

In ARTS & CULTURE, page 5

Renting videos on campus*Insomniac U offers variety to students*

In OPINION, page 6

Democrat's power is failing**Today's weather**

High: 63°

Low: 39°

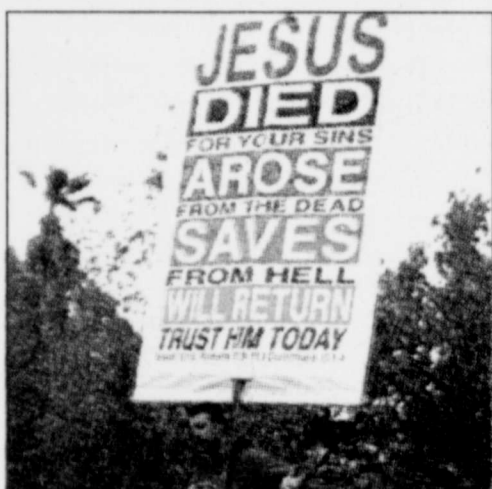
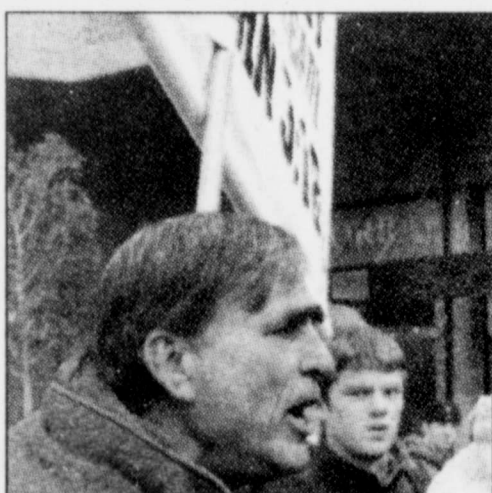
Full forecast, page 2

Mustang

DAILY

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Volume LXVIII, Number 54, 1916-2003



Activists Frank Warner of Illinois and Jeremiah Baldwin of Florida stirred up students in the University Union on Monday. Above, students pray for their removal. One said, "Please, God, I don't care if one of them falls and sprains his ankle, just show yourself to everyone by taking these men away."



"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

activists exercise FREE speech

— first amendment to the U.S. Constitution

story by laura newman | photos by spencer marley

In an ultimate display of free speech, two men preached their interpretation of Christianity to a group of agitated students in the University Union on Monday.

Activists Frank Warner of Illinois and Jeremiah Baldwin of Florida said they were not representing any denomination of Christianity, but rather representing the word of God. Their signs and proselytizing attracted a sizable crowd, consisting mostly of concerned Christian students.

"We are here to preach the gospel, rebuke and get people to take God more seriously," Warner said. "Jesus wasn't Mr. Nice Guy. Jesus wasn't like what these people think."

"I know what I do is unpopular," Baldwin added.

A likely reason their demonstrations are unpopular is the text of their signs.

The signs espouse the condemnation of a list of things that "make them sick," including "child molesting homosexuals, couch-potato Christians, rebellious women and Jews that are from the Synagogue of Satan."

Baldwin did not purport to be an evangelist but rather likened himself to a prophet.

"My gift is prophetic in nature," he said. "I was the worst sinner at one point. I became a Christian. I know what sinning is about. I'm a sinner, straight up."

Neither of the activists received administrative approval or permission to hold their demonstration.

"The Constitution is all the permission I need," Warner said.

Steve Garcia, UU program assistant, said groups do not need permission to demonstrate in the UU unless they have a booth

see **ACTIVISTS**, page 2**HOMELAND SECURITY**

National attack on computers launched

By Ted Bridis
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Homeland Security Department's first simulation of a terrorist attack on computer, banking and utility systems exposed problems with the ways victimized industries communicated vital information during the crisis, the government's new cybersecurity chief said Monday.

Experts inside government and the Institute for Security Technology Studies at Dartmouth College are still formally evaluating results of the so-called "Livewire" exercise, carried out over five days late in October. It simulated physical and computer attacks on banks, power companies and the oil and gas industry, among others.

"There were some gaps," said Amit Yoran, the newly hired chief of the agency's National Cyber-Security Division. "The information flow between various sectors was not as smooth as we would perhaps have liked."

see **SECURITY**, page 2

Student share holiday thoughts

Before students head home for Thanksgiving they reflect on what they are thankful for this year.

By Caitlin O'Farrell
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As Thanksgiving approaches it is time to re-evaluate what is really important in life.

Each family has different traditions, menu choices and destinations for the holiday.

The one thing everyone has in common is something, whether trivial or deeply personal, to be thankful for.

Life altering experience

"I am thankful to be alive because last year I almost died," agribusiness senior Antone Chicca said.

At this time last year Antone lay in the ICU of San Francisco gen-

eral hospital fighting for his life. Two weeks earlier, he had been involved in a car accident where he suffered extensive brain trauma. The outlook wasn't good, but his spirit and will were more than enough to beat the odds.

Although his family and friends flocked to his side and never left, Thanksgiving just wasn't the same from a hospital waiting room, 300 miles from home.

It has taken a year of rehabilitation for Chicca's full recovery from the accident but after his near death experience he is excelling in his classes and plans to graduate next year.

"I am so happy to be awake this year so I am able to share Thanksgiving with my family and friends," Chicca said. "And this year I get to eat!"

Giving back to others

Industrial technology senior Jessica Alexander is celebrating early with her family but every year after dinner she

and her mom go to their local soup kitchen to hand out food to those who have nowhere to go for the holiday.

"I think it is extremely important to help others because you never know if one day you could be down on your luck and need some help yourself," Alexander said. "What goes around comes around."

The land of the free

Agribusiness senior Gino Fumia is thankful for freedom.

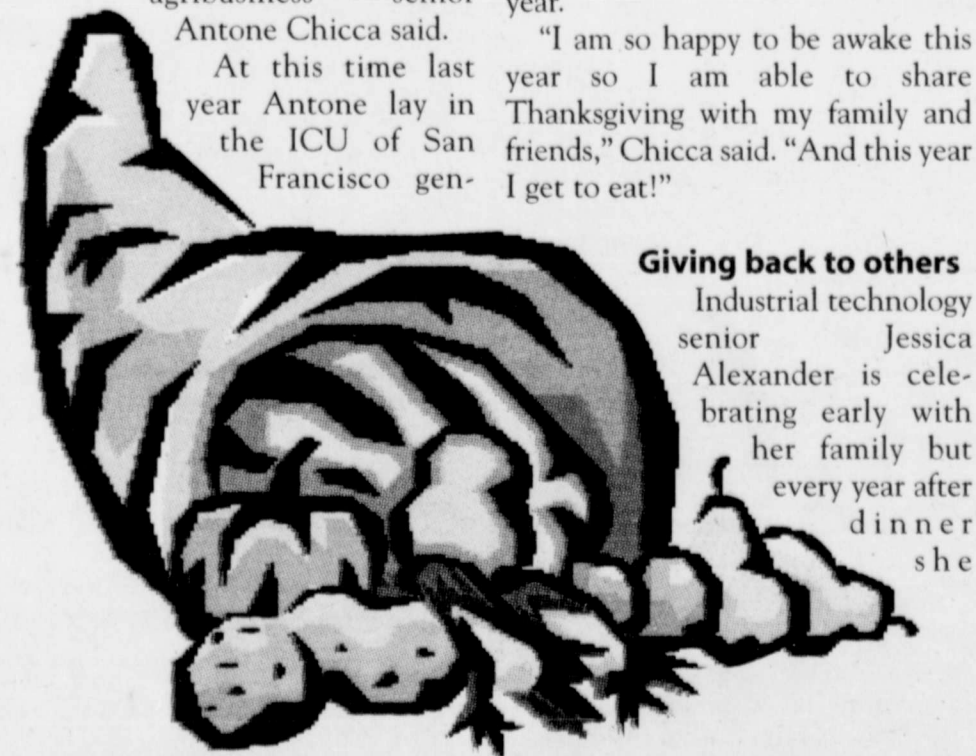
"Thanksgiving represents everything America is all about," Fumia said. "It is about being with your family, eating, and drinking manhattans."

Only an American tradition

Industrial technology senior Jordan Thomas said Thanksgiving is a celebration of an American tradition.

