a 14th-place finish at the NCAA West Regional at Stanford on Nov. 16, recording a time of 30:53.

Last year, Jackson placed 186th at the NCAA Championship.

### Fall Sports

#### 17 Mustangs make All-Academic list

CAL POLY SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Seventeen Cal Poly student-athletes received Big West Academic All-Conference honors for the fall sports of men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball.

To be eligible for the All-Academic team, student-athletes must maintain a 3.2 cumulative grade point average, have attained sophomore standing academically and competed in at least half of their team's contests.

The women's soccer team placed the most athletes on the All-Academic team with five. Katie Collins, Annette Croteau, Stephanie Hedien, Heidi Spink and Desiree Stegner all earned mention.

The men's cross country team's Andy Coughlin, Garrett Milner and Matt Swaney made the list, along with Ashlee Dere, Rachael Lange, Beth Mattie and Amber Simmons of the women's team.

Four volleyball players earned honors: Molly Duncan, Gwen Hubbard and the O'Halloran twins, Carly and Kristen.

Jonathan Young was the men's soccer team's sole representative on the All-Academic team.

### Wrestling

#### Coveted local signs with Mustangs

CAL POLY SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly officials have announced the signing of Arturo Basulto and Riley Schmidtke to national letters of intent to enroll at the university.

Basulto, a 5-foot, 11-inch 245-pounder from Arroyo Grande High, received All-American honors for an eighth-place finish at the Junior National Freestyle championships last year, after recording the same finish two years ago.

Schmidtke won the 189-pound division at the 2002 Hawaii State Championships as a junior, compiling a 32-1 record. He was also the team's captain.

### Cal Poly's Casey Strohsahl

# Keeping it simple

► Low-key approach has kept this sophomore high up in the standings at almost every tournament this year

By Diana Krutop  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

He finds success in keeping the game simple: First hit the fairway, and then hit the green. Simple enough. Well, at least for Casey Strohsahl.

Strohsahl, an agribusiness sophomore, was recently named Big West Golf Athlete of the Week after he tied for fourth place at the 49er Collegiate Classic. He is one of the top players for the Cal Poly men's golf team.

"I have taken golf seriously since my freshman year of high school," Strohsahl said. "I played a ton of other sports at the same time, but every weekend I would play golf with my dad."

Strohsahl played varsity tennis, baseball and golf at San Clemente High School. When he became burnt out on tennis — he had been competing since he was very young — Strohsahl picked up golf and got involved in the sport.

"It is definitely a time commitment," Strohsahl said. "With tournaments, you have to get mentally prepared for them. It's such a grueling thing. You have to play 36 holes on the first day, then 18 on the next. Plus you have to walk the course."

In one day, Strohsahl walks as much as nine miles on the course.

"Some courses can be that big," he said. "Also, tee times can be as early as 6:30 or 6:45 (a.m.)."

To prepare for a tournament, the team's training includes drills, running on the track and a weightlifting program. Along with strength and cardiovascular training, Strohsahl said the mental aspect of golf is also extremely important.

"Late in the day when you're tired and fatigued, golf becomes pretty much mental," Strohsahl said. "If you can't concentrate as well, you end up giving up shots and you put them in places that they shouldn't be."

To prepare for a tournament, Strohsahl focuses on this mental aspect.

"I get to the tournament and I visualize how I am going to play the course," he said. "When I am on the course, I know exactly what to hit and how to play the hole."

Cal Poly coach Scott Cartwright explained that when competitions last for 10 to 11 hours, a person has to stay on an even keel. Strohsahl is very good at doing that, he said.

"I think that really helps (Strohsahl)," Cartwright said. "He doesn't make a lot of mistakes and he keeps his head on straight."