"It is about picking on cultures that are smaller and weaker than our own," Thomas said. "We celebrate the raping of a culture that we think is lesser than ours and we mock them by eating lots of potatoes and corn that is different colors."

Not everyone agrees on the true meaning of Thanksgiving, but Americans can all stand to learn a lesson about giving to those less fortunate than ourselves.



Students leave for weather

By John Pierson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As many students travel home for the holidays this week and in the weeks to come, they will pack their ski jackets and prepare for some quality time on the slopes.

While students flock to the Central Coast and Cal Poly for the warm weather and close beach proximity, winter in San Luis Obispo is about as uneventful as it gets.

Jeff Koeck, a biochemistry sophomore from Tahoe, likes going home to the cold.

"I like it when it's colder because it's always so hot down here," he said. "Going home is like going to winter because it's always like summer down here, which is cool, but I miss the cold."

Last January, women in San Luis Obispo wore wearing halter tops and men wore muscle shirts.

In January, San Luis Obispo's average high is 65 degrees Fahrenheit. However, a few hours north, in San Francisco experiences an average high of 56 degrees in January.

While locals enjoy a bubble of

see **WEATHER**, page 2

Local Weather

5 - Day Forecast

TODAY
high: 63° / low 39°

WEDNESDAY
high: 66° / low 38°

THURSDAY
high: 68° / low 43°

FRIDAY
high: 63° / low 43°

SATURDAY
high: 58° / low 35°

Sunrise/Sunset

rises: 6:47 a.m. / sets 4:52 p.m.

Tides

high	9:51 a.m.	6.94 feet
	N/A	N/A
low	3:33 a.m.	2.51 feet
	5:25 p.m.	-1.63 feet

SECURITY

continued from page 1

He assessed government's performance as "certainly a B-plus, better than my personal expectations."

Mock attacks during the exercise tried to broadly disrupt services and communications across major industrial sectors, enough to make consumers lose economic confidence, Yoran said. It modeled bombings at communications facilities outside Washington and cyberattacks aimed at companies and other networks.

Even before the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, the government organized its cyber-protection efforts around early-warning centers operated separately by banks, water utilities, technology companies and the electric industry.

But critics have long pointed to problems with the ways that these centers exchange information with each other, making it far more difficult for banks to describe their internal problems with a power utility than with other financial institutions that also may be under attack.

In some cases, Yoran said, the exercise exposed problems as simple as uncertainty about which companies and industries can be contacted in the middle of the night with urgent information about an ongoing attack; most mock failures occurred during the day.

In some cases, victim companies weren't told explicitly about an attack; organizers might send them clues, such as e-mails purportedly from customers who mysteriously couldn't access their bank accounts.

Yoran said the exercise affirmed that troublesome interdependencies exist throughout the nation's most important systems. A broad power outage could also bring down key telephone or computer networks, disrupting repair efforts.

Homeland Security officials said it was the first large-scale exercise carried out with the agency. Officials at the National Security Council and departments of Defense and Treasury also were involved.

ACTIVISTS

continued from page 1

or table set-up.

"We do allow for free speech all over campus as long as (the demonstrators) are not detaining anyone," he said.

University Police Department Sgt. Robert Eckrote said law enforcement typically doesn't intervene unless the demonstrators are inciting riot or violence.

"Cal Poly is an open campus, but if (the demonstrators) are non-students we have a little bit more reign in what we can do," Eckrote said. "We can throw non-students off campus if they are inciting a disturbance."

"Free speech is fundamental," he added. "Just because someone doesn't like the message, doesn't mean we can quiet (the demonstrators)."

Campus Crusade for Christ member and physics sophomore Matt Fritch said the activists were misrepresenting the tenets of Christianity.

"They are putting out a bad representation of Jesus," Fritch said. "But anything that gets people to talk about religion is good."

Warner and Baldwin said they were passing through San Luis Obispo on a preaching tour of numerous college campuses including San Diego, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. They chose to stop at Cal Poly because Warner knows people who have stopped here to preach before, he said.

They are not paid for their preaching demonstrations.

"This is the most hateful, aggressive, un-Christian thing I have ever seen in my life," said English sophomore Christina Morales. "It exudes hatred and anger."

WEATHER

continued from page 1

warm weather nearly year-round, many Cal Poly students come from parts of California where they have endured varying weather conditions.

In Fall 2002, 24 percent of Cal Poly students came from the San Francisco Bay Area; 16 percent came from the Los Angeles area and neighboring counties; and 14 percent were natives to the Central Coast. Out of state residents contributed to 6 percent of the student body.

These figures show that nearly 80 percent of students are from areas where the weather is drastically different when they go home for winter break.

Business administration junior

As the demonstration progressed, onlookers challenged Warner and Baldwin's message by quoting Bible scripture and constructing makeshift protest signs reading, "Jesus is sad about this" and "Please don't feed the Christian ankle biter," referring to text on Baldwin's sign.

Baldwin reacted negatively to the protests and rationalizations of observers, yelling at one student, "You judge me, you dummy Christian. You are a hypocrite."

At one point an angry passer-by flipped off the demonstrators, while another group of students knelt to pray.

Baldwin said Cal Poly students' reaction to their demonstration is typical of what they see on other college campuses.

"But maybe the students here are a little worse," he said. "Lot's of Christian phonies."

Not every observer was vehemently against the demonstration, however.

"I think that if we're going to protect freedom of speech, then we should protect the radicals on both sides," political science senior Diego Esparza said.

Steve Jones, Campus Crusade member and an architecture sophomore, said he appreciated what the demonstrators were trying to do, but didn't agree with their approach.

"I wish more Christians on campus had the boldness to do what these guys are doing," he said. "But I wish they did it with more love and gentleness."

Eckrote emphasized the importance of free speech on campus.

"If you don't like the message, just walk away," he said.

— Mustang Daily staff writer Josh Petray contributed to this story.

STUDY

Increased speed limits lead to more deaths

By Dee-Ann Durbin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — States that raised their speed limits to 70 mph or more have seen a big jump in traffic deaths, according to a report Monday by an auto safety group.

Some 1,880 more people died between 1996 and 1999 in the 22 states with higher speed limits on rural interstates, said the study, compiled by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, funded by insurers. It was based on data collected by the Land Transport Safety Authority of New Zealand. Congress repealed the 55 mph national speed limit in November 1995.

An institute researcher said New Zealand did the study because groups are questioning whether to raise the country's speed limit, which is 100 kilometers per hour — about 62 mph.

"There's a significant societal cost," said Allan Williams, the institute's chief scientist, who said drivers often think a speeding ticket is the worst that can happen.

Supporters of higher speed limits pointed out that federal highway data show the nation's vehicle fatality rate fell each year from 1996 and 1999, from 1.69 deaths per million miles traveled to 1.55 deaths.

"We've moved toward a transportation system where cars are a lot safer and there are better measures like guard rails on highways," said Stephen Moore, a proponent of limited government and president of the Club for Growth. "We've made it safer to drive at faster speeds."

Institute researcher Susan Ferguson agreed that other factors are making highways safer, and that the nation's death rate dropped as a whole.

The study said the 10 states that raised limits to 75 mph — all in the Midwest and West — had 38 per-

cent more deaths per million miles driven than states with 65-mph limits. That's approximately 780 more deaths.

The 12 states which raised their limits to 70 mph include California, Florida, North Carolina and Missouri. They saw a 35 percent increase — some 1,100 additional deaths.

The report didn't examine the effects of other trends, such as the tendency to drive faster in rural states where cities are far apart. Nor did it analyze the increasing number of sport utility vehicles on the road in the late 1990s.

A separate review of six states by the institute found drivers are traveling faster than any time since the institute began collecting data in 1987. Researchers observed in Colorado, which has a 75-mph speed limit, one in four drivers going above 80 mph. In California, where the speed limit is 70 mph, one in five drivers was clocked at 80 mph.

The institute's study of speeds in Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Mexico, Colorado and California also found that when rates are raised on rural interstates, speeding increased on urban interstates.

Average travel speeds on urban interstates in Atlanta, Boston and Washington were the same as or higher than on rural interstates near those cities, even though the speed limits on those urban interstates were 55 mph. In Atlanta, 78 percent of drivers on one urban interstate exceeded 70 mph, the report found.

Institute President Brian O'Neill said tolerance of speeding and advertising that encourages drivers to speed is part of the problem. He pointed out a Dodge ad that invited consumers to "Burn rubber."

"It's up to drivers to obey speed limits, but the manufacturers aren't helping with ads that equate going fast with having fun," O'Neill said.

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National Roundup

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials are debating if it's time to put emergency contraception — also called the morning-after pill — on pharmacy shelves right next to the aspirin, available without a prescription.

Proponents say such a move would greatly increase women's ability to get the pills in time to prevent pregnancy: preferably within 24 hours but no more than 72 hours after rape, contraceptive failure or just forgetting birth control.

The Food and Drug Administration says emergency contraception is very safe to use, but the question is whether women will understand exactly how and when to take it without any professional advice.

• • •

NEW YORK — Phone companies reported brisk business Monday as cell phone users took advantage of new federal rules enabling them to change providers without switching their numbers.

Verizon Wireless, the nation's biggest mobile carrier, reported more than twice the usual traffic in its stores, while No. 2 Cingular Wireless said portions of its Web site were down for about two hours as the company added capacity to handle heavier-than-normal visits.

The long-awaited rule change, which some called "wireless emancipation," set off a marketing blitz by cell phone companies, fearful of losing their customers and anxious to snare new ones from rivals.

But while some forecasts suggested that millions of cell phone users might try to switch carriers on the first day, anecdotal reports indicated that many people were waiting to make sure the process runs smoothly enough so they are not left without service due to unexpected glitches.

• • •

PALO ALTO — Intel Corp. said Monday it has demonstrated a tiny computer chip built with the next generation of manufacturing technology — called 65-nanometer circuit design — which it expects will be ready for use in 2005.

The 65-nanometer milestone is significant because of its tiny size. A nanometer is a mere billionth of a meter, meaning 10 million 65-nanometer transistors could fit on the tip of a ball-point pen.

Intel Corp. said the development of the new circuits renews its confidence that Moore's Law, which projects the steady improvement in chip performance, remains in place for at least another 10 years.

• • •

WASHINGTON — The government has freed 20 prisoners from its high-security prison for foreign terror suspects in Cuba, bringing the total released to more than 80, and plans to send dozens more home soon, officials said Monday.

The next batch, however, will probably get out of the Guantanamo Bay prison only if their governments promise to continue to imprison and investigate them, two senior U.S. officials said.

The latest releases stem from negotiations that were sped up after American allies complained the Bush administration was taking too long to resolve the cases of hundreds of foreigners captured in the global war on terrorism, another official said. The prisoners have been held without charges and without access to lawyers, some for nearly two years.

The Pentagon said Monday it had transferred 20 prisoners on Friday, making 88 the number who have left the facility since it opened in January 2002.

— Associated Press

World Roundup

MOSCOW — A pre-dawn fire swept through a rundown Russian dormitory for quarantined foreign students Monday, trapping many behind permanently locked exits and causing some to leap from the five-story building.

Thirty-six students died and nearly 200 were injured, some from frostbite after fleeing half naked into the bitter cold. The students — from Asia, Africa and Latin America — had just arrived in Moscow and were being held in the dorm awaiting medical checks before starting classes.

Witnesses said dozens of fire engines were slow to reach the blaze, jammed into a narrow access road blocked by parked cars.

The fire, believed to have been caused by an electrical malfunction, engulfed the building at People's Friendship University. It burned for more than three hours, though Moscow fire safety department spokesman Yevgeny Bobilyov insisted that firefighters arrived on time and did their job well.

• • •

ZAGREB, Croatia — Croatia's nationalists negotiated with potential coalition partners and sought to burnish the party's radical image Monday after soundly defeating a pro-Western government in parliamentary elections.

The Croatian Democratic Union swung the country to the right Sunday by winning the ballot and capitalizing on Prime Minister Ivica Racan's failure to bring widespread economic prosperity. With 62 seats, however, it still needs support from smaller parties to ensure an outright majority of 75 seats.

President Stipe Mesic suggested he would give the party, known by its Croatian acronym HDZ, a mandate to form a government, saying it appeared to have "a convincing majority." Racan also conceded Monday that the party deserves a chance to form a government.

• • •

HONG KONG — Hong Kong voters turned out in record numbers to hand the territory's top pro-Beijing party a stunning defeat in local elections — a show of force by pro-democracy forces ahead of legislative polling next year.

The record turnout Sunday was bad news for the pro-Beijing and pro-government Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, or DAB, which said it got 62 contested seats, a drop of 21 from last time.

More than 1 million people voted Sunday, a 44 percent turnout. Both the number of voters and the percentage were records; 36 percent turned out in the 1999 District Council elections. The DAB said it maintained its core of support but was overcome by a wave of newly registered voters who sided with the Democrats.

• • •

VIENNA, Austria — Breaking days of deadlock, the United States and key European countries agreed Monday on how to balance condemnation of Iran's past nuclear transgressions with recognition of its newfound openness, diplomats said.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a draft resolution was formally submitted to the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency two days before it was to resume a meeting adjourned Friday to allow time to bridge the rift.

The diplomats told The Associated Press that the draft included a "trigger mechanism" demanded by the United States in the form of a clause indirectly threatening Security Council action should Iran be found guilty of "further significant failures" — new evidence of clandestine activities or failure to honor its new commitments to the IAEA.

— Associated Press

College Roundup

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Despite the U.S. military's openly anti-gay policies it is allowed to actively recruit on college campuses across the country, including the University of New Mexico.

The Department of Defense's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy authorizes the termination of servicemen and women based solely on their sexual preference.

Some people find this to conflict with UNM's anti-discrimination policy, as well as that of the UNM School of Law, which strives to provide equal access to education and employment regardless of sexual orientation.

• • •

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Student, faculty and staff computers at the University of Virginia recently have come under attack from a mass-mailing worm, spread through e-mails claiming to be from the popular online billing service PayPal.com.

The e-mail, which includes an attachment, warns recipients that their Pay Pal accounts "will be expiring within five business days" unless they utilize the attached program to "update their account settings with their personal information."

TAMPA, Fla. — Biotech entrepreneurs announced Friday that they have plans to market the world's first genetically engineered pet: the GloFish, a fish that glows fluorescent red under a black light.

The GloFish, which is a Zebra Fish that obtains its "glow" after being infused with genes from the Indo-Pacific sea anemone, has caused conservation groups to ask the federal government to intervene and halt the release of the fish to consumers. The GloFish, which will sell for around \$5 each, are expected to produce sales in the millions.

— University Wire

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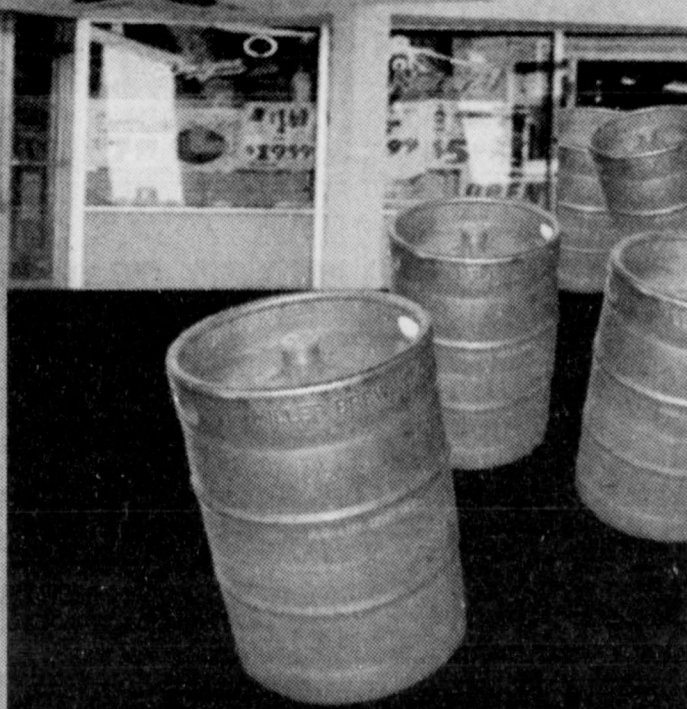
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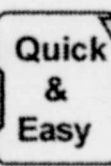
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ADOLESCENTS IN THE MEDIA

Van Sant film examines tragedies of school violence through students' eyes

By Sam Singh

DAILY TEXAN (UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN)

AUSTIN — Gazing at the pristine beauty of a crystal blue sky, the camera lulls you into a sense of security. You lazily admire the clouds rolling by, without any concern. Suddenly, the sky grows dark and ominous. With no explanation, what was once beautiful has now become terrifying.