Cartwright said Strohsahl's motivation for the sport

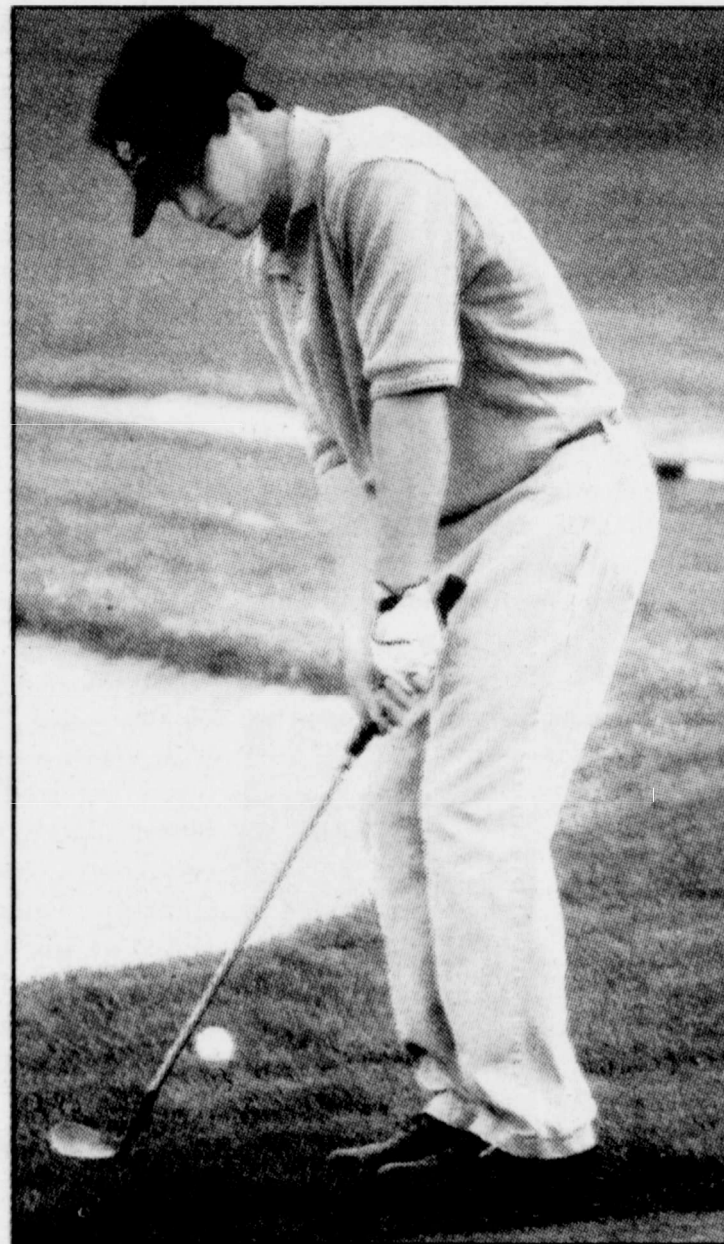


PHOTO COURTESY OF CAL POLY SPORTS INFORMATION

Cal Poly sophomore Casey Strohsahl was named Big West Golf Athlete of the Week earlier this year.

derives from wanting to constantly improve.

"He just likes to get better and shoot low scores," Cartwright said. "He seems to get upset at being mediocre. He really strives to be play as best as he can. It is what keeps him in the game."

Strohsahl explains that his coach is a huge factor in his commitment to the team and motivation for the sport.

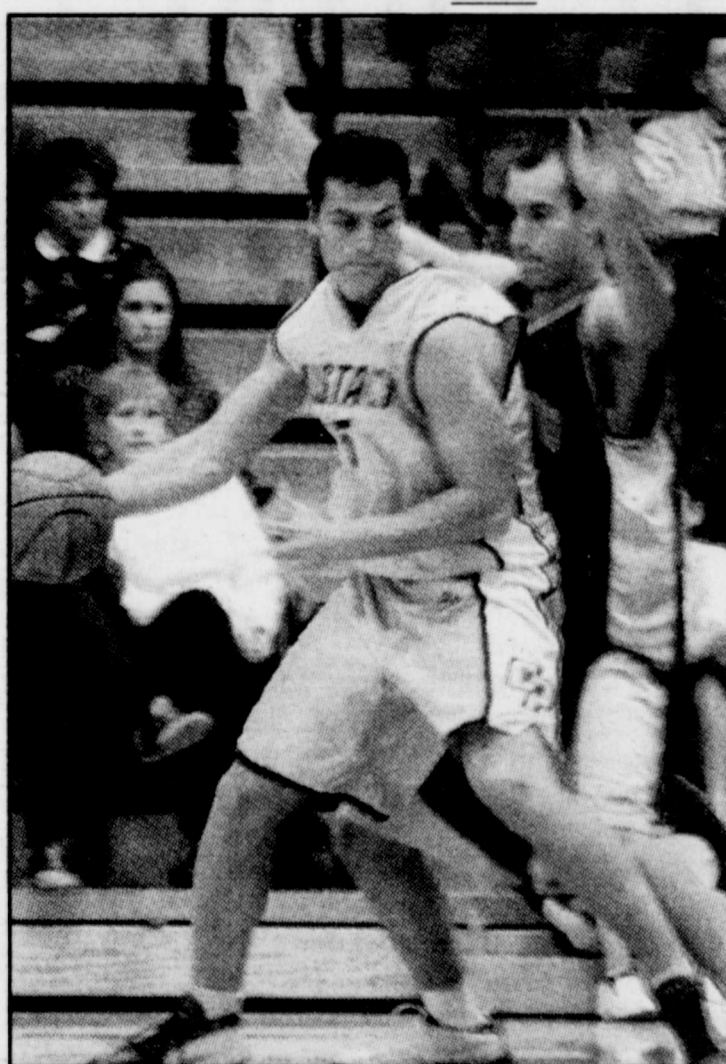
"(Cartwright) makes it fun to play," he said. "He is always encouraging us and keeping us motivated. That is probably one of the reasons why I keep playing."