After the events at Columbine High School in 1999, the world sought a logical explanation for why tragedy occurred. Senators were denouncing "Doom" and "The Matrix," Michael Moore was blaming the government's bombing of Kosovo, and Jerry Falwell has now become terrifying.

But our fervor to find a cause led us to forget the horrific shock of the act itself. Gus Van Sant is on a mission to remind us.

"Elephant" begins by introducing a series of characters who attend the same high school. They cover the full spectrum — from geeks to jocks and artists to bullies. As the characters go about their normal routine, the film introduces Alex (Alex Frost) and Eric (Eric Deulen), the two kids who go on a shooting spree inside their school.

The film's plot is sparse. The majority of "Elephant" is a series of unbroken shots, following the trail of a student until he reaches his destination. Occasionally, Van Sant interrupts the

mundane journey with slow-motion, but there doesn't seem to be any point to it.

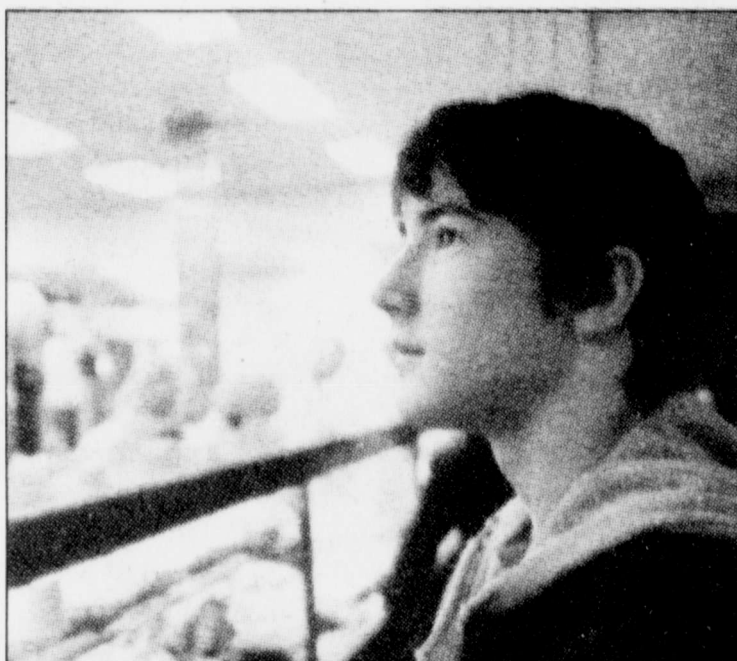
The effect is that the film shatters your sense of intuition by using conventional film language in an unconventional manner.

For example, once the shooting begins, the camera follows a tall student walking confidently through the hallways. We immediately assume he will be the hero of the film.

But when the hero-personality doesn't emerge, the audience is left reeling.

Moreover, the character development is superficial. All of the characters are given only one dimension, being defined by their love of photography or their need to binge and purge.

The only exceptions are Eric and Alex. Van Sant doesn't portray them as teens from troubled homes, picked on in school or obsessed with violence. The film does suggest a few of these scenarios, but it never argues this is



COURTESY PHOTO

Alex Frost stars in the new Gus Van Sant film "Elephant," which looks at violent tragedies like Columbine, but does not propose to know the solution to these actions.

what drove them to murder. There is a scene where one is playing a game with the objective to kill unarmed people. But the other is playing a sensitive rendition of Moonlight Sonata.

"Elephant" does not aim to offer solutions or explanations. Instead, it simply wants to observe the phenomenon of violence. Once the killing actually begins, it is sickening to watch. Eric and Alex proceed about their activities, completely drained of any emotion. There is no excitement, no anger, no motivation.

Van Sant does not propose to know the solution to such a problem. He can't explain what would drive a person to commit wanton acts of cruelty. While it is important to continue to search for answers, it is also important to remember the limits of our understanding of human nature. Sometimes, a beautiful day can evolve into a thunderstorm without anyone ever noticing the transformation.

MTV-published book gives surprising look at youth

By Jared Rubinstein

TUFTS DAILY (TUFTS UNIVERSITY)

MEDFORD, Mass. — Few people would trust MTV to publish a thoughtful novel, but that is exactly what happened when the same network that produces Total Request Live published "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky.

The novel is a glimpse of teenage pop culture in the early 1990s. The result is similar to the techno remix of a classical masterpiece, offering its own fresh perspective to an old favorite. "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" is similar to your classic coming-of-age story; however, it revives this tired genre through a vivid portrayal of modern adolescence.

The individuality of this book is obvious from the first page. Its unusual form of narration reveals the plot through a series of letters to an unknown recipient. Charlie, the individual who writes these letters, begins them with the introduction, "Dear friend." This cryptic opener, which is never fully explained, adds a personal touch, strongly tying the reader to the protagonist through revealed emotion.

Charlie candidly admits everything, including his confused and emotionally-charged thoughts, and the reader is instantaneously immersed in Charlie's introspective world.

Charlie, a high school freshman, is a wallflower because he stays on the sidelines of social interaction. Both sensitive and shy, he prefers reading books and observing others to the development of actual personal relationships, and his only friends are upperclassmen. Charlie is every bit as intellectually mature, but naive when it comes to social

interaction. Not knowing how to be honest with people, he ends up dating a girl who he doesn't like at all, having a crush on a girl he never confronts, and letting a boy kiss him, even though he feels no sexual or romantic interest in the same sex.

Despite Charlie's social naivety and status as a wallflower, he has a fascinating social life. He attends "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" weekly, where his friends dress up as the film's characters and act out the zany roles of the story. He experiments with drugs, tests the waters with girls, and makes his own mix tapes. From the novel's first page to its last, Charlie undergoes deep character development and learns more about the subtle world around him.

Charlie is a multifaceted character, one with which everyone can identify. He is certainly not the most popular kid in school, but then again, he's not the biggest loser either. Charlie is a young adult who is somewhere in between being popular and unknown, trying to find his place in the bewildering world of high school. In his first letter, Charlie writes, "So this is my life. And I want you to know that I am both happy and sad and I'm still trying to figure out how that could be." This image is potent and symbolic of the novel as a whole. Charlie's life as a restless youth is nostalgically priceless.

The individuality of this book is obvious from the first page. Its unusual form of narration reveals the plot through a series of letters to an unknown recipient.

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FILM FANATICISM

Video store vs. vending machine: the rental showdown

• New Cornell University units rival traditional stores like Cal Poly's Insomniac U

By Steve Hill

MUSTANG DAILY ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

A new service at Cornell University may make off-campus video rental trips a thing of the past.

MovieBox, a video rental vending machine, was introduced to the Cornell campus in two locations, first in September, the second in mid-October. The service offers more than 300 new release films for student rental 24 hours a day.

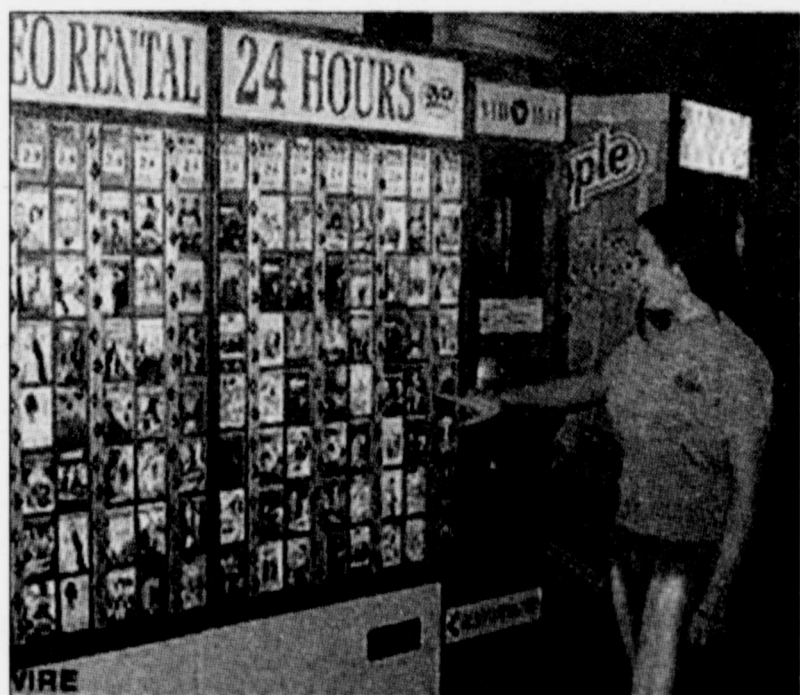
"It's a great deal, and it's relatively cheap," said Cornell student

Richard Freeman. "I get to sit in my room and be comfortable — no traveling."

On the Cal Poly campus, students have a non-vending machine alternative to MovieBox. Insomniac U, an offshoot of local video store Insomniac Video, may not be open 24 hours a day, but still gives students a non-corporate alternative to renting their films.

English junior Tony Quintiliani, an employee at Insomniac U, noted that, while a vending machine would be convenient, it does not offer the human interaction and input that a video store does.

"(MovieBox) doesn't offer you an opinion on what's a good movie or not," Quintiliani said. "We just give you a more rounded taste of what's out there."



COURTESY PHOTO

Cornell University student Olivia Haedt uses one of the MovieBox rental machines that was recently installed on campus.

Quintiliani did admit that installing a MovieBox system on campus would "probably take away from (business) drastically."

The premise behind MovieBox is simple: a 24-hour rental costs \$3.75, but comes to \$4.05 with tax. Students use credit cards, which insures that rentals are

returned on time; if not, late fees are charged to the credit card.

On the other hand, Insomniac U charges \$3 for 2-day new release rentals and \$2 for 3-day regular rentals.

Each machine typically retails for \$20,000 and was purchased from a privately owned company, Movies Around the Clock, which offers the service of fully computerized movie-rental vending machines to universities throughout the East Coast. The benefit of the service is of no additional cost to the university.

The system was actually designed about 15 years ago in Europe, and use of the machines flourished in Portugal, England and Norway. MovieBox was also recently installed at Rutgers University and Central Connecticut State University and is being considered for use at other Ivy League schools.

Some Cal Poly students, though, said the idea of having a greater selection beyond new releases and being able to browse the aisles of a video store is more appealing than a vending machine.

"It's a limited selection (with MovieBox)," said computer science freshman Kevin Rice. "You can't

really go in and search for a while for what you want."

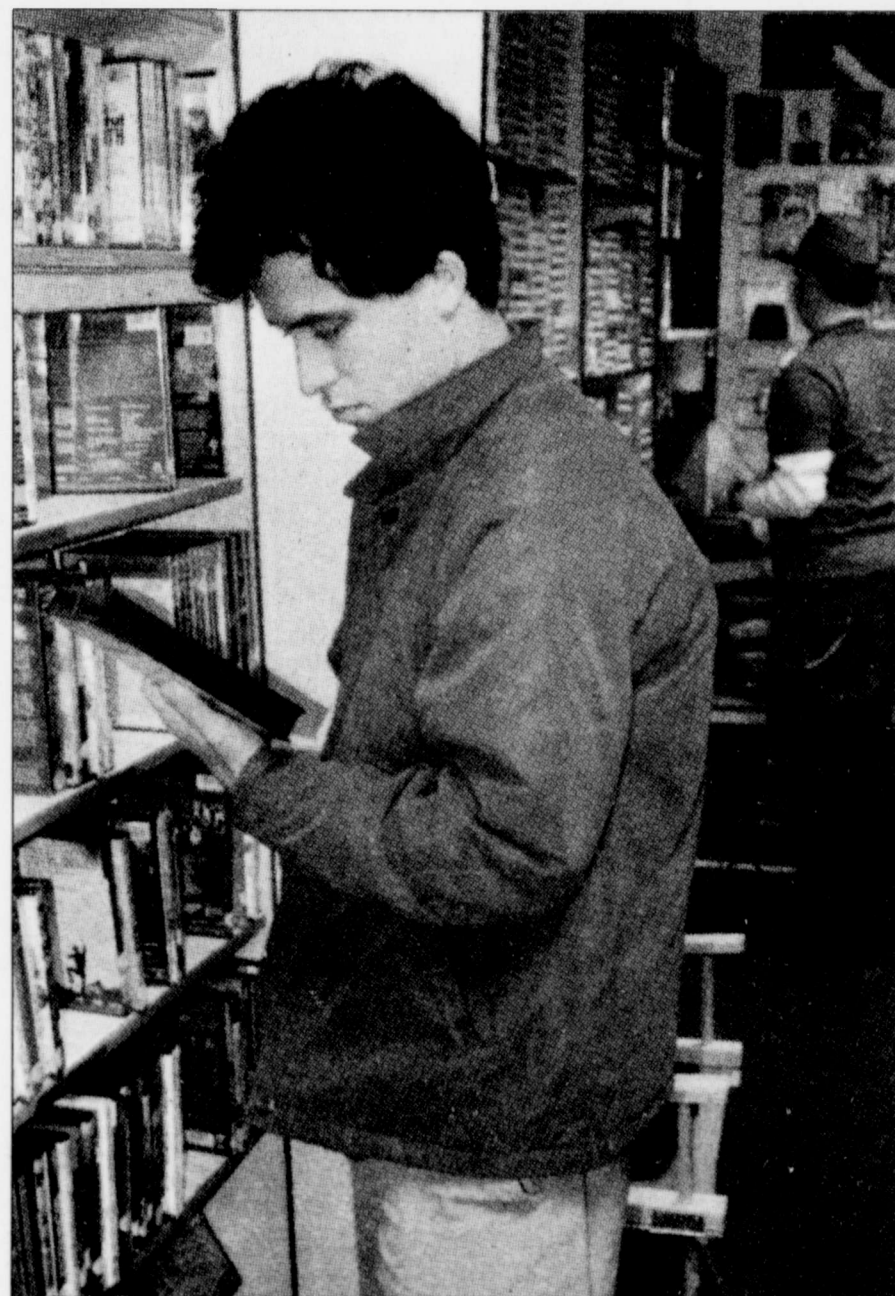
Physics sophomore Brenton Campbell agreed.

"I'd probably use it for new releases, but when I'm looking for an older movie I like to look at it, pick it up and read the summary on the back," Campbell said.

And for some, it just comes down to familiarity.

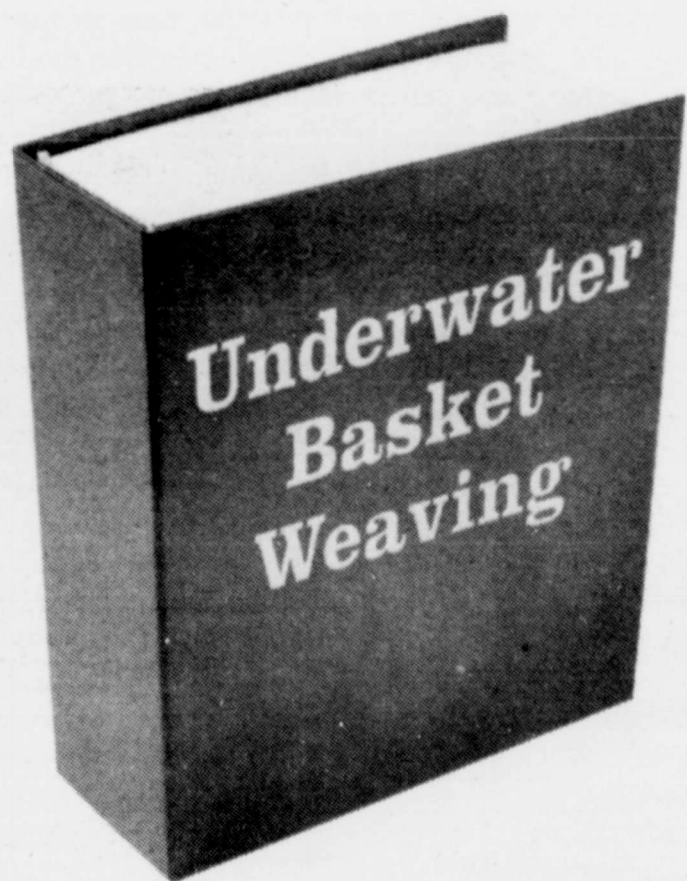
"I use this spot (Insomniac U) for all my video rental needs," said Ben Palazzolo, an ecology and systematic biology senior who rents from the store every week. "I prefer local business ... If this place wasn't here, I'd say (MovieBox) was awesome."