The golf team is currently in its off-season, but after winter break tournaments will pick up again. Cartwright said he has high hopes for his star golfer.

"We are hoping that he has a shot for all-conference, which is the top five or six players in the conference," Cartwright said. "He is very consistent and doesn't seem to get too upset. He doesn't seem to have too many highs and lows, which helps keep him on track."

### Cal Poly Men's Basketball

Cal Poly center Vladimir Lisinac (left) and the rest of the Mustangs couldn't stop Oregon State in Monday's 81-60 loss. Lisinac scored two points and grabbed a pair of rebounds in the loss.



FILE PHOTO

## Revenge!

► Oregon State avenges last year's stunning upset by walloping Mustangs

CAL POLY SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

There was no upsetting Oregon State in its own house.

Cal Poly lost on the road to the Beavers 81-60 on Monday. With the loss, the Mustangs are now 1-3 and will host Sacramento State on Saturday at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

Varnie Dennis scored 24 points, hitting four three-pointers in the loss to lead the team. Seniors Steve Geary and Jason Allen were the only other Mustangs in double figures, with 12 and 11 points respectively.

Cal Poly hit 10 of 27 three-pointers in the game (37.0) but could only manage 37.3 percent from the field.

Oregon State shot 55.2 percent from the floor.

mustang

SCHEDULE TRIVIA  
BAR

### SCORES

VOLLEYBALL	3
vs. texas pan-am	0
MEN'S BASKETBALL	62
vs. san diego state	65
MEN'S BASKETBALL	88
vs. nd de namur	74
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	62
vs. unlv	79
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	68
vs. portland state	86
WOMEN'S SOCCER	0
vs. stanford	4

### SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL	mon., dec. 2, 7 p.m.
vs. oregon state	@ oregon state
W. BASKETBALL	mon., dec. 2, 7 p.m.
vs. sac state	@ sac state
W. BASKETBALL	wed., dec. 4, 7 p.m.
vs. cal	@ berkeley
VOLLEYBALL	thurs., dec. 5, 7 p.m.
vs. pepperdine	@ pepperdine
SWIMMING	thurs.-sat., dec. 5-7
vs. speedo cup	@ cal poly
WRESTLING	fri.-sat., dec. 6-7
vs. vegas tourn.	@ primm, nev.
W. BASKETBALL	fri., dec. 6, 7 p.m.
vs. airforce	@ cal poly
RUGBY	sat., dec. 7, 8 a.m.
vs. seahawks tourn.	@ san jose
MEN'S BASKETBALL	sat., dec. 7, 7 p.m.
vs. sac state	@ cal poly

### STATS

#### By the numbers

24

Points for Cal Poly center Varnie Dennis in the Mustangs' 81-60 loss to Oregon State on Monday.

4-7

Dennis' mark from three-point land.

3

Lady Mustangs averaging double figures this season: Heather Journey, Kari Duperron and Michelle Henke.

### TRIVIA

today's question

Who was the last Heisman Trophy winner out of Notre Dame?

Submit answers to: [jljackso@calpoly.edu](mailto:jljackso@calpoly.edu)

Wednesday's question

Michael Jordan holds the record for points in a playoff game. How many did he score? 63, Boston Celtics, 1996

Congratulations, Jeff Swisher, Erik Hansen, and Daniel Kelepouris!!

Sports editor Jacob Jackson can be reached at 756-1796 or [jljackso@calpoly.edu](mailto:jljackso@calpoly.edu).