— University Wire contributed to this report



Ecology and systematic biology senior Ben Palazzolo reads the back of a movie rental box at Insomniac U, the on-campus video store. Palazzolo, who rents from Insomniac U at least once a week, favors the selection and local feel the store provides. Insomniac U is located in the University Union, across from El Corral Bookstore.

LESLIE BURTON/
MUSTANG DAILY



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Tis the season for waning Democrats

The time between fall and winter is especially lovely in California. The air is getting brisk, the autumn leaves that have turned shades of crimson and yellow have started to fall and the Central Coast has come the closest we will ever get to an early winter snow-fall.



Polytics

While there is no doubt that this weather is extraordinarily cozy and presents a perfect opportunity for lovers to take a romantic walk up Bishop's Peak or through downtown San Luis Obispo, I love this weather for another reason all together. As beautiful as the falling leaves are in California, it is reminiscent of another falling that is as equally lovely to me: the power of the Democrats in Washington.

Currently, the Republicans control the White House, the House of Representatives, the Senate, a majority of state leg-

islators and Governor's mansions. In addition, the Supreme Court leans slightly to the right. However, I wouldn't feel too sorry for the Democrats because if you listen to Ted Kennedy, you will soon find that the Democrats are doing fine because they can still filibuster at whim.

"A cloture vote on whether to end debate passed the Senate 70 to 29. Only 60 votes were needed to avoid a filibuster." — CNN.

Well I guess I spoke too soon. Who knew you really couldn't rely on filibusters as an anchor for political clout? To answer my own rhetorical question: apparently Kennedy, a senator for over 40 years. However, don't feel that all is lost, the Dems still have the 2004 elections coming up, and they can always fall back on their staples of education, the environment and healthcare to win back some seats. I mean it's not like they have anything to lose.

"Republican's overcome filibuster, key Medicare bill expected to pass." — CNN

Whoops, sorry about that. We really didn't mean to take the education issue away from you in 2000, and who knew

Currently, the Republicans control the White House, the House of Representatives, the Senate, a majority of state legislators and Governor's mansions. In addition, the Supreme Court leans slightly to the right.

we would take healthcare away in 2004? You guys can keep the environmental lobby though; they wouldn't support us if we single handedly nursed back to life the baby harp seals that Kennedy hit when his car went over the cliff. You guys can keep those people. Don't feel bad though, you can have much success by only using the environment as an election platform, just look at how well the Green Party does.

Don't fret, you guys could still spin this Medicare bill to your advantage. Unless you did something extraordinarily hypocritical, like trying to kill a bill that you have been fighting for years to simply deny the opposition of a political win. I mean, you guys wouldn't try to kill a bill that offered prescription drugs, covers 75 to 95 percent of prescription drugs costs after the premium and waves the premium for low-income senior citizens.

Oh wait. That is exactly what the Dems did! God, fall is a beautiful time of year.

John Holbus is a political science senior and Mustang Daily columnist.

Abstinence-only education won't prevent pregnancy

Everybody's doing it. Oh no, did I just trample on the feet of those who simultaneously attach the word "sex" to the all-to-familiar sound of "shhh?"

Well, it's time the age-old taboo was given a voice and a chance to speak the truth to teenagers: those who are most drawn to discover the mystery of its nature.

These days, there is no longer a question whether high school sexual education should be taught or not but, rather, how it should be taught.

According to the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California San Francisco, more than 93 percent of public high schools currently offer courses based on sexuality. More than 510 junior or senior high schools are associated with health clinics and more than 300 high schools make condoms available on campus.

Then why do more than one million American teenagers become pregnant each year — a number that is double the teenage pregnancy rate of any Western industrialized country?

The Bush administration believes they have the solution: They are planning to spend more than \$100 million on abstinence-only sex education programs, intended to convince sex-crazed teens that just saying "No" is the way to go.

But there is a real problem here. These programs plan to only inform students that engaging in sexual activity outside of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects. Contraceptives will not be discussed except to point out their failure rates.

This is outrageous.

Schools are supposed to be a place where accurate, whole, unbiased facts are taught. But the government seems to feel they can pick and choose what is morally "right" for our youth. That's funny — I was under the assumption America kept religion and education separate. The "wait until marriage" idea is based on the presumption that premarital sex is sinful. Leave the lesson on morality to the parents — teach the facts in school.

I know some parents aren't responsible enough to talk with their children about the birds and the bees. That's why schools should provide students with access to the truth. How else is a young person supposed to make an intelligent decision about something so important?

Some people believe that preaching abstinence, yet talking about contraception, is like handing a kid a clean needle and

telling him or her not to do drugs. I see things differently — not talking with kids about prophylactics is like sending a soldier into battle without a weapon.

Maybe it is a double-edged sword, but adolescents are going to do what they want, and they are in control of their own decision-making process. Should we try to suppress teenage sexual behavior, or should we open our eyes to the fact that many teenagers are sexually active and prepare them against the negative consequences?

Currently, most sexual education programs focus on how the body's sexual reproductive system functions and what young people should or shouldn't do when it comes to intercourse. These programs have failed. Emerging programs that center on changing behavior through role-playing, games and exercises that strengthen social skills are showing signs of success.

According to UCSF, a review of 23 studies found that successful sex education programs share the following characteristics: a focus on reducing sexual risk-taking behaviors, social learning theories, methods to avoid unprotected sex, addressing social influences, reinforcing appropriate values and learning communication skills.

Other countries have already realized the importance of these types of programs and have implemented them into their education processes. Although the age at first intercourse in the United States is similar to that in Canada, England, France, the Netherlands and Sweden, all five of these countries have teen pregnancy rates that are at least less than half the U.S. rate.

So speaking openly about sex doesn't increase a teenager's probability of having premarital sex. In fact, according to UCSF, studies have shown that sexual education before youth become sexually active helps young people stay abstinent and then use protection when they do become sexually active.

Another problem with Bush's abstinence-only program is that it uses scare tactics. Don't get me wrong, the fact that teenagers have the highest rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections of any age group is a scary reality. But that's just it — it's a reality. Apparently dressing sex up as a big, bad wolf

isn't keeping one out of four teenagers from contracting a STD by the age of 21.

If people believe so much in abstinence-only, then why are teenage STD rates so staggering? Because although teaching sexual restraint may get people to delay having intercourse, when they eventually do have sex they are much more likely not to use protection.

If people believe so much in abstinence-only, then why are teenage STD rates so staggering? Because although teaching sexual restraint may get people to delay having intercourse, when they eventually do have sex they are much more likely not to use protection.

According to a study by the Consortium of State Physicians Resource Councils, during the 1990s the teenage pregnancy rate dropped. I wish I could say how much it decreased, but the study conveniently does not reveal that information. It does claim, though, that the drop is due to a trend toward sexual abstinence, while all those naughty teens that are sexually active have skyrocketed the non-marital birth rate dramatically.

So let's all give ourselves a big pat on the back for the few who remain virginal, and look away from the many who are sexual.

I realize that abstinence is the only way to remain baby and STD free. Abstinence is a wonderful idea, and I believe children should be taught to wait until they are ready to deal with the emotional and physical consequences of having sex. Programs like Free Teens and Best Friends send out the message that young people can have a happy and successful life without engaging in sexual behaviors.

And guess what? According to Centers for Disease Control, the number of high school students saying they'd ever had sexual intercourse decreased by nearly 10 percent over the last 10 years. Hooray! Abstinence is catching on!

But the fact remains that teen birth and STD rates are disturbingly high. Advocates for Youth is a program designed to provide young people with a positive and realistic approach to adolescent sexual health. They have noticed other countries that do a better job at protecting their youth from pregnancy and disease and have adopted their sexual education methods, which promotes honest, accurate sex education.

Obviously both sides mean well. But withholding information about contraceptives is a gross disservice to young people. Teenagers deserve to be taught all the facts. They deserve to learn how to keep themselves safe and healthy. The youth of the United States deserves the best education they can get.

Lauren Johnson is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

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"I don't think she had a crush on him ... I think she likes girls."

Braves' pitching legend Warren Spahn dead at 82 years old

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. (AP) — Warren Spahn, the winningest left-hander in baseball history and a leader of the dominant Milwaukee Braves teams of the late 1950s, died

at his home Monday. He was 82. The Hall of Famer baffled batters with his high leg kick and teamed with Johnny Sain in the famous "Spahn and Sain and pray for rain"

tandem. Spahn helped pitch the Braves to National League pennants in 1948, 1957 and 1958. The Braves played the World Series against the

New York Yankees in the latter two years, winning the first one and losing the second.

A workhorse who pitched until he was 46, Spahn won 20 games 13 times, matching Christy Mathewson for the most in NL history. Spahn was a 14-time All-Star who pitched 21 seasons in a career interrupted by World War II.

He began pitching in the majors in 1942, when the Braves were in Boston, and stayed with the team through its move to Milwaukee in 1953. He left the Braves after the 1964 season, ending his career the following year with San Francisco

and the New York Mets.

Yankees manager Joe Torre was a young catcher with the Braves when Spahn was at the top of his game.

"Warren Spahn was a fighter and a winner," Torre said. "He made catching in the big leagues a lot easier for me because he took me under his wing along with Lew Burdette. One of my biggest thrills to this day was catching his 300th victory in 1961."

Spahn was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1973, his first year of eligibility with nearly 83 percent of the vote.

The New York Times Crossword

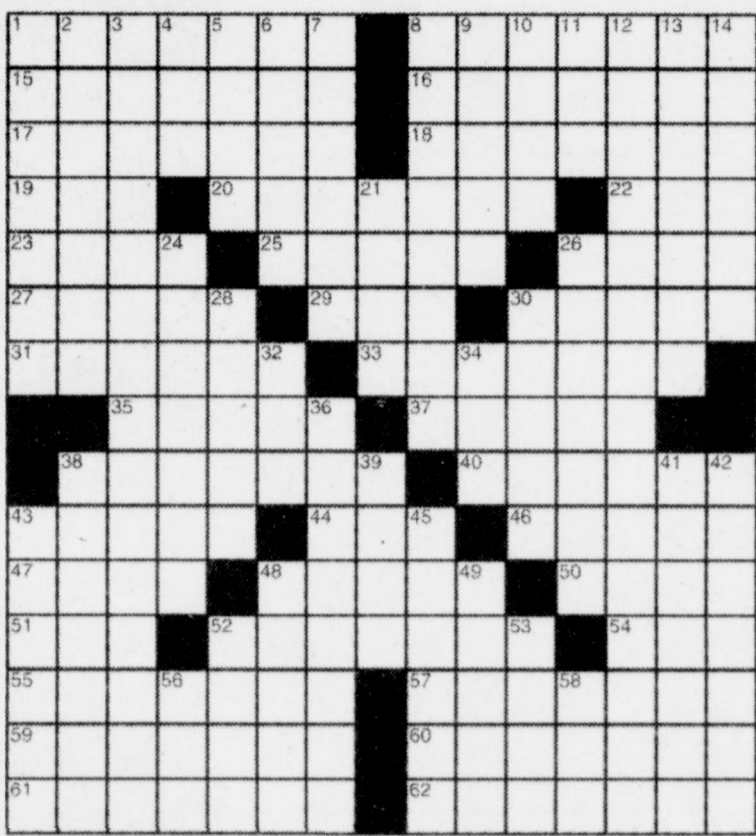
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0913

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gorged oneself, informally
 - 8 Agitated
 - 15 "The flavor can't be matched because only ___ knows the secret" (old slogan)
 - 16 Not anywhere
 - 17 Clothing store spinoff
 - 18 Dishonest
 - 19 Greek symbol of mourning
 - 20 Race climax
 - 22 It's heard before "gee"
 - 23 Football Hall-of-Famer Ronnie
 - 25 Large, hairy creatures
 - 26 Swiss section
 - 27 Washed-out
 - 29 Quebecer's vote

- 30 City built on ancient Thebes
- 31 ___ Cup (snack item)
- 33 Hair shirt occasion
- 35 Abbr. on a class schedule
- 37 Bob and weave
- 38 Boardwalk sights
- 40 Niobe, e.g.
- 43 Bedevil
- 44 It lands at Landvetter
- 46 "Wrong!"
- 47 "Sword ___ oath, and oaths must have their course": Shak.
- 48 Chesebrough-Pond's product
- 50 Narrowly defeats
- 51 Visage feature
- 52 Like a Bentley that's ready to go

- DOWN**
- 1 Rawboned
 - 2 Shade of pink
 - 3 Armchair quarterback's reading, maybe
 - 4 Relative of "Oh, no!"
 - 5 Detective, at times
 - 6 Light ___
 - 7 Press secretary under Ford
 - 8 Prone
 - 9 "___ Room" (2001 children's book)
 - 10 Each
 - 11 Road caution
 - 12 Resent, say
 - 13 Antarctic sight
 - 14 Western timber
 - 21 Feature of many a Corvette
 - 24 Treaty subject
 - 26 "The Count of Monte Cristo" setting
 - 28 Not yet proficient with
 - 30 Filled



Puzzle by Brendan Emmett Quigley

- 32 Stop: Abbr.
- 34 Impatient cry
- 36 Brad, e.g.
- 38 Judge's citation
- 39 Attack, with "into"
- 41 What un crucigrama is in
- 42 Actor ___ Brazzi of "South Pacific"
- 43 Super Bowl XXIX winners, for short
- 45 Ostentation
- 48 Car dealer's offering
- 49 Airsleep company
- 52 Command
- 53 Model Parkinson
- 56 1970's grp. whose symbol was a seven-headed serpent
- 58 ___ Antiqua

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HARDCIDER LATIN
INOCULATE BRACE
KNOCKKNOCK JOKES
ELSIE DIRE NEWT
RET SPELUNK HAL
SESS EREI EMOTE
TAR STREAMER
FACESIT SOLDERS
ELLIPSIS ASA
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Men have solid finish at NCAAs



FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY

Men's cross country finished 13th in the 2003 NCAA Championship.

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly men's cross country team finished 13th at the NCAA Nationals held at the Irv Warren Memorial Golf Course in Waterloo, Iowa, on Monday.

The Stanford men's team won the national title with 24 points with five runners placing in the top 10.

Cal Poly entered the nationals, ranked 14th in the nation, came home with 401 points with five Cal Poly scoring runners finishing within one minute of each other in adverse running conditions. The temperature at race time was listed at 27 degrees.

Sophomore Brandon Collins led the Mustangs in 45th place with a time of 30:28.6 over the 10,000-meter course. Collins finished 16th at the West Regional last week and 11th at the Big West Conference Championship on Nov. 1.

Junior Ryan Moorcroft was the sec-

ond Mustang to cross the finish line. He was 53rd with a time of 30:35.1. Moorcroft finished 19th and second in the West Regional and the conference championship.

Senior Sean Ricketts, the Big West Conference individual Champion, was the third Cal Poly runner to cross the finish line. He finished 64th with a time of 30:45.

Junior Mario Macias and freshman Luke Lamas rounded out the scoring Cal Poly runners in 112th (31:11.2) and 127th (31:24.0).

Also competing for the Mustangs were sophomore Nathan Brassmerry in 171st (31:55.2) and freshman Matt Johnsrud in 181st (32:11.0).

The University of Wisconsin finished second (174) behind Stanford, while the Northern Arizona University Lumberjacks were third (189).

Wrestling opens season with wins

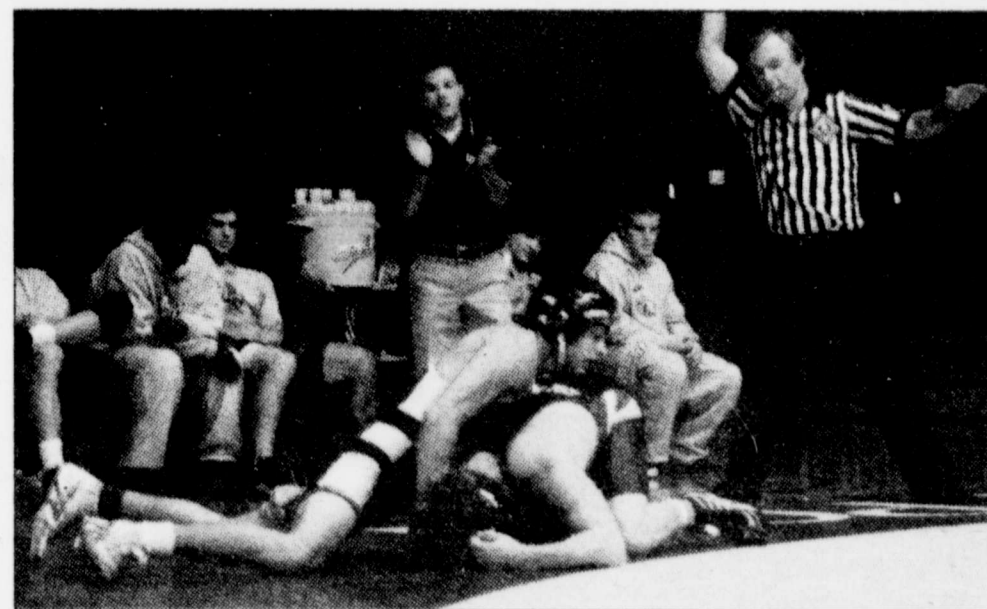
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly wrestling season officially opened over the weekend as the Mustangs traveled to Cal State Fullerton to compete in the Fullerton Open last Saturday.

Sophomore Ryan Halsey, 184 pounds, and freshman Chad Mendes, 125 pounds, each won individual titles at the tournament. There was no team scoring.

In addition to Halsey and Mendes' wins, freshman Tony Franco placed second at 125 pounds, freshman Darrel Vasquez took third at 133 pounds, freshman David Roberts placed second at 141 pounds, sophomore Jeff Owens was fifth at 141 pounds, freshman Eric Shortenhaus took fifth at 165 pounds, junior Ralph Garcia was second at 197 pounds, and junior Dan Howe was third at 282 pounds.

Halsey, ranked No. 7 in NCAA



SPENCER MARLEY/MUSTANG DAILY

Ryan Halsey and Chad Mendes won titles at the Fullerton Open.

Division I in the 184 pound class, went 4-0 in the tournament. He won the Pac-10 title in 184-pound division in the 2002-03 season. He was named the Pac-10 Newcomer of the Year, marking the first time

in school history a Mustang has received the honor. Halsey led the Mustangs with a 29-10 overall, 12-4 in dual match records, and 15 pins. Halsey finished the 2002-03 ranked 17th in the nation.

Poly's win under the radar

Those scouts from the Denver Nuggets and Miami Heat weren't there to look at any Mustangs. I feel sorry for them.

The man scouting for the Heat, Pat Riley, knows a lot about basketball. He was there to watch a couple of losers, though.

A potential lottery pick, Cal freshman forward Leon Powe, or another possible draft pick, senior center Amit Tamir brought Riley to Haas Pavilion. It was the unscouted

Mustangs led initially, but then fell behind and struggled throughout the first half. Dennis quickly got in foul trouble and sat much of the period, Schilling had more turnovers than points (3-2), and Gray had seven points and four rebounds, but couldn't get his teammates involved.

Luckily, Cal Poly stole back the game in the second half and pulled off a 63-62 upset, behind the play of unlikely heroes like forward Nick Enzweiler, who had 17 points and made the winning shot with 4.8 seconds left. Gray also had a clutch three-pointer inside a minute that helped trim the sizable lead Cal had as late as 1:41 left.

Unfortunately, both scouts Bittner and Riley had left by the time the Mustangs came back. Hopefully they picked up a paper the next day, read that this was the first time the

Mustangs beat a Pac-10 opponent on the road since 1976. At the very least, I hope they've learned that Enzweiler has since been named Big West Player of the Week.

The Mustangs still have a long way to go, to move beyond Friday's turnover-plagued affair, which was as much a lucky win as it was a gut check.

"It was really kind of a sloppy game on both ends," freshman forward John Manley said. "We got the win, but there's a lot of room for improvement for us."

"It's a huge win for the program," Manley said. "It gives our team a lot of confidence. We knew we could play with a team like that, but it just reassures us."

Hopefully the next time scouts make it to a Cal Poly game, be it in the first round of the NCAA tournament or even just a regular game at Mott Gym, these scouts will know who the Mustangs are and how far they're continuing to come.

Graham Womack is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.



Golden Graham

Commentary

Mustangs who came out on top.

The Nuggets' scout, Greg Bittner didn't know about Varnie Dennis, but was impressed when he read the power forward's 17.5 point-per-game average and 35 percent shooting from Big West games last season.

Riley would not comment on any Cal Poly players. I tried to tell him to watch for Dennis, senior forward Shane Schilling and sophomore guard Kameron Gray.

They didn't put together the early performance I would have liked. The

World-famous duo takes Poly to court

By Caitlin O'Farrell

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The world's No. 1 doubles team showed their support for men and women's tennis at the Cal Poly tennis courts on Sunday afternoon with more than 500 fans in attendance.

The event kicked off with Bob and Mike Bryan and former Cal Poly tennis player Mike Marquez rallying back and forth for 15 minutes in a warm-up session.

A mixed doubles match featured Cal Poly tennis player Samantha Waller and Bob Bryan against fellow Mustang Chelsey Thompson and Mike Bryan in a long battle.

The men's team had Stacy Meronoff and Brian Kent face off against the Bryans. Kent came up with four aces against Mike Bryan on the ad side and once on the

deuce side against Bob Bryan in the opening game. The crowd was shocked by Kent's 120 mph serves.

"It was refreshing to see and play with such caliber young men in the sense that I saw all of the skills that I need to work on to achieve that status someday," Kent said.

Meronoff was an all-Big West honoree last year. Kent is the team's co-captain.

"The (players) that played are getting an experience they will never forget," head coach Hugh Bream said. "They all played great tennis and had some fun."

Women's tennis is getting ready to defend their Big West title this season.

"It is great that the Bryan brothers took the time out of their busy schedule to come up and support Cal Poly tennis," Bream said. "The event was a complete success."

The Bryan brothers left Stanford after two years to play professional tennis. They were NCAA champs both years in doubles and team. Bob Bryan was also the NCAA champion his second year in singles.

"We are excited to help our friends and support this team," Bob Bryan said. "Playing college tennis was one of the best times we ever had and it is great to support Cal Poly."

The goal of the clinic was to raise money, get people involved and promote the Cal Poly tennis team.

Next week the Bryan brothers will travel to Little Rock, Ark., to play an exhibition match with Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick. For normal exhibition appearances the team makes anywhere from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

The Bryan brothers made their appearance at Cal Poly for free.

Football conference discussed

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Six athletic directors have scheduled another meeting to discuss forming an NCAA Division I-AA football conference.

Officials from North Dakota State, South Dakota State, Southern Utah, Cal Poly, University California Davis and Northern Colorado plan to meet Dec. 8-9 in Las Vegas.

The agenda includes bylaws, schedules, conference management and possible names and logos. St. Mary's is allied with the group, but its athletic director will not attend.

"It's not a done deal at this point, but I think all of us are encouraged by the nature and the spirit of the conversations. I'm real optimistic something will develop," Cal Poly athletic director John McCutcheon said.

It will be the second meeting regarding the league. The directors met in June at a national athletic directors' convention in Orlando, Fla.

"It's going to be fun to sit down and formally talk about some sort of conference," NDSU athletic director Gene Taylor said. "I don't know if we'll come out of it with a signed agreement or not."

Cal Poly, Davis, St. Mary's, Northern Colorado and Southern Utah are independents in football. NDSU and SDSU will be starting their transition to Division I-AA next year, most likely as independents in all sports.

"At this point, there doesn't seem to be anything overwhelmingly challenging that lies ahead of us," McCutcheon said.

That could change if the Big Sky Conference begins looking seriously at NDSU and SDSU. Both schools would like to join the conference.

"If the Big Sky came knocking on our door, we obviously couldn't say 'let us join without football,'" Taylor said.